



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 286

January 1973

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## FIRE BANS

Would members note that during this current period of extreme fire danger, the leader of a Club trip may call a fire ban on his trip if they feel the conditions warrant it, even though it may not be an official fire ban day. This particularly applies on longer trips when the party is not in contact with radios.

## THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

### OR HOW TO COME IN OUT OF THE THOR

In the September, 1972, collection of Electrical Engineering Papers of the Institute of Engineers, Australia, I found a paper "Lightning Fatalities in Australia" by S.A. Prentice, Prof. of Electrical Engineering, Queensland University. The author tabulated some interesting statistics and listed pertinent safety rules for the likes of us.

For example:

- \* 101 fatalities due to lightning occurred in Australia for the study period, 1945-1969.
- \* The most lightning deaths occurred in the age range 15 - 21, representing half of all deaths by lightning.
- \* Most fatalities occurred in summer when, as this portion of Melbourne's population well knows, is the thunderstorm season.
- \* Almost all fatalities occurred out-of-doors, thus:  
on foot in the open 34%; sheltering under trees or insubstantial shelter 31%; riding on horse back or in open vehicles 22%; swimming in the open sea 2%; other 4%.

Professor Prentice lists a number of safety rules to eliminate hazards, and the following concern bushies in particular:

1. Seek shelter in a substantial building. Conventional (?) fabric tents offer no protection. (Anyone have an unconventional fabric tent?)
2. If on open ground, remote from shelter, crouch down, singly, with feet together. Footwaer or a plastic sheet provide some insulation.
3. Avoid high ground and isolated trees. If the vicinity of a tree cannot be avoided, seek a position just beyond the spread of foliage.
4. Avoid swimming in open water.
5. Remove metal objects from the hair or head covering.
6. Avoid touching or standing close to tall metal structures and wire fences.

While reading the article I remembered an early Victorian book of useful ideas, advising that one should sit on one chair on two or three mattresses, (with feet on another) in the middle of the room. Out doors it was recommended to stand in the middle of a field or open road. There was even a sketch of a Victorian dandy, parasol held high; the handle equipped with lightning rod and trailing lead!

So, if you see me crouched down, feet together on a plastic sheet, in an open paddock, please point me towards Mecca. Every little insurance helps.

Ian Hill.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION .....PLEASE

As yet there have been no nominations for candidates for Committee or Office Bearers recieved. THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH! It is too late to complain after the event about the choice of Committee or the way the elections are run, if there is not enough interest shown before hand.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS...WEDNESDAY 21st. FEBRUARY, 8pm sharp.

All correspondence should be addressed to  
 Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers,  
 Box 1761 Q, 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.

### FEBRUARY WALKS PREVIEWS

#### DAY WALKS

#### Feb 4 KALATHA SADDLE - MT. TANGLEFOOT - MT. ST. LEONARD

Leader; Lindsay Barrow (b) 547 1044

Easy - Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave, 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00

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

We begin our walk about 15 miles north of Healesville in quiet country side with impressive views, which we will see with out killing ourselves by climbing very high, despite all the mountains in the area. It is a very pleasant walk, practically all down hill and mainly along tracks. Bring water for lunch.

#### Feb 11 RYSONS CREEK - HELLS GATES - QUARTZ CREEK

Leader; Les Markham (p) 53 3340

Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00 Map; Neerim 1:50,000

When News went to press the leader was frolicking in New Zealand so his comments on the walk could not be ascertained.

#### Feb 18 OCEAN GROVE - TORQUAY

Leader; Joy Seymour (p) 81 2956

Easy

Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00

Maps; Anglesea, Sorrento, 1" to 1 mile.

Come along on a typical C. mor. (see more!) beach walk, guaranteed not to get lost. Bring water for lunch. If sunny bring your swimming gear. Plenty of sand hills to conquer and superb views of surf!

FAMILY WALK Ring Max Wilkinson for details (p) 435 6255

#### Feb 25 SEVEN ACRE ROCKS - KOBLOKE TRACK - POWELLTOWN

Leader;

Easy - Medium

Van leaves Balman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00 Maps; Neerim, Gembrook 1:50,000

A pleasant walk mainly along leafy tracks....I hope.

#### WEEKEND WALKS

#### 2 - 4 HOWITT ROAD - CALEDONIA RIVER - BUTCHER COUNTRY

Leader; Sue Ball (b) 393 1627

Medium

Private transport leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Expected return; 8.00 pm.

Map; F.C.V. Howitt and Moroka. Approx distance; 17 miles.

On Saturday we will have a look at some waterfalls, walk over some snow plains and drop 2200 feet in 2 miles to the Caledonia River. Sunday will be spent climbing on to and strolling along the Butcher Country Spur, admiring the view. If the walking is finished in time there will be a swim in the Macallister River. However, I give warning there will be an 8.00 am start on Saturday and 7.00 am on Sunday.

