



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 307

JUNE 1975

Price 30c

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

SQUARE SATURDAY BADGER CREEK HALL JULY 12TH FROM 7.30 DANCE

COST \$2

Caller:
KEN HOOKE

Clothes ----- Country Style - Check shirts and all that.
Bring a plate of food for Saturday night



ROCK NOW
See the Social Secretary
GEOFF CRAPPER or
... ..

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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

CORRECTIONS TO WINTER PROGRAMME

The Winter Programme issued with last months "News" contains some errors. Please correct them on your programme.

PRESIDENT'S PHONE NO. (b)317 222 ext. 613

NEWS CONVENOR'S PHONE NO. (b) 311 0619

The EQUIPMENT OFFICER is HELEN HILL not Paul Wiencke

BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS: Last Wednesday in the month at 8.00pm
February - Annual General Meeting and Elections
September - Half-yearly General Meeting
April, June and November - General Meetings

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

MEMBER (over 21) \$6.00
JUNIOR MEMBER (16 to 21) \$3.00
HUSBAND AND WIFE \$9.00

VISITOR'S FEE 50¢ per day or \$1.00 per weekend or extended walk.

NOTE: A 50¢ surcharge WILL be made if the deposit for a walk is not prepaid.

JULY WALK PREVIEWS

July 6 WHITES CORNER - DAVIS RD. - NAYOOK - NOOJEE Medium

Leader:Graham Hodgson (h) 244 230
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15am(via Lilydale) Fare \$3.00
Expected time of return: 8.00pm
Map reference: Neerim 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 10 miles

This walk is now a MEDIUM trip and not easy/medium as programmed. This is due to the fact that we will be following the old Nayook - Noojee railway (now non-existent) This winds its way down a very pretty valley with superb views over towards the Baw Baws, thus meaning about 3 miles extra in walking.

July 13 MT. ST. LEONARD - MT. MONDAH - CONDONS TRACK Easy/Med

Leader: Gerry McPhee (p) 387 3417
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15am Fare \$2.50
Expected time of return: 7.00pm
Map reference: Juliet 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 10 miles

We leave the van at Mt. St. Leonard and walk towards Mt. Monda as far as the road goes south. Where the track goes north we follow a beautiful foot track for 4½ miles (and 2400 ft. down) to Healsville. All the walk is in timber on foot or jeep tracks. There are no big up-hills - OK for beginners. Bring water for lunch and salt for leeches.

July 20 HIGH CAMP - MT. WILLIAM Easy

Leader: Charles Knight (p) 267 3161
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15am Fare\$2.50
Expected time of return: 8.00pm
Map reference: Pyalorg 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 10 miles

Starting from High Camp we climb 900 ft. to the top of the first of 3 hills. We then descend and climb 2 more hills. This part of the trip is through open bush and on sheep tracks. We then cross open pasture, passing near an old aboriginal quarry. If time allows we will try and locate it. Finally we climb Mt. William which is 800 ft. The van will be waiting for us on the other side of the mountain. Bring water for lunch.

July 27 YEA RD.-MT. SLIDE-JEHOSAPHAT VALLEY-MT. JERUSALEM-ST. ANDREWS

Leader: Graham Mascas (p) 256 940 Medium/Hard
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15am Fare \$2.50
Expected time of return: 8.00pm
Map reference: Yarra Glen 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 16 Km.

My ultra-sensitive ear has picked up the rumour that the day walks are getting too easy. Just to prove me/you wrong here is a harder one. At last an opportunity for all these regular day walkers to really show the stuff they are made of.

If you draw a line on the map between Mt. Slide and St. Andrews then that, give or take a bit, is our route. Only 13Km as the crow flies, but then, we aren't crows. There are at least 10 ups with the corresponding number of downs (I hope) Have we any takers for such a challenge? If so, here is your chance to see some of that rare wild country within 30 miles of Melbourne.

