



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 298(2)

September 1974

Price 3c

Tony Walstab has prepared the following material for the assistance of members...

"DOBBING": A LAWYER'S VIEW

I read with interest the article in "News" and thought at the time that the effectiveness of this legislation will depend on how strongly the authorities are prepared to enforce it. "A little of help from their friends" may give them the necessary impetus.

As I understand it, the general effect of the legislation is to prohibit "off-the-road" use of vehicles on public lands. In general terms "public lands" includes all of the coastal foreshores, water and recreation reserves, State forests, national parks, wildlife reserves and other unalienated Crown land that is outside the boundaries of the cities, towns and boroughs. Within these public lands no vehicle is permitted to move elsewhere than on a road or track formed for the passage of vehicles having four or more wheels or in a parking area, or in a declared free access area. In a declared erosion hazard area vehicular movement is totally prohibited.

I note that there are exemptions for certain vehicles used on Governmental business or by persons acting in accordance with a lease, licence or permit relating to the area. Because of this, and because of possible technicalities as to whether or not the area is "public land" within the meaning of the legislation, I think that it is important that the bushwalkers not get too carried away "at the scene of the crime". It may turn out that the person challenged is perfectly entitled to use the vehicle in that area and accordingly any unpleasantness might reflect unfavourably on the Club. Unless the immediate reporting of the incident to the Police, or the body which has the management or control of the public lands, would be likely to result in the offenders being caught redhanded, I would suggest a more appropriate procedure would be for the leader of the walk to report the incident to the Club and supply as many of the following details as is possible:

- 1 Date
- 2 Time
- 3 Location
 - (i) Name of park etc.
 - (ii) Approximate map reference
- 4 Vehicle reg. number (s)
- 5 Description of vehicle(s)
- 6 Description of driver(s) or rider(s)
- 7 A photograph of the lower part of vehicle (including the registration number) and which should clearly indicate (if possible) that the vehicle is off the road
- 8 Names and addresses of witnesses who would be willing and available to give evidence, if required
- 9 General description of what the driver(s) or rider(s) were doing and whether they were causing any observable damage to the area

Proceedings for the enforcement of any breach of the legislation may be taken by a member of the Police Force, the body which has the management or control of the public lands or by a Bailiff of Crown lands.

I would then suggest that the Club write to the body which has the management or control of the public lands (if there is such a body, and if not, then to the Minister for Conservation) with a copy of the letter to the Minister for Conservation and another copy to the local Police. A suggested form for this letter is retained on the Club Secretary's file. If there is no response to this letter the Club may want to chase up the appropriate body and ask them what has been done. If this procedure does not bring about the desired result then it may have to be revised to see whether more effective procedures can be brought to bear.

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
G.P.O. Box 1751Q,
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3001

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

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING IS ON 25/9/74, AT 8.00pm.

Don't forget to come to this meeting and take an interest in what is going on in the bushwalking and conservation world.

OCTOBER SOCIAL EVENT

October 23rd A talk by Warwick Deacock who organises so many wonderful "Ausventure" trips to the Himalayans. Our members who have been on some of his treks include Dave Oldfield and Alex Stirkul to the Nepal - Katmandu area. This night will be well worth attending.

LANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL

The East Gippsland Study Area is now available. Submissions are invited from interested persons and bodies in regard to the use of Public Land in the area. Recommendations should be sent to the F.V.W.C. urgently as they have to be into the L.C.C. by 21/10/74.

Also the Mallee Study Area Report is available and recommendations should also be sent to the F.V.W.C. as soon as possible as these have to be in- to the L.C.C. by 13/11/74.

Both these reports are available for inspection at the L.C.C., 464 St. Kilda Rd. Melbourne, or copies can be purchased for \$3 each. Also F.V.W.C. has copies.

