



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 331

JUNE, 1977

Price 3d

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JUNE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Full minutes will be posted in due course in the Committee room. Some points which came up:

- TREASURER:** Balance at 31MAY77 \$5967-53. Bills passed for payment at the meeting totalled \$2315-76.
- WALKS SECRETARY:** APR: 122m + 75v = 197 = 145d + 52w/e. Loss \$47.
Club Project: planning progress bulletin elsewhere in this issue.
- MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** 308 paid-up members. Would all nominators of new members please check that they have put dates of their completed walks on their forms, and if they have not, show them the old WPs posted in the Committee Room.
- SOCIAL SECRETARY:** Half-annual Dinner at Emu Bottom: superb venue, first class catering; those who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our thanks to Shelly. Not supported as it deserved. Attendance: 47. Loss \$203. Auction 6JULY. Square Dance 6AUGUST.
- WALK:** Walk 1977 selling well. Approx. 800 copies left. More articles needed for Walk 1978. Please put pen to paper - you might surprise yourself!
- F.V.W.C.** AGM held 3MAY77. K. McInnes re-elected President, A. Rothfield Treasurer. Secretary and assistant secretary still vacant, and Federation will fold if these are not filled. Baw Baw w/e 17/18 SEP. Contact Hal Skinner, 26 3154 if interested.
- NEWS CONVENER:** Letter to Athol Schafer thanking him for his efforts in filing reference copies. Closing date for July NEWS: 6th.
- CONSERVATION:** President wrote to FVWC in reply to request for comment on their proposed LCC Alpine submission. Summary: Stated MBW tracks & huts policy as adopted GM 29SEP76; urged "no-growth" of downhill ski industry; questioned need of "management" vehicles in nat.rec. areas; suggested closure of Snowy Plains road at Mt.Ar buckle in addition to other closures FVWC has suggested.
- S.T.A.V.** Has written to FCTAMC to object to proposed extensions of downhill activity in vicinity of dam wall at Falls Creek.
The Biathlon menace was discussed.

Meeting held 6JUNE77

Next meeting 4JULY77, 14 Hosier Lane, 7pm.

Visitors welcome.

W A L K 1 9 6 4

Would any member be prepared to donate a copy of the 1964 'Walk' magazine to the club? We are requiring this copy to complete a reference set.

Can any member help please or know of anyone who may?

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000.

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 7-00p.m. The club will be open at 7.00 p.m. for a trial period, to the end of August, instead of the usual 7-30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

JULY WALK PREVIEWS

Day Walks

July 3 YARRAGON - STRZELECKI RANGES Easy -
Medium
LEADER: Geoff Mattingley
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Mirboo North 1:63,360
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 14 km.

This will be a fairly easy walk, with very little uphill. Most of the area is dairy farms, but we will avoid barbed wire fences by walking along roads where appropriate. The actual amount of road-bash will depend on how bad the blackberries are. The hilly country will give us some very pleasant views, and for variety we will visit some plantations of pine and mountain ash. Please bring water for lunch.

July 10 CAPE SCHANK - FLINDERS Medium
LEADER: John Hodges
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Rosebud 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 - 15 km.

The walk is across mainly undulating open farm land looking down on the rugged coast line. Spectacular scenery on a good day. Water may be needed for lunch.

July 10 SOMERS - PT. LEO - FLINDERS Easy
LEADER: Marijke Mascas
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: (Not stated)
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: (Not stated)

Come and see the Western Port Bay beaches in stormy winter weather, for a change. The leader will not go swimming but if anybody is so inclined they may have a dip.

July 17 MT. WALLACE - STRAUGHTON VALE Medium
LEADER: Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Meredith 1" = 1 mile
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 km.

Unfortunately this preview is about as scarce as the map itself. However, from careful perusal of the one and only map in existence it would seem that the walk will commence with a short climb up Mt. Wallace and then up into the Brisbane Ranges proper with perhaps a side trip to examine one of the old mines in the area. A fairly steep drop of about 300 metres off the range should then bring us roughly in the vicinity of Straughton Vale.

