



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 290

MAY 1973

Price 3c

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical, Category D

DONT BE A

DONKEY

PAY YOUR SUBS

If this donkey has a
RED NOSE
this is your last copy
of 'NEWS'



SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE: SINGLE MEMBER - \$4; MARRIED COUPLE -\$6; UNDER 21 - \$2.

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

In the CLUBROOM.....

June 6 Gerry Grandage will show slides on ski touring, This should be of special interest to any one wishing to attend his week end for beginners later in the month. (see Walks Previews)

June 20 We will be seeing another film from the State Film library. Once again we are unable to know the title at this stage but its sure to be of interest to bushwalkers.

Ice Skating.....

Thursday June 7 at 7.30pm at the South Oakleigh rink. Come along and what you can do on ice !! 1*?? Shoudn be a very entertaining evening.



SALE !

Four A - Frame packs are for sale from our equipment hire. BEST OFFER!!
Contact Peter Bullard (p)50 5234

All correspondence should be addressed to
 Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers,
 Box 1751Q, 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.

WALK PREVIEWS FOR JUNE

DAY WALKS

June 3 YOU YANGS

Leader; Doug Crocker (p)82 1830 Easy
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2. Expected return; 7.30 - 8pm.
 Map reference; Meredith 1 inch = 1 mile (Start 506 186 Finish 469 172)
 Approx distance; 10 miles.

This walk can be easy or medium. The easy going through state forest (Medium walkers, leader required ?) A pleasant walk, some early acacias may be seen.

June 10 STARLINGS GAP - ADA RIVER

Leader; Bob Chadwick (p)83 3592 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2.50
 Map; Neerim 1:50,000 Approx distance; 11 miles

A very attractive easy walk over old tramway logging tracks, with interesting species of ferns on vertical cuttings. Approx 3½ miles from the start a short side walk to an old tramway bridge, with a very large boiler placed there in Nov. 1914. If time permits (?) inspection of the dug oute could take place. Bring a torch,

June 17 MT. BULLENGAROOK - PYRITES CREEK - COMADOI

Leader; Philip Taylor (p)306 6152 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2
 Map; Ballan 1:63,360 Approx distance; 8 miles.

A pleasant walk through lightly forested country with good views from Mt. Bullengarook. Bring water for lunch.

June 24 PAULS RANGE - SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE

Leader; Ron Taylor (p)306 6152 Easy-medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2. Expected return; 8 pm.
 Map; Yarra Glen 1:50,000. Approx distance; 10 miles

A pleasant ridge walk with views through trees. Bring water for lunch.

WEEK END WALKS

1 - 4 QUEENS BIRTHDAY LONG W/E - GUNBOWER ISLAND

Leader; Peter Bullard (p)50 5234 Easy - medium
 Bus leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 pm. Fare \$6. Expected return; 9pm Monday
 Map; Forest Commission, Gunbower Island. 1:63,360
 Approx distance; 12 or 34 miles.

The walk will start 1 mile NE of Cohuna and walking to McClure Bend, we will make base camp for the weekend. With day packs we will continue to Horseshoe Lagoon and back to camp for that night. On Sunday it is down to 86 Bend and then back through the middle of the island to camp. An easy walk along the Murray River with tracks all the way and no hills either, but there may be a few creeks to cross.

15 - 17 CLEARWATER GULLY - LERDERBERG GORGE - MT. BLACKWOOD

Leader; Graham Thornton (p)874 6349 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30pm. Fare \$2.50
 Maps; Daylesford, Ballan 1:63,360

JUNE WEEKEND WALKS PREVIEWS Cont.

22 - 24 BEGINNERS SKI TOURING WEEK END

A Winter Group ski-touring week-end suitable for beginners will be held on June 23-24. It will consist of two single day trips on the Bogong High Plains, returning to Mt. Beauty on Saturday night. This will allow beginners to spend their first two days on skis without weekend packs. If you are interested, phone Gerry Grandage on (p)489 1869 or (b)64 0251 ex532 to discuss equipment, transport, etc.