WEEKEND WALKS

July LANGLAUFING (BEGINNERS) MT. STIRLING - KING SADDLE

4-6 Leader: Rod Mattingley (b) 350 1222 ext. 771 Easy/Med
Transport: Private
Map reference: Watersheds of the King, Howqua, and Jamieson Rivers or Buller 1:50 000

If you are thinking of trying langlaufing this winter then come along. This is a good area for beginners as you can drive right to the snow and then start ski-ing up the road. And there isn't a barrier across the road with someone to take money off you. We'll follow the road to King saddle and then the steeper jeep track to the summit. If you wish though, you can just play about on the road.

Responding to earnest entreaties from several prospective skiers, I abandoned the idea of snow camping in the King saddle- Purcells hut area. The winter Group will be there anyway! Instead, we'll drive back 20 miles or so to Sheeppark Flat on the Howqua and have a pleasant camp with warm feet, and a minimum requirements fire; trail bikes permitting. Unfortunately there are no suitable campsites along the Delatite closer to the snow.

On Sunday, those not suffering from crapulence can return for another bash. Please don't expect any expert tuition from 8ft. tall blonde Austrian ski-instructors. And pray for some good snow. Last time I was there it was just like porridge - and they haven't invented a wax for that yet!

Meet at the Stirling road junction at Morimbah at 9.30am Saturday. If you want to hire skis contact Bushgear (in the city) or Nordic Ski Products in Murrumbidgee.

July WILSONS PROM - OBERON BAY - LIGHTHOUSE

18-20 Leader: Tyrone Thomas (p) 895 197 Easy/Med
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30pm Friday Fare \$8.00
Expected time of return: 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Map reference: Algona "Guide to Wilsons Promontary"
Approximate distance: 23 miles

We will walk from Tidal River along the coast to Oberon Bay on Saturday, then inland and on to Roaring Meg Creek campsite. A side trip will be taken to the lighthouse to finish the day off. On Sunday we will walk back to Telegraph Saddle following the Lighthouse track.

Come along for a refreshing trip and see the wild winter seas at Australia's southernmost areas.

July MT. FEATHERTOP (SNOW WALK) NORTHWEST SPUR

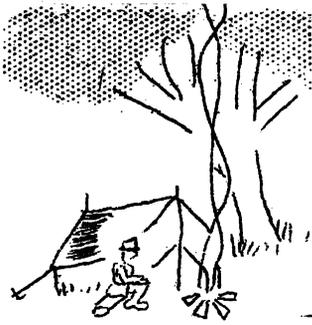
25-27 Leader: Robyn Storer Med/Hard
Transport: Private

A steep climb up the spur to the summit, then on to Federation to spend the night. On Sunday across the Razorback to the Hotham Rd. Ice axes are essential and the above program is subject to weather conditions.

July MT. FEATHERTOP (SNOW WALK) BUNGALOW SPUR

25-27 Leader: Gary Willis (p) 741 1129 Easy/Med
Transport: Private

If you are interested, see Gary in the clubrooms before putting your name down for the walk.



ALONG THE TRACK

SUGARLOAF OR ROCK CAKE?

"This rock's a piece of cake", said the visitor, as he leapt over a cliff on the summit of Sugarloaf. The party followed, and so did 45 minutes in the life of the Social Secretary which aged that scion of Scorpio a good ten years. Undoubtedly if little Johnny should return home inside his rucksack instead of wearing it, Mum would take it out on the leader! Guess who was leader.

I understand it is normally considered good form, in reporting "Along the Track" to start at the beginning of the walk. It is therefore necessary to leave our intrepid party suspended precariously near the top of a thirty foot chimney for a day and a half while our respectful footsteps approach the ecclesiastical end of the range on the Saturday morning. Here 24 assorted bushwalkers with freshly scrubbed haloes will be seen ascending, as gracefully as possible, Chapel Hill. A short service, called "Morning Tea", and then the celestial band lightly levitates even unto the Cathedral itself.

