



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 306

MAY 1975

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EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

This meeting, on the 30th. of April, was called so that the office-bearers and committee could be elected constitutionally. The result of this election was the same as in February. The office-bearers and committee for 1975 are as listed on page 1 of March "News"

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOOKING FOR WALKS

Would everyone please take note of the following bye law of the club:-

Walks and Trips Bye Law C, paragraph 5

"The entitlement of members to a seat on the van shall depend strictly on the order in which their names have been entered on the booking form, except that at 9.30 pm, on the Wednesday prior to the walk, any prior rights of persons whose deposits remain unpaid shall lapse, and entitlements shall then depend on the order in which persons pay their deposits."

It has also been decided that the Duty Officer may take money for walks on the Wednesday prior to the walk if the leader is not there.

SOCIAL REPORT

The first dinner for the year was a great success with 53 people attending at "Alfred's Homestead" Geoff plans another dinner for December 16th.

Coming social events:

- June 11th. Chris Hellerud on "Ski Touring"
- June 24th. Theatre night to "GYPSY" (Tuesday)
- July 2nd. Talk on Snow Walking by Dave Oldfield

FEDERATION REPORT

At the last meeting of the F.V.W.C. there was a suggestion that the Federation Weekend Walk could be replaced by a discussion/planning weekend. This is of great interest to us as our club has to organise the Federation Weekend Walk for September 4 - 5th 1976. Anyone with thoughts on the matter see Geoff Mattingley please.

CONSERVATION SUPPLEMENT:-

Gerry McPhee (P) 387 3417 urgently requires articles for the Conservation Supplement to the June News.

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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

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

JUNE WALK PREVIEWS

June 1 REILLY'S CK. GORGE - BRISBANE RANGES - STONY CREEK Medium

Leader: Dave Harrison (b) 510 281 ext.2296
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15am. Fare \$2.50
Expected time of return: 7.00pm.
Map reference: Meredith 1:63 360
Approximate distance: 10 miles

The walk takes us up Reillys Ck. and into a steep rocky-walled gorge. A brief climb brings us onto the plateau of the Brisbane Ranges and onto easy walking terrain, usually with a variety of flowers out, and some wildlife to be seen. Heading South we will pick up the Stony Ck. gorge and head east to the road. An abundance of bird life makes Stony Ck. Gorge a popular spot for bird-watchers. (Feathered variety, Stupid!)
Water may be required for lunch - alternatly bring a bucket.

June 8 MT. STEWART - WAGGS RANGE - CALLANS RANGE Easy/Med

Leader: Margaret Grogan (b) 511 451 ext.2645
Transport: Van leaves from Batman Ave. at 9.15am Fare \$3.00
Expected time of return: 8pm
Map reference: Yea and Longwood 1:63 360
Approximate distance: 10 miles

On a clear day you can see everywhere from the top of Mt. Stewart. This walk is in sheep country, but, happily is above the fence line. It involves climbing a short, steep hill as soon as you leave the van, but then saunters happily up and down mild rises across the ridges of Waggs and Callans Ranges. These are separated by a fine, flowing creek, which will (probably) entail wet feet, and another healthy climb back onto the hills. There are masses of dead leaves etc. underfoot, so if you wear gym. boots be prepared to slide, Bring water for lunch.

June 15 MT. MACEDON - WOODEND Medium

Leader: Volunteers wanted urgently! See Alex Stirkul
Transport: Train from Spencer St. Station 9.30am
Map reference: Lancefield 1:63 360
Approximate distance: 12 miles

Mt. Macedon is a delightful and interesting area of tracks and lanes that wind past the beautiful homes and gardens of Macedon township and through the Forestry Commission's numerous nurseries and plantations of exotic trees. The views of the Central Highlands from the summit are unforgettable. The train departs from Spencer St. at 9.30am. Buy your own ticket - return to Woodend, \$1.95, and stragglers please note the only train back to Melbourne leaves Woodend at 8.12pm.

June 22 MT. TALLAROOK - MEADOWS HILL Medium

Leader: Geoff Mattingley (b) 544 2011 ext.395
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$3.00
Expected time of return: 8.00pm
Map reference: Tallarook 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 10 miles

A pleasant walk through mainly forested country. Bring water for lunch.