29 - 1/7

Details next month.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MT. FEATHERTOP?

Many rumours have been circulating lately as to the fate of Mt. Feathertop, sparked off by a thesis prepared some time ago on the feasibility of developing Mt. Feathertop as a ski resort with a low level village at Harrietville. Geoff Kenafacke has been keeping tabs on the situation on behalf of the club and recently sought comment from our two major political parties.

Numerous letters, phone calls and months elapsed before a letter was received from Mr. Borthwick, Minister for Lands. Some quotes from his reply....

".....No land use decision involving ski development, erection of huts etc. will be made until a study and recommendation on the area has been completed by the Land Conservation Council. Mt. Feathertop is situated within the Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort Area which was the subject of special legislation last year to provide for the better administration of the area..."

"However, the whole Alpine area will be considered by the Council and the Department does not propose to take any action which could be prejudicial to the ultimate long term use eventually determined by that body."

Representing the Labour Party, Mr. J. Wilton sent a prompt reply, not specifically mentioning Mt. Feathertop, but outlining their plans for an Alpine National Park, should they be elected. It would be approx 2000 sq. miles and include Mts. Bogong, Feathertop, Hotham, Cobbler, the High Plains and many others. Quote "We believe this park would be truly national in character and be of sufficient size to lend it self to multi-purpose use in which a variety of interests and activities would be recognised. Such activities would include logging, grazing and mining, under controlled conditions and I emphasise, controlled conditions."

.....And that so far, is the situation.

APRIL 31- MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

At the General Meeting held in the clubroom (2 - 5 - 73), GRAHAM MASCAS well duly elected to continue as President.

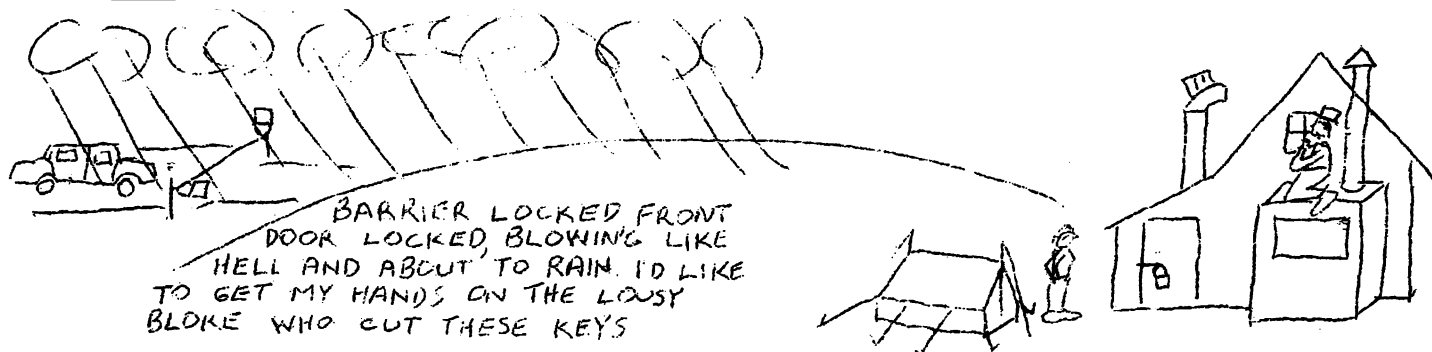
It was also unanimously decided to grant REX FILSON Life Membership of the club for his services, which include many years serving on committee and as Vice President, work on walks sub-committees, printing News and locating and obtaining our clubrooms. He has also contributed a lot to Walk Magazine and distributed it for several years.

SQUARE DANCE

The old Badger Creek Hall was really jumping last Saturday night to lively music of Ken and Alison Hooke, they had the bushies hopping, swinging and finally exhausted. A great crowd turned up the annual square dance which was the usual success. It was very amusing to see just how many of us who couldn't count or know their right hand from their left!

A lavish supper was served and quickly disappeared as the hungry hoard descended on it. Young and old, new faces and familiar ones all had a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Thanks Mr. Social Sec.



