



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 315

FEBRUARY 1976

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REMEMBER! The AGM of the Melbourne Bushwalkers takes place 25.2.76 at the Victorian Railways Institute, Room 52, 2nd Floor Flinders St.

AGM

NOMINATIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS ARE OPEN!

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS

The following points came out of the last meeting of the FVWC.

1. The C.F.A. has not replied to the Federation about altering the regulations concerning the depth of Fire Trenches from 50cm to 30cm.
2. The FVWC is investigating the formation of a National Council of Bushwalking Federations.
3. The Dartmouth Dam petition that was organised by the Federation should be sent to the V.N.P.A. as soon as possible. Things look reasonably promising for a modification to the location of the site of the powerline.
4. The V,M T.C. are probably going to organise a walk for the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation. It is to be held on the 2nd of May for approximately 200 walkers. Next year it is proposed that each club hold a walk for "The Public". All the walks will be held on the same day with publicity to be the responsibility of the government. For further details of the V,M,T,C, walk see their current circular.
5. Within the Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort, "permission for camping must be obtained from the Warden". Two weeks notice of intended camping spots, number of walkers, etc is required.

Appropriate forms are available from: The Area Manager
Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort
P O Box 28
BRIGHT, VIC 3741

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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

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

MARCH WALK PREVIEWS

Mar 7 TALLAROOK-BREECH PEAK-BROADFORD Med

Leader: Hugh Duncan (p) 295 924
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$2.50
Expected time of return: ? (depends how fast we go, doesn't it)
Map reference: Tallarook 1:50 000
Approximate distance: 10 miles

The walk starts from grid reference 336927 (metric grid) on the Tallarook - Mansfield road, with a (relaxing/leisurely/invigorating)* 1000 ft climb up Breech Peak, and continues southward to the old sawmill at 336856. We drop steeply down to Dabyminga Ck. and continue across open rolling country to the Broadford - Tyack road.

There are good views from the ridge, and wallabies and echidnas inhabit the area. Water is scarce and of dubious quality, so all water should be carried.

* cross out whichever you hope is applicable.

Mar 14 RIDDELL-MT. ROBERTSON-CAMELS HUMP-HANGING ROCK Med

Leader: Bob Chadwick (p) 835 592
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$2.50
Expected time of return: 7.30pm
Map reference: Lancefield 1:63 360
Approximate distance: 13 miles

An interesting walk along a road to pine plantations then on to Camels Hump, where one can observe Hanging Rock in the distance. Finally finally finishing at the rock itself. Please carry water for lunch.

Mar 21 GRAYTOWN-WHROO FOREST-MT. BLACK-BAILISTON Easy

Leader: Gerry McPhee (p) 387 3417
Transport: Bus from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$ 3.00

Gerry's in NZ at the moment - see him in the clubrooms when booking.

Mar 28 YARRAGON-STRZELECKI RANGES Easy/Med

Leader: Geoff Mattingley (b) 544 1666 x395
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$3.00
Expected time of return: 7pm
Map reference: Mirboo North 1:63 360
Approximate Distance: 9miles

This will be a fairly easy walk, with very little uphill. A lot of distance is along roads, but there is not much traffic, and the alternative is battling through blackberries or barbed wire fences!

The hilly country, most of which is dairy farms, provides some very pleasant views, and for variety we will visit some 30 year old plantations of pines and mountain ash. Please bring water for lunch as we will be walking along ridges most of the day.

WEEKEND WALKS

March BOGONG VILLAGE-MT. FAINTER-MT. HOTHAM-HARRIETVILLE Med

5 - 8 Leader: George Telehin (b) 387 1066
Transport: Van from Batman Ave 6.30pm Fare \$10.00
Map reference: FCV Feathertop 813 or ALGONA Bogong and Bogong Highplains
Approximate distance: 49 miles

A walk through the Bogong High Plains before the end of the Alpine Summer (hopefully), so we should catch the best of the Alpine wild flowers before the winter sets in.

Suggest that some heavy gear be carried in case the weather turns nasty. (A heavy shirt, long trousers, and woolly underwear.)