June 29 MT. BLACKWOOD - KORKUPERRIMUL CK. - DARLEY FORD Easy/Med

Leader: Bob Chadwick (p) 833 592
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$3.00
Expected time of return: 8.00pm
Map reference: FCV Lerdorferg Gorge Forest Park 1:25 000
Approximate distance: 7 miles

We will depart from the van just south of Mt. Blackwood and travel generally south along a ridge per a jeep track in lovely wooded country. After about 3 miles, beautiful views toward the south become evident. At approximately 5½ miles we will drop into the gorge to the ford at Graham Dam, and if time permits we will look at the mine shaft (only if the shaft is horizontal - I haven't seen this mine, we may need torches?) The last mile will be along the gorge walking track. Take water for lunch.

WEEKEND WALKS

May 30- BRIGHT-MT. PORPUNKAH-HAPPY VALLEY RD.-THE PINNACLES Medium
 June 1 Leader:Graham Mascas (p) 256 940
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30pm Fare \$9.00
 Expected time of return: 9.00pm
 Map reference: Buffalo 1:100 000
 Approximate distance: 20 miles

Last month's preview was a pre preview preview and now this is a post preview preview which indicates the walk has been previewed! Just to get rid of the confusion, this previewed walk will be walked in the opposite direction to that on the program for no better reason than I prefer it that way and it fits thegrading better.

Please note that this is a medium walk - not easy/medium, nor medium/hard, but solidly medium and therefore not a beginners walk. Getting all that off my back, it should be good with excellent views from Mt. Porrepunkah and the Pinnacles, good campsites and not to much road-bashing, which will appeal to the purists. We start off early Saturday morning by climbing Mt. Porepunkah which should warm us up. There is a water tank at the fire tower at the topwhere, depending on my fitness - after all, I am supposed to be leading, we will have lunch. The afternoon will be down, up, down to pick the best campsites on Morgan Creek.

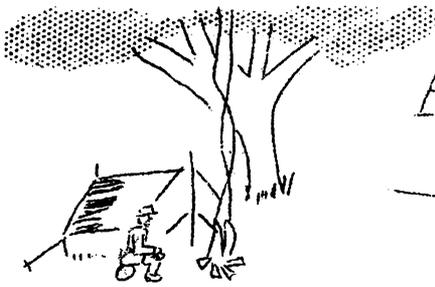
Sunday will be onto the ridge again and then down to Happy Valley Road, where we will leave our packs to be picked up later. Our assault on the Pinnacles will be from the saddle with lots of lovely scrub to appeal to those masocists among us, but it is well worthwhile. The views (and sense of achievement) are superb and these rocky outcrops quite outstanding. The descent into the valley and the waiting van is quite quick, then back to pick up the packs and home. It should be a very satisfying weekend and a really good walk.

June (1) BARMAH FOREST (BASE CAMP) Easy
 13-16 Leader:Geoff Crapper (p) 955 793
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30pm Fare \$10.00
 Expected time of return: 8.30pm
 Map reference: FCV Barmah Forest 1:63 360
 Approximate distance: Variable

This should be a rather interesting and diversified weekend. We will be hiring two 16 ft. Canadian canoes and depending on the mood of the party, will either travel by canoe to an isolated base-camp area, or camp on the southern shores of Barmah Lake and do excursions by canoe around the lake. We will also be exploring by foot the forests, wildlife and swamps, so wet feet should be expected. The canoe hire fee is about \$3 each for the weekend. Anyone who likes taking all their home comforts with them, getting away from it all, nice short walks without a heavy pack, and just doing something different will enjoy this trip.

(2) BARMAH FOREST Easy/Med
 Leader:Graham Wills-Johnson (p) 524 720
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30pm Fare \$10.00
 Map reference: FCV Barmah Forest 1:63 360
 Approximate distance: 25 miles

There are some interesting looking markings on the trees in the Barmah Forest - at about ear-height. However, I think it should be possible to plan a route on which it will not be actually necessary to get our ears wet. If the Murray does not behave the way it did last year I plan to start from the first night's camp at Barmah Lake, cross Budgee Ck.(on a bridge!) near Hut Lake, and walk around Top Island. After this the proposed route takes in places like Thistle Bed (I did wonder about camping there actually - it's much nicer than its name suggests), Big Woodcutter Lagoon, and Green



ALONG THE TRACK

Following are two walkers versions of the same walk, each different.

