



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

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TIGHTER REINS FOR TOURISTS

Making the best of a National Park

Under the above title, the London Sunday Telegraph of May 25th Published a short article on the pressures created by tourists in the English Lake District over a public holiday weekend, and it gives a disturbing preview of the possible future of our own National Parks, especially those most easily reached from the cities. Whilst reading the original article I was constantly reminded of the Dandenongs and the You Yangs on a summer Sunday and the Prom and the Grampians over a long weekend.

The Lake District National Park covers 865 square miles of enchantingly beautiful mountain and lake scenery most of which is well served by sealed roads and several large towns. It encompasses tracts of alpine wilderness and yet the M6 Freeway has brought 20 million people within a day-trip of the major resort town of Windermere and the problems of over-crowding are becoming so great that a Special Planning Board has been created to handle the hordes of motorists and the army of fell-walkers that materialise during the holidays. Most of those who arrive will rarely leave their cars for any length of time (sound familiar?) and of those who stay overnight, many will be towing caravans. The authorities are becoming so concerned by pressures placed on the countryside by roadside campers that the previous tacit acceptances have been waived and all caravans and tent dwellers are moved on by police and rangers and presumably herded into already crowded motor-camps. Motorists driving along the scenic routes even in the wilderness areas are likely to travel bumper-to-bumper at little more than walking pace.

While motorists may deserve all the discomforts they suffer, fell-walkers seem little better off. On the track to the summit of Hellvellyn, walkers may well find themselves in a 45 minute queue when they come to the sharp ridge of Striding Edge. 500 000 trampers visit the celebrated beauty spot of Tarn Hows in a year and have destroyed the turf and turned the steeper tracks into scree, not only there, but at several other popular places. Both the Forests Commission and the National Trust claim "miracles" in using natural means to reinforce the environment. Miracles unfortunately are not necessarily the gift of Providence but cost large sums of money and several areas have been closed and tracks re-routed to enable the miracle of regeneration.

Naturally, wherever large numbers of people gather the bureaucrats will be busy controlling them and the Special Planning Board not only provides the less-enterprising visitor with "easily reached entertainment such as guided walks" but seeks to "educate and capture their imagination" by building National Park Centres, the first one in the town of Windermere. It needs little education and imagination to picture the hordes of cars and people generated by such a centre.

Commercial interests, principally local farmers who earn as much from hiring sites to caravans as from traditional farming, not surprisingly clash with the bureaucracy. Farmers complain among other things of "KGB agents" snooping around farms counting caravans, toilets, water-taps and power points, and protest groups of residents are actively engaging the Planning Board because they regard the Board as an alien bureaucracy with little feeling for the real needs of the area.

Tension between visitors and local residents, again principally the local farmers, is inevitable. The Lake District is still primarily a rural

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All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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

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

SEPTEMBER WALK PREVIEWS

Sept 7 GLENLYON - LODDON RV. - DYERS FALLS - DENVER Easy/Med

Leader: Peter Goodwin (h) 848 5028
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$3.00
Expected time of return: 8pm
Map reference: No.827 Daylesford 1:63 360
Approximate distance: 9 miles

Leaving the van at grid reference 302987 on the Farmers Road to Loddon Falls, we go down the track past the falls to Walls Crossing footbridge. Then we move North-East along the contours to Dyers Falls where we shall have lunch. (Bring water since the streams look a little polluted) From Dyers Falls we go due East to the track, then South East to the junction whence NNE along the forest track bearing to the right at grid reference 324036. We follow this all the way to the outskirts of Denver. A short walk across the farmers paddock should bring us to the van in Denver. This is a pleasant easy walk mostly along farm tracks or forest tracks. A few viscious blackberry bushes will be encountered.

Sept 14 FERNSHAW-MORLEYS TRACK-CARTERS GAP-NARBETHONG Medium

Leader: Bob Aujard (h) 509 6164 (b) 429 1511 x448
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15am
Expected time of return: 7pm
Map reference: Juliet 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 10½ miles

Sufficiently challenging, yet not too hard - a respectable distance, but not too far. We start off on Morley's track which follows the Watts River along a beautiful valley floor of tall straight timber, the straightest you've ever seen! A climb of a few hundred feet takes us to our lunch spot on the side of the Great Divide. You will need water for lunch. After lunch we climb a few hundred feet more and cross the Divide at Carter's Gap - there are no prizes for speed. The rest of the walk is on 4WD access tracks with beautiful views, especially from the side of Mt. Dom Dom.

