



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 295

OCTOBER 1973

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FEDERATION WEEKEND

The Wimmera Bushwalking Club has been in operation since March last year. It has 25 financial members. Two months ago they received a letter from the Federation saying that as they, the WBC, were the resident club in the area, they could lead the Federation Weekend. Of the members I spoke to, none of them had been to a Federation Weekend, and, from the anxious inquiries, I gathered the impression that they were worried as to just what their elder city brothers would expect. However I think they organised an excellent weekend, considering the wide range of experience of the clubs which constitute the Federation. Also the warm weather helped to make the weekend a success. To WBC it meant a chance to advertise themselves, show their knowledge of the district and prove their capabilities as bushwalkers.

There were 4 walks on Saturday - hard, medium and 2 easy. There were also suggestions for non-walkers, should any one find themselves in this position. The 'hard' walkers found a small lake between two spurs in the Mt. Difficult Range. This lake has rarely been seen and was nameless. They named it, for the weekend at least, Lake Federation.

We chose the medium walk, the reason being obvious. I bent to pull on my boots and discovered to my horror, cobwebs in them. Anyway, ambling south-westwards we climbed a saddle on the Mt. Difficult Range. Here we received magnificent views of the Victoria Valley and the Asses Ears. Our leader told us that developers are wishing to create another 'Halls Gap' here and that WBC are trying to prevent it.

We had a good hour for lunch sitting in the luxuriously warm sunshine. Later we watched an eagle gliding just above the tree tops. We were also told by our leader that deer have been sighted in this area. Apparently an English gentleman long ago decided that the Australian Bush was lacking and introduced some deer which have thrived.

Back at the camp we dined luxuriously - no dehydrated etc. Then at 8 pm. we met in the nearby Anglers Hall where we were served with coffee and biscuits. This was a chance to meet the other participants of the weekend. Later, a walk to look for nocturnal animals was organised but none were sighted.

Up early Sunday morning - we headed northwards for Mt. Difficult. Here we saw a great variety of wildflowers in bloom. We found 6 varieties of heath, holly and mountain grevillea, guinea flower, common hovea, native fuchsia, banksia, sundew, black-eyed susan, varieties of peas and wattles. The track turned westwards and we started the steep ascent to Mt. Difficult. Here we saw a nodding greenhood orchid. On the summit of the mountain is a cairn which we scaled and looked back over Lake Wartook and the Difficult Range, The Pyrenees and Mt. William in the distance, south towards the Asses Ears and west towards Mt. Arapiles. We also watched a couple of wedge tailed eagles.

Back at camp we had lunch and afterwards a nature stroll for those interested in all aspects of the local natural history. This took the form of a leisurely Sunday afternoon stroll in the warm sunshine. Finally however the afternoon drew to a close and we reluctantly turned our thoughts homewards.

Thank you WBC for a beautiful weekend.

Barbara Weston

NOTICE OF 91 - MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 31, 8pm.

To be held in the club room. See September NEWS.

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 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

NOVEMBER WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

4 TURPINS FALLS - CAMPASPE RIVER - MITCHELLS FALLS

Leader; Peter Bullard (p)50 5234 Easy
Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$3.00
Map; Pyalong and Castlemaine 1" = 1 mile. Approx distance; 9 miles.

This walk is very interesting as it takes in Turpins Falls, Queens Falls, Mitchells Falls and Organ Pipes, through gently undulating country with views. A good walk for beginners.

6 CUP DAY - KILMORE EAST - MT. PIPER - BROADFORD

Leader; Doug Crocker (p)82 1830 Easy
Train leaves Spencer Street Station 9.30 am. Fare \$1.75

Here's a good way to spend Cup Day. Ring Doug for more details.

11 ANGLESEA - PT. ROADKNIGHT - URQUARTS BLUFF

Leader; Les Markham (b)699 2108 Easy
Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$3.00

An easy pleasant walk along some of the loveliest beaches near to Melbourne. No room on the van for surfboards, but plenty of time for other aquatic disportsments.

