



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 326

JANUARY 1977

Price 3d

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd

FEBRUARY 1977

COMMENCES

8.00 P.M.

AT

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS INSTITUTE

ROOM 236

2nd FLOOR

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.

FEBRUARY WALK PREVIEWS.

Day Walks.

Feb. 6th LATROBE RIVER - SILVERTOP RIDGE - SOUTH HELLS GATE - LABERTOUCHE.

LEADER: Hugh Duncan (P)29-5924 MED.
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am FARE: \$2.00
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE: Neerim 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 miles.

This is an interesting walk through forested country in the Tarago River area. Much of the walk is in State Forest and several types of vegetation are present, including cool moist mountain ash stands and rarer stringybark forest, as well as some recently logged areas of unknown ancestry.

Wildlife seen in the area includes wallabies, crimson Rosellas, Black Cockatoos and many other species of birds -- and a few leeches.

This is a fairly long walk in mountainous country (total climbing about 3000 feet) and so the grading is probably the hard side of medium (but well worth the effort). A long van trip in the morning means that a late return can be expected.

Water should be carried for lunch.

Feb. 13th SPARGO CK - WERRIBEE RIVER - DAYLESFORD. EASY/MED

LEADER: Graham Hodgson (P) 24-4230
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am FARE: \$2.00
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE: Daylesford 1":1 mile
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 9 miles

An easy stroll along fire tracks with no hills to tire even the most ardent bludger. Lunch is beside a beautiful fast running creek, even tables are provided !! The last stages of the trip skirts the back woods of historic Daylesford. We might even have time to talk to one of the locals who can tell us a lot about the old days.

Feb. 20th (1) BEARS HEAD RANGE - LERDERBERG RIVER - OLD RIVER - CLEARWATER GULLY - MT. BLACKWOOD.

LEADER: Michael Griffin HARD
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am FARE: \$2.00
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ??????
MAP REFERENCE: ??????
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ??????

WALK REPORT NOT RECEIVED.

(2) AH KOW GULLY - LERDERBERG RIVER - MT. BLACKWOOD.

LEADER: Geoff Greenwood MED.
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am FARE: \$2.00
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 6.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE: Ballan.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 -- 12 miles.

This walk should be a pleasant days outing in the Lerderberg area. Although classified as medium it will be within the capabilities of those people who have been on easy graded walks recently.

As it might be necessary to place a limit on the party you are advised to book early.

Feb. 27th BEACH WALK - RYE CAPE-SCHANK. Easy.
 LEADER: Marijke Mascas (P)25-6940
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare:\$2.00
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 pm
 MAP REFERENCE: Sorrento 1:63,360
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 8 - 10 miles.

The latest communication from Marijke states :- "... the snow came. It stayed on all the trees and looks like a fairy tale. The country is incredibly beautiful and as there is a frost as well it stayed on the trees" But as she is in Europe at present with their Winter this isn't suprising. However she assures us she will return.

The walk is a mixture of a fine coastal cliff walk, rock scrambling and beach bludging taking in that impressive piece of coastline at Cape Schank with the Ocean Park. Bring Bathers and drinks. A good walk guaranteed.

Weekend Walks.

Feb. 4th-6th HOWITT SPUR - MT. MAGDALA - MT. LOVICK - SQUAREHEAD JINNY - BINDAREE. Med.
 LEADER: Ken McMahon (P)45-2977
 TRANSPORT: Private
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: To vehicles 2 - 3 pm
 MAP REFERENCE: King, Howqua & Jamieson (VMTC Map)
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 19 miles.

The last time I attempted to climb Howitt via this route I found myself atop Mt. Magdala. Not too bad really, after all it is the next mountain along the ridge. This time I am positive we will hit the mark (I hope). If we do we will celebrate at our camp on the saddle between Big Hill and Mt. Magdala which is flat and grassy with a gushing spring near-by.

A side trip to Macalister springs may be on the agenda, weather and inclination permitting.

I led a walk in this area last February and it snowed so be prepared for it. Also bring your bathers !

Water for lunch will have to be carried on the Saturday.