PHANTOM FOSSIL

Is Art Terry going soft ? He was seen erecting a camp stretcher on a recent trip. I realise the trip was a bludge but surely this is no excuse for such a terrible thing to occur. I reckon when we see Art carrying mattress, pillow and electric blanket we can all give up walking.

Geoff Kenafacke has a unique way of making a particularly potent wine. Firstly obtain 2 lbs of grapes (908 grams) and place them in the bottom of your boots, then put your name down for a 5 day walk. The grapes remain in your boots for the 5 days thus being thoroughly squeezed and having the added alcoholic content of 5 days sweaty foot rot. The result after decanting the boots is magnificent. It is also good for reproofing your tent.

Sayings of the month.....

1. Every one seems extremely confident about the walk but no one seems to know where we are going.
2. I am finished but unfortunately the walk is not.
3. Mmm, a tasty soup but I think you have put too much tomato in it.
Eh, its a Vesta Chicken Supreme and there's no tomatoes in it.

On Anzac day eve Spencer was duly attacked (friendly) by a couple of strong lads when questioned later as to whether he would be marching he replied "I've been raped, my pants are on the fire and my gymboots have melted. 5 day trips can be frustrating at times can't they, Spencer.

Dave Andrews was involved in a typical cops and robbers type chase recently. He mistakenly took the wrong pack out of the Gronows van and had to get a taxi to chase after the van to collect the correct pack. Its not often anyone would tell a taxi driver to "Follow that furniture van! "

It appears that cannibalism in New Guinea is now practically non-existent, this is due to the Administration toughening up. Perhaps they should be cooked for another 10 minutes.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.....

- Shirley ALLOTT, 273 Dandenong Road, Windsor (p)513303 (b)20 6540
- Desmond BURKE, 3 Avalon Court, Cheltenham 3192 (p)93 8361
- Graeme DAVIS, 4 Grandview St., Glenroy 3046 (p)306 9694
- Arthur FRANCIS, 7 Gairns Court, Croydon 3136 (p)725 7074 (b)340234 ex2123
- Kevin GREAVES, 50 Walsh Street, Coburg 3059 (p)36 1659
- Barry RICHARDS, 7 Essex St., Blackburn North 3130 (p)878 1183 (b)311 0494
- Glen & Nola WEBB, 2 Langford Ave., Mitcham 3132 (p)87 1962 (b)544 0544(Glenn)

Please make the following amendments to your address list....

- Ian & Marion Hill, Flat 2, 91 Kirkham Road Dandenong 3175
- Stewart HODGSON, c/- District Commissioner, Kimbe, West New Britain.
- Rod PETERS, Staff Cottage No. 28 Forrester Road, St. Marys NSW 2760
- George POWELL, 1100 Etiwanda Ave., Mildura 3500
- Marion PAULE, 19 Malakoff St., Caulfield North 3161 (p)509 0960
- Ed LAWTON, A320317, 66RTC, RADS, RAAF Base Laverton 3027
- Klasina KUURTRA, Gerard Doustr 2, Leeuwarden, Holland
- David & Margaret TRENGROVE, 8/10 Roseberry Grove, Glenhuntly 3163 (p)211 8826

Phone No. changes, next page.....

WILKINSON LODGE

Wilky has been solidly booked for the school holidays and one week before. Locker have been distributed to all those who required them and time is fast running out to get food in before winter. Any one who wishes to visit Wilky at other times during the winter should see Darrell as there is still plenty of room.

PLEA FOR KEYS

Recently several sets of keys have gone astray. Members are not returning them immediately on return from Wilky or else passing them straight onto other members. It was also discovered by an unfortunate couple that some keys have been badly cut. So if you have any Wilky keys at all please return them for checking, they could be quite useless.

CURRANGO HOMESTEAD

Is anyone intersted in a holiday int the northern regions of the Kosciusko National Park? Would you like history lessons thrown in?

