

SEASONS GREETINGS



from

The Editor, Staff & all
members of the Committee



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS



Edition 273

December, 1971.

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A FEW FACTS ON LEADERS AND WALKS

Are you an idiot?
Have you been on every Walk this year that Roger has led??
If so — you are an idiot!
You followed him for 180 miles!
That's as far as from Melbourne to Deniliquin, N.S.W.
Twitts!!

Seriously though — Thanks Roger for leading the most walks (9) —
Middleaged? but still active bushwalker.

Do you know who led the most 'wet' walks for this year? None other than
our Walks Secretary - Tyrone. Seems Ty takes the prize for being the
best rain-maker. Remember - Mt. Buffalo, Mt. terrible, Mt. Beckwith,
to name a few walks.

'Hardy Artie' in other words - Art Terry is known for his tough walks of
scrub bashing, mountain conquering and refreshing icy cold dips in the
water at any time of the year.

That gay bachelor - Spencer George continues to lead those pleasant
Sunday strolls in the hills. Notice that there are always more of the
female sex on his walks than any other. There is still hope girls!!!

We thank all those leaders of walks too many to mention for the many
varied and memorable walks.

A COMMITTEE IS A GROUP THAT KEEPS MINUTES AND LOSES HOURS!

The Editor, "NEWS",

The article appearing on pages 1 and 2 of November News, 1971, does little credit to the writer the club and ignores the wonderful contribution that over thirty people have made towards Walk 1972. It also contains many factual inaccuracies and distorts the truth.

Despite many major setbacks and a late start Walk 1972 is now on the bookshelves. Almost every contribution was of a high standard and the editorial committee has a hard job in deciding which articles to leave out. We are very grateful to all contributors. We hope that those who missed out will not be disappointed as with their permission we hope to use their articles in 1973. Some articles were omitted because of lack of space others for lack of time to edit the articles properly. Never the less we have the opinion that Walk 1972 is a balanced publication and we hope that the club will endorse it wholeheartedly.

Might I just review the problems which have been encountered this year, and in doing so perhaps answer your correspondent of November. The first problem was the late start. The meeting called by Rex Filson was fairly well attended but the vote of the Meeting was definitely anti Walk 1972. However, it later became obvious that the right people had not been invited. Many people subsequently helped with Walk and their help was always available when requested - particularly in the onerous task of editing the articles.

Once the editing had been finished we had to have them typed. This in my opinion was our major problem. There was a shortage of typists and I did not think it fair to let one person come in for all or even most of the work. Never the less we managed to get most of the work done fairly quickly so that the articles were ready to go to Press early in July.

Then we had a series of events which slowed down publication. My own marriage; the month long illness of the editor and as your November contributor knows quite well - a lack of advertisers. These were factors beyond the control of the editorial committee. Nevertheless there has always been some to give continuity.

One other problem which I think the members should know about is the pressure exerted to try to have our article dropped from our magazine. As the publication of this article was a unanimous decision naturally refused. The reasons given were puerile and in my opinion completely unfounded. We have not aimed to please everyone. We have not even aimed to please anyone. Our aim is to present a well balanced publication presenting as many facets of bush walking as is humanly possible in the available space. If people read extensions of their own personalities into articles they are not forced to read the article. In fact it would be better that they stick to articles they do like and understand. If I were asked to express an opinion I would say that the writer of the article was more the target of this move than the article itself. While ever I am associated with the Walk committee outside interference of this nature will not be tolerated.

Which brings me to the point of the other members of the club. This year some surprising help and talent was uncovered. I feel that other club members could and would help if given a good lead. We hope that they may be drawn in for Walk 1973. The one area of disappointment was the amount of support given from our committee. With a few exceptions it seems that the committee is not interested in Walk. If this is not true then what is the explanation of the Vice-President's initiating moves to abolish publication of Walk on two occasions. I should have thought that he was sworn to support all activities of our club. He states that "people who voted in favour (of publishing Walk 1972) did so thoughtlessly". Of course this is an extremely subjective judgement and the grounds for making it are very slight. Even so I'd still like to know what he is bitching about. So far we have only had vague murmurings. So how about it Geoff. State very clearly the real substance of your complaint so that all can hear and judge.

So in response to the November letter I ask all members of the club to examine Walk 1972 and see if it is a worthwhile publication. If it is worth publishing on the official publication of the Melbourne Bushwalkers and if it should continue in its present or similar form. If not then what form should it take. Not to be published is unthinkable. To change the form has merit but the amount of work involved may preclude the introduction of very radical ideas into a voluntary organisation. As it is a voluntary organisation I hope that next year we may introduce other new hands into the publication of Walk 1973 so that the labour is more evenly shared than this year.

