

THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition

400

JUNE 1984
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SOCIAL COLUMN

MID-YEAR DINNER - JULY 7th

Come and join us at The Greek Inn (105 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne) for an evening of fun and entertainment. In addition to the food there will be a three piece band, traditional Greek dancing and plate smashing. Cost \$18. B.Y.O.

Hurry, hurry - 75% of the seats have been filled. For bookings see Penny Stapley or Rosemary Cotter in the Clubroom. N.B. A deposit of \$10 is required with each booking.

** Please pay full amount by June 27th. **

FILM NIGHT - 'GRESTOKE - THE LEGEND OF TARZAN' - JULY 3rd

Tickets have been organised to see this film at Russell Street Cinema on Tuesday July 3rd at 8 p.m. \$5.50.

Bookings in Clubroom - see Mick Mann.

VENUE FOR A WINE TASTING EVENING

We hope to organise a wine tasting evening for the chilly winter month of August. If anyone can suggest a suitable venue for 40-50 people, or even offer the use of their house - please contact Rosemary Cotter. (P.S. The subcommittee would organise the setting up and clearing up afterwards.)

JOHN CLEESE MANAGEMENT FILMS

There is an opportunity to see a couple of the films made by John Cleese for management training (there are now over twenty in the series) - Monday evening July 9th. This will not be in the Clubroom.

If anyone is interested see Rosemary Cotter (or phone <u>after hours</u> 481 2205).

Correspondence should be directed to:-

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

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 388 Little Bourke Street, entrance from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

DAY WALKS - JULY 1984

JULY 1st

BARKABOOL HILLS - BUCKLEYS FALLS

EASY & MEDIUM

(GEELONG) (2 walks)

LEADER:

JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 a.m.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: GEELONG 1:50,000; GEELONG 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE: 11 km (Easy); 17 km (Medium)

To the west of Geelong is a range of open rolling hills rising up to 170 metres above the surrounding plains. Along their northern edge flows the Barwon River, lined with magnificent red gums. Closer to Geelong the river flows over the very pretty Buckleys Falls and through a short gorge as a series of rapids. The hills should be a lovely green, the sky a clear blue and the views over the plains to the north extend to the Brisbane Ranges, You Yangs and beyond. Both walks include some hill rambling, some river bank strolling and a good look at the falls. We finish on the Barwon at Queens Park Golf Links, so bring along a frisbee in case one group takes longer.

JULY 8th WILHELMINA FALLS - MURRINDINDI RIVER EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER:

STEPHEN COURTNEY - PHONE (H) 241 2527 AFTER HOURS.

*(The phone No. on the Winter Programme is incorrect.)

TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 a.m.

*Van will be travelling via Canterbury Road. Please

note if wishing to be picked up en route.

There are many walk alternatives in the Murrindindi scenic reserve. The area offers superb mountain forests, lush green fern gullies and creek crossings, plus the beauty of several waterfalls.

A torch and protective clothing would be sensible pack inclusions.

JULY 15th VIEW HILL - MOUNT WILLIAM

MEDIUM

LEADER:

JIM HEDSTROM

TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 a.m. SHARP

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.

The medium section of this walk is on ridges through beautiful country with a number of climbs, some stiff and some not so stiff. It is a true medium walk with, as they say, rewarding views.

We start east of Romsey and finish just below Mt. William. Bring plenty of warm clothing, water and a torch.

Please note. This walk has been thoroughly previewed!

DAY WALKS - JULY 1984 (Continued)

JULY 22nd GLEN NAYOOK - NOOJEE

EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER: ROSEMARY COTTER

TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 a.m.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 p.m.

APPROX. DISTANCE: EASY 11 km; MEDIUM 18 km

The easy walk starts out from the Gleniston Boarding Kennels and heads due east, taking in clear views of rolling farmland with a magnificent backdrop of mountains. Mounts Tooronga and Baw Baw are prominent, as is Talbots Peak. Soon we drop into the Nayook fern glen, with splendid specimens of mountain ash and 12 foot tree ferns. Thereafter we head north-west across farmland to join the dismantled Nayook-Noojee tramway line, which we follow around creek gullies, on embankments, through cuttings, past the remaining trestle bridge (some 21 metres high) and on into Noojee.

The medium group takes off shortly before Whites Corner and climbs steadily up a track (just 4-wheel-drivable), along a ridge to a hill top with views of the Tooronga Reservoir to the east-south-east as well as those mentioned above. Thence down past the kennels to join the route of the easy walk.

JULY 29th BLAIRGOWKIE - SORRENTO - KOONYA OCEAN BEACH EASY

LEADER: MARIJKE MASCAS

TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 a.m.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: MELWAY APPROX. DISTANCE: 15 km

An easy walk along the beaches of the southern Mornington Peninsula. If you are brave you can bring your bathers and go for a swim.

