

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

A monthly bulletin of matters of interest to The Sydney Bush Walkers,
14 Atchison Street, St. Leonards.

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Meetings at the Club Room on Wednesday evenings after 7.30 p.m.

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OCTOBER, 1972.

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The Half-Yearly General Meeting.

by Spiro Ketas.

Forty members were present at our Half-Yearly General Meeting, apologies from Sheila Binns and Phil Butt. Nancy Alderson stood in as secretary in place of Sheila. Margaret Richards was the only new member present of the four named.

Correspondence absorbed a fair amount of time. The most significant letters were (a) a letter from the State Electricity Commission concerning the erection of a transmission line between Canberra and Dapto, passing through the eastern side of our land in the Kangaroo Valley, "Coolana". Apparently a 200 ft. easement was envisaged and as "Coolana" would not be seriously affected, and as Bill Burke pointed out, that a protest would be futile, general feeling indicated that we consent. (b) A letter from the Tasmanian "Save Lake Pedder Committee" replying to the Club's enquiry as to whether mining leases had been granted in the New River Lagoon - Precipitous Bluff area. No leases had been granted although an application was under the customary consideration. (c) A letter from Kath Brown expressed concern at the lack of sufficient test walks on the Spring Walks Programme. Wilf had approached various leaders in order to upgrade their walks, but without success. Finally letters from an assortment of conservation bodies, some relatively new, either asking for support or notifying the club of their coming activities.

The Walks Report commenced with a very sad tale. Phil Hall's Bank Holiday (August 4-5-7) ski trip ventured no further than Seaman's Hut. The six starters were forced to remain inside until Monday due to bad visibility. Alan Pike's walk was cancelled due to an acute petrol shortage. Peter Levander's Wolgan River trip afforded most spectacular views to its three starters. The party camped on the western arm of the Wolgan after an enjoyable exploratory walk and arrived back at the cars at midday Sunday.

"Snow" Brown's trip on the next weekend attracted 9 starters, although Helen Gray pulled out half-way as she was ill. Snow told the meeting that it was a "beaut" trip - account in last month's magazine. John Holly's Sunday walk in the Royal National Park was a bit scratchy in parts but the presence of many varied and beautiful wild flowers more than compensated for any discomfort.

The following weekend bad weather again marred Wilf's ski tour. The three starters did manage to find accommodation in the "Schlink Hilton" (previously White's River Hut) which was, as Wilf reported, "infested" with people, and the water at Munyang Power Station was also infested. The party became quite ill after drinking same. Max Crisp's Bonnum Pic trip went. Marion Lloyd led a rather uncertain trip. The party of nine had to ward off an attack from a pugilistic kangaroo and a Ranger demanded a permit. Apparently entry to Barren Grounds has been closed for two years for scientific research. Bill Hall's Sunday walk had 35 starters.

The following week both John Campbell's and Marion Lloyd's trips were cancelled due to lack of petrol and sickness. Jim Vatiliotis managed four starters on his ski tour trip and Bill Burke's Barralier trip went with eight starters, but the walk was slightly amended as a visitor's physical condition led to some concern. There were about a dozen on Meryl Watman's Sunday Waterfall to Audley walk. Quite a busy month, 96 members out, not including a trip not reported as yet to the Walks Secretary.

Peter Levander's Constitutional Amendments dealing with the abolishment of Instructional Weekends aroused lengthy and noisy debate. Snow Brown's amendment deleting first-aid instruction on Test Walks was carried and after further discussion the meeting at last carried both of Peter's Constitutional Amendments. It was also decided that a sub-committee be formed to set up a guide line for Test Walk leaders regarding map reading, as it will now be the leader's job to organize map reading and bushcraft instruction on test walks. First Aid lectures will be held in the club rooms.

Wood's Creek was voted as the site for the club's Reunion next year.

Now under General Business the matter dealing with the club room locality was discussed. General feeling seemed to indicate that a move back to the city would be desirable, but a motion that we move to Science House on Tuesday, 17th October was defeated (Wednesdays not available), and it was then decided that the move back to the city should be kept under review.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m.

