



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 270

September, 1971.

Price 3¢

## FORESTS FOR ALL

Did you know that fire is actually E.regnans' best friend? Far from being the disaster you thought, that 1939 conflagration actually regenerated vast areas of sub-alpine forest. These and many other facts which had strong impact on our pre-conceived ideas were presented to us in a slide-illustrated talk given by Tom Morrison of the Recreation Division of the Forestry Commission of Victoria at the clubrooms on 11th August. Mr. Morrison took us from the very top to the very bottom of Victoria's forests: the first slide was of the alpine snows above the tree line, and by the last we had been to the bottom of a mallee fowl nest out near Mildura.

We had also been taken through the entire life cycle of the state's tallest tree, which is quite literally a matter of ashes to ashes. Mr. Morrison explained that the seed of the mountain ash is not viable except in the conditions which exist after an autumn fire severe enough to kill off the parent "crop" of trees and just about everything else. An apparently devastating fire MUST occur at least once in a period estimated at somewhere between 80 and 200 years in order for this type of forest to survive. Remove the fiery link, and the chain is broken. (The next link in the chain is made of ice. Only a late autumn frost will germinate the seed. Once the snow comes the ground thaws out again and it is too late. Such is the delicate balance of nature.)

Mr. Morrison then showed us how this regenerative step is imitated in forestry operations, and pointed out that it was probably better to have small sections looking rather unsightly for relatively short periods of time, rather than having the state blackened every so often from end to end, which is the natural order of things.

Moving down to warmer regions we came to a fairy-tale forest of uniformly straight trees with green grass under them. Somehow the FCV has managed to inspire these trees with the ambition to become telegraph poles, and they obediently grow with not a leaf out of place, no knot or twisted branch anywhere in sight. It was with some relief that we were transferred to a nice normal untidy forest of stringy-barks out in the Grampians, thickly floored with all that dense, spiny, tangled lacerating undergrowth we know and love so well. Mr. Morrison pointed out that in contrast to the mountain ash, which for the sake of its progeny dies quite easily in a fire, the stringy-bark is extremely fire resistant. It is nevertheless as reliant on fire as is E.regnans, though in a different way. Ultimately, unless periodically burnt out, the undergrowth would kill the forest. Once again the message is: don't rush off a letter to the editor next time you see a blackened section of forest - it may have been blackened for a vital reason.

Mr. Morrison's style is that of a man who has spent many years watching things grow and change and die. He sees forests as places to be used and enjoyed by people -- all sorts of people. Even trail bike riders can be accommodated in his view of things, and the bushwalker who would have them banned is being unduly selfish. He showed us a perfectly ghastly slide of half a dozen station wagons pulled up on a moth-eaten patch of grass at the You Yangs, with "the boys" gathered around a keg which was in the back of one of them, and the women and kids perched on a picnic rug nearby. He pointed out these people were perfectly happy with this dismal setting, and that when a place such as this was provided they would go there, leaving less "developed" forest areas alone. He showed us a neat brick fireplace and a tourist bus in the Sherbrooke Forest, and said that this was for those people who felt a surge of panic if they found they had got to a place where they could not watch the cars passing by on a bitumen road. He showed us a pine forest, and supposed that it might help nostalgic Europeans - anyway, being 15 times as productive as hardwood forest it helped preserve more of such forest. Finally he showed us a map on which generous "wilderness" areas, accessible only on foot, were marked. Even these areas will require careful management and maintenance if they are to remain in their "natural" state. "But how do you define that anyway?" he asked, pointing out that perfectly successful conservation would still represent an interruption of the evolutionary process.

Mr. Morrison reminded us of our responsibilities as forest users. Among  
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FORESTS FOR ALL

these he felt we should include attempts to see that as many walkers as possible are members of clubs, not "loners". We should make ourselves known to forestry officers whenever possible, and tell them what we found right and wrong and what sort of use we had been making of the area. The Forestry Commission always welcomed suggestions for improvements.

The talk was followed by a very lively question time, and it was obvious that a great deal of interest had been generated by it.