Saturday: From Bogong Village to Tawonga Huts via Mount Fainter and the Miller Heads. Sunday: To Carrick Hut via Mount Jim and Covungra Gap.

Monday: To Harrietville via Mount Hotham and the Bon Accord Spur.

March 5 - 8 BOGONG VILLAGE - SPION KOPJE - MT. NELSE - ROCKY VALLEY - MT. FAINTER.
Leader: John Fritze (b) 652 8359 Easy/Med
Transport: Van from Batman Ave 6.30pm Fare \$10.00
Map Reference: Algona maps 114 & 113. Bogong High Plains & Mt Bogong.
Approximate Distance: 38 miles.

Revised route: Day 1 - Clover Dam to Roper's hut via East Kiewa fire track.
Day 2- Ropers to Tawonga via Rocky Valley and Pretty Valley. Day 3 - Tawonga hut to Bogong Village.

The walk covers an interesting variety of terrain ranging from rugged forested areas inhabited by numerous birds and animals (several Lyre birds were seen on the preview) to the wildflower clad High Plains.

March 19-21 FRYS - LICKHOLE GAP - MITCHELLS - JAMIESON RIVER. Med.
Leader: George Telehin (b) 387 1066
Transport: Van from Batman Ave 6.30 pm Fare \$8.00
Map Reference: VMTC King, Howqua, Jamieson Watershed.
Approximate distance: 35 Km.

From Frys walking along the Lickhole Creek track to the Jamieson river. Camping a kilometre from Jamieson hut, with a side trip to the Govenors. Following day returning to Sheeppard Flat via Eight Mile Gap and Eagle Peaks. All together a pleasant walk through "interesting country".

CONSERVATION GROUP: THE next meeting of the Conservation Group is now on the 15th of March, not on the 1st as advertized previously.

SOCIAL NEWS: Tickets are now available for "Picnic at Hanging Rock". Cost is \$2.50. See Rob Hayes (b) 615 4262

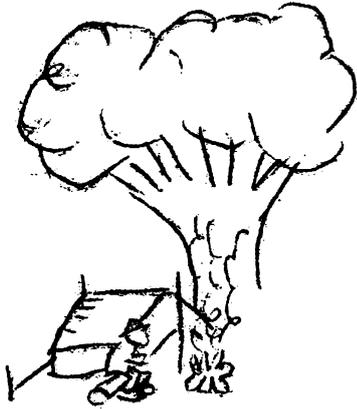
LIFE MEMBERS: There has been much debate about the method of proposing Life Members. The Committee decided that a dossier should be compiled on people nominated for Life Membership and be published in News. Perhaps another grade of Honorary Membership should be established for people who do a lot of work for the Club eg Contacts, as currently they have no voting rights.

* PHOTOFLORA '76 *

Slides entered in all of the various sections will be shown during March and April all around Victoria. Sections include Wildflowers Orchids, Bushland and Birds.

Screenings: KEW March 10, MALVERN March 30, MELBOURNE April 5
For details of locations see the Club noticeboard or Athol Schafer





ALONG THE TRACK

FROM VIKING TO COBBLER.

Any trip to the Viking-Razor area is a must in my opinion, and combining this with the Catherine River and the Cobbler was a further attraction. When the leader said that he hadn't been to the Catherine River, the trip seemed to promise plenty of interest. So I was expecting great things when I signed on for Mike Griffin's Australia Day week-end trip.

I wasn't entirely disappointed although in the event things didn't work out as planned. The cars suffered the most widespread damage, and the final tally of victims of the Speculation Road was one petrol tank punctured twice, one tyre, and two shock absorbers. Perhaps the club should invest in a 4-WD? Human damage was also sustained, and no doubt Norm has won the hearts of many delectable damsels with his tales of woe. The two Peters suffered by travelling all the way up and forfeiting their trip.