Here a semblance of the miracle of the loaves and fishes was re-enacted - the fishes in question being some rather withered-looking and pongy-as-usual sardines the News Convenor had brought along. Sardine smells somehow seem sacrilegious in such surroundings someone said slyly. After a crack like that we moved on again as soon as possible.

All except a rather giddy - or should that be giggly - detachment which brought up the rear and managed to get lost on even so well-defined a ridge as that which connects the Cathedral and Sugarloaf, made camp at the Farmyard by three. The Warden of Wilky created a conflagration (to minimum requirements specifications as usual). Watercarriers made the afternoon for an inquisitive and gossipy lyrebird. A sortie sauntered to North Jawbone to survey the scene circumspectly. As darkness fell, so did the rain, but this did not seem to dampen a small section of the party which took till nearly midnight to get it all off their chests.

Sunday morning finds three parties and a rather confused leader making their separate ways to the summit of Sugarloaf. There, in a thick fog, it was impossible to see anything - except for a perfectly distinct path leading off the summit in the direction we wanted to go. So we didn't follow that. Instead you will find the party in an icy, sleet-bearing wind, waiting halfway down a sheer rockface while noises of confusion are heard below in front.

When your turn comes, you drop your heavy pack with sadistic pleasure on the silly B whose idea the whole thing was in the first place, and while he is reeling under the impact, swiftly slither down the chimney. More sadistic pleasure looking up at the efforts of those still on the way down. Even then it's not all over. There are still four or five lower cliffclines to be negotiated further down. We arrive at the VCC hut at last, to find it occupied by a crowd of Lower Slobbovians and Tiny Yokum.

It must have been a day for reunions. Later in the afternoon we saw the Cheshire Cat's trick in reverse. First there was only the swirling fog. Then there was suddenly a grin. This was followed by some whiskers - not neat and tidy like a Cheshire Cat's, admittedly, but still whiskers. Prolific, and Hairy looking, and surrounding that suspiciously familiar-looking grin on all sides. Rasputin? No - perhaps not - but still rather Russian-looking. Then a nose - good heavens, I'd recognise that nose anywhere! It belongs to the Walks Secretary. What's it doing out here all by itself? Within a second the Walks Secretary materialises immediately behind it. We've run into the Sunday walkers going the other way! That ought to be enough to put an end to any weekend walk. We'll have to take up rockclimbing instead, be it on Sugarloaf, Swiss Roll or Currant Bun.

.....Prussik W Pastryknees

Dear Sir Charles, and other Lonely Medium-Hard Gentlemen:-

ON SEARCHING FOR RARE, MEDIUM HARD BUSHWALKING LADIES

Firstly, congratulations on entering the ranks of both the British and Bush-walking Peerages.

Secondly, I fear your (holy? unholy?) quest is doomed to failure. My dictionary does not define a lady but my headmistress (A noble lady) did:

"A lady never goes out without wearing hat and gloves"

"Alady never crosses her knees or ankles"

"A lady always rises when someone enters the room"

"A lady never discusses religion, sex or politics"

"A lady never perspires"

"A lady always waits for a gentleman to open doors for her and to carry her bags"

"A lady never eats on the streets" (ice-creams included)

A lady could therefore never be a medium hard bushwalker: she would catch her hat on trees and soil her gloves. She would develop spinal problems sitting correctly in Gronow's vans and around campfires. She would find it tedious continually rising to greet you all as you amble to and from the campfire. She would need recourse to earplugs when our few, but loquacious conversationalists fall to conversing on taboo topics. She would go thin and starve rather than join you in hamburgers (and beer) on the Friday and Sunday night food stops. She would need to walk most slowly lest she perspire, particularly on up-hill grades. And lastly, she would expect you to carry her pack for her, and to help her over all logs and around all obstacles.

However consolation is at hand. Adjust your lenses gentlemen, you do find women on bushwalks.