Sept 21 THE BLUFF-BRISBANE RANGES-STAUGHTON VALE Easy/Med

Leader: Ken McMahon (b) 254 502
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$2.50
Expected time of return: 6.30pm
Map reference: Ballan & Meredith 1:63 360
Approximate distance: 10 miles

Starting with a short, sharp climb, we traverse elevated pastures for a few miles before plunging into the scrubby Brisbane Ranges. Although this is not really a rugged area, wildflowers and an abundance of wildlife should provide some interest. Bring water for lunch. It should be noted that the Meredith map is out of print.

Sept 25 TRENTHAM AREA Easy

Leader: Ann Sullivan (h) 338 6325
Transport: Train

The Showday walk (Thursday) See Ann in the clubrooms for details and train times and fares.

Sept 28 FRYERSTOWN AREA Easy

Leader: Alan Kitchener (h) 583 942
Transport: Van from Batman Ave 9.15am Fare \$3.00

See Alan in the clubrooms on a Wednesday for details

WEEKEND WALKS

Sept **FEDERATION WEEKEND**
6-7 See the Duty Officers in the clubrooms.

Sept **LORNE AREA** Medium
12-14 Leader: Dave Harrison (b) 510 281 x2296
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30pm Fare \$8.00
See Dave in the clubrooms on Wednesdays for more details

Sept **(1) GRAMPIANS-MT. ROSEA-MT. FREDERICK** Med/Hard
26-28 Leader: Graham Wills-Johnson (h) 524 720
Transport Van from Batman Ave 6.30pm Fare \$9.00
Map reference: Ararat 1:100 000
Approximate distance: 10½ miles

If it is true that you can't have a rose without having thorns, then this walk should be roses, roses all the way. Doesn't the Walks Secretary realise that I'm getting too old and dodderly to even GO on walks like this one, let alone attempt to lead them? Oh well - the first day's walk is only 6 miles in the horizontal plane - and about the same, up and down, in the vertical plane. Gloves should be worn. Saturday night's campsite had plenty of water on the preview, (This is the only place on the entire route where water is even hoped for.) Suits of armour are advisable while attempting to erect tents. Haemophiliacs will not be accepted on the walk. The campsite is in a thorn thicket which fills the saddle just south of Mt. Lubra. The second day's walk is only 4½ miles - unless we find we are unable to get down off the range where I hope we can get down off it. Since this is entirely possible (I have merely surveyed the proposed descent-cleft lugubriously from afar), you should inform your creditors and/or grandmother that in the event of your unexplained absence for a month or so, South America is not the place to look.

Sept **(2) THE GRAMPIANS - MT. WILLIAM RANGE** Medium
26-28 Leader: Rob Harris (b) 254 502
Transport: Van from Batman Ave, 6.30pm Fare \$9.00
Map reference: Ararat 1:100 000
Approximate distance: 34 Km.

This walk should provide something for everyone - from peaks to conquer to roads to bash.

The first peak is Boronia Peak at the northern end of the range. This is climbed via a foot track which is later followed along the shores of Lake Bellfield. Then into the scrub to a campsite on Barney Ck. at the foot of Mt. Cassel. The spectacular rock formations for which the Grampians are noted are very much in evidence in this area.

The next morning a stroll along a track should be sufficient to loosen up for the climb onto Red Man's Bluff. Pushing on through the scrub some might be relieved to reach the road and the last climb onto Mt. William. The return to the highway is on a foot track along Fyan's Ck. in the shadow of Cathedral Rock.

NEXT SINGABOUT to be held at Scout Hall outside Toorak Railway station.
Saturday 6th September 8pm. Bush songs and dancing.
50 cents. All welcome.

Do you take colour slides with your camera?

"PHOTOFLORA '76" COMPETITION entry forms will be available by November. There will be 5 sections as before, but the section "In the Bush with a Camera" will be broadened to cover almost any aspects of wild life.

Conducted by the Native Plants Preservation Society of Victoria.