FEDERATION

The Federation's Conservation Committee is very busy working on submissions to The Lands Conservation Council on the Alpine Area, East Gippsland, Mallee and Corrangamite, and to the House of Representatives Standing Committee enquiry into the softwoods industry. Also, they have been asked by the L.C.C. to give their opinion on a proposed slate quarry on the Howqua - Jamieson Divide.

How do you feel about the peak near Bluff Hut being named Mt. Eadley Stoney? If you are not too keen on it, you have until October 27th to lodge your objections with the Office of Place Names Committee, Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Members of The Bogong Club have initiated moves to form yet another conservation group. This one, The Alpine Society, is being formed primarily to keep a watch over the alpine area. Membership of the society will be open to individuals as well as organisations.

"THE ALPS AT THE CROSSROADS"

As mentioned in last month's "News" and also announced in the clubrooms, help is still required urgently in preparing this excellent publication to be ready for the deadline to the printers on 27th September 1974. Especially if you are not going away the weekend 21st - 22nd September, then please ring John Brownlie (p) 728-3348 and arrange to visit his home - Thomas Crescent, Mt. Evelyn at some time during the weekend or else take your own equipment and food and stay the night. Also if anyone is able to help on a week day up until the deadline, please ring John.

See Page 7 for further information on "THE ALPS AT THE CROSSROADS".

SEARCH & RESCUE

Members of the Federation S & R list have been called on two searches recently. One was for a member of our own club and the other for missing Damian McKenzie, 10, who disappeared at Steavenson Falls, near Marysville.

Any fit members of our club good at navigation interested in joining the list or other committee members.

OCTOBER WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKSSeptember 6th BEARS HEAD RANGE - LERDERBERG RIVER - MT. BLACKWOOD

Leader: Graham Todd Easy/Medium
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00
 Expected time of return: 9 pm.
 Map Reference: Daylesford - Ballan
 Approximate distance: 9 miles

A pleasant walk in early spring through the bush and along tracks. The Lerderberg River will be crossed, wet feet will be had by all.

October 13th LADY'S PASS - MT. IDA - ARGYLE

Leader: Rosemary Rider Easy/Medium
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$3.00
 Expected time of return: 7.30 - 8 pm.
 Map Reference: Heathcote
 Approximate distance: 11 miles

Gentle climb for 5 miles up to Mt. Ida through lightly timbered country and farmland. Good views from Ida and then steep descent into green valley. Further climbing and walking along overgrown tracks along ridge from which glimpses of Heathcote and farmland are visible. Generally pleasant walking tending towards medium standard. Bring water for lunch.

October 20th WESBURN - MT LITTLE JOE - MT. TUGWELL - BRITANNIA CK.

Leader: John Beck Easy
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00
 See Leader for further details

October 27th GLENLUCE SPRINGS - FRYERS CREEK - FRYERSTOWN

Leader: Ian Hill Easy
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$3.00
 See Leader for further details

WEEKEND WALKSOctober 4 - 6th HISTORICAL RAMBLE - TARNAGULLA - WAANYARRA DUNOLLY

Leader: Barry Short Easy/Medium
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30pm. Fare \$6.00
 Expected time of return: 8 pm. Sunday
 Map Reference: Dunolly 1:100,000

A good walk through an historically interesting area with many signs of the gold rush days still evident. Bring water for Saturday's breakfast and lunch.

