



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 284

November 1972

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VICE PRESIDENTS WEEKEND

25 - 26 NOVEMBER

This year, instead of a Presidents Weekend we will be having a Vice Presidents Weekend. It will be held in the Cathedral Range area near Taggerty. A short walk will be organised on Saturday afternoon for those who arrive early. On Saturday evening A COOKING COMPETITION will be held, with two divisions :- BEST MENU i.e. best complete meal; and BEST DISH.

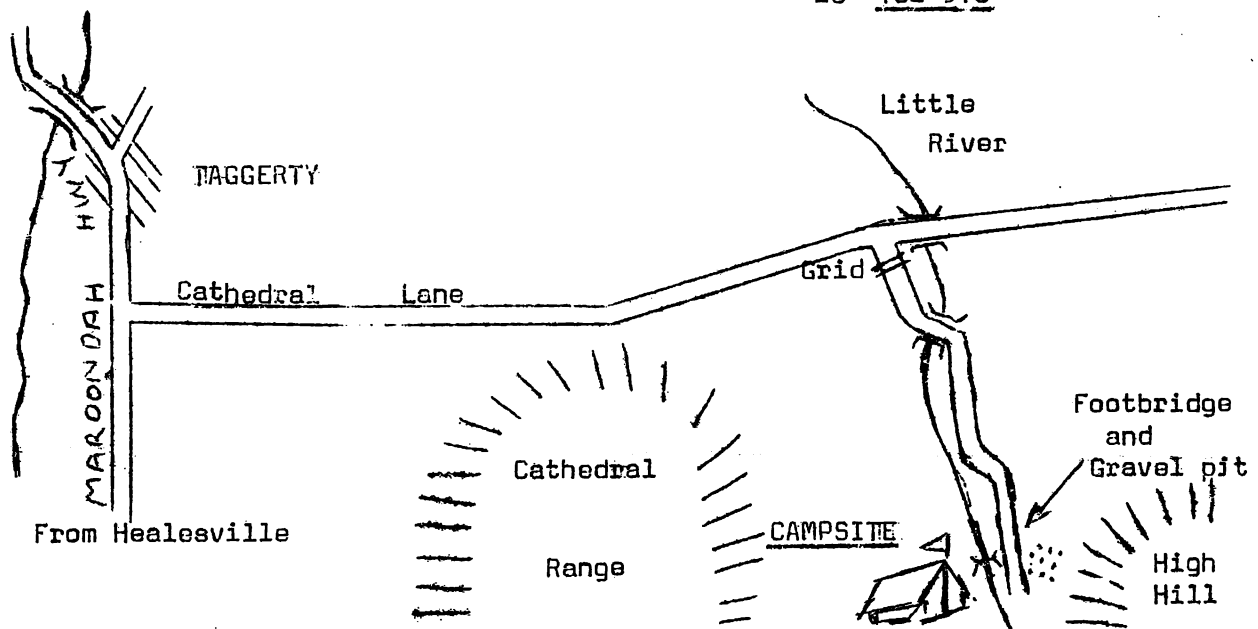
A navigation exercise is planned for Sunday. Participants will be divided into small groups, with at least one experienced person per group. Groups will be required to find their way around a predetermined route, each member of the group being responsible for the navigation on one leg of the route. The object will be to learn map reading and navigation. It will not be a competition.

Maps Required Taggerty and Thornton 1:50,000 maps. Also bring a compass

Transport Private or van. A van will be organised for those who require it. It will leave Batman Ave. at 1.30 pm on Saturday afternoon. So please book if you require transport. A van will also be available on Sunday for day walkers.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Grid Reference on  
Thornton 1:50,000  
is 762 915



# XMAS - BBQ

(or SALAD - I - Q if there's a fire ban)

SATURDAY, 16th DECEMBER

AT

RALPH and BARB'S PLACE 12 CHESTNUT STREET, SURREY HILLS

So come along with all your Bar-B-Q goodies and make it a real swinging party.