FLAT FOR RENT: Large 1 bedroom unfurnished flat in Hawthorn
Available from 1st week in October \$25 pw
Please phone Ken Briscoe (b) 600 441 x421

FAMILY WALKING GROUP AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

In December 1969 a number of club members with children had a meeting and came up with a programme of family walks that would help them to enjoy their favourite pastime as a family group as well as introduce their children to the joys of bushwalking. The suggestion was put to the club committee and a walk each month was programmed to be held concurrently with a Sunday walk. The Family Walking Group Travelled on the van and walked about 4 miles of the proposed day walk. This seemed for a while to be successful. Then we had trouble with late arrivals of the weekend walkers and grizzling kids all the way home on the van. This did not help those who had had a hard weekend walk and wanted to catch up with some sleep on the van and it certainly didn't help the parents of the children. The numbers on the family walks slowly dwindled until they ceased to exist.

In March of this year another attempt was made at organising a Family Walking Group. This time using private transport. A meeting was held and a program was drawn up. The group has boomed, with up to 60 people from 25 families out walking. The fact that the majority of families who attend these walks are not already club members indicates that there is a need for such a group. Each family participating in the walk must organise their own transport. The leader arranges the walk so as to have a car shuttle at the end and this has proved to be a very satisfactory arrangement.

Now that the Family Walking Group is off the ground it needs some structure. They need communication between members. Two avenues are open - 1. That the group form their own club, or 2. That the group be incorporated into the structure of the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

The first suggestion is unworkable as the majority of these people do not want to attend club meetings. A club would mean office-bearers, a meeting place, duplication of facilities for producing a news sheet etc. In short, it would be more than most of the people want or could afford. The second suggestion would seem to be the most satisfactory and I suggest that the constitution be amended to incorporate these family walkers.

Proposed amendment to the constitution

Under paragraph 5. MEMBERSHIP. insert after (c) Honorary membership....

- (d) Associate family membership, is a family who participate in the activities of the Family Walking Group. This membership is bound by the following conditions:
 - (i) That such membership is a group membership and applies to a whole family. One person may not become a family member.
 - (ii) That the holder of a family membership will have no voting rights within the normal club structure.
- (e) Applications for membership shall....etc.
- (f) The committee shall.....etc.
- (g) Notwithstanding anything.....etc.
- (h) The committee may class.....etc.
- (i) The committee shall have.....etc.

It is proposed that the family membership would pay a fee and I suggest that it be half the Husband and Wife membership subscription. This would cover the cost of "News" and postage. It is also suggested the Family Walking Group be run by a sub-committee who would be responsible for the preparation of the walks programme and also for a family walking page in "News". The family walking page would give details of family walks, walk previews, reports etc. This group can be self-sufficient so that there is no extra burden put on the already overworked club committee.

I feel there is a need for a group such as this and that we as a walking club have the responsibility to provide the means for it to operate.

Proposer: Rex Filson
Secunder: Alex Stirkul

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Paragraph 6(b) SUBSCRIPTIONS be amended to read:

Subscriptions for the ensuing year shall be due and payable at the Annual General Meeting, and any member whose fees are due and unpaid for two months shall cease to be a member. In the case of new members, the entrance fee and subscription shall be payable at the time of lodging an application for membership, provided that if membership is subsequently refused to the applicant, any moneys so paid shall be refunded in full. The committee may, if it is deemed warranted by special circumstances, accept an applicant as a member without the entrance fee or subscription having been paid, such dispensation to be for a definite period, which may be extended from time to time as the Committee thinks fit. Any such arrangement shall not be binding after the following Annual General Meeting, except as the incoming Committee shall decide.

Proposer: G. Crapper
Seconder: M. Jakobsons

WANTED: One Committee Member. Male or Female - no experience necessary, but a Degree in Conservation or Aeronautical Engineering will be deemed an advantage.
The vacancy has been created by Jerry Grandage resigning. He has accepted a more time consuming position with the FVWC. If interested, contact a Committee member for details. Applications close on September 24th.

WALK 76 DISTRIBUTION

In the past the distribution of WALK magazine to the smaller suburban outlets has been an onerous task and pretty much an unco-ordinated job. This year it is hoped that some people will be able to assist in the pre-propaganda and flogging, if you like, of our magazine to local Suburban Newsagents and Bookstores. If anyone thinks they can help then their assistance will be most appreciated. Please contact Max Wilkinson (b) 266 961 or Geoff Crapper (b) 615 4262 for further details.