#### 9 - 11 BUFFALO RIVER - THE VIKING

Leader; Geoff Greenwood (p) 96 3567

Medium - Hard

Private transport leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Map; Howitt 1" to 1 mile

A very rugged part of the State. Amazing views from the Viking and Razor. The leader will present a piece of dried cabbage to the first member of the party to shave on the Razor.

#### 17 - 18 NIGHT WALK - POINT LONSDALE - OCEAN GROVE

Leader; Bob Steel (p) 47 3743

Easy

Van leaves Batman Ave 1.30 pm. Saturday Fare \$3.00

Haven't got any details from the leader at the time of typing but this walk should definately be VERY INTERESTING - -? Don't miss it. Contact Bob for further details.

## WALKS PREVIEWS Cont.

## 23 - 25 ABERFELDY - JORDAN RIVER - RED JACKET

Leader; Dave Thompson

Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$5.00

Maps; Aberfeldy and Matlock.

An interesting walk with many old mine ruins.

Sorry to hear that Jerry McPhee, Helen Hill and Sam Larsen were in a car accident over Christmas. Jerry and Sam are now out of hospital but Helen is still there. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

## WELCOME TO ONE NEW MEMBER -

Rai Aniki c/- 13 Lord St., McKinnon 3204

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS -

Rod Mattingley, 4/21 Livingstone St., Ivanhoe. 3079

John and Jan Sparksman, 80 Mountain Gate Drive, Ferntree Gully 3156

Lisa Schenck, 7/47 Davison St., Richmond 3121

Maggie Robertson 5/63 Osborne St., South Yarra 3141

Jerry and Chris Grandage New phone no. (p)489 1869

DUY DUTY ROSTER

Jan 31 Rod Mattingley, Sue Ball

Feb 7 Joy Seymour, Tim Dent

14 Graham Mascas, Barbara Bryan

21 Darrell and Ann Sullivan

*molony's*

197 ELIZABETH ST.

MELBOURNE

67-8428&amp;9

STILL TOPS FOR  
BUSHWALKING, SKIING,  
AND CLIMBING NEEDS

INSPECT OUR RANGE

1ST &amp; 2ND FLOORS

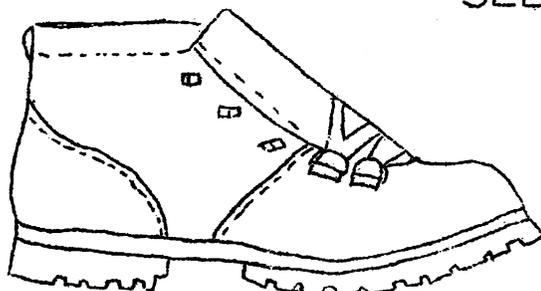
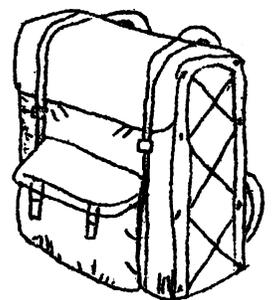
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THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST

PADDYMADE EQUIPMENT, PACKS, ETC.



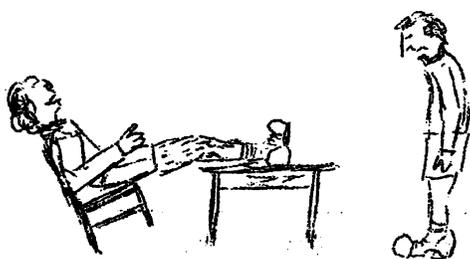
SEE LOCH WILSON AT

BUSHGEAR PTY LTD

46 HARDWARE ST

MELBOURNE

FOR ALL  
BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING GEAR



YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T GET 33 ACROSS IN THE KROSSWORD? EVERYBODY HAS HEARD OF COTOPAXI, WORLD'S HIGHEST ACTIVE VOLCANO, 19,344 FEET HIGH, SITUATED IN NORTHERN CENTRAL ECUADOR, AND FIRST CLIMBED IN 1872 BY DR WILHELM REISS AND A.M. ESCOBAR  
PHANTOM FOSSIL

I noticed while staying at Wilky recently an astounding entry in the visitors book. It relates the story of a certain vehicle sustaining a bent speedometer needle!!! on the way to the lodge. It does not say whether the needle was deflected to the left or to the right; if it is to the left then the vehicle concerned must have travelled at a speed of around 190 mph which is rather unlikely. It is much more obvious that the deflection be to the right thus indicating a speed of about 60 mph in reverse, probably due to the shock of having the ghost of Mummajong swinging out into the middle of the road; he is said to frequently haunt the area around Wilky.