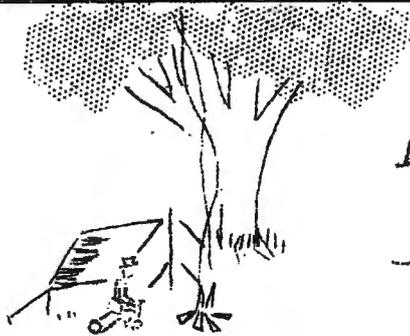
Feb. 11th-13th KING SADDLE - MT. STIRLING - MT. BULLER - MT. TIMBERTOP - HOWQUA TRACK
 LEADER: Tyrone Thomas (P) 267-4160 Med.
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30 pm Fare: \$8.00
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 pm
 MAP REFERENCE: Mt. Buller Area F.C.V. 1:30,000
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 17 miles.

Carry water for Saturday Mornings breakfast, on this Alpine trip which commences at King Saddle, North - West of Mt. Stirling, and which goes over the summit of Mt. Stirling. We will have lunch at Howqua Gap (water OK) then walk west through Mt. Buller Alpine Village (with a stop off at any open shop etc?) then after scaling Buller's lofty peak we will descend the spectacular western spur down to near Round Hill where we will camp.

On Sunday the walk is again through Alpine country westwards over Mt. Timbertop, and down to the Howqua Track just west of Timbertop. Water could be a problem for lunch on the Sunday so be prepared to carry some.

Feb. 25th-27th KEPPELS CK - STORM CREEK GORGE - LITTLE RIVER GORGE - BLUE RANGE - RUBICON. Med.
 LEADER: John Fritze. (P) 20-2240
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30 pm Fare:\$7.00
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ??????
 MAP REFERENCE: ??????
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ??????

WALK REPORT NOT RECEIVED.



ALONG THE TRACK

BAD WEATHER AND BAD LANGUAGE.

Geoff's trip up Bogong was memorable for those who participated. What more could one want? - a snow-storm on Saturday, a frozen beard, two unforgettable quotes, a personality clash, singed hair, a beautiful Sunday and a run down the Staircase to cap it off.

We were woken early on Saturday morning by Peter's radio playing band music, allegedly to keep his dog quiet (we know Peter, we know). Under a lowering sky we trudged up the Eskdale Spur and, on arrival at Mitchell's Hut, the snow started - 'sage' snow, to be sure, but still bloody cold. With this incentive we hurried on to Cleve Cole, the racehorses arriving at 11.00am, a short 3½ hours after leaving the cars. The occupants, a group of 3 from Mt. Beauty High School, were ejected without ceremony while we huddled around the fire they had kindly prepared. G.W.J. hove manfully into view at 11.30 am, but where was Peter? The explanations came thick and fast - 'he was behind me' 'he was in front of me', but still no Peter. Finally at 12.00, when the leader was preparing a private rescue expedition (very private - it was too cold and wet for anyone to volunteer), Peter came striding nonchalantly down the hill. For a few minutes nothing of substance was said. Finally Michael popped the question - 'Well, what happened Peter?'. Quick as a flash came the reply - 'I went the wrong way!' Roars of laughter from the Bushies and did Peter's face go red when someone painted out the innocents(?) from MBHS sitting behind him!

Just as we were getting ready to leave the absent Alan arrived and quickly set up his lunch. Needless to say, he passed us all a short time after (but he paid the price later). The snow stopped shortly after lunch and we slid and slithered our way down to Big River. Then slowly, ever so slowly, up Duane Spur, which witnessed some curious reversals in form. Roper's was occupied so we camped nearby in a very strong wind. It died down in the evening but not before causing a few eyebrows, heads, arms etc to be singed in the fire. The frisbee players were undaunted by the day's exertions and played on until sunset. We rose early, except for Alan, who the leader forgot. While Tyrone went down Timms to check it out the rest of us took a short cut to Grey Hills and thence along the narrow track to Mt. Arthur. Most of us were luckily spared the sight of the clashing personalities actually clashing elbows along this section.

After losing the way along the ridge to Bogong Creek Saddle (remember to keep to the left along the ridge from Mt. Arthur) we had an early lunch, which was the occasion of the second memorable quote. After having the noise of their bikes, we were disturbed by two nasties who walked down to inspect the approaches to Quartz Ridge Track. Soon after they came free wheeling down and, with an ear-splitting cacophony, prepared to violate the track. But they hadn't reckoned on Rod. Before they had gone 30 yards he had yelled 'Hey you, you can't go up there. That's a walking Track!!' They took the hint and quickly left, fearful of his wrath.