Yours faithfully,

WARREN BAKER.

For and on behalf of
Walk Committee 1972.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3001

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Treasurer: Club Finances satisfactory.

Walks Secretary:

A total of 202 people were out walking during the month of November. Figures for individual walks included 44 went to Pt. Campbell, 21 to Kings Spur and 36 on the day to Anglesea.

Social Secretary:

There will be no films or slides shown in the clubrooms during January, as it is usually our hottest month and the clubroom is not very cool.

Wilkinson Lodge:

be

A working weekend will/held there some time in the future. Details to be announced later.

Search & Rescue:

Graham Mascas has been nominated as a S & R Delegate for the Federation.

Federation:

Track Clearing on 15/16th January, 1972, at Murray Twins.

The Land Conservation Council proposes to carry out investigations for the uses of public land in various areas of Victoria.

The Federation has allotted to our Club, to survey and report on the area- North by Princes Highway, West. Port Philip Bay, South - Bass Strait, East - Arc Morwell- Boolara - Cape Liptrap.

The Committee invites anyone interested to join in examining the area on 22nd January, 1972. Any constructive ideas, criticisms are welcomed.

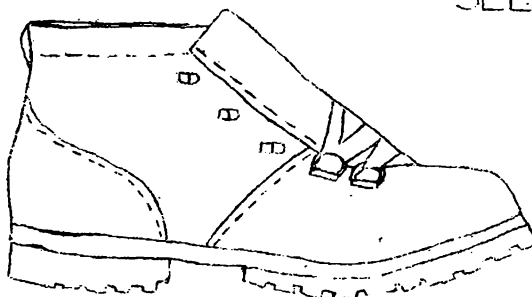
See Bob Steel or any of the Committee for further information.

Members and visitors are reminded that no alcohol is permitted on club walks.

DUTY ROSTER:

1971. December, 22nd	- Alex Stirkul,	Bob Steel
" 29th	- NO CLUB	
1972. January, 5th	- Sue Ball,	Pam Lambeth
" 12th	- Graham Mascas,	Joy Seymour
" 19th	- Margaret Jorgensen,	Bob Steel

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUBROOMS WILL NOT BE OPENED ON 29TH DECEMBER.



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WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKS: 1972.

- January
- 9 POLEY ROAD - MT. RITCHIE - ACHERON RIVER (WARBURTON)
 Leader: Roger Brown p) 57 6729 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00
 Map Reference: Juliet & McMahons Creek 1:50,000.
 The Route has been altered slightly to take in more interesting Country. Also the walk will be slightly easier as it will be along tracks which should bring about a pleasant days walk with a good around Panorama from Mt. Ritchie.
- 16 ACHERON GAP - BOOBYALLA - CEMENT CREEK (WARBURTON)
 Leader: Graham Mascas p) 50 2995 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00
 Map Reference: Juliet 1:50,000. 6½ miles.
 Still suffering from the excesses of Christmas? Well come and walk some of it off with a gentle (?) 6½ mile walk along the Great Dividing Range. The grading has been upped from easy just because of a couple of hills we climb. After all what goes up must come down so come and test out the hypothesis that the energy expended in climbing 2000 ft. is returned as you descend! It's a good walk that I can recommend even for a second time.
- 27 BLACKWOOD - FOSTERS LOOKOUT - GOLDEN POINT (BALLAN)
 (including FAMILY WALK)
 Leader: Alex Stirkul b) 46 4841 Day Walk - Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Family " - Easy
 Fare \$2.00, 11 miles.
 Map Reference: Daylesford 1" = 1 mile.
 An interesting walk through picturesque hilly country with superb views from Blue Mountain and Fosters Lookout. If weather is too hot, the day could be spent at Shaw's Lake or the Lerderberg River.
- 30 WERRIBEE GORGE RIVER WALK (BACCHUS MARSH)
 Leader: Doug Crocker p) 82 1830 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.75.
 Map Reference: Ballan 1" = 1 mile.
 This walk should be a pleasant shady one, following the river and irrigation channel of the Werribee River.
 Bring water for lunch -- A change of socks and shoes would be advantageous, as the river has to be crossed many times.
 Bring bathing togs.
Suggestion:- As the tourists command the facilities at Bacchus Marsh for a stopover Why not have a Barbecue?