If the answer is yes, you might like to board at "Curraggio" homestead near Tantangara Reservoir. Currango run was taken up in the 1830's and subsequently became part of the park in 1944. Since then, one time ranger, Mr. Taylor and his wife have lived at Currango and have taken in guests, year round except winter.

You can enjoy full board at \$7 a day in the homestead or fend for your self in one of the old workmens quarters. There is a cheaper tarriff for the latter and the decor is really 'pioneer style'. Mrs Taylor was a foundation member of the Sydney Bushwalkers and she is quite an authority on the history of the mountains.

From Currango, you can fish the Tantangarra Reservoir or the infant Murrumbidgee River or the numerous little mountain streams. You can also hunt for brumbies on the Peppercorn Plains or around the Broken Cart Clearing. If you dont suffer from claustrophobia you could also spend many interesting hours exploring the labyrinth or caves around the Blue Waterhole and Limestone Creek. What ever you do you must take a camera and plenty of film. The wild - flowers and birdlife are prolific and the views from the near by Brindabella Ranges are superb.

This would be an ideal situation for Graham W-J's bushwalking family and 'Granny'. The folke can geta chance to get back in the bush, the kids gain an introduction to the high country and Granny still has some home comforts.

Anybody travelling through the area is welcome to call in and look around. Indeed any photographer should! For further details contact

Geoff Kenafacke

Phone No, alterations. Please add them to your address list.....

Dave & Joan GIBSON, (p)80 1951 Stewart BACKHOUSE (p)58 6866
Geoff CRAPPER (b)25 4502 ex54 (b)42 1511 ex393

FEDERATION MEETING

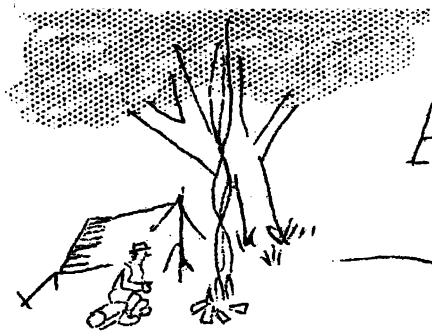
At the last meeting of the Federation Of Victorian Walking Clubs and election of office bearers, Joy Seymour narrowly missed being elected as Secretary. Infact she was defeated by only one vote; the chairmans casting vote at that. (Womens Libbers unite!) David Dover of the Men's club got the job and Joy is now the Federation Information Convenor.

(That sounds much more important to me....Ed.)

CONGRATULATIONS JOY.

DUTY ROSTER

May 23 Graham Mascas, Sue Ball
30 Fred Halls, Graham Wills-Johnson
June 6 Joy Seymour, Peter Bullard
13 Graham Hodgson, Lindsay Barrow



ALONG THE TRACK

AROUND THE NORTH-EAST IN JUST FIVE DAYS

Thirteen bodies stood at Limestone Creek that Good Friday morning freezing as the wind whipped around several sets of naked knees. "Fear not" our leader, Geoff, called out as we shouldered packs and set off for five days walking. As we headed along the jeep track following the creek, the sun momentarily showed its warming rays, forcing even the most hardiest of us to shed jumpers. Time was had to explore the limestone caves in the area. Apparently not too many people enter this area as most of the formations are still in one piece.

Further along, the sweet(!?) sounds of trail bikes and landrovers was heard. Time to take to the bush thinks the leader as he leads his merry band into the scrub, to emerge some hours later at the N.S.W. - Victorian border (also sometimes called the Murray River). After a look around for McHardies Flat, Geoff came to the conclusion that it was a figment of Tyrone's imagination. The writer agrees having come across Tyrone's "beautiful clear campsites" before.

Pushing along next day on the Pilot Range we were met with good views into the Murray Valley with the occasional shout of 'There's the flat!' only to be greeted with miles of trees when everyone looked closely. On top of the range, lunch was had, and a roaring but smoky fire lit to provide some warmth from the biting wind. Further along the range, a jeep track was met - where did it come from? Nobody knew. It wasn't on any of the maps. Not wanting to look a gift horse in the mouth, we followed it along the top to the campsite below The Pilot on the Tin Mine Track. Roaring fires were lit and everyone settled down for the night.