July 23 SATURDAY - BELGRAVE - SASSAFRAS CK. TRACK - Easy -
UPPER FERNTREE GULLY Medium

LEADER: Janet White
 TRANSPORT: train from Flinders St. 8-53 a.m.
 FARE: Buy single ticket to Belgrave (85 cents) but be sure to have enough for return from Upper Ferntree Gully.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Monbulk 1:50,000
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles

We will be starting from Belgrave Station and walking on tracks most of the way. Much of the walk will be in the Sherbrooke Forest area and we end up at Upper Ferntree Gully to catch the train back to Melbourne. There'll be some climbing and undoubtedly it will be wet underfoot. Please bring water for lunch, warm clothing and parka. We are starting early so that we have an early finish. See you on the train.

July 24 SUNDAY - CONICAL HILL - SUGARLOAF HILL - MT. DISAPPOINTMENT Medium

LEADER: Paul Gray
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Kinglake 1:50,000
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 14 km.

I have doubts about van access on the dirt roads of the area and may not decide the precise route until shortly before the walk, when I can estimate how muddy they are likely to be.

The area is a toadstool collector's delight, and seems to have plenty of birdlife in the dense scrub. I hope to keep to tracks and paths of varying quality, but if we do the full distance the walk should be a good solid 'medium'. Please wear stout boots and carry water for lunch.

Weekend Walks

July 1 - BARWIDGEE CK. - MURMUNGEE - EVERTON Medium
 3

LEADER: Graham Mascas
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 6-30 p.m. Fare \$8
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Jackandandah } 1:50,000
 Beechworth }
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 33 km.

Don't let the exact distance quoted above fool you. This is another of those exploratory walks (means I haven't previewed it properly!) All those unknown names in the title are in the Ovens Valley just south of Beechworth and if you've ever studied the map of this area you will have seen the impressive same circular range just north of the highway which surround the Burgoigee Creek. This is Sunday's delight. Saturday we will leave Barwidgee Creek near Mudgeeegonga to climb over the range to the camp site used on a previous President's Weekend (1973). This promises to be another of those walks that are not hard but don't intend to be easy either - I've ordered good weather this time.

July 1 - SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE
 3

LEADER: Shirley McInnes
 TRANSPORT: See Leader
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Unknown
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Unknown

(Cont. from page 3)

This practise will simulate an actual search, in that the area of the search will not be disclosed until we are under way on Friday night. The only information given out so far indicates a snow trip, in "Eastern Victoria", so full winter gear is essential and bring towing skis if you have them (and can use them).

July 15 - ULUPNA ISLAND - ULUPNA WEST

Easy

17

LEADER: Graham Wills-Johnson

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 6-30 p.m.

Fare \$8

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: (Not stated)

MAP REFERENCE: Disorganised. See leader.

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12-15 miles?

I'm afraid all I know about the walk at this stage is that it finishes where the Barmah Forest walk I led two years ago finished, but approaches it from the other direction. With luck I will be able to find something better than the four (or is it six?) 1:250,000 maps that it seems to be all along the edges of before the walk actually begins! Preview? Afraid it looks very doubtful at this stage. Still, it SHOULD turn out to be an idyllic stroll along the banks of the Murray in the sunshine, watching the world go by, like the last one was with any luck. And no blisters this time, Barbara - that's a promise!

July 29 - MT. HOTHAM - SKI TOURING FOR BEGINNERS

Easy

31

LEADER: Rod Mattingley

TRANSPORT: Private

MAP REFERENCE: ALGONA - Bogong High Plains; FCV Feathertop and Dargo 1" to 1 mile.

This trip is suitable for inexperienced skiers as we will be doing day trips from the cars and camping on Saturday at JB Plain not far off the road. It is likely that we will be camping on snow as this year promises to be a good season, but as the cars won't be far away, you can bring lilos, rugs and other decadent things or even a shovel if you want to dig down to Mother Earth. Bring water also for the whole weekend, say 5 litres as the water supply at JB Plain is limited and melting snow is slow work.

