



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 357

APRIL 1980

Price 20¢

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DONT BE A

DONKEY

PAY YOUR SUBS.

If this donkey has a

RED NOSE

this is your last copy
of "NEWS"



Subscriptions are

MEMBERS OVER 18
JUNIOR MEMBER 16-18
HUSBAND AND WIFE
VISITOR (ON ALL WALKS)
NEWS SUBSCRIBER

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\$ 5
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\$ 1
\$ 3

NOTICE - GENERAL MEETING

BI-MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL , 1980

8.00 P.M.

IN THE CLUBROOMS

14 HOSIER LANE

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COMMITTEE NOTES - APRIL 1980

Meeting held at 6.00 p.m. 2nd April, 1980.

CORRESPONDENCE - NATMAP proposes publishing a special map at 1: 100,000 covering the Snowy Mountains, including Kosiusko National Park and Tingaringy National Park (including Cobberas)

TREASURER - Bank balance - \$4151.39. Accounts totalling \$1207.72 were passed for payment.

WALKS SECRETARY Attendance for February; 178 - 65 visitors, 113 members; 148 day walkers and 30 week-end walkers. Profit of \$63.60

MEMBERSHIP - now 168 financial members.

SOCIAL SECRETARY - A few events coming up, including Spike Milligan, Yarra boat trip etc. see elsewhere for details.

'WALK MAGAZINE - possibility of a couple of bad debts from advertisers.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT - next clubroom clean up 7th May.

EQUIPMENT - not getting a lot of use.

NEXT MEETING Monday 5th May, 1980 at 7.00 p.m.

DUTY ROSTER 16/4 - Jan Llewellyn and Rod Mattingley.
23/4 - Lyn Muirhead and Sandra Mutimer
30/4 - Graham Hodgson and Max Casley
7/5 - Libby Quarterman and Prue Hardiman.

Correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 17510 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 7.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

MAY - WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

- MaY 4th LONGWARRY - LABERTOUCHE MEDIUM
- LEADER: Stuart Hodgson
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 9.15 a.m.
- For details see leader in the clubrooms.
- MAY 11th FALLS CREEK - MEADOWS HILL - TALLAROOK (SEYMOUR AREA) MEDIUM
- LEADER: Max Casley
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 9.15 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Tallarook 1:50 000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 14 km.

We will start near the old Granite Railway Station and walk up Falls Creek to the reservoir for lunch. The water looks muddy so bring drinking water. On the preview, the reservoir had been almost emptied, but with any luck it will be full again so the (fool) hardy can swim. We will stroll up the rest of the way to the top of the plateau and then walk westwards along the edge of the escarpment with good views north over the Goulburn River. Finish will be at Tallarook if favourable terms can be negotiated with the property owners.

- MAY 18th WARBURTON - LA LA FALLS - CEMETERY TRACK - EASY/MEDIUM
BACKSTAIRS - WARBURTON.
- LEADER: Rob Ayre
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 9.15 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Gembrook 1:50 000 National Mapping or
Gembrook 1: = 1 mile Forest Com. of Vic.

This will be a circular walk beginning and ending at the milk bar (because the pub isn't open on Sunday). We have tracks all the way and only one big climb. After a stroll through the outer 'suburbs' of Warburton we follow a foot track through a ferny gully to the pleasant (but not dramatic) La La Falls for lunch. We then climb up to Cemetery track and follow jeep tracks along the ridge top to the Backstairs Creek Gully, then follow a foot track through the Gully back into Warburton.

- MAY 25th HANGING ROCK - STRAWS LANE- CAMELS HUMP - CHEROKEE EASY/MEDIUM
- LEADER: Les Kriesfield
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 9.15 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 6.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Lancefield 1:63 000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 6.5 miles

The Hanging Rock - Straw Lane - Camels Hump - Cherokee walk is no longer the Hanging Rock - Straw Lane - Camels Hump Cherokee Walk. Instead it is the Barringo - Cherokee - Camels Hump walk as civilisation between Hanging Rock and Camels Hump is too intense.

Surprisingly enough the preview turned out to be very pleasant with grey kangaroos, birds and open forest to walk in for the first third. There are no tracks this section but the ground is open and so there is no bush bashing.

DAY WALKS CONTINUED

We continue along the hill contour with our pleasant thoughts and company until civilisation in the form of open country necessitates a detour onto the road. Then it is over a hill into bracken jungle.

At one stage I thought I was a goner like a fly in a trap, the bracken and vines were so dense. However, I obviously survived to reach a ridge road, on which we stay for the rest of the trip through open land, forest and pines - which except for the occasional view is all rather boring - especially the pines. The crowning glory is a short climb up a Camels Hump for one last farewell view before a tiring drive to Batman Avenue.
Easy walk - bring water for lunch.