WEEKEND WALKS:

- January 14-16 BAY OF ISLANDS - BUTTRESS POINT - BEACH BLUDGE (WARRNAMBOOL)
 Leader: Joyce Dunn p) 88 2393 Easy
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.00
 Map Reference: Port Campbell 1" = 1 mile.
 This is going to be that fine sunny weekend we have all been waiting for, for so long. It will be a fixed camp so no one need exert themselves other than to swim, click their cameras at the beautiful rugged coastline, and to walk 10 miles to the van on Sunday.
 WATER WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND, ALONG WITH CHOOFA'S AND TENT POLES.
- 28-31 SHAWS CREEK FALLS - DINGO HILL - MT. REYNARD - SNOWY PLAINS - BENNISON PLAINS - TAMBORITHA SADDLE (LICOLA)
 Leader: Tim Dent Easy
 Transit vans/private 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00
 Map Reference: Moroka 1" = 1 mile.
 An easy walk, among the Snow gum high plains for most of the time, with very little climbing. Should be some views however, into the Macalister River valley to the west and Moroka/Wonangatta valley eastwards.
 (MORE WALK PREVIEWS ON PAGE 5.)

STOP PRESS: CHRISTMAS CONTACTS

23 - 31 DECEMBER :- JENNY MEAD

31 DEC - 11 JANUARY:- NORM RICHARDS

THE NORMAL CONTACT SYSTEM IS SUSPENDED FOR THIS PERIOD

25 1709

8576793

(continued)

WEEKEND WALKS:1972

January 28-31 DOOLANS PLAIN - SNOWY BLUFF - SHANTY HOLLOW - MOROKA GORGE (LICOLA)
 Leader: Trevor Lambeth Hard
 Transport: Private, possibly transit van.
 Approx. Distance: 18 crow flying miles Hard,
 Expected Time Of Return: 10.30 p.m. Monday 31st.
 Map References: 1. Moroka Provisional 1:63,360 Lands Dept. (for contours
 2. Macalister River Watershed 1"-2 mile. VMTC (tracks,
 (names.)

This energetic walk features views of some of Victoria's most rugged and at one time inaccessible mountains. We shall explore the Moroka River Valley, a river south of the Divide and flowing northwards, the Watchtower (Nielsons Crag) which gives excellent views of the deep Moroka valley and Shanty Hollow with its thick stands of Alpine Ash.

A water bottle is necessary whilst a light pack, a light heart and stout boots are very desirable.

Our route, which is subject to alteration, will be Doolans Plain - Nielsons Crag - Doolans Plains - Higgins Yard - Snowy Bluff - Mt. Deacon - Shanty Hollow - Moroka Gorge - Cromwells Knob.

CANCELLED - RODONDO ISLAND (WILSONS PROMONTORY)

THIS TRIP HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED AS THE MUMC. HAVE BEAT US WITH BOAT TRANSPORT, CAMP SITES, ETC.

ENGLISH? PERHAPS,

Although we bushwalkers perhaps do not use the best English language, I am sure we would benefit from the following changes in the spelling of certain words.

To begin with, dispose of the soft "e" and substitute it with an "s". Certainly all citizens of Melbourne would appreciate this. Then replace the hard "e" with a "k" - naturally of course any konfusion would be kleared up in the minds of spellers.

Great joy would arise when it was announsed that the diffikult "ph" was to be changed to an "f". This would allow Filatelists and Fotografers to save sferoidal metallic objects? (Klassifying koins konklusively of kourse) because less pensils would be rekquired, for these words are now ten per sent shorter. Later, publik interest in a kompletely reorganised alfabet kan be ekspektd to have come to a point where more komplikated changes are fysikally applied. Immediately double leters should be struck from the fase of the earth, as they have ben a folish part of our language and a trap to those people who find speling difikult.

Klub members would agre that the terrible mes of silent "e's" in our languag is disgrasful. Therfor we kould abandon thes and prosed to writ diligently as we should in this advanced sosiety of ours, where edukation is at an al tim high. I konsider the silent "u" to be futil and that substituting "or" in it's plas would be another orful but florles benefisial akt.

Finally after al this when the "ou" leters hav ben shortend so that only the "u" remains, when you will be a humcosus favorit with your neighbour and hapines will reign; but only after the lor by which words are spelt as they ar sounded iz brort in. Then joobilashun will rayn on the erth and evry man, wooman and chyld will be hapy for the rest ov hiz or hur lyf.

Perhaps anftur orl the diskrybd chaynjez hav okurd wee wood hav a sensibl langwich eezily undur stood by orl.

----- GRAYUM HOJSUN -----

Wyperfeld National Park is a good place to visit at the moment. In fact, it is a "must" for all photographers as it covered with vast quantities and species of wild-flowers. Gary Anderson formerly the assistant at Hattah has just appointed as the Ranger at Wyperfeld. He said he would like to see more bushwalkers use the area. There is some suggestion that a new camping ground may be established in the northern end of the park, thus enabling through walks. At present, we are usually only permitted to camp at Wonga Hut in the south. This only allows you to do day trips.