CLOSING DATE FOR MELVILLE CAVES SLIDE COMPETITION 22 NOVEMBER. See Sue Ball.

All correspondence should be addressed to  
 Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers,  
 Box 1761Q, G.P.O.  
MELBOURNE, Victoria 3001

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

WALKS PRELIMINARIES      DECEMBER

DAY WALKS

**Dec 3 FERNSHAW - CARTERS GAP - MT. DOM DOM**

Leader; Virgil Davis (p) 232 5474 Easy - Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00. Expected return 7.30 pm.

Map reference; Juliet 1:50,000, Approx distance 12 miles.

Adelightful walk along a river valley, followed by a climb into mountain ash and beech forest. Lyre birds live in the area, but it is unlikely that we will see them. There are no expansive views, so those who only like walks with views can stay at home! Bring water for lunch.

**Dec 10 HARPERS MILL - MT. DISAPPOINTMENT - TOOROURONG RESERVOIR**

Leader; John Cairns (p) 53 9257 Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$1.75. Expected return 7.30 pm.

Map reference; Kinglake 1:50,000 Approx distance; 14 miles.

Commencing at Hollow back Lookout Tower we shall follow a timber road for several miles then set out to find the old mill on Harpers Creek. After climbing the fire tower at Mt. Disappointment, the highest point in the Hume Ranges, we shall head down to Toorourong Reservoir.

**Dec 17 STEVENSON FALLS - KEPPELS LOOKOUT - MT. GORDON RIDGE**

Leader; Sam Lareen Easy - Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.50 Expected return 8 - 9 pm.

Map reference; Juliet and McMahons Ck. 1:50,000. Approx dist. 11 miles.

Starting from Stevensons Falls we take a winding course around the ranges through Oxlee and Keppels Lookouts, then in the last few miles we ascend Mt. Gordon (views!) and arrive at Marysville via Woods Lookout. Interesting well-timbered country.

WEEKEND WALKS

**1 - 3 BOGONG - SPION KOPJE - THE GREY HILLS**

Leader; Alex Stirkul (b) 46 484! Hard

Private transport (check with leader) Expected return; Sunday evening

Map; Algonia Guides "Mt. Bogong" Approx distance 27 hard miles.

This trip is simply a must for all those fitness fanatics who have been complaining bitterly that there were no walks last season on which they could really get into top gear, i.e. running up a mountain while carrying a 60lb pack. In an attempt to satisfy this latent masochistic craving within the club, the leader has come up with the above mentioned walk. Only those who feel they can survive need put their name down as it is obviously not recommended for beginners, once a year men and others of that ilk. To aid mobility it is necessary to limit the group to 13.

**8 - 10 1) MOROKA RANGE - CASTLE HILL - BILLY GOAT BLUFF**

Leader; Peter Bullard (p) 50 5234 Easy - Medium

Transport; see leader. Expected return 9.00 pm. Approx dist; 18 miles

Maps; 1"= 1 mile, Wellington, Cobbannah, Wonnangatta and Moroka.

A fairly easy walk with only a couple of climbs and excellent views into the Wonnangatta River valley.

**2) TRAPYARD HILL - MT. WELLINGTON - THE SENTINELS**

Leader; John Hillard (p) 53 9257 Easy

Transport; see leader. Expected return 9.00 pm.

Maps; VMTC "Snowy Plains and Mt. Wellington" Approx distance 14 miles.

The walk will follow the length of the Wellington Plains to camp at Millers Hut. It is possibly one of the best "beginner weekend walker" trips available in Victoria, due to the short walking distance and the fine views. But come along if you're feeling like something more strenuous, the side trips to Mt. Wellington, The Sentinels and Lake Tarli Kerng will take care of any amount of excess energy.