Friday night's camp will be at Freeburgh. On Saturday morning we'll meet at the Mt. Loch car park at about 9-30. If there is enough snow we may try getting out to Boiler Plain on Sunday.

If you are driving, don't forget chains for your car. The local gestapo get shirty if you haven't got any.

If a small group want to ski from Diamantina along the Razorback to Feathertop that's all right by me. Skis and boots can be hired from Bushgear or Moloneys in the city or from the hire place in Myrtleford.

July 30 - MT. LANGI GHIRAN - WARRAK

Medium

31

LEADER: Tony Walstab

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 2-30 p.m. SATURDAY

WALK PREVIEW NOT RECEIVED.

How much of your money have we got? Apart from some brief explanatory notes on their validity, I give you the following figures with no further comment than this: If you are one of those who believe that the proper functions of the club do not extend very far beyond the provision week by week of organised bushwalking, then, as can be seen from the last column, we presently hold little more than one weekend van-fare per member in reserve. If, on the other hand, you are one of those who see, say, a "Sierra Club" type of ultimate future for the club, then, as can be seen from column 4, we are no closer to this (in terms of real financial strength) than we were at the beginning of 1971. It is not my purpose here to commit myself in any way to either of these two points of view. My present concern is to present the facts, not to interpret them.

YEAR END 31JAN	CPI MAR Qr	BAL \$	BAL IN MAR77\$	MEMBERS	BAL/MEMB (MAR77\$)
1971	115.2	1829	3561	210	\$ 16-96
1972	123.4	2482	4511	240	\$ 18-80
1973	130.4	2229	3834	240	\$ 15-98
1974	148.1	4136	6264	271	\$ 23-11
1975	174.1	3297	4247	277	\$ 15-33
1976	197.4	4411	5012	286	\$ 17-52
1977	224.3	3650	3650	343	\$ 10-64

EXPLANATORY NOTES: Figures from Treasurers' reports to successive AGMs. Except for the first two years, end of club year was 31JAN. March quarter CPI figure is therefore used, as 31JAN is close to the middle of that quarter. The balances for 1974-5-6 were all after "Walk" printer's bill had been paid, and the 1977 balance is adjusted for "Walk" bill received a few weeks later. Comparability of these four years is still subject to status of Gronow's a/c, progress of "Walk" sales, etc., but is within those limits probably moderately valid. For the first three years the "Walk" position is more obscure. Conversion to MAR77\$ allows figures to be compared in terms of present (well, recent) purchasing power. Thus in 1971, \$1829 would buy as much as \$3561 does today, and whereas in 1974 we held \$23 of your money (in today's terms), we now hold little more than \$10.

-----W-J.

CLUB PROJECT 1977-78.

WALHALLA TO TOM GROGGIN

The eight stages of the proposed full traverse of the Alpine Walking track to the New South Wales border are:-

Stage 1	7-9	October, 1977	Walhalla to Thompson River
" 2	28-30	October, "	Thompson River to Mt. Skene
" 3	18-20	November, "	Mt. Skene to Knobs
" 4	10-12	December, "	Knobs to Mt. Speculation
" 5	27-30	January, 1978	Mt. Speculation to Mt. St. Bernard
" 6	24-26	February, "	Mt. St. Bernard to Cope Hut
" 7	10-12	March, "	Cope Hut to Mt. Wills
" 8	23-28	March, "	Mt. Wills to Tom Groggin

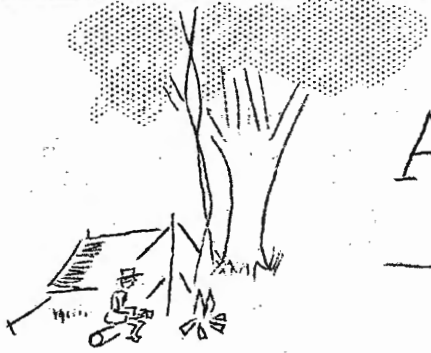
Note: Stage 5 is the Australia Day Week-end

" 8 is Easter

It is proposed that the track notes generated from the walk together with photographs and other relevant data will be published by the club.