Tasmania '72 - (Part 2).

by Don Finch.

We left Pelion Huts fairly early in the morning as we hoped to climb both Mt. Ossa and Pelion East on our way. Our stopping place for that night was the newly built Kia-Ora Hut, about 7 miles from Pelion Huts. The long steady climb up to Pelion Gap was quite an effort as most packs still weighed about 35 lbs. We left the packs at Pekion Gap and all climbed up through the dead King Billy Pine trees and clumps of cushion grass. The summit crown of Pekion East consists of cliff and broken rock, which makes for an interesting climb. Back at Pelion Gap we had lunch in the sun on a patch of grass. After lunch part of the party climbed Ossa while the rest lazed in the glorious sun. The cliffs around Ossa are large and foreboding and the cairn route leads through a narrow cleft with high walls either side. While exploring the summit area we found a patch of snow, some of which we put in a plastic bag to show the others waiting in Pelion Gap. After collecting the packs we moved off to Kia-Ora Hut. We had a swim in Kia-Ora Creek and then collected

Barry using his piece of cord tied around a short stick, then by throwing this in the branches dead sticks were pulled down.

The next day we moved on to Windy Ridge Hut where we stopped about mid-afternoon because of threatening rain. Entries in the hut book warned us of a possum who descends the chimney at night even while the fire is still going. Not quite believing these stories we built the fire up before retiring to bed. About one hour later, with the fire still alight we heard the possum coming down the chimney. When he got into the hut he started foraging around the packs and then got into the billys stacked on the table. After half-a-dozen billys and assorted mugs, knives and forks crashed to the ground just about everybody was awake. An array of missiles was hurled in the direction of the possum who was quite unperturbed and stayed most of the night, but at least he was a lot quieter about it.

Monday 21st February the party walked around to Pine Valley Hut in overcast and windy weather, via the forest track. We stayed in Pine Valley for two days, the weather was not good but a day trip was made up the Acropolis. Mist and light rain clouded the view from the top.

Wednesday 23rd we walked to Narcissus Bay on Lake St. Clair and then along the lake track to Oaky Pt. Hut. The next day we continued along the shore of the lake to Cynthia Bay. We washed ourselves and our clothes in the lake and then moved off towards Derwent Bridge. About one mile from the township we turned off along the bank of the Derwent River to a suitable campsite. During the evening we saw a display of Aurora Australis.

The next morning we walked into the town of Derwent Bridge and after refreshments at the local caught the bus to Hobart.

Apon arriving in Hobart town a preconceived plan swung into action. A hire car was organized, notwithstanding a little bit of haggling. Extra food bought and letters and cards were hastily written. After an unsuccessful attempt to talk a fishing vessel captain into picking us up off the south coast, illegal apparently, I managed to hire a bus to meet us at Lune River in two weeks time.

Later in the evening we all piled into the hired Valiant station wagon, that is, seven of us. Fortunately the car was fitted with a roof rack and some of the packs were stored on the rack. Thus laden we moved off to Mt. Field National Park. Mt. Field is a very pleasant place, ideally suited for a night stop over. Lush grass under tall trees, plenty of fire wood cut up and stacked by the ranger, toilet and shower facilities. Huts are also available.

The details of the activities of the next day are quite confusing. Seven more people arrived from Sydney by plane with 260 lbs weight of food. A shuttle service was set up with the car running up miles and giving an incredibly lousy fuel consumption. A base camp was established

at Condominion Creek below Mt. Anne and a mammoth food and gear sorting job started.

Finally the last car load arrived just before dusk. Spiro, Snow and Graham were only slightly affected by their forced three hour stay in the pub at Maydera. The party now numbered 14. They were Spiro Ketas, Snow Brown, Graham Cunningham, Peter Levander, Laurie Quaken, Barry Wallace, Roy Higginbottom, Brian Holden, Bob Duncan, Dot Butler, Bill Burke, Leslie Wood, Heather Smith and Don Finch.