CHRISTMAS WALKS**22 - 26 DEAD HORSE GAP - CASCADES - TIN MINE FALLS - PURGATORY HILL - CHIMNEYS**

Leader; Rodney 'Spud' Mattingley (b)350 1222 Medium **RIDGE**  
 Transport; Private Map; Jacobs River 1:100,000

Cars will be left at Dead Horse Gap on Saturday morning. This will be a very interesting walk in the Southern Snowy Mountains. At various times we should have views of Pinnibar in N.E. Victoria, Cobberas to the south and the Ramshead Range to the north. All shutterbugs should ensure therefore, that they bring copious supplies of Kodak film. Be prepared for bad weather - it can snow even at Xmas in this area. Bring gloves, balaclavas and waterproof over trousers.

**26 - 30 WILKY - FEATHERTOP - SPION KOPJE - WILKY**

Leader; Graham Mascas (b)37 8881 Medium - Hard  
 Transport; Car to and from Wilky. Expected return to Wilky Monday 1 Jan.  
 Maps; "Mt. Bogong" and "Bogong High Plains" -Algona Guides  
 Approx Distance; 55 miles, 6 days Party limit - 6

Proposed route is to include; From Wilky to Mt. Cope, Mt. Feathertop, Mt. Niggerhead, Mt. Fainter, Bogong Village, Mt. Spion Kopje, Mt. Nelse and back to Wilky.

**27 - 1 Jan. SHOALHAVEN RIVER (N.S.W.)**

Leader; Spencer George Medium  
 Private transport. Approx distance; 50 miles.  
 Maps; Touga, Cooura, Sumner 1:31,680 (N.S.W. Lands Dept.)

A walk and swim alongside and in the Shoalhaven River as it cuts its way through limestone, shale and sandstone on its travels to the sea. The area is inaccessible to trail bikes, landrovers and tourists. Grassy campsites with abundance of water and firewood. Sunshine and scenery guaranteed.

**29 - 1 Jan. (New Year W/E) DARGO HIGH PLAINS**

Leader; Geoff Kenafacke (p)29 4667 Easy  
 Transport; Cars, Transit van. Map; Dargo 1"=1 mile F.C.V.

We intend to drive into the High Plains from the Gippsland end and do day walks to points of interest. We will camp with the vehicles and move to a new location each day. This promises to be a real alpine bludge in an area seldom visited by the club.

**7 - 13 Jan. CRADLE MTN. - LAKE ST. CLAIR (TASMANIA)**

Leader; Warren Baker (p)99 9908

This is one of the most beautiful walks in Australia. The party will be travelling from Walchein to Lake St. Clair along a well worn track, which continually ascends through saddles and then descends on to valleys and plains and ascends again. Each valley is more beautiful than the last. The party will travel into Pine Valley and if possible sleep in the huts which have been erected along the way. See the leader for all the details.

**26 Dec - 9 Jan. MT. FIELD NATIONAL PARK - MT. ANNE CIRCUIT (TASMANIA)**

Leader; Felix Harding (p)97 5538  
 Transport; Plane, early morning Boxing Day, to Hobart, Open return.  
 Maps; Mt. Anne Massif 4"=1 mile (H.W.C.) Wedge, sheet No.8013 1"=1 mile  
 Approx distance; 100 miles. Lands Dept.

This trip is to consist of one week (approx) of Medium walking at various points in the Mt. Field Nat. Park and one week (approx) of Hard walking near Mt. Anne. Snow is possible and excellent views.

CONTACTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Regular contacts Fred and Merle Hills will not be available 22/12/72 to 15/1/73. and Graham and Sue Errey will not be available 22/12/72 to 2/1/73.

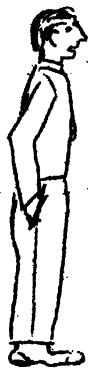
Geoff and Jenny Kenafacke will act as contacts from 22/12/72 to 28/12/72

EQUIPMENT HIRE

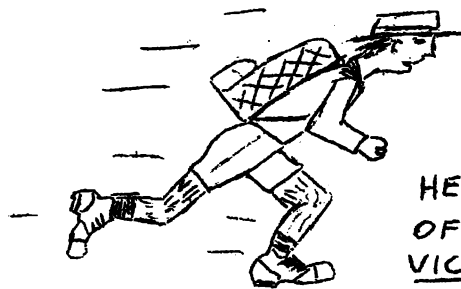
The committee decided to raise the hire charges on all items to 50¢ per weekend, 25¢ per day. Deposits will be \$2. These charges are still well below any shops.