We admit that mostly we don't patronise medium-hard walks - sometimes we lack the fitness, but mostly we lack the inclination. As women we don't feel the need to compete against each other, or against you, for the sought after title of the fittest, the fastest, the most fantastic walker in the club: the need to prove oneself and to defeat others is a developmental stage which most of us happily pass through in early adulthood. Few women retain this need.

So, if you are a woman-wanting hard walker, you must either wait a bit longer on your hilltop (where you'll have no guarantee that your hard female walker won't reject you in favour of her independence and her walking) or else humble your boots and join the easy-medium ranks. Here women are more plentiful: we come in varied type, age, size and disposition. Some of us even like large egocentric males! Womanwise, we offer something to suit every male, be he young and comely or old and creaky - if you'll be charming to us and patiently wait your turn.

And, in the meantime, gentlemen, do enjoy your walks....MG

WALK 1976

MANY EXCELLENT ARTICLES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED - THANK YOU!

Right now we have 50% of the general articles we need and 75% of the track notes. We therefore need by June 30th.:

ARTICLES (ANY SUBJECT)

How about some from the girls? It's International Women's Year!.

TRACK NOTES

BOOK REVIEWS

PHOTOGRAPHS, POEMS ETC, ETC

We also require assistance with typing. Please see me if you can help.

MAX WILKINSON

TENT FOR SALE: 1 - 2 Man Nylon tent.

Weight approximately 2½lbs including Poles, Pegs and Sewn-in groundsheet.

SIZE:- Approx. 4'6" wide, 4' high, 6'6" long.

T - zip entrance

Used once only

PRICE \$17.00

RING GERRY McPHEE (h)387 3417



SHADY SCORPION

The Social Secretary has come to the conclusion that the only way to get a message across in NEWS is to put it in the Shady Scorpion column. So, just in case you skipped page 1 he has told me to remind you that the SQUARE DANCE is on again this year at Badger Creek. This has been a popular feature of the Social Calendar over the past years, Ken Hooke is a great caller and everyone should have a really great time. Accommodation overnight may be provided so bring along your sleeping bags.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

- The President (Commenting on Committees Winter activities): "Everyone disappears for the first ten weeks of August."
- Carol: "I only came on this walk because I knew Charles Knight was going."
- Sir Charles: "There must be enough pictures of me like this around to wallpaper my flat." (See below)
- Peter to Debbie: "I can honestly say that between you and me there are no hard feelings"
- Anonymiss: "I have no interest in any male in this club, I'm only in it for the bushwalking."

A photographic competition will soon be held to compile the vast amounts of snap shots taken of Sir Charles (in his favourite position) over the last 12 months. His favourite position of course being flat on his back. No wonder he can't sleep at night, he gets all his rest along the track.

As a supplement to next months NEWS the first edition of the "GRONOWS GUIDE TO GREASY GRUB JOINTS" will be published. The GGJ for June is the KIM WAH Chinese restaurant at Benalla. It offers a good service, taped music, hot and cold running conveniences, gorgeous Gemini waitresses, FREE spoons (and the food isn't so bad either)

Wilky goes and Bogong snow walkers - BE WARNED- Anyone venturing through Tawonga or Mt. Beauty between 10.30pm and 2.00am had better have a close eye on their speedos. The nice 6'4" blonde haired giant is on patrol in his little white Toyota Land Cruiser with the nasty blue flashing light on top.
 Speed limits: Tawonga - 75KPH Mt. Beauty - 60KPH

It has come to the attention of the analytical eye of the Shady Scorpion that certain professions seem to yield extra-ordinarily high amounts of bushwalkers. For women: Nursing, Teaching, Social work. For men: Engineers, Technologists and generally "professional" jobs. For instance, there are few butchers, bakers (and candlestick makers), plumbers, shop assistants, hairdressers, artists or factory workers in our ranks. If there are any psychologists or analysts among us who would care to take the matter further then I would be interested to hear their comments.