11 FAMILY WALK - ANGLESEA

Leader; Marijke Mascas (p)25 6940
Details as above.

18 COOKS MILL - JAWBONES - CERBERUS CREEK

Leader; Peter van der Borght (p)50 7222 Medium
Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$3.00

Subject to Denis getting us over the ricketty bridge near Cathedral Lane, walk will commence as planned with a stiff climb at the start. Lunch at the Jawbones, most appropriately, and then fine views as we walk along the rocky ridge. At Sugarloaf we will plunge down to the road and the van. Should be plenty of water at the Jawbones waterfall.

25 COSTERFIELD - REDCASTLE

Leader; Marianne Sniijders Easy/medium
Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$3.00

WEEKEND WALKS

2 - 4 TAMBORITHA - THE CRINOLINE - BRUNIS KNOB

Leader; Tim Dent (b)69 7073 Medium
Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$7.00
Map; VMTC Macalister River Watershed 1" = 2 miles.
Approx distance; 22 miles.

Commencing at Mt. Tamboritha, we will walk generally down hill all weekend to the finish at Licoña. We'll have snow gums then rocky ridges highlighted by the Crinoline and Brunis Knob and finally the spur leading down to the junction of the Wellington and Macalister Rivers. Good views guaranteed and hopefully no thick scrub, but come prepared this may be another "Daw Daws" !??

CLUBROOM DUTY ROSTER

17 October Darrell and Ann Sullivan
24 October Peter Bullard, Joy Seymour
31 October Graham Mascas, Sue Ball
7 November Tim and Helen Dent

NOVEMBER WALKS PREVIEWS Cont....16 - 18 WILSONS PROM.1) PT. WELSHPOOL - CHINAMANS BEACH - MT. HUNTER

Leader; Bob Chadwick (p)83 3592 Medium/Hard

Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$6.00 + boat fare.

Walk begins at Port Welshpool with a 2 hour boat trip to the northernmost point of the prom. Climb Mt. Singapore, the south with a little scrub bashing towards the navigation light track, climbing Mt. Hunter on the way. Good views of the main land. Camp will be at Johny Sueys Cove. The walk will be fairly hard and theres a LIMIT of 15.

2) SEALERS - REFUGE - WATERLOO - OBERON - TIDAL RIVER

Leader; Graham Hodgson (p)728 1734 Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave 6;30 pm. Fare \$6.00

Approx distance; 28 miles.

This trip encompasses some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in Victoria. We will start from The Mt. Oberon car park and then walk to Sealers Cove via Windy Saddle, a climb of about 1000' and a similar descent should see us at Refuge Cove for lunch. After lunch a climb up to Kersops Peak will be undertaken the summit of which has glorious views of all the offshore islands and beaches. Camp on Saturday will be at Waterloo Bay, and after a latish start on Sunday we should be back at Tidal River about 4 pm.

23 - 25 1) WILKINSON LODGE

Bus leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$9.00

For those who have never been to Wilky before and particularly those without their own transport this is an excellent opportunity to spend a leisurely weekend discovering the attractions of the High Plains.

2) BOGONG VILLAGE - MT. FAINTER - TAWONGA HUTS

Bus leaves Batman Ave 6.30pm. Fare \$9.00 Medium

Leader; Alex Stirkul (b)46 4841

Quick run over Mts. Fainter North and South, the Niggerheads, Mt. Jim, Mt. Cope etc., and finishing up at Wilky as the leader prepares for Everest. The rest of the party ? oh, well,.....they should enjoy a very pleasant weekend over the Bogong High Plains. Saturday nights camp will be at Tawong Huts.

3) MOUNTAIN CREEK - MT. BOGONG - ROPERS HUT

Leader; Dave 'Red Dwarf' Andrews (b)379 4055 Medium/ Hard

Bus leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$9.00

More details about this walk will be given in Novembers News.