KENTBRUCK HEATH - LOWER GLENELG NATIONAL PARK "ANZAC DAY LONG WEEKEND"

Lower Glenelg National Park is approximately 400 km. west of Melbourne - beyond Portland, almost to the South Australian border. However, not deterred by the considerable distance to travel, 32 members joined George Telehin's "long weekend walk". The Kentbruck Heath section visited by our party is the eastern section of Lower Glenelg National Park and covers a unique area of undulating country supporting abundant areas of wild flowers, birds, and native animals, stands of differing eucalypts and fern gullies also provide unending variety. There are areas in Kentbruck which resemble some sections of the country to be found in Wyperfeld National Park, allowance being made for the difference in rainfall of course. By courtesy of the Ranger we were the first party to officially traverse this new section of Parkland.

Departure ex Batman Ave. on Thursday night (in comfort on Quinces Coachlines) was in the usual expected Melbourne rain and the tea-break at Ballarat also featured the foul weather that is usually associated with that city. The trip continued via Skipton, Lake Bolac and Hamilton on the Glenelg Highway and as we progressed further west the weather outlook improved to the extent that by the time we reached our destination (1,30am) the weather was fine and it remained that way for the rest of the weekend. Last feature of trip was the access to our campsite - along a narrow wheel-barrow track which George very skilfully persuaded the driver to attempt. The situation developed where there was no room to either reverse or turn and we were therefore committed to see the track out to the bitter end. Destination was safely reached and we were spared a moonlight walk at the expense of a few minor scratches to the bus and a lot of manoeuvring by the harassed driver. At reveille on Friday morning we found ourselves at the corner of a pine plantation, the driver was particularly delighted with the site when he found beside our tortuous track of some hours earlier was a fire-break about 100 metres wide, forming a near perfect freeway access to the campsite.

Friday's walk commenced before 10,00am following tracks for 20km, through the park to a swamp actually beyond the park boundary for the night. The changing nature of the country, wild flowers and birds and kangaroos were of interest on the walk, also unfortunately very prominent were the many thousands of hectares of pine plantations which crowd the boundary of the National Park. Also present in the park is a king-size edition of Hirudidae-bloodsucking leach, exactly which specific type we did not stop to find out, however Peter Thomson may like to drop up there one weekend to further his already extensive studies on this ubiquitous creature.

Saturday's easy walk back through the park returned us to Thursday night's campsite beside the pine plantation; adequate time was available to set up camp and a selection of side trips was also arranged for those wishing to participate before tea. Regulation campfires and singing again occupied the evening and the night was really made for Sam when "Number 13" was eventually rendered with great expression.

Sunday's walking provided any one of three choices:-

- a. Go with George through the park via the Inkpot to be eventually picked up by the bus at 1.30pm.
- b. Go with Ralph on a slightly shorter walk via the river and the Inkpot and also be picked up by the bus
- c. Stay in camp and leave with the bus to collect the previously mentioned parties. (i.e. no walking)

All options were taken up in varying degrees. Of interest was the Inkpot- a black water hole said to have been used as an aboriginal campsite and watering place. At exactly 1.28pm the last outstanding party reached the pre-arranged bus pickup point and for sure, George is still smiling at his success in achieving such a prompt departure for home.

Our homeward trip was notable for two incidents, concerning leeches and freeways. On the outskirts of Lake Bolac, Phillip found that a Kentbruck leech had settled in his boot and was fast reducing his foot to a mutilated stump of gore. The heat of at least two boxes of matches was needed to burn Hirudidae off, and when he did eventually drop, a plastic superphosphate bag was found to display the carcass for examination through the bus, our American visitors being most impressed, were now convinced about the many leech yarns which were so spontaneous when leeches were first encountered back in the park. The dead leech was finally deposited by the roadside just past Lake Bolac and will remain a traffic-hazard in that locality for some time to come. Closer to home we experienced the folly of our half made freeway systems - near Pikes Ck. the traffic ground to a halt and then crawled along for more than an hour when we finally reached Myrning. The reason was simply the freeway traffic endeavoring to enter back into the two-lane highway. No doubt the spectacle of so many stop lights ahead in the night was impressive. but it was not a sight we were able to appreciate at this stage of our trip. Never-the-less we did reach home and our thanks are due to George for leading a very successful weekend.

Heard during the weekend.....

The Wills-Johnson Dialogue

"But,
But,
BUT,
'??&(£%?' can't I get a chance to have my say?"

One Group approaching the bus

1st. walker: Who are the people up there?
2nd. walker: One is either Graham Wills-Johnson or Gary Wills.
1st walker: I don't think so.
2nd. walker: Must be - see the short, fat one on the left!

Riddle

What is good/bad for leeches?

bleaching powder.

.....J.W.