DUTY ROSTER

Nov. 22nd. Joy Seymour, Graham Mascas	Dec. 6th. Tim Dent, Graham Hodgson
29th. Fred Halls, Art Terry	13th. Ann and Darrell Sullivan
	20th. Alma Strapazon, Sue Ball



WHAT'S THE HURRY  
-AN S+R CALL?



HELL NO! I'M  
OFF TO THE  
VICE-PRESIDENTS  
WEEKEND.

Fellers?! Do you have problems in how to attract girls? Just consult our female expert, Dick Rosenbaum, he has all the clues. A recent walk saw Dick eager to be rubbed in three different places with sunburn oil. I don't know where the three places were but he certainly mustered some female assistance.

Many people are interested in the temperature at any one time, so instead of carrying around an easily broken thermometer, just use the following simple method: Firstly obtain a cricket (not a bat - an insect) and add up the number of chirps it makes in one minute, divide this number by 3,406, add on 137.6 and multiply by 2.62, you have then calculated the correct air temperature in degrees Centigrade.

The above piece of useless information will be a feature of all future editions.

Everyone knows what OXO is, but does everyone really know what an OX is. Some say it is an animal caused by the inter-breeding of an ass and a bison, others say a cross between a donkey and a bull. Whatever it is, Norbert is adamant that an OX is a castrated male cow! I wonder if this means that a hare is a de-sexed female buck.

I've heard of wife swapping orgies, assault etc, but you ask the Mascas's and Kenafacke's and you'll find they are indulging in cross pollination. I dare not say more, however if you require any further information on this unique new method, I suggest you ask them for a free colour brochure. I believe it has something to do with making natives grow in the garden.

Did you hear about the young woman who wrote to the tax office and said "Could you please send me another claim form as I now have a baby. I had one before but it got dirty so I burnt it."

Tyrone was muttering to himself the other day about minimum requirements. Nobody is really sure whether he was referring to fires or girls when he said that his minimum requirements was 5'6" long and 1' high.

At the recent orienteering competition held at Gembrook, Tim Dent was outright winner, beating the previous champions by 15 minutes. Congratulations Tim - a tremendous effort.

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Best of luck to Eddie who is joining the RAAF this week. Wait till you see him in uniform girls!\*\*\*!

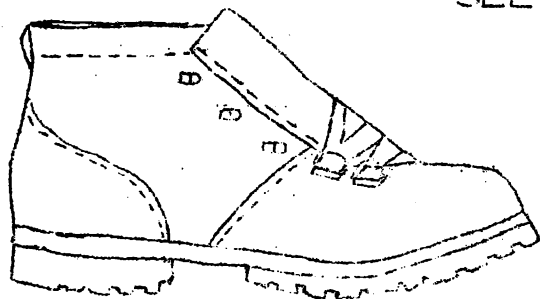
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Congratulations to Joan and David Gibson on the birth of little Joy in September.

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Thanks go to Bob, Tim, Helen, Athol and Rod, who were responsible for the club-room clean up last week. How about some members other than those on the Committee, who more often than not are the only ones who turn up, giving a helping hand next club-room clean up?!

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FOR ALL  
BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING GEAR

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ROCKS TO STROKE THE FIRES OF HELL?

At the recent general meeting I raised two subjects, being acts which appear to have been accepted or at least tolerated by members of this club since the year dot. Since many members were absent from this meeting I'll repeat the theme of what I said here.

(a) ROCK THROWING:- I don't refer to skipping stones across a stone or lake since I believe that these stones would eventually be regurgitated by such a body of water to whence they came. I mean throwing of stones or boulders (the bigger the better it seems) down hills and mountainsides (the larger the crash and destruction caused, the more satisfied is the thrower). This is obviously a childish action and against the aims of this club.