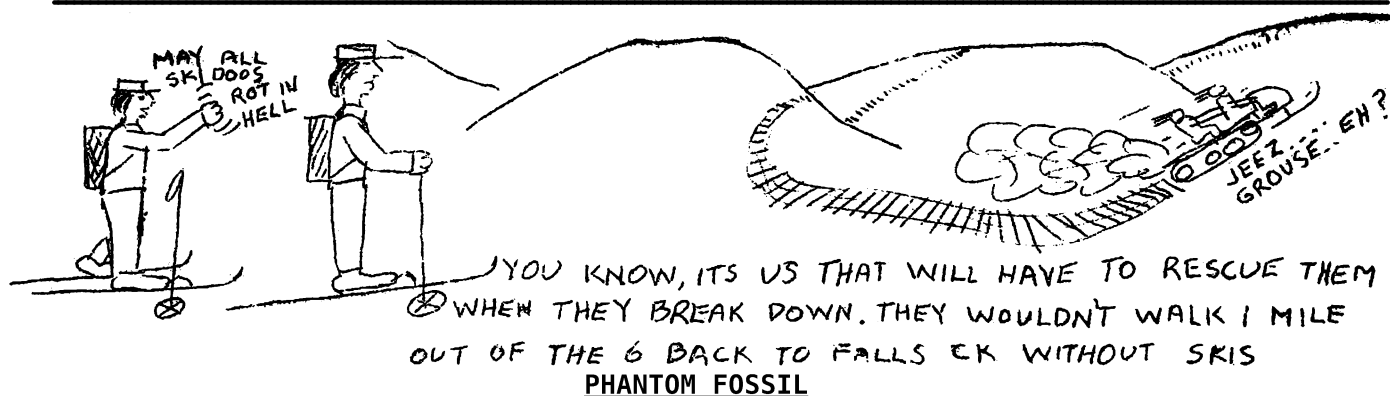
October 12-13th FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS - TRACK CLEARING

Those interested in going please contact Athol Dorman (p) 995186 or (b) 903311. The weekend will be spent marking a section of the Alpine Walking Track between Swinglers and Red Jacket in the Aberfeldy area.

October 18-20th BOTANY WALK - WARBY RANGES

Leader: Doug Pocock Easy
 Expected time of return: 7 pm.
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 pm. Fare \$6.00
 Map Reference: Wangaratta

The Warby Ranges are a low, rocky, dry Range, typical of the country which favours the showy Australian Wildflowers (Compares with Brisbane Ranges, Grampians, etc.) There are at least 2 species of Plants which grow here but nowhere else in Victoria. We will have a fixed camp with only short walks (emphasis on short) which will allow plenty of time for stops to look at, photograph, study, or what you will - THE NATIVE PLANTS - BUT NOT PICKING!! If you have ever felt that you have been frustrated by walking too fast and not able to stop and look at the wildflowers (or birds, or animals) then this will be the ideal walk for you. Beginners may be able to learn a little more about the beautiful flora of this country. POSSESSION of a map is a must for this walk. If you are in this area, please contact the organisers.



QUOTES OF THE MONTH:

1. Sue Ball - There is nothing in my mind whatsoever.
2. Anonymous - Referring to the shape of GWJ's stomach - It looks like a sphere with no corners at all.

It would appear that Graham W-J, quote "cannot get to sleep unless he has something between his knees". That statement alone tends to make ones mind boggle, but Graham is adamant that he suffers from chilly knee caps and requires some form of protection, this is the reason for him retiring in long pants.

I reckon there is a bit of goonery going on and GWJ suffers from the dreaded SPON (SPON for those unacquainted with the Goon Show is a medical term for falling knee caps).

Dare devil extraordinaire Mr. R. Mattingley Esq. was to be seen jumping off the roof of Wilkie recently, he wasn't practicing for a jump across Moroka Gorge or anything like that, but rather testing the depth of the snow after a mammoth fall the previous night. Rod disappeared up to his neck.

You've never had porridge until you've tasted the OLD BALL FIELD concoctions, a delicious blend of oats and sultanas, brown sugar and about 10 cubic feet of Wilkie. Yes we ate very well.

The Situation - Wilkie

The players - A fair haired very clean shaven gentleman and a choofer.

Act 1 - Porridge having been consumed with relish, our gentleman awaits eagerly
 Scene 1 for some nice crisp toast currently being cooked on a very efficient choofer.

Scene 2 - Our gentleman friend notices the toast being cooked to perfection and remarks on how hot the choofer seems to be getting.