Whilst also at Wilky the dreaded word Sex cropped up; everyone was startled when they heard a mature man ask a six year old boy if he knew how to mate in three moves.....(To keep the prudes in the club happy, we believe a chess played a vital role in the comment.)

- The Christmas Bar-B-Q saw many amazing things occur and be uttered.....
1. What was Joy doing sitting on Rod's knee?
  2. What were the three vital pieces of equipment that Darrell possesses and of which he is so proud?
  3. Why did Margaret Grogan arrive in a pair of Turkish pyjamas?
  4. What was that long evil looking silver device that oozed at one end?
  5. Why was Alex so intent on taking Ann Sullivan into his car ?

Talking about young single fellows fraternising with married women.... I hear Bob took Marijke on an escorted bushwalking tour of to high plains at Christmas..... Wellllllll.

The birds (feathered) at Tidal River seem to be very rich, they are all able to make deposits on cars.

Overheard - Mmm whata beautifully cooked steak, tenderasa a baby's bottom. From an overseer - Yes it is finger licking good.

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S KWIK KROSSWORD

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CEREBUS CREEK (FAMILY WALK)

After a long ride in the Gronow van we dropped off the day walkers, to meet some trail bike riders, Dennis nearly ran them over (HA HA). While happily munching, our ears came to hear "Look a silver ant" Indeed it was a queen ant. It was kept in a plastic bag for the day. We took the little monsters for a walk down to the creek, nobody got wet. The others were late back as Dad predicted.

Tired and fed up we found that the shop somebody chose didn't sell fish and chips. From then on it rained till we reached Batman Ave at 9.00 o'clock. A good time was had by all,

Wendy Davies.

"THE MEDIUM HARD THAT WAS 'NT"

Why would any one in their right mind, after previewing a walk from a Land Rover with their heart consistently in their mouth when the track rose practically sheer above them or disappeared suddenly below them, want to see or worse still, go that way again? What a sensible person Bob Steel seemed to me that morning when I thought about the day ahead. His sentiments were 'why walk when I've already driven.

With grim memories of our last encounter with the route, we talked that fearless leader of men (and women), Brig. General Paddyboots (Ret.) into an early start. (Well it was fairly early!) Previously Peter Carlyon had thoughtfully searched out a spot he considered a good place to leave the cars 'a little up the track'. Off we set, me mentally urging the cars on and on. On and on they indeed went until even I wondered when the walking would begin.

Vehicles successfully parked off the track, a circle called and off we went. The ridge was attained almost before we'd started to puff and the ups and downs I do vividly remembered were about to be tackled.

The Kenafacks, living up to their pre-marriage reputation of being whips, had a field day taking photos of the profusion of wild flowers and finally caught up with the rest of the party. At least we caught up with their packs and a few of the lazier ones who declined a walk up to Albion Point. What was this, Mr. Thomas reclining in the sun with the lazy ones!

Lunch was called at the beginning of the descent with me in a state of great surprise. This 'medium/hard' walk I had so fearfully told others about, was rapidly turning into a rather nice 'medium at the most' walk.

The descent descended and descended and I decided that it was much easier descending on foot than in a vehicle, at least this way one could see in advance whether they would be going up or down. One more small up and then lots more down and there lay the campsite below. Really Brigadier, reaching camp early afternoon on a medium/hard walk is practically unheard of. It then appeared that the only things requiring any effort for the rest of the afternoon was to socialise and dodge meadow muffins. Some one should tell the dung beetle about this place!

People seemed to have their own methods of socialising. Some socialised with snakes, the snakes not being very sociable; others showed off their callisthenic ability - Sue Ball keeping the Womens Lib. flag flying - while others, Stewart plus female friend, disappeared up the creek, to have a swim they said. This must have been a very clean weekend for Stewart, as he and Lee were constantly seen disappearing "to have a swim".

As campfires were lit, we discovered that different people had different 'minimum requirements' - Spud having the biggest. I also found that 1972 wasn't the best year for blackcurrent juice. Dave solemnly gave it the rolling-around-the-mouth treatment and pronounced it a little sour - a little too much rain at ripening time perhaps? Blackcurrent connoisseurs take note.

Sunday dawned with drama. Army regulations state that all, even retired officers shall shave, but alas our leader had lost his shaving brush. Resourcefulness being inbred in men of his calibre, he searched around for a substitute and found his toothbrush. 'Course he hasn't used his toothbrush for what it was intended ever since.

People drifted off from campsite when it suited them. This drifting along continued throughout the morning for all. All except the notorious Mr. Thomas who dare I say it, accepted a lift and was driven to where Spud had left his vehicle, which just happened to mark the end of the walk. Arrival at this point was again a drifting affair for all except Lee and Stewart who were reported to be swimming again. Such was the enthusiasm for this lovely spot that Spud was ordered by the Brigadier to organise a blackberry weekend at the appropriate time next year.