(b) BONFIRE LIGHTING:- It's often heard - "I like a good big fire to keep warm by". I think the theme must run something like this - "I'm a bushwalker; bushwalkers know all bush safety rules and are aware of the need for conservation; I like big campfires; therefore big campfires can't be bad."

Many responsible members of this club seem to go along with this pyro-maniac-ism as noted on several recent club trips. How about thinking of the following points before adding another tree to your fire:-

(i) The destruction of humus and refuge for numerous beasties such as ants, beetles, lizards and snakes (not to mention the barbequing of some of these native fauna to slow to anticipate their death).

(ii) The total lack of good reason for such a blaze. It's often impossible to approach a communal fire to add another log, so the heat produced is well in excess of the need to keep warm of a winter's night.

(iii) The obvious danger of bushfires. Don't tell me that all the campfires you've seen have been totally safe, and there are also strict laws about lighting fires in the open.

(iv) Coupled to these three reasons is the bad name we give our club as evidenced on the recent trip to Wyperfeld when we were told by the Ranger to restrict our blazes.

As a result of these points it seems to me that ideally we should ban campfires of all types but it could be argued that what is burned on a normal small cooking fire is the naturally produced dead wood from our forests. Hence I proposed that a new club by-law be added as follows:-  
"Club members shall ensure at all times that campfires are of a minimum size to fulfill their requirements."

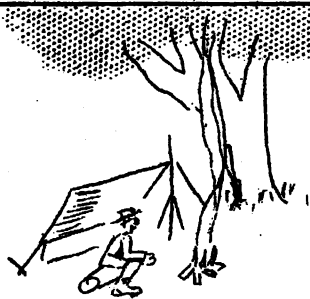
I don't put myself in the position as ultimate judge of hell's flames, but I believe this new by-law will give walk leaders at least a thin leg to stand on when requesting party members to tone down their fires.

Further it is recommended that during the summer months (Oct. to end of Feb.) that members carry choofers for cooking, especially due to the dry conditions prevailing this year.

DIM TENT

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BIG thanks to all contributors (Some articles have been kept for next month) and to Marion and Helen for typing. December NEWS deadline, Wed 6th.



# ALONG THE TRACK

## WINTER AT WILKY

The worst part of winter (for a week) at Wilky is getting there. We left at 7 a.m., drove to Falls Creek and then skied in with exceedingly heavy packs - after that anyone would need a holiday! As we crossed the dam wall we met the other party coming out. They didn't trust the weather - little did they know. The following day, Sunday, we went across to Mt. Nelse and got so sunburned that on Monday we had to go back to Falls Creek to get zinc cream! On the Mt. Nelse trip we had a good opportunity to see the testing ground of the snowmobiles. If their tracks kill the vegetation, as they are reported to do so (they have been banned from the Kosciusko National Park for this reason), we will have some interesting circles and lines in the basin of Watchbed Creek.

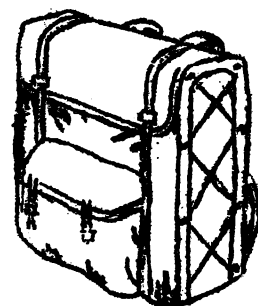
Tuesday was our worst day weatherwise. I finally dragged Graham, Tim and Bob out for an hour before lunch so that Tim could practise his sideslipping on Basalt Hill. In the afternoon we all went for a ski, I believe around Rocky Knobs, but there was a virtual whiteout, so we followed Tim and prayed. Fitzgerald's and Kelly's Huts were visited on another superb day, with the party tearing off to meet the National Fitness group on Holland's Knob - has a party ever been so proud of not falling down?