Graham Mascas

Walks Secretary



ALONG THE TRACK

FROM BROADFORD TO YEA -- THE ART TERRY WAY.

I'm still not quite sure how it happened. Perhaps the moon and the planets were caught in a cosmic dance of great significance. I know not, but for some strange reason I awoke early one cold Sunday morning and made haste to catch a train to Spencer St.

We choofed along to Broadford quite happily, although a wisp of apprehension was perhaps in the air. Art and Norm were the "professionals", both having made the 30-mile trip in a day at least twice before. Andy was along also, but it eventuated that he went his own way. Geoff, Simon and I were the novices, never having run more than a couple of miles at a stretch before and now preparing to spend one hectic day running and climbing as though the world was about to end.

Art had described the trip as a "run-climb". He was right. If you weren't doing one, you were doing the other. Art has said, quite cheerfully, that we would welcome the climbs as a break from the running. As it turned out, the climbs all seemed remarkably steep and long, and the running was done as though the Hound of the Baskervilles was gaining on us. Lunch was a scant 10 miles from Broadford, on top of Lone Tree Hill. With an 11 a.m. start, we were happy to make the spot just before 1 o'clock. The country in between could benevolently be described as undulating. After lunch, the fun started - up towards Mt. Marianne and the Yea Spur. By 3 o'clock, the leg muscles were complaining a bit, but we all seemed to be running/climbing well. Mt. Jimmy was our next objective, apparently close. More undulations, a descent, a rest, a jog for miles (it seemed), and then a long climb. The party was spread out a bit now, but we were all still moving. Mt. Jimmy finally, near dark.

A beautiful sunset on high, to cap off a day of sunshine and blue skies. Even the creeks had been kind to us. But we weren't at Yea yet, and Norm was muttering about the country in between. Black and cold now, moving carefully, up and down. A million fences, all of them difficult. A light, a farmhouse, a road, the school. Find a tap and have a wash. And then the last mile, legs threatening to cramp.

We dined on flavoured milk and sundry warmed-up things, before walking down the road to the bus. "One of your blokes is already on," said the driver. And there was Andy, sitting in comfort. He wouldn't divulge his movements but we suspect sleight of hand.

The novices sat in the bus, looking at each other with thankful amazement. We did it. Indeed, we did, and in perfect weather. The 30-mile expanse of country unfolded grandly for us all day. Thank you Art for a memorable experience.

Michael Griffin

AN EASTER CAROL (the tune is obvious)

On the first day of Easter
My leader gave to me
Wet feet and total misery.

On the second day of Easter
My leader gave to me
Too many snowfalls
And a roaring fire to rouse my lethargy

(Cont.)

AN EASTER CAROL (Cont.)

On the third day of Easter
 My leader gave to me
 Three hours of sunshine
 Another two besides that
 Arda total lack of drive or energy.

On the fourth day of Easter
 My leader gave to me
 Four games of frisbee
 Three games of cricket
 Too slow a pace for Graham -
 A president who acted sheepishly.

Major Grippe Yarfeet (Tunesmith and Gentleman)

AUCTION

BRING OR BUY

BRING ANYTHING YOU WANT

BUY WHATEVER IS AVAILABLE.

DON'T RESTRICT YOURSELF TO BUSHWALKING GEAR.

AN AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CLUBROOM ON
 WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY OF ANY ITEMS WHICH ARE
 BROUGHT IN FOR SALE. TIME: 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ALL ITEMS CAN BE INSPECTED ON THE NIGHT.

THE CLUB WILL RETAIN A COMMISSION OF 10% ON TOTAL SALES.