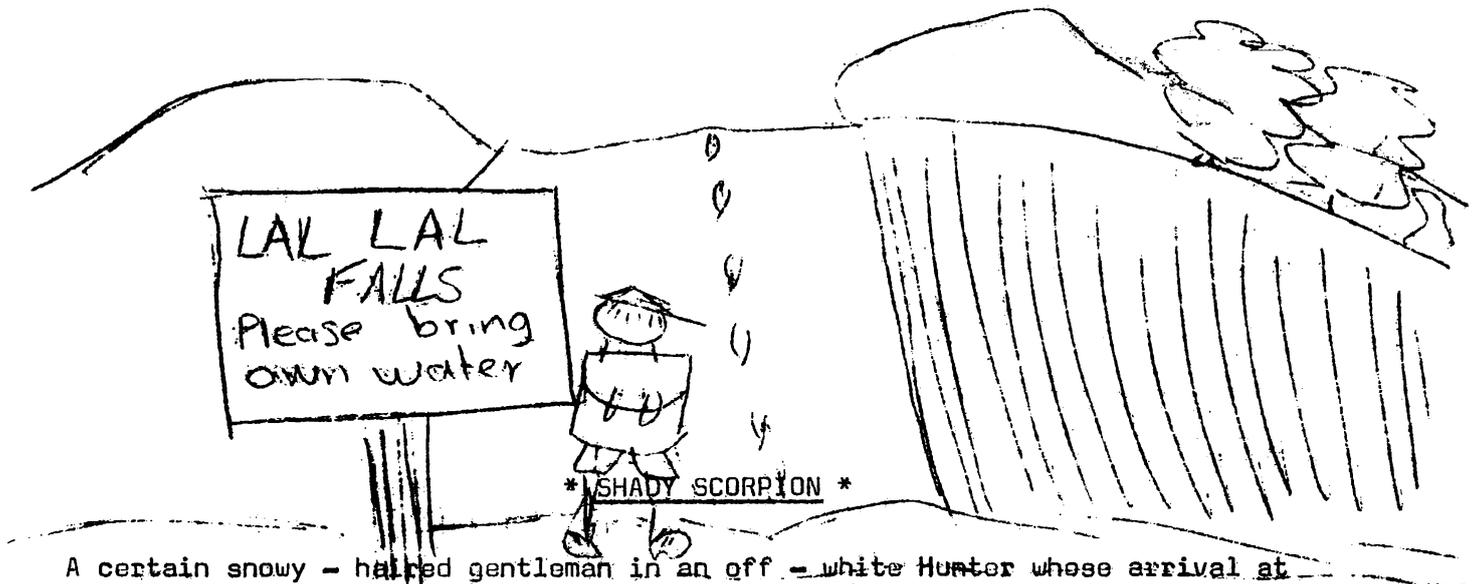
Apart from all this the walking was great. Friday night was perfect for sleeping out under the stars at the Speculation campsite. Viking Saddle was as delightful as ever - a pleasant, green, grassy clearing in fine stands of trees, with the massive rock of the Viking dominating the skyline and bathed in slowly changing shadows in the evening sunlight.

Next day came the crunch. The leader had us up before 6 a.m. and we were away by 7 - surely a record for an MBW trip. He did light a fire for us to make it more bearable. Soon we were exploring the rock slabs of the Razor and speculating on which spur to follow down and how to reach the top of it through the cliffs. The weather at this stage was interestingly cloudy but it cleared sufficiently to show us which spur petered out and which kept going. If it hadn't I'm sure the leader would have known. Once on the spur it proved pleasantly free of scrub, with no violent ups and downs and quite well defined - altogether a perfect descent. We had lunch at a pleasant little creek about 100 yards from its confluence with the Catherine - such was the measure of error in the leader's route-finding at the end of the spur. Then began the long task of plodding up to the Cobbler Plateau. Much could be said about falling rocks and bodies, and other bodies leaping out of the way. Suffice it to say that this part of the trip was not without incident. Eleven hours after leaving camp, six weary bodies (one rather battered) dragged themselves along to Cobbler Lake.

The last day soon saw us back at the cars on the Speculation Road. Four members of the party returned to wander up the Cobbler, which provided a fitting end to a fine trip. During this time the other two encountered a gentle member of the medical profession, and Norm experienced the first of many compensations of his condition.

It was a good trip.

..... Jerry Grandage.