Sunday, 27th February. The whole party left early in the morning to climb Mt. Anne, 4,675 ft., a return trip of about 12 miles and a climb of 3,600 ft. The track from our camp led across a quarter mile of button grass plain and then ascended a clear grass ridge known locally as the 'climbing ridge' leading up to Mt. Eliza. The party soon spread out on the long, slow grind. On the way we passed a party of Hobart Walkers coming down. They were very sceptical about our chances of success and were quite disdainful of our footwear. We nearly all had gym-boots in the style of Dunlop internationals with the tried and tested volley O.C. herringbone tread. The Hobartites were of course in heavy weight boots.

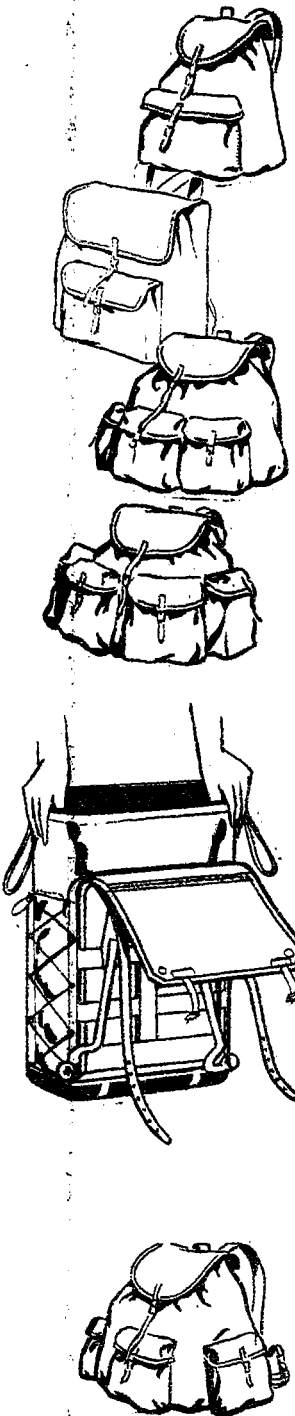
On gaining a level part of the ridge known as the 'high camp' we rested and watered from a small soak nearby. The party regrouped and a couple of people elected to be satisfied with just climbing Mt. Eliza.

From the high camp the climbing ridge, dotted with patches of low scrub and button grass clumps, dropped 2,000 ft. to the button grass plains. Half a mile across the button grass a white slash scores its way for miles north and south, twisting around and behind hills to appear again and again as it continues on its hideous way. This is the Scotts Peak Dam Road. Five miles further across the plain another line twists and turns in random directions - a line of trees and dense scrub, dark green against the monotonous light brown of the button grass plains - the course of the Huon River. Two miles beyond the Huon River lies the bulk of Mt. Solitary with the button grass split in two continuing around each side. Small creeks mark the brown side of Solitary with a flourish of green foliage and small trees. The creeks fade into one another as the distance increases and finally through the haze a corner of Lake Pedder is visible around the edge of Solitary. Further on the Franklin Range marches on into the unattainable horizon. All of this, Lake Pedder, Mount Solitary, the Huon River and the button grass plains will all be flooded in the not too distant future by the H.E.C. with their Serpentine River Dam. Only the white scar will remain with Mt. Solitary an island in a sea.

We left the 'high camp' and started up a steep climb through a maze of broken boulders and small trees that leads to Mt. Eliza. Across a rocky plateau rising into small hills and sprinkled with small tarns and grassy lawns is the route to Mt. Anne. The elevation of the plateau is about 4,000 ft and the views are quite spectacular. 'Lots Wife', a pillar of rock on a ridge, certainly looks desolate and alone. Several lakes can also be seen at the bottom of the huge cliffs that define the