Walks Secretary's comment: Just like every thing else these days fares are also rising, however the comfort of a bus is well worth paying for on such a long trip as this one. The cost of a van over this distance would not be very much cheaper, for the club to break even on a bus charter it must be FULL, so every body come along, there is something to appeal to all this weekend.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Peter CROSSER, 1 Mast Gully Road, Upway 3158

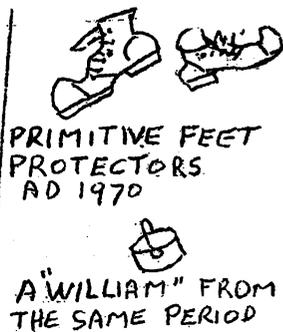
Joan BECK, 4A Cooloongatta Road, Camberwell 3124 (p)836 1153

Graham MASCAS, (b)37 8281 ext 203

COMMENT

All trail bikes and beach buggies are to be registered. Big deal!
How many traffic cops did you see on the Howitt Plains or in the Wonnangatta Valley or around Wilkie, last time you visited those places ?

"DAILY RAVE"
16-3-2497
"TODAY WE
FEATURE
SOME OF
THE EXHIBITS
ON DISPLAY
AT THE
GOUGHVILLE
MUSEUM"



(LEFT)
HIGH PRIEST
OF OBSCURE
RELIGIOUS
SECT.
KNOWN AS
BUSHWACKERS



(LEFT)
ORIGIN
UNKNOWN -
POSSIBLY
USED AS
PART OF
RELIGIOUS
CEREMONY



PRIMITIVE
METHOD OF
DIRECTION FINDING
USED BY ORIENTALS
BEFORE EARTH'S
MAGNETIC FIELD
WAS TURNED OFF

PHANTOM FOSSIL

Have you ever wondered how a newspaper would report certain news items in say 500 years or so, the following could be possible:-

Extract from the Daily Rave 16th March 2497 AD
Archaeologists working on the old site of Melbourne have uncovered some remarkable clues to the life which existed there over 500 years ago.

It seems that a huge edifice was constructed in Collins St. around the year 1976. It was 145 storeys high and it appears that it was Melbourne's replacement for Australia's leading opera house (the Sydney Opera House was "drowned" in 1974 due to a rise in sea level). The unusual feature of the building so dominant in Melbourne's city centre is the fact that it had sunk into the ground up to its 10th storey, the only possible explanation of this being the existence of some sort of a tunnel running directly underneath the monstrosity. Since the tunnel runs in a loop it is proof of the attempt at building the legendary Melbourne underground loop railway system. (Railway - primitive transport system devised around 1848 and showing little improvement in its 140 years of existence). History tells us that on the railway underground loop opening in 1981 the first train which entered the tunnel never reappeared. Evidently the labourers at the time commenced work immediately after New Years festivities of 1980 - - 1981 and instead of continuing the tunnel in a straight line went off at a tangent and thence into the Yarra River. The first train must have gone the same way.

Men of those times careless as they were evidently tunnelled under the Opera House and caused the whole thing to collapse into the ground.

Archaeologists are still working on these theories, but more positive proof of life in those primeval days may be gained after the excavation of an old suburb called Boronia. This area was covered by volcanic ash in 2060 by the eruption of Mt. Dandenong.

Dave Thompson had a rude shock on a recent preview trip to the Grampians. Dave was charging through the particularly thick scrub when he came across a baby emu, he bent down to stroke the little chick but no sooner had he touched it than an ominous thump thump thump was heard, Dave was confronted by another emu this time of immense proportions and mighty irate. Mum had arrived on the scene complete with huge snapping beak to protect her little baby from this weird monster with a deformed back. Dave took off showing with incredible ease how dense scrub can be flattened if you move fast enough. It is said that Dave was not emused.

Would a person who involves herself with more than one pig be called a piganist??

We would all agree that the president and walks secretary are pleasant, easy going NORMAL characters OR WOULD WE?? The gentlemen in question were observed spending part of a Saturday night playing with nude dolls closely scrutinising their posteriors (the dolls posteriors that is). The mind boggles.