Thursday was the tragic day. Helen left her bed to come with us, but unfortunately she had to turn back, so Joyce, Graham and I went to Mt. Jim. On the way back there was a horrible cracking noise accompanied by a sinking feeling - and I walked back carrying one ski and two halves. Friday was another perfect day although the ranks were thinning. Tim, Graham and Joyce went to the Niggerheads, Joyce with some clothing around her face to stop her getting more sunburnt (see G.V.-J.) photos. Trevor stuck my ski together again, so Graham and I left on Saturday, apparently Friday had been such a perfect day any more would spoil it, and I couldn't stand another day of watching other people skiing. Unfortunately the binding on the patched ski broke at Wallace's, so once more I walked, apparently four years was enough for my skis! The rest of the party left on the Sunday. I imagine they will be looking forward to going again next year for another lovely holiday.

SUE BALL

**AUSKI** 9 Hardware St.  
Phone 67 1412

The Bushwalking Specialist  
Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.



SM MASCAS' RECCE PATROL

It was 1100 hours on Sunday at King Parrot Creek and a glum day at that. The LGV<sup>1</sup> left the high road, crossed the narrow wooden bridge and chugged steadily uphill into the forest primeval. At a dubious road junction it halted and unloaded its dubious contents into the scrub. At 1130 SM Mascas issued his orders with the air of a well seasoned RSM. "Now listen in chaps. My name is Graham, and I shall be oop froont. This is Art (introducing a fit looking ex commando type) and he shall be cop the back. Whatever you do, don't get in froont o' me, or behind Art. Platoon SHUN! By the left, QUICK MARCH!

As we strolled down a nearby spur to a creek junction, the still warm air was full of the smells of the bush, and bright golden wattle coloured the drab green of the forest. "No sentimentalizing up the back there!" Having located the non perennial stream marked on the map, we were now ordered to follow it, although nobody had been instructed to carry waterwings inflatable, troops for the use of, or webbed feet. Consequently, slimy rocks cheated more than one recruit of dry pants. Diggers Gully Falls were presumably dry, and in due course the patrol halted for midday mess parade. Half an hour later, "On yer feet, it's time we were moving", followed by mutinous remarks of disgust. "Hang on, I haven't finished polishin' me boots yet, and I've yet to clean the black of me billy". (Nit, you don't bother about those niceties here). We followed the creek once again, keeping a lookout for hidden snipers and panji traps. Art posted well forward in the rear, skillfully kept erring and straying recruits on the straight and narrow. As the gully broadened and the scrub dispersed, leader stopping for a nav check noticed one of the local hun perched on his tractor fondling a pintle mounted, magazine fed, double barrellled shotgun. Simultaneously, he detected a useful spur on his right flank, and bade us hastily climb. Good thinking 99!

At the top of the ridge, after posting a sentry detail on the road, we dropped into a nearby gully to check out the Tunnel Hill Falls. They were dry too, so after making a hasty entry in his log book, SM Mascas marched us back to the road and down to Strath Creek. Murchison Falls, our objective, was upstream some distance. So with packs at the shoulder, we slow-marched over slimy rocks, through ferns and swordg collecting unwanted hitchhikers in the forms of voracious leeches. The falls, all two hundred feet of them, were well worth the effort, and definitely a reliable source of water, which, emanating from uncultivated terrain, was found to be free of pathogenic bacteria, and quite potable (scribble, scribble). "But how in hell does one get to the top?" "It's easy. Just pretend you are assaulting a fortified position, with the Hun firing down on you". Needless to say, all got to the top, except two casualties who took a sidetrip to the Falls for a drink and got themselves stuck.

Art by this time had scaled the precipice and had doubled two miles down the road to fetch the LGV and had brought it back to meet us just as the inevitable rain began to pour. Good for morale that sort of thing. Thanks Art, a d much thanks Graham.