Paddy made

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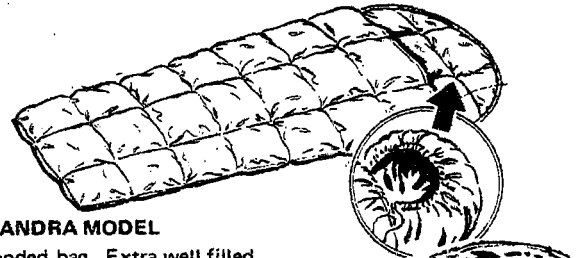
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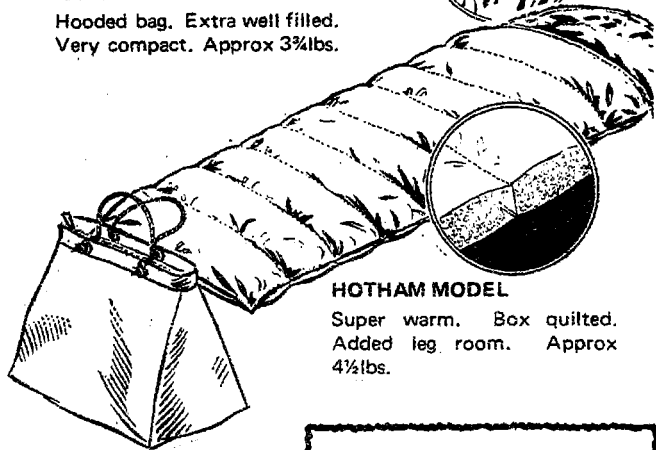
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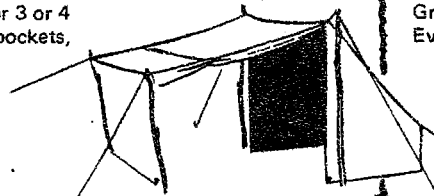
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Paddy Pallen

plateau. In all directions can be seen long and rugged mountain ranges, while about 3 miles distant across the plateau and marking its northern extremity is Mt. Anne.

As we approached Mt. Anne the cairn route led over broken rock and around an immense abyss, then up to the break in the cliffs of Anne at the south west corner. A rather exposed scramble is necessary and a short length of rope would be an advantage to a waning courage. Upon gaining the summit we found it infested with flying ants. We retreated down through the rocks to a suitable spot and had lunch.

Having left the mountain straight after lunch, the party moved at a brisk pace across the plateau. The afternoon sun was quite hot and after a mile or so a large tarn was found suitable for a swim or a dip at least. The girls picked their own pool and dived in, Dot having given her orders on which direction the gentlemen were to look. In the tarn that the gents were using were mountain shrimps, a creature about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, believed to have survived in its present form for 200,000,000 years.

Back at Mt. Eliza we regrouped and then moved off down the mountain. Arriving back at camp in the late afternoon a "billy swim" was enjoyed in the creek. That night plans were made for moving our party of 14 out to the start of the Lake Pedder track the next day. We stayed at Lake Pedder for four days, then the party split up with 6 people going home to Sydney and 8 people going on to the Port Davey and South Coast track. I will tell you about these trips next month.

"BUSHFIRE".

by David Cotton.

Within the next two months the coastal strips and tablelands around Sydney will be in the beginning of the "Bush Fire Season". Frequent rain with warm to hot days will provide additional new growth to increase the fire hazard in many already heavily overgrown gullies and bush areas.

October usually seems to be the main danger month, with drying winds and often warm to hot days, a combination of both creating ideal conditions for bushfires, similar to those experienced during the serious fires of October and November 1968 which ringed Sydney in a continuous circle of blazing scrub, claiming a number of lives and causing an incredible loss of property.

Despite great protests against "controlled burning", this is the only solution. Controlled burning over a two to three year period is more beneficial to the coastal bushland. Carried out on an alternating grid pattern it will not only help preserve our bushland, but will also aid in keeping forest areas free from the leavy scrub which overgrows everything and causes total loss of eucalypt trees and completely destroying

all new eucalypt growth during fires through these areas.