Unfortunately, it rained all night and when we awoke we were greeted to a cheerless morning of wet wood and raindrops. Members of the party spent the morning in many different ways, ranging from lounging in sleeping bags with choofas burning furiously, to trying to get a fire going. Thank heaven for Spencer, the firebug of the trip, who soon had an enormous blaze going. Not to be outdone, Geoff also soon had a fire going. The leader then announced a two hour stay to see what the weather would do. Everyone went back to bed to the greeting of hailstones falling. But Huey was smiling on us because by 9.00 all the clouds had disappeared and the sun shone brilliantly. A side trip was organised to The Pilot - all 6005 feet or 1828 metres of it. From the top, magnificent views were had of all the surrounding country from Kosciusko to Bogong. A quick dash back to camp to have some lunch, pack up the tents and set off down the track to Cowombat Flat.

At Cowombat Flat, the religious ceremony of crossing back into Victoria was performed complete with rock throwing, fruit fly check and photographs. At the Flat, campsites were picked in accordance with Bushwalkers Rules (refer WA&K '72 p.45-50), fires lit and all settled in for a chilly night.

Next morning, the sun rose through the valley mist, the tents partly defrosted and we were off along the McFarlane Flat Track and then along the Cobberas Track, down to the Suggan Buggan River for lunch in the sun. After lunch, we set off up a hill that went up, and up, and up, and up, and up. After six miles of this, camp was made in the Playgrounds beneath the towering Cobberas.

Fires were lit and a good time was had by all, including Spencer and his 4-course meal. Conversation that night came from Des, who fascinated us all with stories of his pumpkins and the trials and tribulations of keeping them away from the cats. Eventually after much howling down, singing, etc. he gave up and went to bed, thank heaven.

Next day dawned fine and chilly as seven brave members from the party set off to climb the Cobberas 1. To avoid embarrassment, I have not named the group who lay in the bottom of the valley. Be assured Geoff, Graham, Mike, Kelly and Russell, I won't tell anyone. Led by your correspondent, we climbed to the top to be met by a cold blast of wind, sign the book and get out of the wind to soak up the superb views. Down to the campsite we returned, had lunch and staggered down the track for four miles to Native Dog Flat and the end of the walk. Here, Graham Gutheridge and his party departed home, leaving us to wait out the night before returning home the next day. At this campsite another ceremony took place, the religious burning of trousers and sandals belonging to THAT member of the club who always wears sandals with matching holes.

Next day we left the beauty of the mountains and joined the miles of tourist traffic winding its way back to Melbourne, Thank you Geoff for the Walk. I am sure it is one Easter that we won't forget soon, however hard we try.

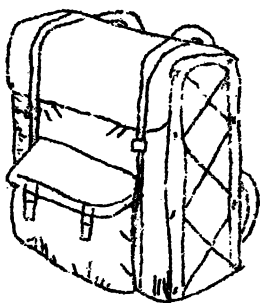
pt/wt/js

- Philip Taylor -

The mountains can be reached in all seasons. They offer a fighting challenge to heart, soul and mind, both in summer and winter. If throughout time the youth of the nation accept the challenge the mountains offer, they will help keep alive in our people the spirit of adventure. That spirit is a measure of the vitality of both nations and men. A people who climb the ridges and sleep under the stars in high mountain meadows, who enter the forest and scale peaks, who explore glaciers and walk ridges buried deep in snow - these people will give their country some of the indomitable spirit of the mountains.

* * *
 Something hidden. Go and find it.
 Go and look behind the Ranges -
 Something lost behind the Ranges.
 Lost and waiting for you. Go!