Sorry to be closing on such a serious note, but there should be plenty more inane libellous, totally worthless information that doesn't bear repeating in next months NEWS. (I think I'm being a bit hard on myself - I thought some of it was interesting anyway.)

MALE OF THE MONTH

To celebrate International Women's Year, we have instituted a "MALE OF THE MONTH" award. The award does not take the form of any object, financial, physical or personal: it will appear each month in this journal as a simple acknowledgement of some praiseworthy word, thought or deed that one of you (males, that is) has performed in recent weeks. All female members are invited to submit their nominations in person or in writing to the News Convenor, Malda Jakobson. Our inaugural award goes to a relative newcomer, PETER CLUNAS, for his thoughtful and diligent work as co-host of a recent house-warming.

Thank you, Peter.

13/690 Lygon Street
North Carlton, 3054
26 - 5 - 75

The Editor
"The News"

I am alarmed at the anti-social and destructive behaviour of some people associated with the club. It is wrong to remove track markers or signposts, and it is equally undesirable to encourage others to follow these larrikin procedures.

Now plans are being discussed to demolish the NEW Federation Hut on Feathertop and Wilkinson Lodge on the Bogong High Plains. I want to protest at all this selfish destruction. The Alpine area belongs to us all, to inexperienced hikers, as much as to well equipped ski-tourers.

S.C. GEORGE

The Melbourne Bushwalkers have a TRACKS AND HUTS policy as follows:

Maintain the existing huts, but build no more.
Maintain the existing tracks, but cut no more except under special circumstances.

HEADLINE : STOP PRESS

Following the almost unanimous lack of interest shown in the Theatre night to "GYPSY" your undauntable Social Secretary has decided to give you all a second chance.

We have arranged to see BARRY CROCKER'S latest epic SCAPING live at the Comedy on Tuesday night JULY 15.

See GEOFF CRAPPER for details

CHANGE TO THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME

JULY 23 Slides of Barmah Lakes - Community Effort

Would anyone who took slides of the Barmah Forest Queen's Birthday Trip please contact the Social Secretary, the Leader, or Geoff Crapper by no later than July 16 in order that the above Slide Night can be arranged.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Membership List will be published with the August Newsletter. Any changes of address and/or phone number should be given to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible. The ABSOLUTE deadline for alterations will be JULY 30th.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

KNIGHT Charles 33/77 Park St. Sth. Yarra 3141
TAYLOR Wendy c/-State Rivers, Dartmouth Dam Project, Dartmouth 3701
WEILING Ann and Charlie 9/10 Elgin St. Hunter's Hill NSW 2110
SPARKSMAN John and Jan (p)758 1589

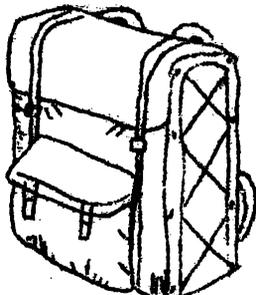
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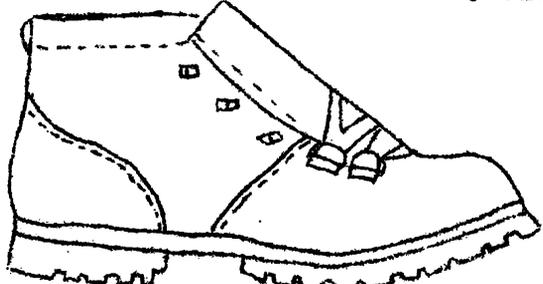
NEW MEMBERS:- A welcome to the following

WHITE Keith	22 Odessa St. East St. Kilda	(p)947 7439 (b)314 0799
BEARDMORE Brian	1 Oliver Lodge, 424 Dandenong Rd. North Caulfield	(p)503 793 (b)615 4309
SHEARN James	2 Queens St. Coburg 3058	(b)651 7531
CAMPBELL Colin	60 Were St. Brighton Beach 3168	(p)921 138
GRAY Paul	19/102 Park St. St. Kilda	(b)949 6386
GARRETTY Helen	20/26 Denbigh Rd. Armadale	(p)509 6644
HAYES Robert	26 Charming St. Moorabin	(p)958 239 (b)615 4262
MANN Michael	2/8 Fermamagh Rd. Camberwell	(b)254 502