A continuance on this pattern must only result in vast stretches of impenetrable scrub of the lantana variety with lawyer vine and harsh brush etc. Already an example of this pattern is evident at Darkes Forest only 40 miles south of Sydney.

Fire Fighting. An organisation has again been formed for fighting fires in the bush. Whilst it is essential to attack these fires in their incipency, my advice to those contemplating assisting in this form of activity is "don't".

However, if you still wish to assist I have listed a few do's and don'ts together with a list of useful items to take with you.

Essential equipment:-

Safety helmet (wide brim type) is essential for deflecting falling debris and deflecting heat from the face and head.

Safety goggles (preferably of the limited ventilation type similar to those used in chemical spraying work) - to keep smoke, cinders and ash out of the eyes.

Combination overalls, for preventing burns from falling ash and protection from heat.

Strong boots and army type gaiters, bush fire fighting is extremely hard on feet, ankles and legs.

A pair of strong leather gloves may also be of use in removing hot or burning debris.

General Information:-

Bush fire fighting is extremely strenuous work requiring a very high degree of fitness and good health. To keep going a reasonably high intake of food and liquid is essential. Every firefighter should have a rucksack (preferably an old one) containing a thermos flask of hot tea, a packet of sandwiches (8 or 10), a thick woollen jumper, an army type woollen blanket, first aid requirements: i.e. clean gauze bandages, burn cream, eye drops, etc.

When fighting fires, early morning is usually best, always work from newly burnt ground, burn back if necessary. Always work in groups of at least 5 or 6, make sure you know everyone in your group, make sure they know you. Make a responsible, experienced firefighter your leader and do as he suggests and keep together at all times. Make sure there is ample transport out of the area at all times and ensure that the group organising operations is in constant "two way" radio contact with other groups in the area.

In a jam retreat over burnt ground, refuge in a motor vehicle is good, wind up all windows, close all vents, wrap yourself up in your blanket. Most of all do not panic, a lift in wind speed may turn a quiet fire into a raging inferno of terrifying proportions within minutes. Keep out of gorges and gullies, the vortex caused in these areas is unbelievable. The heat developed and the speed that fire burns these areas out is incredible.

Keep out of water tanks. People taking refuge in water tanks have died within three minutes from heat exposure and asphyxiation.

Don't drink water from tankers or knapsack sprayers, people have been poisoned from drinking water from lead lined knapsacks used in spraying insecticides. Most tankers carry a supply of drinking water.

Persons not capable of firefighting will find plenty to do in a fire area, such as first aid work, especially washing cinders and ash out of eyes, "two way" radio work, cooking and preparing meals, making tea and looking after exhausted firefighters.

To all firefighters and helpers, good luck and may God be with you.

PRELIMINARY WALKS NOTICE

22nd December 1972 - 1st January, 1973.

Get away from it all at wild flower time in the Kosciusko National Park.

A through walk from Tooma Reservoir to Thredbo via Pretty Plains, Gray Mare, Valentines, Jagungal, O'Keefcs, Desjacks, Mawsons, Whites River, Rolling Ground, Mt. Twynam, Blue Lake, Watsons Craggs, Lake Albina, Mt. Townsend, Mt. Kosciusko and Lake Cootapatamba, is being planned as a car swap trip.

If there are a number of members who cannot get away till the 25th, an abbreviated 7 day walk in one direction could be organized.

Because of limited hut capacity, it is proposed to restrict the numbers to about a dozen in each party.

To keep pack weights to a reasonable size and also allow a combined celebration of Christmas and New Year, it is planned to provide a dump of food and goodies about half way.

Would those interested please contact Max Crisp, 20,333 Ext.220, as soon as possible, but at the latest by 1st December.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

At the Half Yearly General Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th September, 1972, the following Constitutional Amendments were carried:-

1. "That Section 5, Membership, paragraph 5(eee) reading: 'That the prospective member shall attend at least one instructional weekend walk before making application for membership as set out in sections (f) and (g).' be deleted."

Moved by Peter Levander - second, Bill Gillam.