Permanent quarters are planned for the Ranger at the park entrance shortly and it appears likely that entrance fees will then be levied on all visitors.



It has come to my attention that one of our brethren has run foul of the capitalist system in our society. Due to what I assume must be an embarrassing financial position, he is unable during these hard pressed times to purchase, amongst other things, a new pair of shoes and therefore was forced to appear in the clubroom recently wearing what looked like the tattered remnants of an old pair of runners. Smiling bravely, he assured yours truly that his fortunes would change sooner or later. You could not help but feel a twinge of compassion for this proud battling bushwalker as he stood there self-consciously playing with the ends of his string belt.

On a weekend walk a few weeks ago, an interesting spectacle was observed, namely that of the whip overtaking the leader while climbing Mt. Buggery. This particular leader had been complaining all day about his lack of form (this is putting it nicely), but this is a poor excuse when one considers the fitness of the whip in question, who could not be considered a spring chicken (or should I say a fresh steam pudding) by any stretch of the imagination.

It appears that the well known arch enemy of all bachelors, Cupid, is making his presence obvious in the Club once again. Most of the remaining eligible bachelors appear to have fallen under his insidious influence. Even Spencer was seen recently with his arm around a female if only for a few moments. Perhaps it may not be too late to issue a note of warning to Gerry, Stuart and Davo. (Bad luck girls, S.G. has made a timely exit and will be in N.S.W. for next couple of months).

Continuing the saga of "Who's Harry" ——— A strong and persistent rumour is running the rounds to the effect that "Harry" is an affectionate name Rod had given his Land Rover just before he left on his recent six month trip around Australia. Rod will probably deny that this is so, but just between you and I and the tent pole, I think he is too bashful to admit it. In a way this is understandable, because how many Land Rovers are there that are called "Harry"?

It happens to be "Welcome back" time once again. Dorrie and Alex have just recently arrived back in Melbourne, after touring Britain and Europe extensively. The Club would like to issue them a warm welcome on their return.

Eavesdroppings:-

1st Female bushie — He asked me if he could borrow my sleeping bag.
2nd female bushie — It sounds as if he had only one intent.

There was a bushwalker from Barmah,
Who considered himself a girl charmer,
But he saw what it meant
When he entered the wrong tent,
To be punched on the nose without drama. (M.O.)

I would like to thank all the people who during the year offered many and varied suggestions concerning this column. It is a pity that most of them were so impractical. Finally, I send out to all my fans in their countless thousands, Season's Greetings and the wish that may all their blisters be little ones.

Athol Schafer is a patient in St. Vincent's Hospital at the moment. He is in St. Barbara's Ward and it would be appreciated if some of you bushies could go and visit Athol.

MBW ADVISES THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDRESS FOR CLUB MEMBERS:-

David Andrews, Flat 4, 115 Shaftesbury Pde., Thornbury, 3071.
Kevin Hadingham, 10 Robina Road, Eastmont, 3084.
Dave Thomson, 191 Gold Street, Clifton Hill, 3068.
(Barbara Davies) both of — Aberlour Court, Flat 6, 462-8 Victoria Pde.,
(& Joy Seymour,) East Melbourne, 3002. p) 41-6304./ Barb. b) 62-3494.
Harold Grave, Flat 2, 11 Cowderoy Street, West St. Kilda, 3182.



ALONG THE TRACK

ROGER'S RABID RAMBLE

Some funny things happened on the way to the Crosscut

Up, up, up we climbed the King Spur where we found that the undergrowth had been burned before our arrival, so saving us a battle with scrub as well as gravity.

It's very steep, and seemingly never ending, but at last we reach a vantage point.

"No, this is not the top of Koonika"

Rock scrambles, and more climbing up the slopes, muttering dire threats in the direction of the leader, while Rocket Rosemary whizzes past.

Lift right foot, lift left foot another long haul and then lovely views down the spur.

"No, this is not the top of Koonika."

How much further? More climbing and sidling around the mountain to miss rock faces, then a sharp, steep gully where we drop packs on a saddle. A short slope and then we are on the top at last, with glorious views all around. We can see the Cobbler, Stirling, Buffalo, Bogong, Hotham, all the lovely high places spread about for us to admire. Having spent so much of the morning climbing, we now feel the worst is over, and with revived spirits set off for Speculation and lunch. Much debate and many impolite suggestion back and forth, but finally we settle for continuing on to that place to which the leader has already heartily consigned his recalcitrant group.