The rest was uneventful - Sunday was a beautiful, bright clear day though a cold breeze blew on the summit ridge. Some ran down the Staircase, to Alan's and Tyrone's astonishment, while others took it sedately. The whole affair was certainly good training for those preparing for Christmas Trips.

.....BOGONG JACK.

CAVE CREEK TO THREDBO.

Alex's post-Christmas walk in the Snowy Mountains was a great success. There were only 4 of us (a comfortable number) - The Leader himself, Bill Metzenthon, Geoff Greenwood and your correspondent. Having left one car at Thredbo we started the walk near Cave Creek, about 40 km north of Kiandra. We saw the extraordinary Bottom Tree - shaped exactly like a human backside and thighs - almost as soon as we started. Bush

.... flies were much in evidence from the beginning and with the addition of march flies later, were to plague us until the weather changed.

The first three days comprised long, hot, fly blown walks, relatively incident-free. On the fourth day we reached a hut near Jagungal, and two of us scrambled to the top. The next day was a short trip to Grey Mare, our planned rest stop, where we met two generous SMA employees, who gave us a can of luke warm beer to share. They passed comment on Geoff's ugly looking feet - covered in merchurochrome and bandages, he looked as though he had just stepped out of the World War I trenches. Your correspondent was the only member of the party who did not have foot trouble. A few hours later another group of walkers arrived at the hut to greet us as the Superwalkers and to ask if Geoff's were the famous feet they had heard so much about!

On the planned rest day a cold front passed over and we spent most of the time in bed talking to other people who had come for refuge. The next day was cold and windy, but without rain, and we made a half-days journey to White's River Hut, to prepare for our assault on the Main Range the next day.

The cold front had finally passed and the weather for our walk along the Tops was superb - no cloud, warm in the sun, but a gently breeze to keep the Temperature down and the flies away. Alex set a cracking pace, and Geoff was mislaid for a few minutes following 'another red cap' as he put it. In fact Alex moved so fast that he got two or three miles ahead of himself. We had lunch overlooking Blue Lake, which he though was still an hour's walk ahead of us. As a result we reached Albina Lodge early enough for Bill and I to do a side trip up Mt. Townsend and for Alex and Geoff to meet Alan Davis and be labelled as hippies by some day trippers from a tourist bus. The Lodge filled up rapidly after we arrived, with Telecom walkers in good attendance, and we had to shuffle about for cooking space, which made us sadly realize that we were close to civilisation again.

The next day we passed over Kosciusko, and saw Bogongcrouching on the horizon, and then caught the chair - lift down the Thredbo.

A wonderful walk, with good company, perfect weather and superb scenery.

..... BOB DOUGLAS.

JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES.

TREASURER: The bank balance as at the 31st December, 1976 was:-

Fixed Deposits	\$2,000.00
Investment Savings Acc.	\$2,000.00
Cheque Account	\$1,844.31
	<u>\$5,844.31</u>

WALKS SECRETARY: For the month of November there were 315 on club walks. These were made up of 198 members and 117 visitors.

WALK EDITORS: The printer has returned from holidays so "Walk" will probably be out by the end of this month.

EQUIPMENT OFFICER: The proceeds for December were \$33.50, bringing the years total to \$185.00.

FEDERATION: The assistant Secretary has resigned & a replacement is necessary.

A set of "Notes for Leaders" will be prepared by Federation.

The Conservation Group has made a proposal for the Alpine National Park & comments on the proposal are invited. A few copies of the proposal are available in the clubrooms. Please hand you comments to Geoff Mattingley before Feb. 7th.

WILKINSON LODGE: Following suspected unauthorised use, the locks on the doors may be changed.

The new mattress has been taken into the Lodge.

GENERAL BUSINESS: The Annual Reports will be published in the February "NEWS"

LORNE.

The sun shone. It was a day for getting out of the big smoke and off on a walk.

The Lorne walk, a regular for the last three years, was once again enjoyed by all who attended. Yes, it was a long van trip, but well worth it, for the variety of scenery - a lookout, fern gullies, waterfall, strawberry farm, reservoir, surf beach and even a wild goat and tiger snake thrown in.