2. "That the following wording be added to Section 5, Membership, paragraph 5(e):- 'Each Test walk shall include practical map reading and bushcraft instruction'."

Moved by David Brown - second, Peter Levander.

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In addition, the following motions were carried:-

"That a Sub-Committee be set up to make recommendations on the followings:- Map reading and first aid instruction, to be held on monthly Committee Meeting nights; test walk guide lines and map reading guide lines and first aid tests."

Moved by Peter Levander, second, Bill Gillam.

"That the following persons comprise the Sub-Committees:- Peter Levander, John Campbell, Peter Miller, Neville Lupton, Bill Gillam, President, Bob Younger (ex-officio), Walks Secretary, Wilf Hilder (ex-officio), Membership Secretary, Geoff Mattingley (ex-officio)."

Moved by Peter Levander, second, Neville Lupton.

FEDERATION NOTES - SEPTEMBER. by Ray Hookway.Budawangs Road.

The army has closed the Sassafras/Styles Creek road to all bushwalkers until further notice. An enquiry into the use of the Tianjara firing range is being held by the army and the result is not expected to be completed for a few weeks. Meanwhile no access is permitted via the above road irrespective of whether firing is in progress or not.

Federation is watching the position closely and is pressing for greater access in future.

Blue Mountains Gas Pipe Line.

Federation is most concerned about the proposed route for the South Australia/Sydney gas pipe line through the Wallangambe area of the Blue Mountains National Park. The installation of the 3 ft. diameter welded pipe will require wide access roads to accommodate the special pipe handling and welding plant, bridges across gorges, a permanent chain wide easement and will leave a permanent unsightly scar from the Newnes afforestation camp to Mt. Irvine where it will probably join the Bell Road.

Members with any knowledge of this proposed pipe line are asked to contact their Federation delegate.

Federation Ball.

Twenty nine S.B.W. members were among the 350 people who tripped the light fantastic at the 1972 Federation Ball at the Roundhouse. The theme of the Ball was the population explosion and the prizewinning table decorated by the Sydney Rock Climbers depicted The Three Sisters covered with scores of Jelly Baby people. Possibly a taste of things to come. The door prize was won by Sue Brody of Macquarie.

S. and R. Raffle Prizes.

1st prize - ticket 2026 was won by Ian Portise. 2nd prize - ticket 1901 was won by Paul Barnes.

Federation Reunion 1973.

A committee has been formed to organise the 1973 Federation Reunion and its members would welcome suggestions for a suitable venue, as well as ideas for any activities which would assist in making it more enjoyable.

S. and R. Meetings.

The regular monthly meetings of the Federation S. and R. Section are held at Science House in Gloucester Street, City, on the second Thursday of every month. All are welcome and all are assured of an interesting evening. Supper is served. This hall was proposed as a suitable location for S.B.W. monthly meetings, so any members not happy with Atchison Street, St. Leonards, may care to take this opportunity to examine the suitability of one proposed alternative whilst learning a little about first aid or similar activities.

CONGRATULATIONS! - Marion Ellis, back from a tour of England and Europe, a great-grandmother and a member of S.B.W. for many, many years (and still actively walking), was 70 on 23rd October!

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Walks Secretary's Notes - November. by Wilf Hilder.