SOCIAL NOTES

Sept. 10 PERSONALITY SLIDE NIGHT - Volume 2

It has come to my attention in the past few months that many amusing and interesting slides of people have proliferated themselves. I am calling on contributions from anyone who has more personality slides to add to the collection. Featured will be slides of the Annual Dinner, Hodgson's party, Square Dance, Rodney's Beginners Ski Weekend. (and a few walking shots, maybe.)

Sept. 17 Forum on Tracks and Huts - Chairman: Dave Oldfield

What is the club's attitude to Tracks and Huts? If you have any views to air - come along.

Sept 24 HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

XMAS TRIPS: This short message is directed at anyone who is planning a walk over the Xmas period. If you would like it included in the Summer Programme, details of the proposed trip should be submitted to the Walks Secretary, Alex Stirkul, no later than September 24th.

FOR SALE: DUVET - "ANNAPURA" used once only \$50 Otto Christiansen

(b) 350 1222 x370

BUSKWALKING AND MOUNTAINCRAFT LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE COURSE

It is apparent that many club members know very little about this course.

The following was authorised by Mr. Bill Bewsher, Chairman of the Training Board, and outlines the aims, requirements and content of the course. The Board relies on experienced bushwalkers within the bushwalking clubs as a source of instructors.

Aims of the Course

To enable men and women with some experience in bushwalking to become qualified by training and further experience to lead groups in this field of activity. The courses are directed toward practising teachers and youth leaders, although they are open to any male or female who meets the requirements stated below.

Requirements to be met by intending applicants

1. CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY - To be accepted for the course each applicant must submit a letter or testimonial as to his/her suitability for work in youth leadership
2. PHYSICAL FITNESS - Candidates are expected to be of above average physical fitness to meet those demands which may well be placed upon them while they are working in a leadership role in rugged bush or mountain conditions.
3. AGE - A candidate must have reached the age of 20 years to qualify at the completion of the course.
4. PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE - An appraisal weekend will be held well in advance of the Residential Instruction Period outlined below. Applicants will be interviewed and observed in practical situations by members of the Training Board.

Course Content

- A. RESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTION PERIOD - This will be a continuous training period of not less than 6 days duration, which will include both theoretical and practical sessions. Topics will include equipment, food and cooking, leadership, navigation, First Aid, trip planning, conducting a trip, safety aspects, emergency situations, Search and Rescue procedure, resource information and bushwalking etiquette.
- B. INTERIM TRAINING PERIOD - Of 1 or 2 years duration. During this period the candidate gains experience, mostly on his/her own initiative. This experience must involve an absolute minimum of 16 full days during a period of not less than 1 year and not more than 2 years immediately succeeding the Residential Instruction period, and must include:-
 1. At least 3 weekend walks, one of which will have been in adverse weather conditions.
 2. One continuous period of not less than 4 days.
 3. One weekend in snow conditions during the course.
 4. At least 4 days during which the candidate has had a leadership role in the group. For this he/she must be under observation by an experienced person authorised by the Examining Panel.

RECORD BOOK - Details of all this experience must be kept in the Course Record Book issued by the Training Board.

OBSERVATION AND GUIDANCE OF CANDIDATES - During this period candidates will be under the guidance of Advisors authorised by the Training Board. Regular meetings and discussions will take place between candidates and advisors throughout the interim training period.

FIRST AID CERTIFICATE - Each candidate must hold a current St. John first aid certificate or the equivalent to qualify at the completion of the course.

- C. RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT PERIOD - This will be a continuous period of not less than 6 days during which the candidate is assessed by authorised examiners. This assessment will take the form of written tests in theory and practical tests.

Fees for Residential Training and Assessment Periods

The actual cost of instruction (Staff expenses, use of equipment, etc) will be met by the National Fitness Council of Victoria, which also provides the necessary facilities. However, candidates must meet the cost of their food, accommodation and transport.



SHADY SCORPION

This month has been such a quotable one that I have decided to feature them all in this issue unedited.