*****NEW *** OUT NOW **** MBW'S **** TRACK NOTES '73 *** \$1.20 *****
AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVOURITE BUSHWALKING SHOP *** OUR CLUB HAS BROUGHT A BOOK OUT WITH
A SELECTION OF WALKS TAKEN FROM BACK ISSUES OF WALK ** ALSO SOME HANDY SMALL ARTICLES
ON SAFETY, NAVIGATION, ETC. ** THIS BOOK IS A MUST FOR ALL WALKERS SO GO AND BUY
YOURS NOW. ***** \$1.20 **** TRACK NOTES '73 *****

COMING EVENTS IN THE CLUB ROOM

- November 7 "Death of a Legend" at 7.45 be seated early!
 This film, compiled with the skill we have come to expect from the Canadian National Film Board, deals with the facts and fables concerning the Grey Timber Wolf. Far from being a bloodthirsty menace to animals, including man, he is shown as being completely in balance with his rugged environment and fulfilling a very useful purpose in culling the weaklings from the moose and other animals. Is it too late for man to treat him with the respect it would seem he deserves?
- November 21 Slide night "Flinders Ranges" contributions from several members who visited there recently.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

John QUILTY, 7 Welfare Parade, Ashburton 3147 (b)579 1011
 Robert COOMBS, 60 Patyah Street, Diamond Creek 3089 (p)438 1346 (b)669 3206
 Bob AUJARD, 5 Hillside Ave., Glen Iris 3146 (p)506164 (b)429 1511 ext 326
 Jeff SOLLORY, 112A Severn Street, Yarraville 3013 (p)314 6586

Welcome again to

Robin and Helen MITCHELL, Rockley Rd., Perthville 2795 (p) Perthville 25
 (b) Bathurst 31 1022

News Subscriber

Bruce DRAPER, 13 Farm Street, Newport 3015

McKAY CREEK POWER STATION - REPAIRING THE WATER SUPPLY TUNNEL

Extracts from the 'Alpine Observer'

McKay Creek Power, largest in the Commissions Kiewa Scheme shouldbbe back on load in a few weeks, following repairs to the water supply tunnel caused by a major rockfall last February, reports the 'S.E.C. NEWS'.

The 4.5 km tunnel was blocked when when a fall occurred in an area of weakened rock close to the McKay Fault. Investigations revealed that several minor falls have occurred over the past few years, but the most recent one filled the tunnel and choked off the water supply to the power station.

At the time, the tunnel was running full and the velocity of the water pushed 6000 m³ of rock up to 400 m from the fall area. When the water had been disconnected SEC investigators had to travel up th tunnel to determine the extent of the blockage. Having determined the location of the blockage from the McKay portal end it was then necessary to define the extent of the blockage in an upstream direction. To do this the inspection parties had to travel through the intake slope at Rocky Valley, climb down a 30 m vertical ladder and then lower themselves a further 30 m down the rock face.

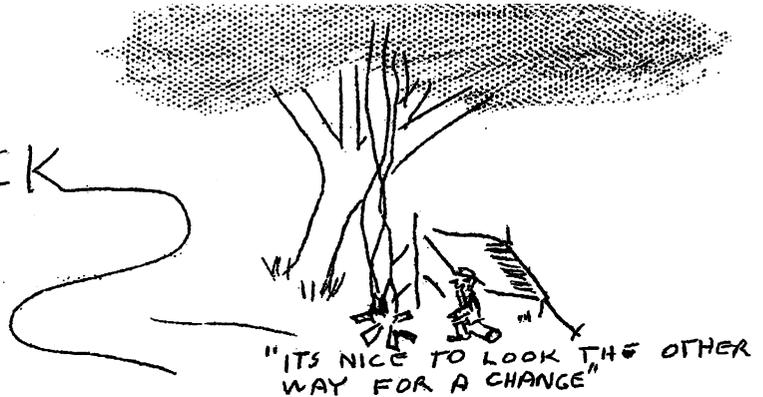
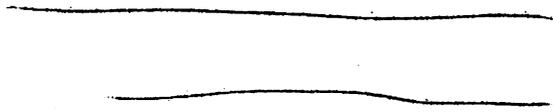
Inside the tunnel conditions were daunting. They necessitated walking in water up to armpit depth, and in some instances, travelling along the flooded tunnel by dinghy. Inspection trips took between 8 and 9 hours. On early trips no food was taken into the tunnel, but on later occasions food was sent down a shaft from Pretty Valley. Apart from using the dingies inspectors had to walk and crawl in wet suits over rock reaching almost to the tunnel roof.