Be watching in next months "NEWS" for the feature articles:-
 "BALMY BARMAH BLUDGE" or the "BRUSSEL-SPROUT BATTLE OF BARMAH LAKE"

<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>
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<p>AUSKI</p> <p>9 HARDWARE ST PHONE 671412</p> <p>THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST</p> <p>PADDYMADE EQUIPMENT, PACKS. ETC.</p>	
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	<p>SEE LOCH WILSON AT BUSHGEAR PTY LTD 46 HARDWARE ST MELBOURNE</p> <p>FOR ALL BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING GEAR</p>
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There are three articles in this Conservation Supplement, and a News Digest.
First the news:-

MBW Conservation News

1 The Club Conservation Group has written to the Soil Conservation Authority asking about a new jeep track near Mother Johnsons and Boiler Plain. The SCA replied saying that the FCV bulldozed it to fight a fire, and that it would be rehabilitated. We have written back asking what "rehabilitation" means.

2 The Conservation Group has also asked the FCV and the SCA about the new road up to Bluff Hut from the Howqua Bindaree area.

3 A meeting of concerned people - all four of them - in the Club room on 12/6/75 began to draft a submission to the LCC on the Melbourne area. This is vital to the Club's interests as the LCC will determine the future of walking areas for 70 miles around Melbourne.

4 Dave Oldfield is still trying to put our views across at the enquiry into the Dartmouth Power Line.

5 Copies of "The Alps at the Crossroads" are still on sale in the Club room.

6 Beyond the Club

"The Australian Government has seriously compromised its environmental policies. It has alienated conservationists and disillusioned a large number of Australian electors. The Government achieved all this by its decision on May 20th to grant export permits for minerals mined from Fraser Island. The permits were approved before the public environmental enquiry on the Island's future had even begun. The permits mean sandmining operations will begin immediately; the destruction of Fraser Island has commenced.

The May 20th decision by the Labour Caucus to support the Minister for Minerals and Energy and the Prime Minister in granting the export permits was a severe blow to the conservation movement."

A C F Newsletter, May 1975

7 The Victorian Government has decided to re-purchase the "TATRA" area on Mt Buffalo, and re-incorporate it into the National Park.

The Premier of Victoria has also acted wisely in stopping a wood-chipping programme on the Cann River in East Gippsland.

INTRODUCTION TO ARTICLES

The first article by Athol Schafer sets out an introduction to the LCC approach to the Melbourne area and suggests some additional concessions that might be made to the walking confraternity.

Fred Halls as written on the Upper Yarra Park proposed by the LCC. His article reflects some of the dilemmas facing conservationists.

The third article by Loch Wilson presents some of the arguments for the "Wilderness" concepts. To many of you it will be familiar. I re-print it because it is a theme that I feel should be considered by all bushwalkers.

Gerry McPhee

YARRA VALLEY MULTI PURPOSE PARK*by Athol Schafer*

The current Land Conservation Council deliberations on the future of the Melbourne area will largely determine the extent and quality of bushwalking within easy access of the city. Indeed, the area under consideration is a large one which takes in most of our day and weekend walks. Twelve 2 miles-to-the-inch maps are required to cover the study area, stretching from the meridian of Daylesford in the west to that of Walhalla in the east. From the southern coast, between Lorne and Kilunda, the area under review reaches up to the latitude of Avenel and the Strathbogies. Quite a formidable square mileage to consider, with such areas, important to bushwalkers, as the Otways, the Macedon ranges, the Werribee and Lerderberg gorges and the Cathedral Range. However, it is the proposed Yarra Valley Multi Purpose Park, the central piece of the study area, which demands our closest attention.