A certain snowy - haired gentleman in an off - white Hunter whose arrival at camp was heralded by the sound of a radiator and/or exhaust pipe coming into violent contact with the earth, wants an end to private transport on Club trips. His opinions were formed after a (s)low flying jumbo jet threw stones into his windscreen at 333 mph - a most original excuse for arriving an hour late.

Bob has been heard asking if anyone has the plans of a double bed design to fit a Kombi van - I wonder why.

Do you often mind a flat while The Occupant is in NZ and leave a tap running for 11½ hours - with the plug in? When the Minder did this it was quite possible to swim in the bedroom.

A prospective leader (WHO?) got back from an afternoon preview of a day walk so late that his Mummy rang up a contact to find out where he was.

Peter Bullard is pleased to announce the return of the GRONOW'S TAXI SERVICE, upon Dennis's return from Queensland. (not in the van seen last month.)

Malda wins the award for crippling bods on the van. A drink can in the earhole did nothing to improve the quality of Rob's sound reception.

After a 4 hour cork sniffing and dreg examining (and even a little tasting) session, WHO's preview started at 2pm (in 40°C) and had 5 breath rests up the first hill. During the third attempt to reach the top a tortoise was seen streaking past the party!

SITUATION VACANT: Hydrographer wanted by the West Moorabool Water Board. Duties are to measure the water flow over the Lal Lal and Moorabool Falls. Applicants must provide their own cup. (Red hair or a Pommy accent a distinct disadvantage)

George's walk proved that the old saying "The first shall be last and the last shall be first" was true by taking a few side trips. Although a Total Fire Ban was on, was the rain due to the Leader's cry "Are you there Huey?" or was it kept away by Rob bawling "GO AWAY RAIN"

Stuart had a "freeloader" on the recent Warrandyte walk - not only has he rocks in his head, but also in his pack.

Stric(k)tly speaking, only smart people drink 4 pots instead of their usual 2 glasses so that they avoid a boring trip home by going to sleep.

The newest Committee member stayed well clear of Sylvia on a recent walk after his jeans soaked up most of the contents of a bottle of Blackberry Nip.

Carol fights most unfairly. On a recent Flinders Island trip Carol was losing a beach piggy-back fight when she changed tactics suddenly. Instead of attempting to dislodge Lyn from her partners shoulders she pulled the string of Lyn's bikini top. Lyn hit the water in 3 seconds!

I'VE FOOLED YOU ALL, HAVEN'T I? YOU ALL THOUGHT I WAS IN NEW ZEALAND!

By the way - who was it that "SHOUTED" in the Duke on 4.2.76 ?

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

WILK, Russell - 734 Hampton St., Brighton 3186 (p) 927 139

GRAVE, Harold - 28 Tintern Ave., Toorak 3142 (p) 243 998 (b) 689 3788

DANAHER, Dennis - 4/54 Rockley Rd., South Yarra 3141

WHYTE, Joan and Arthur - Postal Address: PO Box 136 Belgrave 3160

LOOKING FOR A FLAT?

Available from 20.3.76 at \$18.00 per week
If you are, we have a vacancy for 1 (male or female)
in our large 3 bedroom, furnished flat in Toorak.
For further information contact either Stuart or Graham
Hodgson (p) 244 230

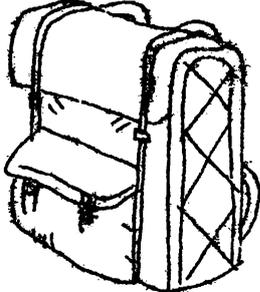
OVERHEARD

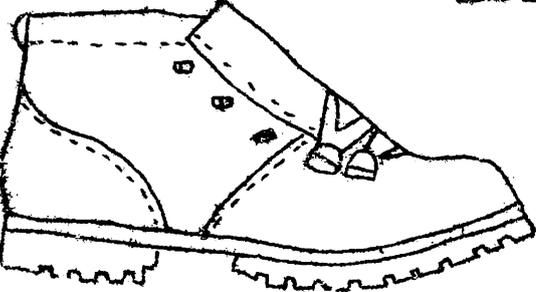
Sylvia: "Look! Lal Lal No Falls!"

George: "I only get lost when I find a track"

Visitor: (ON the Van) "I can read road maps alright, but not these
country maps"

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