Scene 3 - Our gentleman is somewhat perturbed by the fact that the pressure release valve has a small flame spurting out.

Scene 4 - Our friend is not at all happy when the whole choofer ignites and long tongues of flames reach out hungrily for something to consume.

Scene 5 - With Wilkie glowing, our friends eyes glowing and imminent danger of the ceiling catching fire the play reaches a climax.

Scene 6 - Our friend is to be seen lifting the fiery ball from its place of feeding and forcibly ejecting it out of the window into the snow.

Scene 7 - General muttering from the audience such as What a brave boy, phew what a stench, (Our friend's eyebrows and woollen jumper were somewhat modified), I'll never use Shellite again, where's my toast, etc. etc.

Scene 8 - Wilky returns to normal.

The mountains and the sea are great avenues of adventure precisely because the mountaineer and the seaman have to study something of greater value than the habits of the internal combustion engine.

- Sir Arnold Lunn -

GET THAT LEECH OUT OF REACH: TACKLE WITH NaCl

As all experienced buttongrassbogwaders know, the only way to keep rosy cheeks when our little black friends are abroad is to carry a salt cellar and wield it freely. This is the only important thing to know, so the incurious trouble themselves no further about the reason WHY a mere sprinkle of salt kills the thirsty attacker so swiftly. Well, why does it?

Like so many things in life, it's all a result of the second law of thermodynamics. This is always a good one to throw into the conversation, because it is almost certain that someone will hastily change the subject. If they don't, then you have a spot of bother on your hands. Worse still, they might ask you to explain your

Hoping your physics teacher never gets to hear that this is now you put it, you say "Well one way of thinking of it is that 'things tend to come to equilibrium'". So if you get an area of high pressure and an area of low pressure a stiff breeze will blow from one to the other until the pressures are equal (equilibrium). Or again, if you have a bar red hot at one end and cold at the other, heat will flow along it until the temperatures are equal at both ends.

And if you have a solution that is very salty and one which has very little salt in it, and if there is any way the water can get from one to the other, then water will go from the weak solution to the strong solution. The weak solution will get stronger because it's losing water, while the strong solution gets more dilute. This will go on until the two solutions are the same strength (equilibrium). This will actually happen if you put your two solutions side by side in jars in a completely closed space. Water will evaporate from the dilute solution and condense in the other solution. (Those of us who enjoy showing off always call this "the isopiestic method" and try to look superior!)

Now water can pass (with apologies to any biologists present for such gross oversimplification and leaving out words like "active transport" and lipid monolayers" through the leech's skin. This process is called "osmosis". When you put a little damp salt on his backbone it makes a very strong solution, while the solution inside is very weak. The second law of thermodynamics exerts its ruthless push, and the water tries to get the system to equilibrium by diffusing out through our thirsty little friend's black skin! Suddenly he feels very much thirstier than he did before. In fact, the whole experience leaves him feeling even more drained than he had planned to make you! Revenge indeed!

(P.S. I hope this doesn't provoke an avalanche of correspondence on the work of F.G.Donnan and sixteen later generations of biochemists!)

WEEKEND WALK PREVIEW cont'd.OCTOBER WALK

October 25 - 27th SNOBS CK. - MT.TORBRECK - MT.BULLFIGHT - ECHO FLAT

Leader: George Telehin

Medium

Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30pm. Fare 6.00

Van, providing there is enough interest shown, leaving Batman Ave.

Echo Flat via Mt.Torbreck, Mt.Bullfight and the Federation Range from the upper reaches of Snobs Creek.

Anyone looking for an exciting weekend walking through wild country won't be disappointed. Look for more detailed information on the noticeboard in early October.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS -

Paul Bicknell - 15 Charles Street, Seddon, 3011
Glenda Seadon - 1 Chester Street, East Bentleigh, 3165 (p) 57 4048
Keith Wilcox - 4/278 Domain Road, South Yarra, 3141

NEW "NEWS" SUBSCRIBER -

Philip Colebatch - 13 Stuart Road, Dulwich, S.A. 5065

The following is a copy of a letter sent by Gerry McPhee to The Chief Commissioner of Police. I feel that it is of great interest to us as any of us could come across the same sort of situation with "ski-doo" vehicles or trail bikes.