MALDA (reminiscing about her second walk) - "I was six miles behind after the first 400 yards."

FEMALE VISITOR TO G.C. - "How long does it take to get like you?"

ROBERT H. (see below) - "Well it was either "Happy Anniversary" or "Come On St. Kilda"."

SUE O - "I wouldn't mind having a shower if it didn't mean taking my clothes off."

SYLVIA (again!) - "Sometimes I let him take mine off" (not at all related to Sue's comment)

DEBBIE (No, not 3DC) - "Put your hand in and get a surprise"

ROBERT TO MICHAEL - "I won't throw you in the ocean because you've got a stove!"

MICHAEL (Describing his new flat) - "It's much smaller but half the size."

The Tamani Bistro (opposite the Clubrooms) is becoming increasingly popular on Wednesday nights between the hours of 6 and 8 lately. In fact the place has been literally over run by bushwackers (even the MAWTC are getting into the act on Fridays). On one recent night, our long suffering and hard working News Convenor was celebrating her first twelve months of association with the MBW. The occasion was heralded with champagne and birthday cake provided by Rob and Geoff bought from Coles Cake Stand. On trying to find a suitable cake, Rob had the choice of four cakes with football motifs or one with the appropriate, "Happy Anniversary." He opted for the latter.

You've got to be really quick to get a place on a Sunday walk these days. Apparently to be safe you have to book 3 weeks in advance or to have any chance you've got to book two weeks in advance (or slip some money under the table to the Leader).

It seems like G.C. isn't the only one vulnerable to apprehension by the men in blue. Our heart felt Commiserations go to Paul Wiencke on his recent run in with the Law. He was nabbed doing 125 kph down a hill near Bacchus Marsh in a de-restricted zone. When taking down Paul's particulars the Constable said, "I hope you like walking - cause that's what you're gonna be doing for the next three months." Don't worry Paul, my advice is to expect six months disqualification and a \$200 fine - that way you can't possibly be disappointed (hopefully).

On a recent langlaufing trip to Wilky it was discovered at Falls Creek that a pair of stocks had been left behind. However, it was found unnecessary to reprimand oneself, all one needs to do in such a crisis is to trot down to the Ski Hire Establishment where they're only too happy to get you on your way, mind you the charge for 9 days is \$9 + \$10 Deposit - Concessionary rate of course (normal rate \$2 per day).

After filling out the contract for hire and signing in duplicate we questioned the hirer who admitted that they buy them for less than \$6 brand new.

Some months back a spokesman for Moloneys, speaking at a VNPA symposium stated "We're only in it to promote the enjoyment of skiing, we don't make any money out of it."

Rex and G.C. will have to find a new place for their secret messages to each other. G.C. was seen peering under the seventh rose bush, sixth row on the right outside the Herbarium by the aid of a weak torch at 8pm. What on earth could have been under the bush?

Cont. from page 1.....

community and property boundaries bristle with terse but courteous signs such as "Please keep your dog on a leash or it is liable to be shot. Thank You" Many farmers hate the visitor; they leave gates open, knock down walls and fences, let cattle out, allow dogs to worry sheep and drop litter. In spite of all this, the National Trust believes that the fells and valleys of the Lake District are to a great extent being saved by the physical laziness of the holiday makers. A farmer remarked, "If people got out of their cars we'd be over run. Thank goodness the ones who come here all seem to have square backsides."

....Les Markham

Molony's

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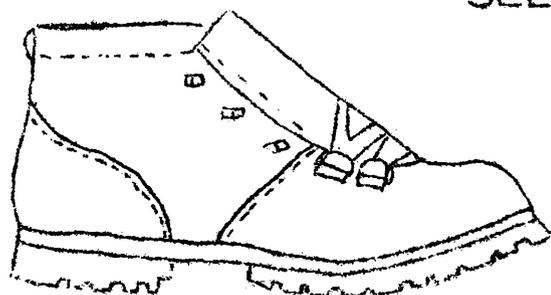
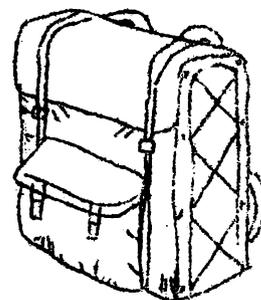
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