Bob Douglas

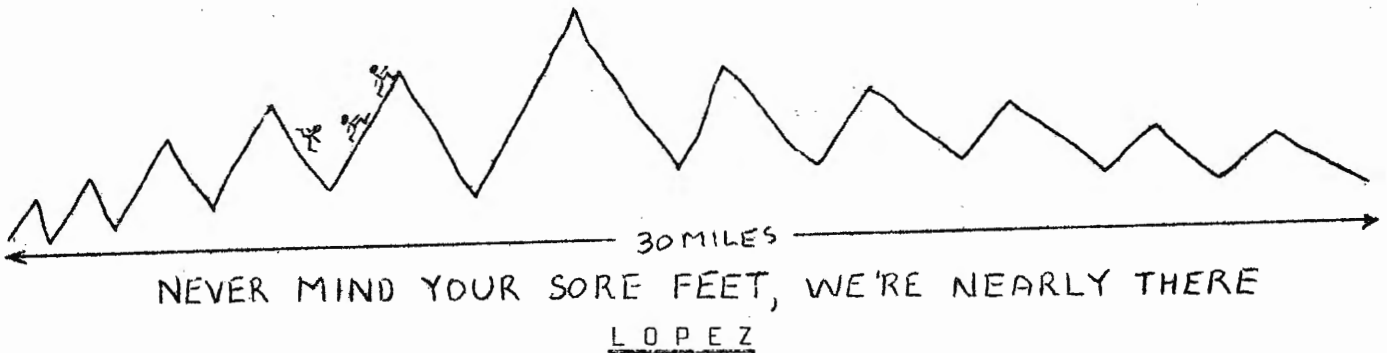
Auctioneer.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME

DEDMAN, David -- 2/53 Andrew St., Prahran, 3181. (B) 429-2922
 GREY, Margaret -- 2/27 Pakington St., Kew, 3101. (P) 861-7708
 GRIFFIN, Margaret -- 70 Rowson St., Boronia, 3155. (P) 729-1361 (B) 669-2219
 HALLAM, Catherine -- 2 Begonia Court, Blackburn, 3130. (P) 878-5990
 HUNT, Pamela -- 2/41 Margaret St., S. Yarra, 3141.
 PFLUGER, Irene -- 18 Blendan Av., St. Albans, 3021. (P) 396-3030.
 SCHNEIDER, Ivan -- 8 Derby St., Camberwell, 3124. (P) 822603 (B) 827374

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

CHESTERFIELD, Debbie -- 168 Eglinton St., Kew, 3101. (B) 60-1617
 JOYCE (nee Wilkinson), Jacqueline -- 27 Liston St., Burwood, 3125.
 LAMBETH, Pam and Trevor, -- 2 Aminga Court, Croydon. (P) 723 2355
 (B) Pam 500 431 (B) Trevor 651-1361
 LITTLE, Roger -- 7/10 Fitzroy St., Geelong. (P) 052 22-1230
 NUGENT (nee Richy), Lorraine 33 Arthur St., Fairfield, 3078.
 ROKSI (nee Thompson), Marjorie & Henry -- 1/1366 Dandenong Rd., Oakleigh.
 STEEL, Bob -- 15 Laird St., Croydon, 3136. (P) 725-6171.
 STRAPPAZON, Alma -- 10 Midway St., Midway Point, Tas., 7171.



On their latest trip to Wilky, the Wilky Manager and President became snow-bound. These and other newcomers to the high plains regions decided to ignore the signs of snow on the ground on Referendum Day and drove their cars from Wilky out to the Omeo Road. During the Saturday night a bit more snow fell and the cars were covered by a snow drift. The various attempts to retrieve the cars failed and they faced the prospect of having to go through the winter without their cars, and more or less abandoned the cars on the Monday, and made their way back, via a bus trip, to Wodonga and a train trip to Melbourne.

A few days later the cavalry (in the form of a snow plough) came to the rescue of the cars by ploughing its way up the mountain from Falls Creek. Upon hearing that their vehicles were virtually free of the snow they made their way back up to Wilky and retrieved their vehicles. The cars survived better than the drivers.