Art's Dad, a surfer of old, came along for the ride and planned to spend a bit of time in the surf. He amused us reminiscing of the early days of Lorne. He spoke of the times when the Great Ocean Road was so narrow there was only room, in places, for a single car and before entering Lorne at Eastern View a toll had to be paid. Was it 1/6 or 1/- per car? We should record that the Ocean Road itself was constructed to commemorate the services of Sailors and Soldiers in the Great World War of 1914 - 18. At Eastern View a Memorial Arch was erected in 1939 to the memory of Major W. T. B. McCormack, honorary engineer to the Great Ocean Road Trust and Chairman of the Country Roads Board.

Being rather keen on swimming, our leader managed to arrange having lunch at the mouth of the St. George River. It didn't take much persuasion to also get others in for a dip.

The stroll along the St. George River, situated at the foot of the heavily timbered Otway Range, with its banks of beautiful ferns was a sheer delight. Our river and creek crossings were made more hazardous than past years with the hand rail being too slack or, in another crossing, missing altogether. How Joe, at the time of falling, managed to dangle his sunglasses on the wire, we will never know!

All readers will be pleased to learn that Dennis, our driver, has started to amass his walking gear. First purchases - a water bottle. Useful donations would be gratefully accepted. It would seem though, that Dennis might be reluctant to forsake his large black umbrella for the usual 'bushie' rain wear. Besides, he does seem to produce the most marvellous sunny weather when he sports his umbrella.

Thanks, Art, for another enjoyable walk.

..... Alwyn Bloom.

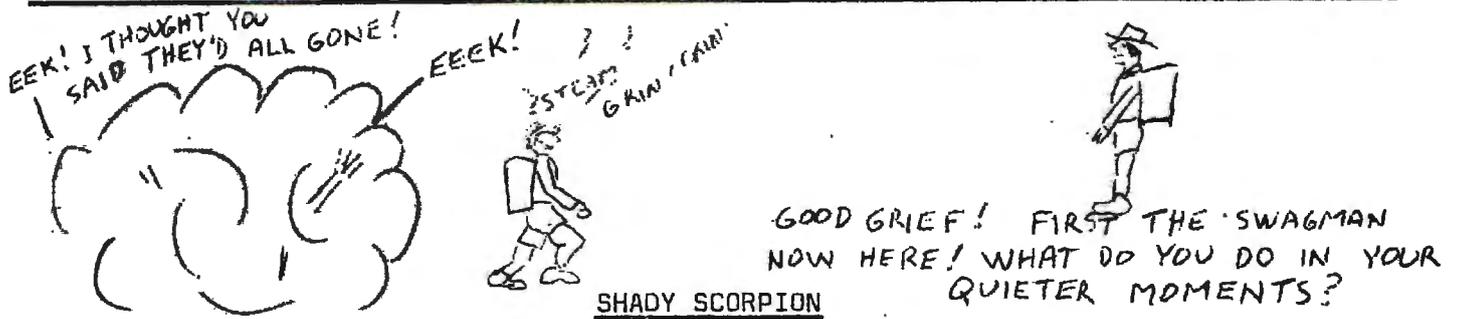
ATTENTION

Geoff and Jenny Kenafacke have decided not to continue as official Telephone Information and Enquiries Officer in the future.

This means that the Club urgently needs someone who is willing to have their phone number listed under "Melbourne Bushwalkers" in the Telephone Book. The job requires someone who will be at home regularly and will be able to answer phone queries and supply information about the club to the general public.

The Club pays half of the Information Officer's annual Telephone Bill and any other expenses incurred by him/her in the name of the Club.

If you are willing to accept this position then please contact the Secretary, Rob Hayes (B)615-4262 or Geoff & Jenny (P)29-4667 as soon as possible.



On Tom & Mick's recent trip to the Flinders Ranges the temperature was up around a sizzling 50o C. At night Mick was sleeping in a Tropicana Bag, while Tom was rugged up in not one but two sleeping bags, with a wool jumper and long pants. So much for those tough hardy Scandinavians.