The whole valley and its catchments have been zoned into their main usages and in various degrees of access and restriction. There are about a dozen such categories, but the following are the ones which mainly concern our activities:-

- 4.1) Reference areas - in which there is a minimum of human interference
- 4.2) Intensive recreation - in which there is open space to be protected to conserve natural ecosystems
- 4.3) Recreation and hardwood production - which means pleasure driving on the roads and walking on the tracks, but with a due regard for the maintenance of landscape values.
- 4.4) Intensive hardwood production - much the same as above but with a policy to conserve native animals and plants (which somehow seems a contradiction).
- 4.5) That the land within this zone be used to:
 - (a) provide open-space recreation for walking, but not camping
 - (b) conserve native animals and plants and protect the landscape
- 4.7) Scenic landscape. To provide recreation, and hardwood, where it can only be done in regard to landscape values.
- 4.8) Bushland areas. These appear as small isolated parcels of land. The local quality and character of the landscape is to be maintained, and opportunities provided for passive recreation, i.e. picnicking and walking.
- 4.11) Restricted Zone - managed to protect water catchments, to conserve flora and fauna and (ominously) maintain stability of land and its usefulness for all possible future uses.

Going by the above, bushwalking seems to have its future secured for much of the area and I think we can generally go along with the recommendations.

Commenting on the zones of restriction I would point out that they comprise the largest component of the proposed park and are managed by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board Of Works which so far has resisted any attempt to open them up for any activity other than that of water management. In the early 60's the Melbourne Bushwalkers supported the Board's move to prevent logging interests gaining access to buffer areas. A lot of the area under the Board's management is virgin timber country and represents a reservation for native animals and plants albeit out of bounds for bushwalkers. This is particularly true of the Warburton Plateau. However, the restricted eastern zone of the Upper Yarra catchment was milled over before it was closed and may be regarded as another category. There is still pressure to open up all the catchment areas for logging. In 1968 the government gave the Board until 1979 to conduct studies on the effects of other usages on the catchments. Whatever the outcome it is almost certain the total area of the park will come under a unified management.

A LONG DISTANCE WALKING TRACK

For many years a walking track ran from Warburton to Walhalla along which the

Tourist Bureau had erected a number of huts. The track was abandoned after the '39 fires and with the construction of the Upper Yarra Dam was closed to the public. In view of the area eventually coming under a unified management, a long term project could be the recutting of the track, re-routed in parts on account of the flooding by the dam. Some compatible recreation (i.e. walking) may then be allowed in the restricted area. Access to the headwaters of the Yarra would reveal a fine mature mountain ash forest, and the 740 foot drop of the magnificent Yarra Falls. According to the map a jeep track follows the way of the old tourist track from the headwaters climbing up to Mt Whitelaw on the Baw Baw Plateau.

A more immediate project would be the conversion of the Lilydale-Warburton permanent way to a walking/bridle path. Eventually it would be possible to go on an extended tour in the area, starting, if you like, in an urban zone, soon passing through a semi-rural area, then into a wilderness seemingly more remote than the Bogong High Plains, yet within easy reach of the city.

There is a distinct possibility that the O'Shannassy aqueduct will become redundant with the completion of a new Yarra Valley conduit. The present recommendation is to convert it to a "Magnificent scenic road with associated recreation areas". From our viewpoint a preferable alternative would be walking/bridle track. This would be easily and cheaply achieved when compared with the cost for widening and surfacing for a motor road. Although walking and scenic driving are both described in the report as recreations compatible with most other uses of an area, they are, as every walker knows, most incompatible with each other.

CONSERVATION: PROPOSED UPPER YARRA PARK

by Fred Halls

Published in "The Age" of 17.4.75 was an interesting news item under the heading "Massive new park planned". It told of the proposal by the Land Conservation Council to open up the Board of Works huge catchment areas which are at present closed to the public. It told also of the proposal to create large parks (288,000 acres) along the Upper Yarra watersheds. While we certainly need more parks and should strive to obtain them, the article has certain disturbing connotations; phrases such as "huge multi-purpose park", "valuable for recreation and timber production" and "managed by the Forests Commission" have an ominous ring, especially when referring to our valuable water catchments. I wonder if the article was a kite-flying exercise to test the strength of public opinion?