- Graham Wills-Johnson -

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 8.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:SLIDE NIGHTS:

October 6th - New Zealand Expedition,  
featuring Volcanoes of N.Z. by Sue Ball.  
" 20th - United Kingdom & France by Bernie Bibby.

DUTY ROSTER:

September, 29th - Pat Lambeth	October, 13th - Graham Mascas
October, 6th - Joy Seymour	" 20th - Bob Steel

NOTICE:

Members will notice from our latest programme that prices have now risen on walks due to increased van costs. The committee advises that if there are an excess number of people on the van and numbers permit then the fare will be reduced from the price shown on the programme. We are not out to make a big profit but are satisfied to break even.

WALKS REPORT:

Numbers for the last two months on walks showed great differences:  
July - 99 people (lowest no. for 3 years.)  
August - 218 people - highest ever. (90 visitors.) (110 average no. members.)

AS FROM NOW WE ARE ENFORCING 50% extra CHARGE FOR ANY LATE BOOKINGS AFTER WEDNESDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE WALK OR PEOPLE TURNING UP ON SUNDAYS WITHOUT BOOKING.  
THE VANS ARE BOOKED TO HOLD THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BOOKED FOR WALKS.

BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS OF SCENES AND PEOPLE SUITABLE FOR WALK MAGAZINE ARE REQUIRED. IF YOU HAVE ANY, PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO ATHOL SCHAFFER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE PRINTING OF WALK WILL BE COMMENCED SHORTLY. A 'GLAMOROUS FRONT COVER' PHOTO IS WANTED.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME:

Due to our Square Dance Success earlier in the year, another one is being planned for December. More details will be printed later.

Also a barbecue has been suggested at Graham Hodgson's home.

Members are all welcome. Considering the club membership is approx. 200 there are not enough 'sociable bushies' at all our social activities.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS FOR ANY FUNCTIONS, SHOWS, OUTINGS, ETC.

WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKS:October 3 WHIPSTICK - MT EGERTON

Leader: Marion Siseman p) 878-1839 Easy

Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.50

Map Reference: Ballan 1: 63,360

THE Whipstick is one of the closest areas of Mallee to Melbourne and is therefore interesting to the botanically minded. We hope to find plenty of botany out this time of the year, to ramble down a gorgy part of the Eastern Moorabool River and to poke about the old mining area of Mt. Egerton.

10 SCARSDALE - CHERRY TREE HILL - LINTON NORTH

Leader: Ralph Bryan p) 762-2095 Easy-Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$3.00

Map Reference: R.A.S.C. BALLARAT.

This should be a pleasant walk, much of it through pine plantations with no steep hills. We will be walking on tracks for most of the day.

17 DONNA BUANG - MT. JULIET - FERNSHAW

Leader: Spencer George b) 63-2406 Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.50

Map Reference: Juliet 1: 50,000.

We leave the van on top of Mount Donna Buang where the height is 4,100 feet and walk for about twelve miles mainly down hill, finishing among the tourists in the Fernshaw picnic reserve at a height of 700 feet, so this is a down hill walk, with tall timber, ferns and occasional views as well as a long, long lunch hour if the sun is shining.

24 HANGING ROCK - FALLS CREEK - MT. TOWRONG - BARRINGO

Leader: Gerry McPhee b) 669-2540 Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00

Map Reference:

This will be a very varied walk. There will be open country and forest, gumtrees and pines, roads and bush, and possibly a waterfall. Although we will probably have water during the day, carry some for lunch just in case. It will be medium - possibly easier but not harder.

30 OLD TIMERS DAY - EMERALD LAKE

Organiser: Felix Harding p) 97-5538 No Walking

This is the 5th year of the annual old timers reunion.

There will be no walking and will be a get together.

Families attending may like to put their children on Puffing Billy at Belgrave and pick them up at Emerald. Private transport required. Last year there were 150 people and it is hoped to see more this year.

WEEKEND WALKS:October 1/3 TALBOT - MT GLASGOW - MT. BECKWITH

Leader: Tyrone Thomas p) 89-5197 Easy

Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$4.50

Map Reference: Creswick 1: 100,000 16 miles - Distance.