Drop down off Speculation then up again till we reach that unfortunate mountain, then once again down, then up again till we reach the first of the many rocky teeth on the Crosscut Saw. Up and down, up and down, knees like jelly, backs aching, puff and pant.

Late afternoon we arrive at the beginning of the Stanley Name Spur. Four flashy fanatics drop packs and make a quick side trip to the cairn on Howitt, while the others drop a steep 600' to a creek and campsite. Later the four fanatics find their way to the pleasant saddle, and how nice to find fires already lit and wood gathered (thanks Phil, we appreciated that), and soon the sun disappears and a bright half moon beams down on colourful little tents scattered around the fires. A perfect evening, calm and mild.

Some of us don't care to bend down to the billies, the effort of straightening up again being too much for our hard used back bones. Was it only lack of co-ordination on the cock's part that threw the pancake mix at Spencer, and did Dick really have to put his foot in Alma's billy of boiling water? We're a tired party, and retire early, the ups and downs of the day having silenced even the most robustious of us.

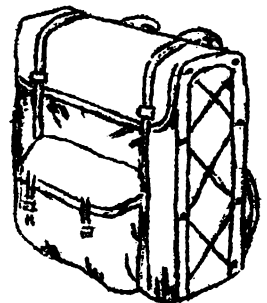
But our leader is essentially kind hearted, and next morning encourages us to push ahead as bravely as the day before, and up and down we go again along the Stanley Name Spur, with Graham showing his mettle, forging ahead relentlessly. Even with many halts to rest the leg weary ones, ups and downs, and a last very steep drop, yet we arrive back at the road for lunch.

It was a great trip Roger, one that we will remember you by.

Did I hear that the Nashoes were putting you in the Infantry?

"Little Old."

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LICENCES FOR PEDESTRIANS

All pedestrians in Victoria will require a licence to walk outside their-homes as from next month.

Under new regulations announced recently, all pedestrians in the State will have to apply for walking licences, and present themselves for police conducted walking tests.

Those who fail to satisfy the examiners will not be permitted to walk on roads or footpaths within the State.

Pedestrians preparing for tests will be obliged to display learner plates and will not, during the probationary period, be permitted to walk in the streets except in the company of a fully licensed walker.

By the main terms of the new regulations, pedestrians must:-

Between the hours of sunset and sunrise display head, rear, and stop lights.

At all times give approved hand signals for stopping and turning.

Present themselves annually for a body check of footpath worthiness.

Standing meters may be introduced in the city areas to stop pedestrians from loitering on or about street corners.

Any person whose licence is revoked for breaches of the regulations will have to either drive or be carried during the period of the suspension.

Commenting on the announcement, an R.A.C.V. spokesman said:

"Arrangements are being made to form the N.F.P.A. (National Footpaths and Pedestrians Association).

We fully expect these regulations to be adopted in other States. N.S.W. is certain to follow just as soon as they build some footpaths in Sydney.

For a small annual fee, N.F.P.A. members will be able to avail themselves of a 24 hour footpath service. Pedestrians who break down, or find themselves in difficulties will be able to telephone the N.F.P.A. and have a fully qualified walker go to them and get them on their feet, or, if needs be, tow them to the nearest hospital or hotel."

————— Staff Reporter —————

At nearly every club night nowadays, somebody invites you to protest against something, usually by signing a petition. The protests are normally about pollution.

How do you feel about this? Are we making too much fuss? Do we care enough? According to our Constitution, one of the Objects of the club is:

"To encourage a wider appreciation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country and to assist in its preservation."

Are you interested in listening to talks and seeing films on conservati/ Or do you feel you are being brainwashed too much? Do you sign the petitions because you want to or are you really only trying to get rid of "the pest" so you can get back to your friends?

The Committee can arrange a number of lectures and films etc., but are reluctant to do so in the belief that maybe we are "overplaying" the problem.

Consequently we need your honest opinions.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY AND TELL HER WHETHER YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THESE MATTERS OR NOT.

————— Geoff Kenafacke —————

NEWS CONVENOR'S NOTE:

I thank the contributors to this month's News. I would appreciate more writings on walks, especially over the Christmas-New Year break.

Other articles are always welcome.

Leaders of February Walks should hand in their walk previews no later than 12th January, 1972.

BUSHWALKERS DICTIONARY -

Shorts - An abbreviated form of trouser which permit easier scratching of the leg.

Instant Pudding - Something that instantly refuses to set.

Life Member - One whose death sentence was commuted.

General Meeting - Where the minutes seem like hours.

Evil Intent - Nice goings on under canvas.

* * * * *