Ken McMahon had been thinking of selling his canoe for quite a while until Christmas time when he ended up selling it under rather unusual circumstances. John Fritza had a lend of it to paddle down the Mitchell River and unfortunately for John or fortunately for Ken or vice versa he managed to write it off while shooting a set of rapids. It was so badly wrecked that John wouldn't let Ken see it again and instead offered to pay him for what remained of the splinters.

Back on the matromonial scene again, Henry and Marjorie were trying to fool the Shady Scorpion and didn't advertise their engagement last November so that brings the '76 figure to 8 Engagements &/or Weddings, congratulations to you both and also congratulations to Paul and Pat & Rob and Shelly on their weddings in the past few days.

What do you do when you're having a nice quiet swim in a river in the altogether when your privacy is shattered by 50 or so Bushwalkers strolling past spread out over about a mile or so? This was the problem faced by two attractive ladies when the Melbourne Bushwalkers filed past up the Lorderdarg on the Lilo Sunday Walk. Well it gets mighty cool after waiting in neck deep water for about thirty minutes for everyone to pass so what you do is get out. This is what Ross discovered when he brought up the whip, much to his delight, he walked for the rest of the day with steamed up glasses and a big smile on his face.

The Lilo Derby was a great success with Bob and Graham officiating the 4 x 4 relay, the mixed doubles and the Open event with a victory for Womens Lib in the Open when after all the elimination races the finalists were all girls.

On the same weekend Brian Beardwood and John Porter were having fun down at the Prom on Five Mile Beach, by the way for those who haven't been down there recently there is a new Ranger Station up the top end of the Prom, North of Warby River, ready to jump on anyone who thinks they can escape officialdom by keeping away from Tidal River.

Anyway back to Brian and the boys, on Sunday night the weather was so nice they decided to camp on the beach so they built a fire near a tidal estuary and settled down for the night.

In the early hours Brian was awoken by a strange "hiss - crackle - hiss-crackle" sound, sure enough the tide was slowly working its way up the estuary and had begun to advance and retreat over the fire and lopping at the bottom of Briane's sleeping bag. He roused the rest and they responded very wisely by hobbling a further distance up the beach and within an hour where they had been sleeping was under a foot of water.

At this time of year it would seem that anything that could be done to attract people to a Committee post would be a good idea since it is inherently difficult to get anyone to stand for Committee. Instead there are moves afoot to amend the Constitution to require candidates to be a member for at least 6 months before being eligible for Committee. In the past this would have excluded two "News" Convenors from standing - Joy Seymour and Malda Jakobsons, and left the Club struggling to fill this vacancy that causes a headache at every Election.

After nearly two years of scrutinizing Club activities and reporting them dutifully to the "News" Convenor the Shady Scorpion has decided to go the way of MammaJonj and the Phantom Fossil. There is a rumour that a little Mexican by the name of LOPEZ, pronounced Lopez, could emerge as the new gossip monger and scandal spreader so stay tuned to future "News".

NEW MEMBERS.

ARDEN, James Peter. 3/43 Herbert Street. PARKDALE. 3194. (B)665-0311 x4061

DENT, Averil Joan. 10 Chaucer St. BOX HILL.SOUTH. 3128. (P)288-4355 (B)267-1315

BRAND NEW MOUNTAIN MULE PACKS.

At the lowest prices in Melbourne.

Model - Super Expedition	\$59.30
Standard Expedition	\$56.60
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Featherlite Standard	\$54.50

Contact Bill Jessup on 874-5329 or Howard Allingham on 543-2307, after 6.00 pm weeknights, for further information.

molony's

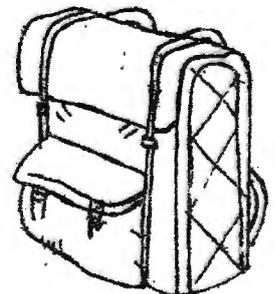
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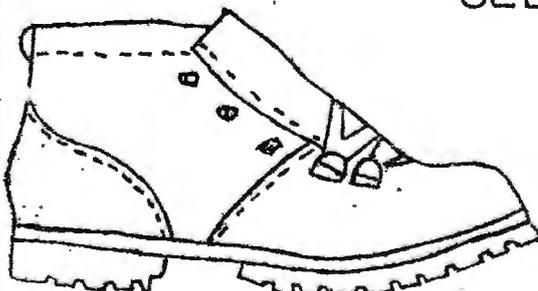
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