It is not often that I lead easy walks but this trip is one of those rare occasions. Mt. Beckwith does entail a moderate climb and so does Mt. Bolton (Two extinct volcanoes) but most of the walk is in lightly wooded country and makes for an easy trip. - There are several historical points to visit and in each case they are associated with the once gold boom town of Clunes. Mt. Beckwith is a park and provides excellent views - Carry water for Saturdays lunch.

8/10 CASTLE ROCK - CHIMNEY POTS (VICTORIA RANGE)

Leader: Graham Wills-Johnston p) 52-4720 Hard

Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00

Map Reference: Grampians 1: 100,000 21 miles - Distance.

NO SCRUB BUSHING, except 300 yards up to The Fortress (without packs)

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THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

- BUSHWALKER - Genus Homo Non Sapiens.
- SPECIES - Local Australian mutation or variant of European ethos Hiker.
- HABITAT - Found throughout Australia, more particularly in rugged regions unsuitable for mountain goats and rock wallabies, and arid areas from which rabbits have been starved out.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The animal occurs in three genders: male, female and prospective, which latter is the rudimentary of embryonic form.

The species can be classified into its respective genders by close anatomical and physiological study. The female generally (but by no means always) is of smaller stature, rounder and more resplendent of plumage than the male, which can most easily be distinguished by the feet, being larged, flatter and hornier.

The epidermis, or hide is also characteristic; that of the male being thickly encrusted with mud and soot as protection against stinging insects in the locality.

The embryo, or prospective is easily distinguished by the woebegone expression it habitually wears as a result of the probationary period it spends as hewer of wood and drawer of water to the tribal elders during its formative years.

Anatomically the creature is remarkably complex, with the exception of the nervous system, which is substantially vestigial. This is manifest in the total insensitivity to pain evinced during protracted periods of self-mutilation. These are incurred during the creature's frequent headlong dashes through the arid deserts and trackless forests it frequents.

The diet is omnivorous in the extreme; subsistence often comprising an unidentifiable leguminous matter, colloquially known as "dehyds". Indeed, such is the harshness of the creature's diet that the gastronomical system combines the corrosive digestive juices of a shark with the alimentary tract of an ostrich, and is thus able to assimilate anything that does not bite it first.

Household requisites conveyed, whilst basically utilitarian, vary in weight and quantity according to the individual. The range is considerable. The "Ultra-Light-Mite" for example, uses without scruple whatever goods may be left unguarded by other more provident members of the species. Alternatively the "Kitchen-Sink-Fink" conveys not only the proverbial kitchen stove and sink, but also carries the necessary implements with which to cut the fuel to feed the stove, (sub-species B.Scout).

The features of the male genus are often fringed with an excrescence of shaggy mane. It is not yet known whether this is nature's way of protecting exposed parts from extremes of climate, or is deliberately grown in an effort to obscure an unsightly and possibly scabrous facade.

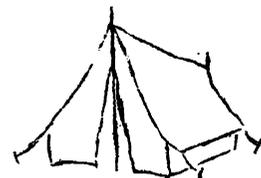
Homo Non Sapiens undoubtedly warrant further research, but regrettably they do not take kindly to captivity. Pining as they do for native haunts and fraternal frolic, they have so far proved quite impossible to domesticate.

CHARLIE DARWINLOCH WILSON692 Glenhuntly Rd.  
Caulfield

For all

Bushwalking Equipment,

Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.







by "MUMMAJONG"

Congratulations to Norm MacLeish and Margaret MacCallum on their recent engagement. I'm not too sure whether there is any truth in the rumour that they are planning to spend their honeymoon, after they are married, in the Dibbins Hut area. They hope to catch a glimpse at least of the crafty and ever elusive Mummajong. (They are closing in, so there is not much time left Spencer!)

Congratulations also to Warren and Maria who were married on August 30th. Their honeymoon location at time of writing was a secret. I wonder if they did Tyrone's Otway trip again? (without Tyrone of course.) Since this was written the newlyweds have been sighted in the clubroom on the night of the First Aid Film.)