*Underleutnant Greenboots*

MEMO TO SM MASCAS:

Mission successful; report for further orders on Friday 20th October 1972

*Lt. Col. Chugbottom*  
41st Regiment of Foot

1. Little Green Van

Stalag 13, Gezeitenfluss

KOMMANDANTS REPORT, 20-22 OKTOBER 1972

Gott mit uns! Heil der\* Führer! Much has been done to further the glory of the Fourth Reich and show yet again that we are indeed the Master Race! A party of verdammte englische Buschvalkers vas here on the above dates and I really taught the Schweinhunds proper respect for mein bureaucratic authority! Perhaps it is not yet time to have my doddering old batman Vieraugen shot after all! Maybe I will just put him to breaking rocks on the new Autobahn ve are konstrukting to Oberon Bay to encourage more tourists to spread more litter further afield so we have the excuse to further tighten our hold! Doddering oldVieraugen certainly

played his part in humiliating the Engliche! Vile I vent and hid in der swamps below Telegraph Saddle, he apprehended their advance guard with a dramatically raised fist and said "You wait there - der Kommandant vill speak to you ven he is ready!" For an hour they sat there, their only feeble gesture of defiance being to alter their 'Victoria Needs an Alpine National Park' sticker by adding the words 'With No Rangers' ! Vieraugen pretended he vas unable to kontakt me on the radio, but ven der main party arrived I got the message immediately und vas on der scene within seconds!

Ach mein Führer, you would have been so proud if you could have seen how I dealt with them! Leaning nonchalantly on my heels against the wall of the sentry box, I put on the look of authority so well taught to us in Stormtrooperschule, and called for Schweinhund Spuddingley! Schweinhund Spuddingley shuffled nervously forth und clicked his heels respectfully! "Vy do you not write to me suitably grovelling letters six months in advance?!" I screamed! "Vy do you enter the park without your identification papers in order?! Hein? Hein?!" Sooner or later, mein Führer, ve vill teach these englische dogs that they must have their papers in order! Even if they are starting their walk at Yanakie and finishing at Darby River they must first come to Gezeitenfluss and get their papers in order before they go back to Yanakie to start walking! This they must do if they plan to step so much as one foot over the boundary! I have had to transfer those men I formerly had to prevent people painting on the rocks at Refuge Cove to searching Buschwalkers at Darby River for proper identification papers, but I am sure you will agree that this is the correct order of priorities! After all, painting on the rocks is merely vandalism, but not carrying identification papers constitutes a threat to mein authority and the glory of the Fourth Reich (Bureaucracy)! Ach, mein Führer, I am wearing the mantle of authority ever more securely as the years pass and I am supreme Gauleiter of this southern region! None shall enter this Gau without their papers in order! None shall enter this Gau without showing due deference! None shall enter this Gau from Melbourne Buschwalkers unless a grovelling letter is written six months in advance!

Now you must excuse me, mein Führer, as a small mistake has been made! (Ve shall have Vieraugen shot after all, as he vas responsible!) There is a party of people who have nothing to do with the Melbourne Buschwalkers which has been sitting up on top of Oberon Saddle for the past two hours vondering vy ve von't issue them with their identification papers! Naturally no mistakes will be admitted - I shall accuse the Dummköpfe of trying to sleep illegally in an unauthorised vehicle in an illegitimate place and demand to see their papers! They MUST have their papers!

*G. Vills-Yonson*

*Stalag Oberkommandant und Gauleiter!*

\* Any Dummkopf who still does not know that Der Führer NEVER accepts the Akkusative is likely to find himself in front of a firing squad!

#### FEDERATION WEEKEND

Certain members of our club covered themselves with glory on this weekend. They were awarded the trophy for the "MOST ANTISOCIAL CLUB". Some of the outstanding performances which led to the winning of this trophy were:

- a) Not participating in any of the walks organized by the host club. (YHA)
- b) Becoming impatient with a delay in a walk starting on the Saturday and going off by themselves to do exactly the same walk.
- c) Spoiling a sing-song on Saturday night. This was done by loudly singing their favourite oft-heard drinking songs. This met with a cold reception from others sitting round the fire.
- d) Going off on their own private snow trip on Sunday.

Why did YOU go if You were not interested in the Federation Weekend? YOU would have done better staying at home or going on a private trip. This is not directed at all club members who were on this weekend. You will know if it refers to YOU. Wake up to yourself.

Ralph Bryan, Barbara Davies, Ron Filsell.