WEEK-END WALKS

MAY 10- 11

FRASER NATIONAL PARKEASY/MEDIUM

LEADER: Neil Priestley

TRANSPORT: Bus from Batman avenue 9.15 a.m. Saturday.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: Alexandra 1:100 000

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 11 miles.

For those slack and/or weak weekend walkers this is it! even though it means carrying a big pack.- During the preview the weather was hot and the water very embracing!

After lunch on the Saturday there is a two hour downhill (300m) stroll to camp and sunbathe with the local hordes of kangaroos on the boundary of the National Park beside Mounteneer Creek.

Sunday will be following a walking track above high water level in the National Park to Cook Point (very easy!) and to loosen up the system we will take in the views over Eildon Weir by climbing 300 m back up to the main ridge (Skyline Road) over Mt. Blowhard.

Suggest boiling water for drinking and to carry some particularly on Sunday and it may be necessary to observe any fire restrictions at the time.

Please note! The walk is not as shown on the walking program, but will leave Batman Av. 9.15 a.m. on Saturday May 10th.

MAY 23 - 25TIMBERTOP - DUNGEON GULLY - EILDONEASY

LEADER: Graeme Thornton

TRANSPORT: Bus from Batman Av. 6.30 p.m.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.30 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: F.C.V. Mansfield 1:63 000

Mansfield 1:50 000; Buller 1:50 000

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: with packs 20 km + side trips.

At last! an easy walk with something for everyone.

* For the Royalists, come and see where Bonny Prince Charlie sat and contemplated nature.

*For the Republicans, see the nature of his contemplations.

*For the Sentimental, see the Governors (mountains that is) from a restfull distance.

*For the Hedonists, enjoy the foothills of one of Victoria's nicest mountain regions.

Saturday will be spent exploring around Timbertop and some nearby mine sites. Camp will be only a little way down the Howqua from Sheeppard Flat as the leader is kind to people struggling with full packs - particularly if they are laden with goodies for him.

Sunday is a gentle stroll along the Howqua to the bus. Any spare time will be spent around Lake Eildon or testing Devonshire Teas in Mansfield.

Bring a day-pack and water bottle for Saturday. Long pants advised.

WEEK-END WALKS CONTINUEDMAY 31 - JUNE 1 SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE

S & R DELEGATE: Graham Mascas.

To all S & R members and all those others who would like to know just what S & R entails this is the week-end for you.

Leaving at 7.00 p.m. from Batman Av. on the Friday evening we will travel by coach to Anglesea. Saturday will be a day of demonstration, discussion, learning how to use police radios, etc.

Sunday we will have a practice search where you can experience all those things that go wrong in the field.

Come along it should be interesting and good fun, quite the opposite of the true thing.

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A DAY WALK FOR THE DISCERNING BUSHWALKER

Highlights of Club walks during the past year are combined in this superb day walk.

MOUNT USELESS - TRAIL BIKE No. 2 TRACK - GARBAGE GULLY - PIDDLE CREEK - TRAIL BIKE TRACK.

LEADER: Any Volunteers?

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 6.15 a.m. (Please note early start!)

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: We may not.

MAP REFERENCE: There are no reliable maps of the area.

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 40 km (walk may be extended if the party is a fast one)

We commence our walk with an invigorating climb of 2000 m through dense hakea and blackberries. Bring your wildflower guide, binoculars, and copy of 'What Bird is That?' - you may not need them, but every self-respecting bushwalker should practise carrying a heavy pack. If there is time for lunch, it will be taken on the top of Mt. Useless - there are no blackberries here, but you should bring something to sit on, as protection against the large bull ant population.

After the possible lunch break, we will retrace our steps to the start of our walk, whence there is a short road bash of 7 km along a dirt road (watch out for trail bikes). After 7 km we take to the bush again and make a steep descent to Garbage Gully. Afternoon tea may be taken in the gully, but you may prefer to while away the time studying the various varieties of leech. Please sit very still in order not to disturb these fragile little creatures. You will learn a lot just by watching them. They are a rare and endangered species, and part of our heritage. Once the leeches in the area begin to increase the surplus population may be used to recolonise other areas.

We now follow Piddle Creek for 10 km. through thick scrub. It is likely to be very muddy, so remember your gaiters. After 10 km. we retrace our steps along the creek and up the hill to Trail Bike Track. A short and pleasant stroll of 7 km. will bring us back to our starting point and the van. Please bring water for lunch - it may be all you have time for!!