At a recent meeting of the Federation's Tracks and Huts Committee, the Chairman mentioned the fact that quite a few huts which he has visited recently have contained various quantities of food such as sugar, tea, chocolate, etc., which have been left behind by bushwalkers. Some of this food is left by people who think that someone else might need it, but more often than not, it just provides food for growing hordes of rats and mice that infest some huts. The message should be clear - do not leave food behind in huts, because not only does it make them untidy and unpleasant, it also attracts flies and various vermin.

It appears that Wilkie is definitely the place where to go a Roving these days. Or so one person thought, but who was nearly white-anted by the ever, ever, ever present Chaperone.

Langlauf? skiers BEWARE! A certain hiring agency operating out Box Hill way, and in other areas, supposedly hires out langlauf equipment. However, two club members recently discovered that you get "downhill" boots with langlauf skis. This causes great stress on the skis and has the result of ripping the screws and bindings out of the skis. This is not very funny when you are caught halfway between Wilkinson Lodge and Falls Creek in a snow storm.

A whisper has filtered through to Mummajong's receptive ears that 3 club members came back a day late from a walk preview in the Howqua River area recently. All three shared the one tent on the Sunday night, the excuse being that there was room for one tent only. Well; I have heard about togetherness, but when I heard about this, boy, was I disgusted. The Society for the Abolition of Communal Sleeping amongst Bushwalkers will get to hear of this. (The News Convenor refers to Club Rules & By-Laws - Walks & Trips: C. 1. Tenting.)

For all you Square (?) dancers out there, there are plans afoot to organise another square dance in December. It is hoped that a centrally located hall can be hired for the occasion.

Congratulations on the Marriage of Joan Gibbons to Dave Gibson on 17th September. It is not true that Dave is taking Joan's surname as stated in the Aug. News. (Typing Error by N.Con.) Women's Lib has not come to that stage yet.

Congratulations on the engagement of departing club member Michael Griffin (who is now in Queensland) to Glenda Alexander. A November Wedding is planned. Apparently Absence does make the heart grow fonder.

Roger 'Stirrer' 'Hey Fritz' 'Rosedale Rocket' Brown, has received a has received a Birthday Present from the Government. The Army can expect a one man invasion early next year. Good Luck.

Ed Lawton proudly driving around in a honey brown with a white roof Kombi Van now, looking for a passenger (female) to go with it. He has sold his Beetle and Land Rover.

Heard that has a plaster cast on one of his legs at the moment. The result of too much strenuous walk previewing.

\* \* \* \* \*



# ALONG THE TRACK

## WHITE SWAN RESERVOIR - ST. GEORGES LAKE - SPRING HILL

Well, it appears that Summer is coming at long last, there are two main reasons for making this assumption - 1. Alma was seen braving the cold. & 2. The number of bare legs that appeared on this walk. It looked at first as though these poor people would suffer as there was a considerable amount of cloud as we approached Ballarat, but for once the weather forecast was correct and the sun spent the day with us.

The walk started through some magnificent pine forest - nostalgic for Europeans? There appeared to be white markers through where we were going, someone was being very helpful. Then eucalypt forest for lunch so that the Australians could have their share of nostalgia! Back into the pine forest, and still the convenient white markers, coincidence? Felix took exception to the rest of the party and went his own brambly, loggy way to the van, the sensible ones, however had by now realized that the easiest way was to follow the markers, Joyce had previewed the walk very well and knew the easiest way (she must be short of white sheets now though). Finally there was an open climb up to Spring Hill - that sorted the party out a bit - and down the other side to where Dennis informed us we were 4 minutes late!

On the way home we had some very pleasant singing led by a visitor that knows a bit about folk music - how about an occasional song sheet in "NEWS" so that a few more people could get to know the words.

Thank you very much Joyce for a good walk that I know you put a lot of work in to.

- Sue Ball -

### NEWS CONVENOR'S NOTE:

Referring to the above writing by Sue who asks "how about a song sheet in News." I was not able to obtain any songs this month but would like anyone to give me words of songs or else I have heard that the MBW used to have a song book many years ago. If any 'old' member has a copy would they kindly loan to me. I welcome everyone's views on songs for van trips.