DUMBSTRUCK ON KENTBRUCK

No doubt about it - Charles walked off with the Quote of the Weekend again. "But he's suffering from over-exposure", complained the News Convenor. For a moment one wondered if she had noticed that the bottom button was missing from his shirt front, but a quick check in the region of the horological catenary confirmed that nothing was seriously amiss. Nevertheless, in the light of the News Convenors objection, this story is obviously going to have to start somewhere else. Never mind, I'll try to slip it in when she isn't noticing.

Where to start? I suppose it starts with a size 5 Quince's bus - sorry, Scenic Cruiser, (the distinction IS MOST important) - being squeezed into a size 4 country lane in the middle of the night in the wilds of the south-west. Victoria's, not Tasmania's. You didn't know it had one? Yes - there are even a few clumps of button grass. Only the mud and the scoparia are missing. The heath is sandy.

Friday started with Spencer. For a while it looked like he was going to take over the whole of the rest of the week as well, or possibly the entire

even the most lingering doubt that he was on about something. When he eventually paused to draw breath we found we had overshot the turnoff by half a mile. Oh well, at least there was no trouble with the flies.

No flies - but a few leeches. Devotees of Lil' Abner who may be wondering whatever happened to that small undernourished 15½-year-old chile who used to appear in the strip years ago will be interested to hear that he has turned up in Australia, still only about 6 ft 6, and still only about 15½ year old. The leeches were built on the same scale - even the darkest and remotest corners of the real South-West can offer nothing to compare with them. Tiny Yokum was terrified, and danced around uttering expressions of horror and urging the party to hurry on before it was entirely devoured. With more sections of thirsty garden hose looping out of the scrub by the minute, the party didn't take all that much urging.

Urging? "Wot about the Quote of the Weekend?" I hear. Yes indeed. Now that the News Convenor has fallen asleep over her typewriter I think we might safely bring it out. "Y' know", said Charles ruminatively after dinner, as he settled down more comfortably on his log before the blazing campfire, "Y' don't meet all that many medium-hard bushwalking ladies."

Now we know what's been causing all those little screams - horrified or interested - when the lights go out in Gronows vans. Anyway - it's official now: bushwalking does not lead to overdeveloped muscularity among the fair sex. I'm glad he wasn't thinking of another walk classification when he made his absent-minded remark. That could have led to misunderstandings.

On Saturday we looked at another part of the heath and listened to Spencer again. On Sunday we looked at the Glenelg River and listened to incessant talk about the Inkpots. The rest of us saw them from the bus on the way home. Quite a good way to spend a long weekend, really. Thanks, George.

.....Hirudinea Henry.

WEEKEND WALKS CONTINUED....From page 3

and Green Engine Bend. After the Gulf we will be faced with a bit of a decision. Those who came to Hattah last year ended up making me walk thirty-eight miles! If the same indomitable spirit prevails again this year I suppose we will go and have a look at the Bunyip Hole, and maybe even the Top and Bottom Duck Holes. In any event we will (I hope) finish on the levee of Tullah Creek at Darlow's Gate.

June **OLD RIVER-BEARS HEAD RANGE-LONG POINT-DARLEY FORD** Easy/Med
27-29 Leader: Brian Busby (b) 378 881
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30pm Fare \$6.00
Expected time of return: 7.00pm
Map reference: FCV Lerderderg Gorge Forest Park 1: 25 000
Approximate distance: 30 km.

A delightful walk, along tracks as far as possible, to the Lerderderg River. We shall camp early, flooding permitting, on a grassy sward surrounded by steep, wooded srurs. With luck, we will have time for exploring the river without packs.

On Sunday, we climb to the heights of the Bears Head Range and Blackwood Ranges, and drop back to the river at the top ford.

Participants in this well- previewed walk should bring water for Saturday breakfast, and should be prepared for one or two exiting river crossings.



SHADY SCORPION

I know you've all been waiting to hear the second installment of the Shady Scorpions Scribblings, so here they are:-

Quotes of the Month

Sylvia: "Quick, Help me. I can't get my pants off."

Rodney: "Haven't you been on a snow walk? You must go. They're so EROTIC."

Geoff C: "I'm really greatly over-rated."

What was Peter doing crawling around under the table at Alfred's Homestead? Someone closely resembling the late Phantom Fossil was seen promenading around the dance floor garbed in long beads, charming the women in the P.F's inimitable style, and doing the twist with such fury that the floor boards were starting to smoke. No- it couldn't have been. And who was the character who went back for seconds twice?