<p><i>molony's</i></p> <p>197 ELIZABETH ST. MELBOURNE 67-8428&9</p>	<p>STILL TOPS FOR BUSHWALKING, SKIING, AND CLIMBING NEEDS</p> <p>INSPECT OUR RANGE 1ST & 2ND FLOORS</p>
---	--

<p>AUSKI</p> <p>THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST</p> <p>PADDYMADE EQUIPMENT, PACKS, ETC.</p>	<p>9 HARDWARE ST PHONE 671412</p>	
---	--	---

	<p>SEE LOCH WILSON AT BUSHGEAR PTY LTD 46 HARDWARE ST MELBOURNE</p> <p>FOR ALL BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING GEAR</p>
---	---

GUMBLING UP BULLER OR HAZARDS OF THE HOWQUA

Friday night camp was made at the "C.R.B. - Camping Prohibited" way-side stop beside the gurgling Delatite River. After emerging from our tents, the sight of Buller and our intended route beckoned in the distance. The walk commenced with a short road bash then the jeep track from Sawmill Settlement towards Round Hill was taken. A steady climb of 1800 ft. brought us to the site of the snow camp of about two years ago. As if to bring back old memories, the weather began to deteriorate; the wind blew and the fog descended.

The party pushed on up over Round Hill, down the saddle and up the West Spur, climbing closer and closer to the exposed ridge above the tree line. By this time most of us had donned parkas, balaclavas and mittens as the icy winds buffeted our progress. Visibility was down to about 50 yards. Lunch was partaken in a cluster of rocks sheltered from the elements about 400 ft. below the summit. A short brisk walk followed lunch and there in front of us, appearing through the mist, was Buller Summit hut. After gazing around at the grandeur of the thick clammy fog we pressed on to camp, side trips to the Alpine Village Pub were off limits we were told.

Tents were pitched in a sheltered but damp site somewhere below Kofler's Refuge and the arduous task of lighting a fire was undertaken. After about 1½ hours, much huffing, puffing and plate fanning, 2 firelighters, 1 copy of Fridays Ago, ½ packet of Esbits and ½ box of matches the fire was under way to the limit of minimum requirements. That is, anyone venturing within a 5 ft. radius wearing nylon overpants could expect to be shortly standing in a hot sticky mess up to their Sherpas. After the inferno subsided to a mild crackling bed of embers the night cooking was begun and suddenly eager bushies emerged from hibernation from every where.

Sundays dawn broke to the sound of countless choofers chugging away merrily in the numerous tents clustered in the snow gums. The thought was going through everyone's mind of the exploits of the last MSW party to venture past Little Buller. Dauntless, we pushed on towards Little B. The weather had cleared to a beautiful day and we were treated to superb views of the Bluff, McDonald, the Governors and Eagles Peaks. After shedding some of our clothes from the cold early morning start we pressed on down the craggy, rugged slopes that presented some interesting rock scrambles. Graham endeavoured to keep every one together and progress was rather slow, Peter acting out the role of whip and stirrer.

While moving down the ridge in a southerly direction the map and compass were referred to constantly to ensure that the wrong spur was not descended. Then suddenly, after a bit of scrub bashing down the ridge, the glistening site of 8 Mile Hut was spotted between the eucalypts on a 210° bearing. Only one minor obstacle lay between us and our intended finish, that being the swollen Howqua River flowing at about 750 cusecs., which to the un-initiated is a considerable sum of water to be at one place at one particular time. The party inadvertently split up into two groups, Spencer and Stewart showing the way at the 8 Mile Hut crossing and Graham at a crossing further down stream. After several of our number had managed to battle across the raging torrent, a human chain was set up to prevent any one being swept down stream. The current was fierce as we struggled one by one, rucksack deep, until at last we had all made it.

The process of drying out boots, socks and shorts was observed whilst enjoying a pleasant lunch beside the mighty Howqua River that we had just conquered. The van was boarded and twenty two contented bushwalkers bid farewell to the Howqua and a very memorable weekend.

Thanks again G.W.J.

Geoff Crapper.

Thanks to all contributors and to Joy Seymour for typing. Thankyou to the leaders who submitted prompt walks previews this month. Deadline for next months NEWS will be Wednesday June 6. Lets hear from some of the new members and day walkers next month.