43 Lyle Street,
Brunswick, 3056

AN "OPEN LETTER" to -

11 - 9 - 74

The Chief Commissioner of Police,
Russell Street Police Headquarters,
Russell Street,
Melbourne 3000.

Sir,

I understand that it is an offence to drive a recreational vehicle other than on a road, track, or across a free access area. I understand that this offence is covered by one or more of:

Recreational Vehicles Act and Regulations (1973)

Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act (1973)

Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations (1973).

I am therefore advising you of two incidents in which I believe one or more of the above Acts and Regulations were contravened, in the expectations that you will launch a prosecution.

The first incident was at about midday (time is approximate) on 22 August 1974. Two "ski-doo" vehicles were driven across the Bogong High Plains, but not on the road. The registered number of one vehicle was DV982. The other vehicle bore the name "DIANA". Both vehicles came within six feet of the two witnesses. Both vehicles were driven across the snow above the northern side of the Falls Creek - Omeo Road, drove down onto the road, passed the two witnesses, and then returned to their cross-country journey, driving above (i.e. north of) the road. The location is just west of the meeting of the said road and Watchbed Creek.

The two witnesses are:

Mr. Gerard A. McPhee
43 Lyle Street
Brunswick 3056

Miss Vanessa Rohan
P.O. Box 43
Koroit 3282

Both witnesses are prepared to provide sworn statements to the above facts, and to appear as Crown witnesses when the case comes to court.

The second incident involved Mr Roger Aldridge, of "The Age" newspaper. He has been kind enough to publish the details of his and his accomplices cross-country activities on page 12 of "The Age" of 31st August 1974. I would be grateful if you could advise of the progress of your investigations.

Yours sincerely,

The light died in the low clouds. Falling snow drank in the dusk. Shrouded in silence, the branches wrapped me in their peace. When the boundaries were erased, once again the wonder: that I exist

5-11-74

THE ALPS AT THE CROSSROADS

A publication consisting of an introduction and seven chapters, with a foreword by Sir Garfield Barwick. Text written by Dick Johnson. A co-operative project involving the Victorian National Parks Association, the Save Our Bushlands Action Committee and the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. The book is published by the Victorian National Parks Association. Its theme is that the dual aims of conservation of the high country and men's growth through self discovery in adventure activities are best realised in the creation of a large contiguous Alpine National Park. The book is structured as follows:

- Ch. 1 Explores the historical development of the idea of wilderness in Australia and abroad. Describes the Victorian alpine environment.
- Ch. 2 Nineteenth century exploration, settlement, cattle grazing in the Alps and the mountain gold rushes.
- Ch. 3 Origins of the major government authorities with interests in the Alps and their reasons for entering the region.
- Ch. 4 Growth of adventure activities in the Alps. Skiing and ski-touring, bushwalking, canoeing, snow/ice/rock climbing and orienteering.
- Ch. 5 Struggle to create a National Parks Authority and an Alpine National Park.
- Ch. 6 Problems and conflicts in the Alps and the need for improved control over the use of the region's resources.
- Ch. 7 Need for planning in the Alps and the function of a national park as a planning tool. Recommendations for boundaries and principles of management to be applied to the Alpine National Park.

A book of 208 pages with 109,000 words of text, 25 maps and diagrams and over 150 photographs on high quality art paper. Colour cardboard cover. Measures 28 x 21½ cm x 13 mm thick (11" x 8½" x ½") and weighs 660 grams (1½ lb).

This book is a must for all bushwalkers, conservationists, etc. There will be a Book Launching at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on 17th December 1974. Please keep this date free. (8 pm). More details will be published in further editions of the "News".