WEEKEND WALKS - JULY 1984

JULY 13-15 GUNBOWER ISLAND (MURRAY) BASE CAMP

EASY

LEADER: PHIL LARKIN - NEW PHONE NO. 813 2271

TRANSPORT: PRIVATE

MAP REFERENCE: 1:63,360 GUNBOWER ISLAND FCV; 1:50,000 KELLY: BARHAM

Central Mapping Authority of NSW

APPROX. DISTANCE: 30-40 km

This area offers the walker one of the largest red gum forests in Victoria, with grey, yellow and black box. The forest provides a natural habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is also one of Victoria's largest waterbird breeding areas, supporting a large number of species, including a variety of finches. The water ways support about 24 species of fish, including large specimens of Murray cod. Also the forest offers canoe trees of the Aborigines and relics of the steamer days. The island has spectacular and numerous waterways, lagoons and swamps for interesting walking. The walk will consist of two day walks, one walking across to the Murray River and exploring the other waterways. So get away from Melbourne's winter ills and enjoy a sunny weekend. Don't forget your cameras, fishing rods, etc.

JULY 20-22 SKI TOURING

MEDIUM/HARD

For details of this trip, see the leader in the clubrooms.

JULY 28-29 SWITZERLAND RANGE - JACK CK. - MT. CONCORD MEDIUM

For details of this walk see the leader in the clubrooms.

LAMINGTON & NORTHERN NSW IN AUGUST HOLIDAYS

WHATEVER

What started out as a vague possibility has blown out to a definite goer. After the terrific trips and terrific weather at the Warrumbungles and Kaputar over Easter and the Budawangs in May, I've become re-enthused and have started amassing more information.

The plan is a two week trip visiting Girraween, Bald Rock, Lamington, Mt. Barney, Mt. Warning and the Gibraltar Range National Parks. The total distance travelled will be about 3,600 to 3,800 km, so be prepared for this, plus a transport cost of at least \$120, more if we fill up cars inefficiently. I envisage day walks with maybe one overnight walk, but this could be optional. The standard will be adjusted to suit those going. At times the group would divide into a harder and an easy group so that everyone can be catered for. The emphasis will be on enjoying the areas.

- JOPIE BODEGRAVEN (489 2221)

WHAT'S ON IN THE CLUBROOMS

JUNE 27 - 8.00 p.m. - SLIDES - SNOW AND SKIING

We need a lot more slides to make up our slide show, so please let me (Jopie - 489 2221) know how many you can bring. The theme will include snow landscapes and alpine mountaineering as well as skiing. Mick Mann will be looking after the slides on the night cos I'll be organising the Geelong walk for the following Sunday. I'm sure we'll get together a jolly good slide show so come along and see what others get up to in winter.

JULY 11 - 8.00 p.m. - GUEST SPEAKER - PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE BUSH

Royston Larkin is a professional medical photographer with a long time interest in and thorough knowledge of his field. He will speak about the practical aspects of using a camera in the bush, including picture composition, lighting and camera care. This will be followed by questions which can be on any aspects of photography.

JULY 25 - 8.00 p.m. - SLIDES - PERSONALITY SLIDES

Keep them short of libellous or hard core pornographic please! Let me know how many you can bring to show.

AUGUST 1 - 8.30 p.m. - SLIDES - BUDAWANGS (SOUTHERN NSW)

This is primarily for those who went to the Budawangs in May to see each other's slides and will probably be disorganised, with duplication and dud shots. However, anyone else who is interested is, of course, most welcome to be there. Also anyone with slides of other Budawangs trips is invited to show them.

AUGUST 29 - SLIDES - YOUR SIX BEST SLIDES

We'll need contributions from almost every camera buff in the club to get at least 120 slides to show. Come and give others the pleasure of your best shots.

OTHER EVENTS

We're trying to get a speaker on first aid in the bush and also organise a film showing of appropriate films borrowed from the State Film Library. Stay tuned.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN FIRE ECOLOGY?

A talk on this subject will be given in the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Clubrooms on July 5th. The speaker will be Andrew McMahon who lectures at Latrobe University and is a specialist in this field. The talk will be supported with some slides. The VMTC meet Cnr. Albert & Powell Sts., East Melbourne, Thursdays, 8 p.m.

SOLOMON ISLANDS SOJOURN

In the two months we have been here in the Solomon Islands, we have been to six of the seven provinces, in connection with my new job. The climate is really enervating until you get used to it, and that takes about two weeks. It's incredibly humid and as I write this the sweat is trickling down my ribs. I thought that coming from Australia, the heat would not bother me, but breathing was like sucking air through a warm, wet tissue and I got a good dose of heat stroke about two days after arrival (heat of the mid-day sun, etc.). Still you get used to it and the nights drop down to an incredibly cold 24°C and one night I even needed a sheet on the bed. It rains an incredible amount, large warm drops of rain with no wind, usually, and 30 minutes later the ground is so dry you get dust from the side of the road.