WHAT TO TAKE ON THIS WALK

Valium, Aerogard, gaiters, dimp, Codeine, tweezers, shellite (in case of ticks) water, purification tablets. It is assumed that walkers will at all times have in their pack a compass, whistle, waterproof pen, string, torch, waterproof matches, candle, gloves, balaclava, 3 extra jumpers, full set of waterproofs, toilet roll and Prayer Book.

Penny Stapley

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for helping in holiday camps for partially handicapped children. Please contact Ros at Noah's Ark Toy Library on 529 1341

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PRUE'S PAGE

APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL

Tuesday 22nd of April

" SPIKE MILLIGAN AND FRIENDS "

at the Comedy Theatre 8.00 pm

***** Tickets only \$8.50 (only a few left)

***** Ring Prue for bookings

MAY MAY

and now for something completely
different

THE YARRA RIVER BOAT COMPANY PTY., LTD.

How would you like to sail down the Yarra on the good ship "Saona" ?

When : Saturday May 3rd from 12.00 to 3.00pm

Where: Starting at Princes Bridge at 12.00 midday

What to bring: Bring your own grog , lunch (Bar-B-Que facilities on board) and cassette tapes.

Supplied on board: Toilet, hot and cold water, gas barbecue, tapa deck and a piano.

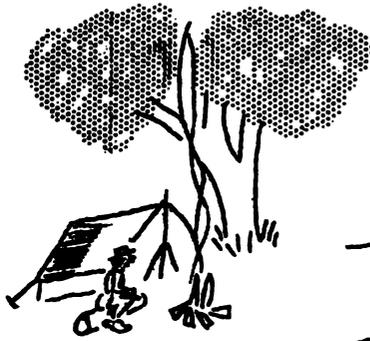
***** Ring Prue to secure your place on board. A small fee will be charged for the three hours of fun and laughter.

----- and later on the Yarra banks!

May 7th (Wednesday) at 8.00pm

Slides by Rob Harris of the skiing trip to the Snowy Plains led by Ken McMahon last Winter.

Come along and psych yourself up for this years skiing *****



A LONG THE TRACK

EASTER ON THE DARGO HIGH PLAINS

Last month I posed the question "What does Graham have in store for us on his Easter Base Camp" we were a little apprehensive when he briefed us on Good Friday Morning: "We have to cross the Crooked River twenty two times today". But all went well - we did cross the river frequently but only got wet feet twice. That was the first of four glorious days - good weather, magnificent country, pleasant companions; in all a memorable trip. Many thanks, Graham

AND ALL IS... EVEN!!!

Rob Ayre

EASTER TRIP IN THE VICTORIAN ALPS

Those of you who did not join Ian Hargreaves' Easter trip in the Victorian Alps missed not only an excellent, enjoyable trip through marvellous mountain scenery, but also several unforeseen episodes which added extra spice to the whole walk.

1st day Howitt Rd. - Macalister Springs - The Crosscut Saw - Mt. Speculation. Ian Hargreaves became ill shortly after the start and lagged behind. Although dizzy and feverish, he caught up with the rearguard of the rest of the party near Macalister Springs. Since it was impossible for him to continue, he turned over the leadership to Peter Bullard and headed back to the cars with Jackie. The rest of the day was uneventful and camp was made at Mt. Speculation as planned.

2nd day Mt. Speculation - Mt. Despair - Viking Saddle. Apart from some slight difficulty in finding A.W.T. markers on the Razorback side of Viking Saddle, the days walking was uneventful. It was only after the campsite was reached at about 4.00 p.m. that the exit went started. Ian and Liz set off immediately to look for water while Peter and Cynthia searched on the western side. The rest of the party plus two others, Mike and Leonie, who were doing the same trip independently, pitched their tents and then set off on the eastern side; the western side having by now been pronounced dry. Meanwhile Ian, who had left Liz to wait in the gully while he went further down, had found good water about 1000 feet below the saddle and about 1 mile away from it. He then returned to the campsite via a steep spur arriving at about 5.45 p.m. After being informed that Liz was probably still waiting in the gully for him to return, he went down again and met the others who had joined up with Liz. Liz returned to the saddle getting slightly lost in the process, and Ian showed the others where the water was. He then headed back for camp along a different spur to the one he had followed before. Since it was now after 6.00 p.m. the light was getting bad, and he ended up becoming lost on the lower northern slopes of the Viking. He eventually arrived at the campsite at about 8.00 p.m. having homed in on shouts and whistles from Liz and Lothan, two very bright camp fires and torch flashes.