It seems Paul W. was keeping his Avenel walk under wraps and only recruiting females-enterprising young lad ended up with a 4:1 ratio on the trip. The Shady Scorpion was not amused.(missed out again)

Sir Charles, that renowned insomniac, has threatened to take ear-plugs along with him on the next W/E walk. It seems he has a bad habit of being tented in the vicinity of females with over-active minds. (and/or mouths)

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a 6'7" blonde, Austrian Neurosurgeon who goes mountain climbing, please ring 6992328 or 6526304 between 9 and 5. URGENT

There was a very wobbly Yeti stranded on top of Sugarloaf recently shouting abuse and profanities at the leader. It seems that Yetis aren't used to scrambling down slippery, sheer rock faces with 200 ft drops. The VCC Hut was a welcome sight to the 23 bushies and 1 Yeti that descended Sugarloaf recently. The shelter, fire, and brewing tea went down really well at lunch.

It is not too common for Sunday walkers to meet W/E walkers coming along the track from the other direction, but it happened the other day. After exchanging greetings and discussing the weather, each went their separate way. They united once again in Healesville, where TWO Gronows vans decorated the street.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECT

JOINT FIELD WORK PARTY WITH BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

On Sunday, June 8, members of the MBW will join forces with the BOC and field naturalist organizations from the Geelong area, in a joint effort to eradicate Boneseed from the YouYangs.

Boneseed is a proclaimed noxious weed because it establishes in natural bush-land and may grow so rapidly, that it eliminates some native plants. Dense stands of the pest are located in the YouYangs and on the Mornington Peninsula. We will be helping the BOC repel boneseed that has invaded their tree plantings on Eastern Flat.

Please lend your support and dispel the myth that most bushwalkers only pay lipservice to conservation. Contact Geoff or Jenny kenafacke for more details (294 667-priv. , 347 4822-bus.)

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION FILM NIGHT

The ACF with the Launceston Walking Club has a film evening on Tasmania, at the National Mutual Life Association theatre, 477 Collins St., at 8.00pm Saturday 24th May.

Admission is \$1.50 and 50¢ children. Further enquiries: Jeanette Moseley

(p) 650 7370

LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL - MELBOURNE STUDY AREA

If you want to attend a meeting to:-

- put recommendations to the LCC re the Melbourne Area
- see what the LCC is hoping to do

then ring Gerry McPhee (p)387 3417 who will be organising a meeting to put a case to the LCC. The meeting will be early in June at a suitable date.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Greaves, Shirley and Kevin	36 Toogoods Rise, Box Hill Nth. 3129
Cole, Nick	10 Gladstone Ave. Aspendale (p) 901 060
Reimer, Margaret	39 Ivanhoe Gve, E. Malvern
Harrison, David	39 Ivanhoe Gve. E. Malvern
Veenstra, Allen and Shirley	19 Fuller St. Mitcham 3121
Hodgson, Stuart	
Hodgson, Graham	
Clunas, Peter	6/24 Lascelles Ave. Toorak

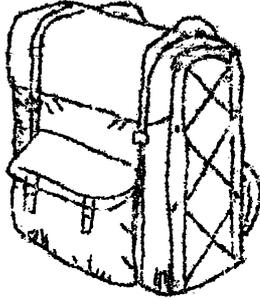
RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

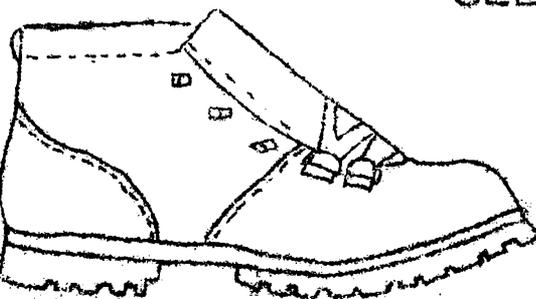
Draper, Bruce	13 Farm St. Newport 3015
Withall, Sylvia	6/30 Oak Gve. E. Malvern

NEW MEMBERS

Oien, Harald and Jorunn	20/49a Kensington Rd. Sth. Yarra (p) 248 707 (b)Harald 267 4171
Strickland, Caroline	20 McDonald Ave. Nth.Altona (b)675 706ext 121 (p)391 4183
Mitchell, Clyde	7/226 Jasper Rd. McKinnon (b) 544 0633
Blizzard, Marylin	79 Soudan St. Coburg (b) 358 474
Smith, Isobel	7/57 Spenser St, St.Kilda (p) 942 933 (b) 654 4222
Jessup, Christopher	34 Kulnine Ave. Mitcham (p) 874 5329 (b) 653 3172

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