The snow of the first week in June provided a bonus for Max Casley when he did a second preview for his walk near Spion Kopje. Max's car broke down when he went to preview on the 29th May and decided to go on the following Tuesday. The Wednesday arrived and Max did the preview in the snow. Upon hearing about the snow on Max's walk, Graham Hodgson recovered his ski-boots from the pile of items to be auctioned on July 6. Graham was lucky that the auction wasn't on June 1, or else he would have had to buy his old boots back to wear on the walk. Needless to say, the day of the walk was nice and sunny.

While Max was leading his walk, Ross was previewing his walk, and at lunch when Lopez was rummaging through his pack to get his choofer; he uncovered half a vacuum cleaner - what was he trying to do? Suck up gossip from along the track?

The dinner-dance at Emu Bottom was enjoyed by the small group who attended. There was a lamb cooked on a spit and everyone had a feast. Simon discovered the pleasures of dancing and was seen waving his hands around. Hugh had nearly everyone creating high pitched shrieks by rubbing their wet fingers around the top of the glass. With about thirty glasses singing at different frequencies the noise was unbelievable. With the heat in the woolshed quite a few went outside, quite often (to escape the heat they said).

Congratulations are in order to Alex and Margaret Stirkul on their marriage.

One of our prospective red-headed young leaders recently became separated from the party - if you can't follow the leader, how do you expect to follow a map? On the same walk the leader prepared a fruit-salad cheese-cake for Saturday night's dessert.

Best wishes to Tony Morris who will depart Australia on 4th July for a four months tour of Europe, using a U rail ticket, and returning home via America. How about a card or letter Tony? We would like to hear from you.

GENERAL MEETING: Please note a G.M. 29th June, at 8 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP LIST.

A membership address list will be published in the next issue of 'News'. Please notify Sylvia, membership secretary, (B) 24-6546, by 22ND JUNE, if your address or telephone number has changed recently and you have not already had this amended. Advise Sylvia if for any reason, you do not wish to have your business and/or private telephone number listed.

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS CLUB CONTACT SYSTEM

The Club has three 'CONTACTS', one of whom is sure to be at home to receive or give information in case of delay to any party, emergencies, etc.

Leaders of all Club walks must report in to the Contact immediately on return. When necessary, leaders should inform the Contact of the cause and nature of delay or emergency and the action to be taken.

Members, before leaving on any walk, must leave phone numbers of the Contacts at home so that people anxious about their non-return can get information from the Contact. They must be urged not to ring the Police from whom newspapers can get notes that lead often to unnecessary and damaging publicity.

Members leading private walks should inform the Contact of persons in the party, intended route and expected time of return, and should report in on return.

Failure to use this Contact System causes inconvenience to the Contact (who waits up for reporting-in), anxiety and confusion to people at home and harmful public criticism of walkers.

LEAVE THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION AT HOME

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In case of delay to a party on a Club walk the leader will try to inform the Contacts of the cause and nature of the delay and the action being taken.

People who are anxious about members' non-return should ring the Contacts in the following order till one answers.

DO NOT RING THE POLICE who will know nothing of the party's movements and from whom newspapers often start damaging and unnecessary publicity.

CLUB CONTACTS:

- 1. Graham & Sue Errey
- 2. Geoff & Jenny Kenafacke 29 4667
- 3. Rex & Sue Filson 883 683

The same applies to private walks involving Club members.

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GUIDE TO WALKS STANDARDS

BLUDGE: Gentle stroll, lots of rests, long lunch, swimming, non-qualifying walk

EASY: Easy walking, ample rests, long lunch, not too many ups and downs

EASY/MEDIUM: Harder walking, ample rests, moderate ups and downs

MEDIUM: Consistent walking with moderate ups and downs, rests

MEDIUM/HARD: Consistent walking, hard ups and downs, with rests

HARD: Fast walking, difficult terrain, long distance, not too many rests

TOUGH: Hard consistent walking, few rests, long hours and mileage, over rugged country

NB These comments are meant only as a guide; you should always check the standard with the leader before attending a walk.