In the mean time, the others were trudging slowly, by torch light, up a very steep spur through fallen timber back to the saddle which they reached exhausted, at 9.00 p.m. a round trip of about 3½ hours. Leonie managed the miraculous feat of carrying water in a covered metal dish with only minor losses.

ALONG THE TRACK CONTINUED

3rd day Viking Saddle - Barry Saddle - Wonangatta River

This day provided a respite from anything really out of the ordinary, although there was some trouble finding the A.W.T. markers where the track left the Viking and descended to Barry Saddle. The markers were plentiful where the track was obvious and missing where it was not.

4th day Wonangatta River - Dry River - Howitt Road.

We made an 8.00 a.m. start so as to get back to the cars early in the afternoon, and all went smoothly until near the end of the 3000' climb up from Dry River to the Howitt Road. Ian, who shot off up the spur in an attempt to reach the top without stopping, arrived at the Howitt Rd. at about 1.00 p.m.. The others together with most of another party returning from Bryce's Gorge, must have eaten too many fermented blackberries on the way up Dry River. This is about the only explanation for them turning off on to an unmarked track near the top of the spur, and heading off down another spur back towards the Wonangatta. The two outsiders of this unintended side trip realised their mistake and made a U-turn, collected the other deviationists who had made the same error independently, and arrived at the Howitt Road at about 4.00 p.m.

In the meantime Mike and Leonie arrived at the Howitt Rd. with news of where the others were, and Ian and Mike walked to the cars and drove back to cut down any further time losses.

This walk is a very apt illustration of Murphy's Third Law of Bushwalking which reads:- If you have four consecutive days of fine sunny weather in the Victorian Alps, then something has to go wrong!!.

Ian Stewart

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LABOR DAY WALK: LILYDALE - OLINDA CREEK - MOOROOLBARK

Meeting 'under the clocks' proved somewhat of a jam what with the Moomba multitude already assembling for the parade and crowding the steps, even before nine o'clock. I fear Leslie and perhaps one or two others may have missed the train because of traffic disruptions due to the barricades. However, 17 left Lilydale, briskly stepping out under the promise of a perfect day, they spurning my offer for morning tea at one of the cafes, and in 10 minutes we were out in the open country side of Olinda Creek Valley, where, after only covering a couple of kilometres, were too ready to flop down on a summit. Later a dachshund, so diminutive that you couldn't hear it bark as it wagged its little stick of a tail tried to tag along. Go home and dozen voices cried. Two brown eyes implored in vain then dropped dejectedly, as did the twiggy tail, and the mobile sausage curled around on itself and went back.

I made the party wait as I cleared with special equipment blackberries from the track down to the creek crossing, and being first across enjoyed observing who did and those who didn't help the girls over. Lunched in the dappled shade of a streamside reserve, weaved through a jungle of acacias, climbed a hillside forest and we were at the house of Algona - the home of those handy bushwalking guides. Here the party flung themselves down on the 'sit down place' and presently John and Gloria appeared and we had a good long yarn together. It was explained that the red sign on the Brownlie front gate is a Sanscrit symbol denoting the Rhythm of the Universe. John told us of the light railway, relics of which we had walked along earlier. It was worked by gravity, taking timber down to the lime kilns at Lilydale. In the end the whole mountain side was denuded; the trees under which we rested were only about 30 to 40 years old. Recently Lilydale Shire bought the creek valley in order to develop it as recreational open space. On leaving we were shown a pleasant track through the forest (fairy orchids grow here) and John and Gloria escorted us to as far as the O'Shannassy pipeline - which eventually brought us into Mooroolbark.

Athol Schafer.

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

I would like to remind you that these items of equipment are available for hire:-

- TENTS - 2 1 person Hiring fee \$1.00 Deposit \$2.00
 2 2 person
- SLEEPING BAGS - 4 down (various standard of quality)
 2 acrylic Hiring fee \$1.00 Deposit \$2.00
- WEEK-END PACKS - 4 Hiring fee \$1.00 Deposit \$2.00
- DAY PACKS - 2 Hiring fee 50c Deposit \$1.00
- GROUND SHEETS - 4 Hiring Fee 50c Deposit \$1.00
- BED ROLLS - 2 Hiring fee 50c Depoist \$1.00

Do take advantage of this facility and encourage others especially new comers to do so.

Sandra Mutimer.

WILKY NOTES

This winter will be the busiest ever at Wilky as it will be occupied for 8 weeks continuously, plus the odd week-end. This compares with only five weeks use during each of the last few winters.

Locker space for food and grog is thus only just sufficient.

Unfortunately, some members have had difficulty in fitting in to a week that suits them. Next year, if any more people wish to use Wilky in winter we will have to consider giving members priority over non-members. The best way may be to accept bookings from members only up to say the end of March after which non-member friends can then book in. Please let me have your thoughts on this suggestion.