- (3),4,5 - Uncle Frank Malloy is talking about making this walk a one day walk and joining Marion Lloyd's safari on Sunday. Come what may this interesting navigation walk involves a compass march from Mt. Bedford to North Hill and then Aeroplane Hill (complete with wrecked plane at no extra cost).
- November
- Sunday 5 - Today is Marion Lloyd Safari Day. This historical "walk" involves five stops (by car) to main features and an interesting walk at stop 3 to a ruined coal mine and Cox's original "road" down Mt. York. Book early for this pioneer tour.
- (10),11,12 - Don and Maria's trip is still on - the last of ye Instructional Weekends - and what better place than Burning Palms. Good tracks all the way with steep but well graded 800 ft. climb.
- (10),11,12 - Neville Lupton's classic bike trip has fallen foul of the train timetables - so Neville has suggested that his postponed Ettrema trip (programmed for 15,16,17 September) be substituted. Please ring him for details at 90-6272(H).
- Sunday 12 - Swimming and bombing in Wheeny Creek with Peter Levander. Bit of scrambling into Wheeny Creek with its classic canyon and fabulous rockhopping - a great way to spend a day.
- Sunday 12 - Uncle Sam Hinde guides the pilgrims on this easy stroll to Mt. Westmacott. Good pads most of the way - plenty of swimming.
- (17),18,19 - Ray Hookway leads this 40 kilometer walk to Wolgan Valley - with the biggest cliff lines in old New South Wales. Tracks all the way - with Friday night walk to Rocky Creek base camp. You're in good hands all the way - with Uncle Ray.
- Sunday 19 - Abseiling instruction day - details from Alan Pike or Roger Gowing. Get ready for the canyon season.
- Sunday 19 - Mary Davidson leads this ever popular Heathcote Creek walk. Easy tracks all the way with swimming laid on. Good walk for map reading practice. Special excursion tickets to Waterfall.
- (24),25,26 - "Who'll come cascading the Kowmung with me" sings Uncle Dave Rostron. See the mighty Kowmung Canyon and the fabled Morong Falls. Tracks are scarce but scenery plentiful. Book early.
- Saturday 25 - Trot out the humble pie Wilf's kidding himself again - you don't have to be mad just very strong in the legs and weak in the head.
- Sunday 26 - Kath Brown heads for Burning Palms on this popular Sunday excursion. Good tracks all the way and surfing at the Palms.

NOTE: Sheila Binn's walk, Sunday 29th October, will be led by Kath Brown, tel.81-2675.

Sunday 26 - David Cotton has organised another apiary and cactus inspection at Darkes Forest. David has promised not to go bush on this walk. Free samples of honey for those with a sweet tooth - cactus anyone?

Extra - Late - Final - Stop Press - etcetera. Test Walks - Canyon Walks Rope Walks - Bush Walks - WANTED for S.B.W. Summer Programme. Don't talk about leading a walk, write it down. Wilf says NO reasonable offer refused - B in it!

SOCIAL NOTES FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER.

November 7, Tuesday - THEATRE PARTY at the Old Tote at 8 p.m. A vaudeville entertainment - "How Could You Believe Me When I Said I'd be Your Valet When You Know I've Been a Liar All My Life?" - Tickets \$2.50 - Students (or children) \$1. See Owen Marks.

15th November - Peter Clunas, a member of the Coast and Mountain Walkers will be chatting and KODACHROMING on "National Parks of Western Australia and Other Places". The "other places" being caves in the Nullabor and beaches here and there. It should be quite entertaining if the speaker is anything like his uncle - Sammy Hinde!

22nd November - Sheila Binns is showing more of her excellend slides. Come along and see Scotland as never before!

29th November - Members Slide Night. Come on there - you budding photographers. This night's entertainment depends on YOU. Show us your slides of past and present. (Let's hope Donnie Finch will not show his USUAL slide, but maybe he will.)

18th December, Monday - THEATRE PARTY at the Old Tote at 8 p.m. A light Australian comedy - "Don's Party". Let Owen know as soon as possible as theatre is nearly booked out already. Tickets \$2.50 - Students (or children) \$1.

20th December, Wednesday - THE XMAS PARTY!!!

At the clubroom on Wednesday, 20th December, our long awaited Xmas Party will take place. Slightly different from last year, because this time supper will not be served until 9.30 p.m. This means that from 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. you will be able to join in the dances or talk or guzzle or both.

What to bring. A glass for drinking and a plate of something to eat. At the clubroom a list will be on the notice board and if you write down what you'll bring it will make everyone's choice easier. All guzzle (alcoholic, soft, punch) is supplied FREE.

Elaine Brown will supply all information about the party if you phone her at 93-4830.

Owen Marks, Social Secretary.