The islands are incredibly beautiful from the air. Vivid, dense green vegetation so prolific it runs up power poles and along the power wires, creepers and vines all fighting for light and room. No piece of ground is uncovered, everything grows and grows. There are quite high mountains, 4000 feet to 8000 feet and very, very steep, with dramatic ridges etc. and deep gorges but very often obscured by clouds. It's most frustrating to see these wonderful mountains and be unable to visit them. The usual reasons are - (1) there are no roads in the interior, so any walks take days; (2) There are almost no villages in the interior, so no food can be bought; (3) except for some town lands, every piece of land, every tree, reef, river, etc. is owned by some tribe or, rarely, by a group of individuals and families. No National Parks, no forest reserves, no crown lands. So everywhere you go off the road, you have to ask permission and camping is just not done. I don't know why, but it's just not customary. Most villages have leaf rest houses but you need an introduction from a family member or from the government or whoever. People are curious about strangers but somewhat wary. They have very close-knit lives in their villages and even when they go to town, they stay with relatives, friends, wantoks (for P.N.G. hands), even sophisticated, educated, well-travelled people. They move within a network of relatives and friends, and it rubs off on the Europeans here, too. (4) Another reason is the climate and the lack of knowledge about various areas and places and ways of getting there.

Most travel is by canoe with outboard motor, or inter-island plane. The coral reefs and the colour of the sea are like a Hollywood South Pacific movie, almost like a film set. We have been diving on the reefs a couple of times and it really is gorgeous. The Solomon Islands are not really a tourist place because most people are not yet interested in making money from tourism and, with virtually no roads and canoe travel quite unpredictable, it's quite difficult to get around. Luckily my job entails a lot of travel but, even though it's government-arranged, it's pretty rugged at times. There are walking holidays here, arranged from Melbourne, but you would need lots and lots and lots of time. It could be very good if the organisers had lots of recent experience and knowledge of local conditions and you got used to the climate quickly. The local people vary from island to island but are nearly always very smiley, very polite, laughing, cheerful, with a good sense of humour. They really do enjoy life and are proud of their customary ways and not prepared to change unless the benefits are tangible, provable and worthwhile to them as a group or individuals. There is not much change for change's sake!

We miss the Australian bush a lot, especially the mountains, and sitting around, etc. etc., and we miss Greek food and cakes. Beer is always Fosters, C.U.B. or XXXX, and most families have 9 or 10 children.

COMMITTEE NOTES - MEETING 4/6/84

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Bushgear advising new rental rates for the clubroom. The annual cost will be \$1419 (previously \$825).

A new bus service is proposed catering specifically to the needs of walkers, canoeists, etc., at the "lowest possible rates". The proprietors have circulated all clubs to find out what use would be made of such a service. (Mark Tischler has the letter.)

Treasurer:

Balance as at end May \$12,586.20 (inflated by approximately \$3000 paid in for Marysville weekend)

Bills to be paid \$453.93

Walks:

For April:

Members 195 Day walkers 186
Visitors 50 Weekend walkers 59

Profit: \$238.25

Membership:

Currently 356 (total all categories).
28 new members have joined in the last four months.

Federation:

Presently incorporating under the new Act. Draft rules are being circulated for comment.

Search and Rescue practice 11-12 August Federation Day Walk 15th April

Committee has endorsed seven members for addition to the Federation Search and Rescue call list.

Duty Roster:

June 13 Penny/Winifred

20 Mike/Phil

27 Heather/Athol

July 4 Heather/Robyn

Next Committee Meeting:

July 2.

General

Leaders of walks are reminded that they may refuse any person booking on a walk, if necessary to keep the party size within manageable limits, or so as not to exceed the legal carrying capacity of the van (47 people).

WALKERS' QUESTIONNAIRES

Keep those completed questionnaires coming in. The response has been fair but there are a lot more still to come. Extra questionnaires are available in the clubrooms. Please do your bit to help the club to improve by letting us know what you want and think.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Liz (McKenzie) and Ian Stewart their second daughter, Heather, on 29 April.

on the birth of

NEWEMBERS

Welcome to the following members:

ADCOCK, Maureen 26 Farnham Road, Bayswater, 3153 Phone (H) 729 7043; (W) 875 0409 RILEY, Lynda 24 Prospect Road, Rosanna, 3084 Phone (H) 45 2024; (W) 435 6722

Changes of Information:

BODEGRAVEN, Jopie 57 Park Crescent, Fairfield, 3078 Phone (H) 489 2221 GUEST, Tracey Phone (H) 509 3746 McFarlane, David 227 Elgin Street, Carlton, 3053

JULYNEWS

Closing date for copy for the July News is Wednesday, 4th July. The editor will be very grateful for anything received earlier.

Articles should be placed in the red box in the clubrooms (to the right as you come in the door), or posted to The News Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers, Box 1751Q, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001, or sent direct to me, Merilyn Whimpey, 17 Phillips Street, Coburg, 3058.