The rock was taken out in small dump trucks, the only vehicles which could be accommodated inside the 3.6 m wide and 4.1 m high tunnel. Most loads consisted of a single rock, and many of the rocks needed to be broken up before they could be transported.

About half the rock was carted out, and the remainder used to build the sub-base to the concrete floor which was then installed over a distance of 1.5 km. The fall area was supported by steel sets and timbering as the tunnel was being cleared, and this area was the concreted.

Continued on P. 8

ALONG THE TRACK



WYCHITELLA FOREST

As we approached the forest, our leader stopped the van and headed off at a brisk pace, his torch soon disappearing into the distance, leaving some 25 slightly chilly souls to contemplate if perhaps he had left his preview a bit late. He soon returned, however, and we drove up the narrow track to the proposed camp site.

The next morning was fine and sunny, and leaving our tents, we set off full of the joys of spring towards Mount Kerang. Skirting the edge of the forest, we climbed to the summit where we admired the wattle showing up bright yellow over the grey mallee scrub, and where Bob gave us a conducted tour of the radio installation. Walking easterly across open fields, lunch time was spent trying to get an early sun tan in the hot sunshine amongst the meadow muffins. In the afternoon we met up with the secretary of the Wychitella Forest Preservation League, Bob Johnson, an interesting local character who showed us an area so abundant with the first of the spring wildflowers, that even the most amateurish would-be botanist amongst us was impressed by the colour and variety of the various species present.

Around the camp fire in the evening, Garry produced a recently acquired song book (how it escaped the customs we don't know), which was read with great glee but which no one was prepared to sing from, (not in mixed company anyway), and we had to make do with the old faithfuls.

On Sunday we walked through the north-west corner of the sanctuary and on to the Mysia Granites where we were able to relax for a while amongst the rocky outcrops before boarding the van and returning to Melbourne.

Thanks Fred for a very good weekend.

Stan Attwood

FLAGPOLE HILL

Twenty eight disenchanted and dismal-looking bushies landed outside the Flowerdale pub. No time for a "quickie" shouted the Leader, with a beery look in his eye. Hence forth we attack the spur way up yonder, and so our bushies, some new, old and some in-between, lumbered their way up the spur to Flagpole Hill. Art Terry was to be seen in his splendour - new gym boots and white socks. Good grief, what next! A certain young lady wore gum boots and the Leader asked if she was off to a dance. Everywhere spring was in the air, even the bushies were feeling spring fever.

At last Flagpole Hill. What a magnificent place to have lunch; the views between showers were really superb. From here we wandered on towards Mt. Robinson. At the Beak of Day Creek, which was a raging torrent, our inimitable Art flatly refused to get his lovely white socks and gym boots muddy, much to the disgust of the Leader. As our ramble continued we came across an old mine shaft, where we had a very enjoyable afternoon tea. Finally, through the afternoon twilight we reached the van. I would like to thank those twenty-eight happy bushies for a most enjoyable walk.

The Leader

SULLIVAN'S SEPTEMBER SPECIAL

"PLEASE, somebody, write about this walk for "News"". Gales of laughter greeted these words from our leader as the van deposited us safely back at Batman Avenue on Sunday 9th September.

If you've never had the unique experience of participating in one of Ann's walks, chances are that you have missed your final opportunity, for she has vowed never to lead a walk again! This particular excursion began at the Chewton Cemetery, and despite the initial leisurely pace it was a case of the quick and the dead all the way. You had to be quick

After leaving the cemetery, we scrambled for a couple of hours over undulating, lightly timbered country in the general direction of Expedition Pass Reservoir. It was a beautiful warm Spring day. Wrens, thornbills, cuckoos and treecreepers were calling and the grey scrub was transformed into a riot of colour by the profusion of golden acacias, red grevilleas, purple hardenbergia, blue, mauve and green orchids, and white Early Nancy and sundew flowers.