For years strenuous arguments raged regarding the wisdom of logging catchment buffer zones, and fortunately the Board of Works was successfully able to resist all attempts at milling these regions. However, under the LCC proposals it seems that not only the buffer zones will be logged, but eventually also the valuable water catchments will receive the same "multi-purpose" treatment - a gross retrograde step. It is my opinion that we should strenuously resist any attempts to create multi-purpose parks in Melbourne's catchments, otherwise our pure water supply will suffer. We, as bushwalkers, should try to avoid a selfish attitude wanting access to all catchment areas, yet wishing to restrict other multi-purpose usage.

Board of Works reserves probably make the best of all true National Parks, because the catchment forest environment remains in the original pristine condition; and is not the primary function of a National Park the necessity to preserve in perpetuity that particular region for all future generations, as well as provide the purest of water supply. It would be great to know that superb forests like those in catchments such as Wallaby Creek and O'Shannassy remained inviolate forever, especially when one remembers the fate of past great forest areas such as Cumberland Valley, Ada Valley etc. Compare the condition of logged areas north of the road at Cumberland with the untouched region south near Cora Lynn Creek. During the early thirties a superb unspoilt forest stretched north for miles, at least to a point beyond Mt Arnold. Wander along some buffer area patrol track and you will probably observe the difference for yourself.

During the last few years the Forests Commission has acquired a more enlightened outlook regarding conservation, as witness the significant increase in Forest Parks, and their decision to close the Tarli Karng Track to all vehicles except FCV and walking parties in general, a decision applauded. This action should

be extended to include other neighbouring vehicular tracks i.e. Snowy Plains, which are showing signs of advanced erosion possibly some of which is caused by the cattle trampling of upland bogs.

There is probably a good case for some multi-purpose parks, but none for logging in Melbourne's water catchments. For further information refer to Club notice board.

WILDERNESS

by Loch Wilson

"It is my hope that you will travel lightly and live comfortably and safely in the bush, the mountains, the snow. I hope you enjoy these places with the greatest possible independence from outside support in all its forms:- offroad transport, bush-littering airdrops and the various fixed installations which can unnecessarily and even dangerously intrude into the wilder areas in which many of us like to walk, ski, climb or paddle. I refer not only to logging roads, ski-lifts and tourist resorts, but also to tracks, markers, snowpole lines and huts.

The pressure on unspoiled areas has never been greater - let not bushwalkers, ski-tourers and climbers add too much to that pressure. If you aim to leave an area as you found it - for others to find anew, as you found and enjoyed it, then this aim surely should not only be confined to care with your camp fire and carrying out your rubbish. I think it should extend to not putting in tracks and markers or snowpole lines because those who follow should have the opportunity and satisfaction of discovering the way for themselves. I think it should extend to not building huts because those who follow should have the opportunity and satisfaction of being self-supporting.

I am sure you will get more lasting satisfaction from your sojourn in the bush and snow if you make your own way, developing your own skills at reading country, map and compass and you go self-sufficient, carrying all your needs in food, clothing and shelter. If you do feel a need of well-marked tracks and a permanent roof over your head, would it not leave more wilderness for future wanderers if you used these facilities in defined, controlled and limited areas such as the existing resorts and villages.

Frequently, tracks and huts are justified, or excused, on the grounds of their 'safety'. Some study of available case histories of deaths from exposure has led me to form the opinion that they may well create more dangers than safety by encouraging people with too little experience and/or gear to venture into places they would otherwise either avoid or at least go to better prepared.

I have not always thought thus, I may change my views again. I am expressing them in the hope that you will also think about these matters and express your own opinions".