The walk ended with the three musketeers (the Brig.Gen., Spud and Mr. Thomas) setting off for Wilky, (I wonder whose toothbrush the Brig. used on Monday morning?) and the rest of us returning to the big smoke fortified by copious quantities of ice cream consumed at various points along the way.

Thanks for a good walk Graham. May every medium/hard turn out so easy.

The Whip's Assistant.

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Thanks to those who contributed. Sorry NEWS is a little thin this month - you must be all suffering from writers cramp after Xmas. Make sure you get your articles AND WALKS RREVIEWS in by FEBRUARY 7TH. for next month's NEWS.

BUMPER EDITION GUARANTEED.

THE CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR ENDURANCE TEST

For me the break started at 5.00 on the Friday before Christmas when I dragged myself out of bed to rush off and meet my transport for the holiday. Twelve hours later we were sitting on the verandah of the Geehi Hut contemplating Hammels Spur, it didn't look to be 6000' until we drove a bit closer later on. Some people arrived looking for the Geehi Youth Hostel, we sent them to Geehi where there is nothing. We have since learned that the Hostel is another 2 miles downstream.

On Saturday morning we met the rest of the party at Deadhorse Gap and had to start walking along the Big Boggy, over the Cascades and on to Cascade Ck. for lunch. Then along the creek on the non-existent jeep track (whata magnificent map is the Jacobs River sheet) to camp, but which side of the dividing swamp should it be? The leader won in the end and we camped south of Brodies Camp, but the following morning we moved about 1 mile north to the other spot, so all were satisfied. If you think Sunday is a day of rest don't go on Rodney's (or Spencer's) walks. We scrub bashed at the rate of 1 mph (day packs) to the Cascade Trail which we followed south to where the foot track goes down to the Murray, then scrub bashed across the where the Tim Mine Falls should be, but unfortunately there were a few cliffs in the way and we couldn't see much water or climb down, but what a magnificent gorge, as long as you were on a solid piece of ground. Incidentally, access to the falls is advisable from the south.

On our way back to camp we met the Sullivans who decided to face the scrub with us (certain of the 'tough' members walked an extra 3 miles to miss it) - we did about 17 miles on our day of rest. However we were up bright and early (again) and climbed back up the Cascades visiting Purgatory and Jerusalem Hills, this was lovely walking. We finally came to rest again on the Big Boggy below Chimney's Ridge - I regret to say that Tim and Ty were its only visitors - the rest of us preferred to relax in the sun. On our last day we climbed and walked along the area called the Brindle Bull, and then went down a spur back to Deadhorse Gap for an early lunch. After washing and powdering the feet it was it was time to be off north again, we were due to meet Spencer at 9.00 am. Wednesday in Marulan.

Packs were once more filled with X.S. food and we set off again rapidly down a steep spur to the Shoalhaven River on the Big Horseshoe Bend south of Marulan. The water was magnificent to drink and swim in prior to lunch. Then we started to find out what Spencer means by an easy walk. The temperature must have been 10°C more than what it had been 6000' up in the mountains but after about 3 miles we allowed to camp and have a wash. I think the leader found Rod, Phil and I a little high by this stage, we had been out 6 days after all. The next morning after Spencer had been back to find 2 of the party who were returning, we came to the Block Up Gorge. How I wish I had a movie camera for a few hours - imagine 5 packs loosley tied together floating down river towed by Spencer and pushed by Clive; our Walks Sec. in the water with his sun hat on (I realised why afterwards the skin is still peeling off my back); Phil on a lilo going through in style and me swimming about a yard from the cliffs so that I could hang on when I was tired. We finally got through with out any one drowning, and at the other end drained our packs and had lunch while the things that got wet dried. Walking after this episode was rather tame, but obviously Spencer didn't want us to be bored so the next day we had some extra mileage.

The walking was varied between sand, loose rock hopping, grass walking and scrub bashing, though this never approached that on the previous trip. Throughout the trip the scenery was magnificent, terrific and multicoloured cliffs. On the next day it was possible to sit in the river and see sheer cliffs in all directions due to the meandering of the river. This was the hottest day, every time the river was approached one's hat was filled with water and placed on the head, there is no feeling like that of water running down one. On the 5th day we came to the junction of the Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Rivers where the dam is to be built. This is now in a terrible mess as the dam is due to be finished in 3 years. We walked up the Kangaroo River for about a mile, it is completely different to the Shoalhaven and very lovely, the vegetation on the banks being much more lush. The last day we walked up a jeep track to the cars, visiting 2 lookouts on the way. While the drivers went to collect the other car, we continued up the track until they finally returned.

Phil and I reckon we must have walked 90 miles over the 'holiday', at the time of writing I am still recovering, but I would not have missed either walk for anything and I would like to thank both the leaders for the best Christmeas - New Year holiday I have ever spent.

Sue Ball.