By 1.30 pm most of us had reached the reservoir and had worked up an appetite to such an extent that one of our party warned some picnickers to watch out because more of us were on the way - all hungry. The picnickers were quick to reply that this was precisely why they hadn't begun cooking their food. After crossing the swift flow from the reservoir (which many of us did by walking along a fragile-looking rusty pipe above the water) we relaxed on a pleasant grassy bank beneath eucalypts and pine trees. Armies of mosquitos hastily reminded us that we weren't the only ones with sharpened appetites.

The hungry bushwalkers of whom the picnickers had been warned failed to arrive, and after a time Alex, Darrell and Sandy set out to look for them. According to our leader, 5 were missing - Eddy, and some girls "I've a feeling we won't see them for hours and hours", said Peter, with incredible optimism.

Eddy, the whip, arrived first and informed us that 7, not 5, had been left for dead. Anyway, by 3.45 pm we were all together again, and the "lost" ones were still smiling. An attempt to throw Eddy in the water before continuing the walk somehow failed to get off the ground, and remained as words in the mouth of the leader.

Those ready to leave immediately followed Alex. "Alex knows exactly where we're going," Ann assured us. We set off at a brisk pace along the margin of the reservoir, over a hill and down through farmland. Soon we were back in timbered country and heading for Mt. Alexander Koala Reserve. Alex and a few hardy souls sped on and disappeared from view. The rest of us followed as best we could in the direction where they were last seen but, needless to say, we didn't end up in the same place as he did.

About 9 of the group finished where the van was waiting. The rest were scattered all along the road and some of us were at the top of Mt. Alexander - off the map. Thunder was rumbling loudly across the sky and a storm was coming closer every minute. Fortunately, good old Dennis brought the van along and collected us all. Ann sitting with the list of walkers on her knee informed us that she was not collecting money at that moment, but was more interested in collecting people.

As soon as we were all aboard and on our way home the storm broke and rain came down in torrents. We were lucky.

We stopped at Kyneton for tea and actually completed the exercise without losing anybody. There was, however, a moment near the end of the journey when people thought that Trevor really must have left the land of the living - he was lying in a convincing posture on the floor at the back of the van, dead to the world, but still very much alive.

That was a surprisingly eventful walk, Ann. Are you sure there won't be any more?

Virgil Davis

REPAIRING THE WATER SUPPLY TUNNEL cont.....

The tunnel brings water from Rocky Valley and Pretty Valley to the McKay pipeline and then to the McKay Creek Power Station. Tunneling was commenced in February 1952, breakthrough was achieved in March 1955, and the clean up was completed by June 1956. Previously the tunnel was lined only in critical areas - most of it was unlined and had been left in the cleaned-down state after being blasted out of solid rock.

Every several years, inspections are carried out with the tunnel drained of water. This is the first time since McKay Creek Power Station was commissioned in 1960, that the tunnel has been out of service.

molony's

197 ELIZABETH ST.
MELBOURNE
67-8428&9

STILL TOPS FOR
BUSHWALKING, SKIING,
AND CLIMBING NEEDS

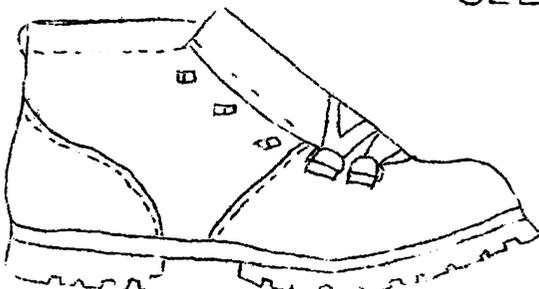
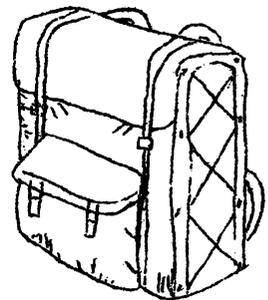
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