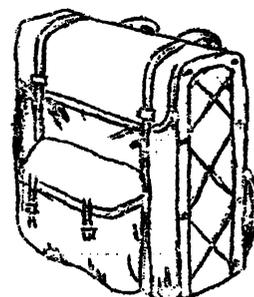
I am in need of more writings on walks and other articles for "News", so would you please keep busy writing. Many thanks to the contributors of this month's "NEWS".  
Joy Seymour

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS WELCOME back new 'old' member from 2 years ago -  
back from National Service: Alan Phillips p) 796-8577  
Lot 3, Rowallan Ave., Harkaway, 3806

### WE ALSO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

- Janet Clemons, 38 Adelaide Street, Armadale, 3143 b) 64-0111 ext. 243.
- Beverley Fonda, 6/282 Langridge Street, Abbotsford, 3067 p) 42-8200.
- Graeme Laidlaw, 420 Mitcham Road, Mitcham, 3132 p) 874-3883
- Elizabeth Evans, 50 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, 3124 p) 82-6233. b) 51-8441.
- Arjon Sikking, 2/63 Richmond Tce., Richmond, 3121 b) 37-8881 ext. 364

# AUSKI

 9 Hardware St.  
Phone 67 1412

The Bushwalking Specialist  
Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.

WALK PREVIEWS

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October 8/10 CASTLE ROCK - CHIMNEY POTS (VICTORIA RANGE)

and some at The Chimney Pots (also an optional side-trip).

A forestry track runs along the top of the Victoria Range, from which excellent views of the other ranges, and of huge monoliths on the Victoria Range itself. The first day it will be necessary to travel  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles to camp because of water problems, so we will need to keep moving; but I still think the Walks Secretary has over-estimated the severity of the walk considerably!

15/17 FEDERATION TRACK CLEARING

Delegate: Alex Stirkul b) 46-4841 ext.22.

This year there will be two venues for the track clearing weekend - one reasonably close to Melbourne and the other further afield.

1. Kepplell's Track (Marysville area)

Leader: Alan Knox (Walking Club of Victoria.

This track was originally cleared by the Federation and is now in need of maintenance.

2. Mt. St. Bernard - The Twins - Mt Murray

Leader: Tom Kneen

This is a section of the Alpine Track being constructed by the Forests Commission and the Ministry of Tourism with advice from the Federation. Work on this is a practical way to express our support for this project. This section of the track has not been marked or cleared so that this will probably be mainly a route marking weekend, with some track clearing.

Note : It is possible that weather or snow will make this an unsuitable venue. An alternative in the same area will be arranged.

Transport will be by private cars in both cases. Please contact the leaders if you are able to bring a four wheel drive vehicle or special equipment such as a chain saw.

Bookings Contact

Alan Knox p) 231-1614 b) 340-6705

Tom Kneen p) 347-3818 b) 34-9021 ext. 337.

Please see our delegate - Alex Stirkul for any other details.

22/24 PARADISE FALLS - MT. VIEW - BENNIES - MT WARWICK

Leader: Art Terry p) 93-3617 Medium-Hard

Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00

Map References: Buffalo 1" - 1 mile. Forestry Commission.

or Whitfield 1-100,000. Fire Map.

This is a circular trip, close to the Alps, not actually alpine but very near to it. Height 3,000 feet plus. We start to climb at 2,000 feet so will have about 1,000 feet to go up. There are very good views and some large boulders and interesting rock formations in the area. Walking will be on tracks for half the distance and then climbing and walking along rocky ridges. Paradise Falls is a spectacular sight - approx. 80 feet high. Bennies - An historical old homestead. Saturday night camp will be beside the Rose River.

29/31 PRESIDENTS WEEKEND

Leader: Graham Mascas p) 50-2995 Non qualifying

MORE DETAILS WILL BE PRINTED IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWS.

The camp will be beside the Murrindindi River, somewhere between Mountain Forest area, Waterfalls.

Saturday - 'Chef' night. Try out your talents cooking that famous family recipe or anything from a damper to crepe Suzettes.

Prizes for the best 'tasting' food.

Sunday - An Orienteering day will be held. There will be two sections - one for the beginners and one for the more experienced.

You will need a Compass and a Map (will advise details later).

This weekend is your opportunity to 'socialise' with everyone.