The new 9 kg. dry chemical fire extinguisher is in residence and the wheelbarrow is waiting for someone to take it up.

Major jobs that will need to be done next summer are replacing the fence on either side of the slip rails with a cow-proof fence, and painting the kitchen and re-covering shelves.

Rod Mattingley

ADVERTISEMENTS

<p><u>FOR SALE</u> \$15 (or n.o.)</p>	<p>Pair of X-country skis Splitkein (wooden) 210 cm. including bindings (one heel plate missing)</p>
<p>\$8 (or n.o.)</p>	<p>Pair of aluminium ski poles Too short for me so they would be O.K. for someone around 5'8" or 5'9"</p>
<p>Bob Douglas B. 630 7827 H. 489 7232</p>	

<p><u>WANTED</u></p>	<p>1 or 2 person walled japara tent in usable condition. Paddymade or similar.</p>
<p>Graeme Laidlaw. 874 3883</p>	

<p><u>WANTED</u></p>	<p>Person(s) to mind a 2-bedroomed house and 3 cats from 19.5.80 to 30.9.80 Location in South Caulfield near tram, train and racecourse. Rent: Nil.</p>
<p>Allan Kitchener. B. 419 7055 H. 578 3942</p>	

<p><u>FOR SALE</u> \$15</p>	<p>Japara, size LB (Large Boys) as new condition.</p>
<p><u>Walking boots.</u></p>	
<p>\$25 ea.</p>	<p>1. "Rossi" Size 4½ Hardly worn.</p>
<p>2. "Diadoa" size 38 Good condition</p>	
<p>Christine Lauder 699 1037</p>	

NOTICE A member of this Club had his bicycle stolen from outside the Clubrooms on Wednesday 2nd April. He had it chained to the railing, but the chain was cut with bolt cutters.

SO BE WARNED IF YOU BRING YOUR BIKE TO BUSHIES

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REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28th March

The Conservation Council of Victoria is an alert and active group which is attempting to spread the word about the conservation of Victorian resources by persuading the 'non-converted' to join the fight. Some of the issues which it is concerned with are:- The Alps, and Grampians National Parks; Alcoa's Planned Portland Smelters; Planning Controls in Building and Development; the Environment Protection Authority Draft Air Policy; Protection of the Orange-Bellied Parrot at Port Wilson; Salinity; The Harold Holt Marine Reserve; Toxic Waste; The Use of Nuclear Power in Victoria and Con.Serving Energy Usage.

In order to make its name better known to the public and to stimulate awareness in these issues, community service announcements are being prepared. One about the Alps is currently being shown and others will be "National Parks Are For Ever"; A Conserver Society Theme; and Wetlands.

Pamphlets such as "Who Cares About the Garden State?"; "Conservation and Environment"; "Swamplands"- Their Ecology and Importance" and "Conservation and the Individual", and others are available from the Council's new premises The Victorian Environment Centre at 2nd Floor, 419 Lonsdale Street. Ph. 602 4877

Individual Supporter membership, \$5.00 is also available.

Successful publications such as "Seeds for Change"; "Pumpkins, Poisons and People" and "What State is the Garden in?" do provide valuable income for the Council. Copies of "What State is the Garden in?" are available in the clubrooms for \$3.00 instead of the usual \$4.50.

On 4th June (The eve of World Environment Day) Harry Butler is to speak on "Harry Butler - Almost in the Wild" at the Camberwell Civic Centre. Tickets will be \$2.00 and \$4.00. There will also be stalls in the City Square.

Sandra Mutimer.

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WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Tim JEFFREY, 1/6 Kinkora Av. HAWTHORN, 3122. H. 97 7509 B. 60 0701 x 3873
 Eve KINNER, Unit 26/1A Gladesvil Blvd., PATTERSON LAKES, 3196. H. 772 2929
 Gilbert OATS 13/241 Williams Rd. SOUTH YARRA, 3141. H. 24 8524, B. 609 4636
 Zoltan JAKAB, 8 Elm Grove, BALACLAVA, 3183
 John STEDMAN, 23/31 Smith Str. ST. KILDA, 3182
 Glen SANDERS, P. O. Box 36, PARKEVILLE, 3052. H. 329 9163.

Would all members please notify Libby Quarterman **PROMPTLY** of any change of address and phone numbers at home and business. Thank you.

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Please "post" all copies for "News" in the red box in the clubrooms or sent to Marijke Mascas, 12 Hillcrest Road, Glen Iris, 3146.
 Closing date for May "News" Wednesday 7th May, 1980.

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