DON'T FORGET THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING, 25/9/74, 8pm. in the Clubrooms.

ADDITIONS &/OR ALTERATIONS TO ADDRESS LIST -- AUGUST.

Peter Ashby -- b) 329 6711
 Marie Bacsak -- 37 Lynch Cres. Middle Brighton 3186.
 Lindsay Barrow -- 5/12 Auburn Grove, E.Hawthorn, 3123
 David Bover -- b) 267 2011
 Audrey Bree -- 50 O'Shaunessy St., Nunawading, 3131
 Sue Brownlie -- Box 52, Montrose, 3765 b) 870 9727
 Bob and Lornia Chadwick- delete b) 95 1280
 Philip Chadwick -- 12 Talbot Ave., Balwyn, 3103 p) 833592 b) 351280
 Meg Gordon -- 7/57 Spencer St., St.Kilda, 3182 p) 94 2933
 David Harrison -- b) 51 0281 x 2296
 Graham Mascas -- b) 37 3681
 Gerry McPhee -- delete p) 662 1000
 Rosemary Rider -- (not DER)
 Marian Ross -- 11/7 Mooltan St., Flemington, 3031 p) 334255
 Barry Short -- b) 651 6816
 David & Mary Smith -- 3/18 Burns Street, Elwood, 3184 b) 560 3233
 Phillip Taylor -- b) 651 1817

ACTING "NEWS" CONVENDOR

HELP! Walk Previews, Along the Track, Articles, Conservation Notes, Items of General Interest, Scandal to Phantom Fossil, Any bit of writing within reason wanted desperately for October "News" and all other issues.

You write the "News" we type and print it and people like to read it so please get busy and find what hidden talent you have in writing.

Sunday Walkers please write up your walks. Also all those winter ski, snow walking trips etc. welcome. Now that Spring is here more people should be out on lots of walks so should be plenty of "News".

"News" Deadline for October - 5th. Please give or send to me, Joy Bover, 30 Bettina St. Clayton 3168.

Thanks to the contributors of this month's "News".

The true mountaineer is a wanderer, and by a wanderer I do not mean a man who expends his whole time in travelling to and fro in the mountains on the exact tracks of his predecessors ... but I mean a man who loves to be where no human being has been before, who delights in gripping rocks that have previously never felt the touch of human fingers, or in hewing his way up ice-filled gullies whose grim shadows have been sacred to the mists and avalanches since "earth rose out of chaos". In other words the true mountaineer is the man who attempts new ascents. Equally, whether he succeeds or fails, he delights in the fun and jollity of the struggle. The quaint, bare slabs, the square precipitous steps in the ridge, and the black, bulging ice of the gully, are the very breath of life to his being. I do not pretend to be able to analyse this feeling, still less to be able to make it clear to unbelievers. It must be felt to be understood, but it is potent to happiness and sends the blood ringling through the veins, destroying every trace of cynicism and striking at the very roots of pessimistic philosophy.

- A.F. Mummery -

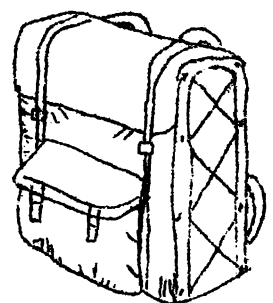
molony's

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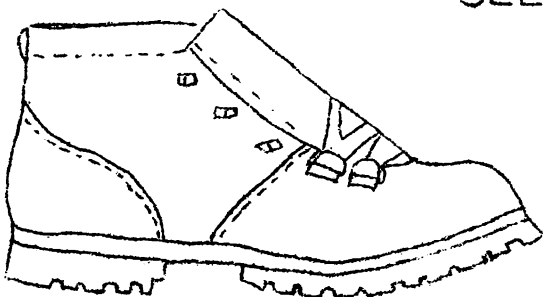
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