

THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKER

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 Rooms on Wednesday evenings after 7.30 p.m.

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JUNE, 1974.

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THE MAY GENERAL MEETING.

by Jim Brown.

President Barry Wallace was away interstate, so it was Spiro in the chair to welcome two members who had actually been admitted a month or so previously, but only now being greeted officially - John Redfern and Tom Wenman. Following reading of April's minutes, Alex Colley outlined the support being sought for preservation of the Boyd Plateau country, including providers of transport and meals in addition to those "actively" passively resisting. There was a mite of doubt whether S.B.W. is a listed affiliate of the Australian Conservation Foundation and our status is to be examined.

In a meagre budget of correspondence there was an appeal from the Hobart Walking Club for assistance in the construction of additional shelter near the King's property on the S.W. Coast. It was agreed that this question would be further discussed in June after which voluntary contributions may be sought. The Treasurer's statement explained some ups and downs in our working funds - the ups resulting from some bonds disposed of late in the 1973-4 Club year, and the downs including fairly heavy expenditure in April, including a batch of magazine covers, leaving us with \$942 in the kitty.

So the meeting came to a Walks Report commencing at Easter, when Bob Younger's scheduled visit to the Colong area was cancelled owing to a combination of fuel shortage and bad weather in the previous few days. However, Joe Marton took 16 to the Warrumbungles, where 2½ day walks were done, and David Rostron with party of 5 were venturing over Jagungal, Grey Mare and Valentine Falls area, the leader suffering something in the nature of a slipped disc on the way to Mt. Tate on the last day. Bob Hodgson reported on a trip conducted by Phil Butt with 11 starters in the Snowball - Woila Creek country, with a nice variety of steep, knife-edged spurs and pleasant valleys. The party found mushrooms (or were they mushrooms?) about 1 ft in diameter.

The following week-end, like so many this past summer and autumn, was wet. Hans Beck's party of 3 in the Cox - Galong area was "almost washed away", while Tony Denham's Upper Grose River trip went in very damp conditions. Wilf Hilder's lengthy day walk around Gerringong Falls was postponed, and John Holly reported that the seven folk on David Ingram's Hoathcote Creek trip found the country "soggy".

On the mid-week Anzac Day holiday Joe Marton had no less than 18 people up at Katoomba and walking by 7.30 a.m. Showery conditions slowed the progress towards Mt. Solitary but by limiting the lunch halt to 30 mins they reached the western crest and returned to the cars by 4.0 p.m. Sam Hinde's project for the same day was cancelled.

For the last April week-end there was Jim Vatiliotis' Clyde River trip - again under clammy conditions which prevented an ascent of Talat-crang, though a fine Sunday allowed the party of 10 to bag Pigeon House. Supplementing this was a leisurely camp with strolls from the Grey's

Woodhill Gap base, where 12 people in the hut on Saturday night produced what Don Matthews styled "Lower Slobbovia". A day trip on Sunday was the latered form of Gladys Roberts' "autumn colours" excursion at Mt. Wilson, with 3 people, while Bill Hall escorted 13 on a day jaunt in the Hacking River territory over a route which varied a bit from the original plan.

Commencing May's outings, Spiro (party of 6) found moist conditions again, with mist along Boyd Range and a wet camp at Mt. Colong. Improved conditions on Sunday saw the party at lunch on the Kowmung below Cambage Spiro and to the cars about 6.30 p.m. Alastair Battye and team of 10 also had mist and rain accompanying them to the Budawang's where, as a result of delays on Saturday, ascent of the Castle was abandoned and Monolith Valley was the limit of penetration. It was not Barry Wallace's week-end - he sustained a sprained ankle and collided with a kangaroo on the drive home. The Saturday trip was apparently a non-goer, and there were 17 along for the day jaunt to Kanuka Crock and back on an increasingly scrubby ridge from St. Helons.

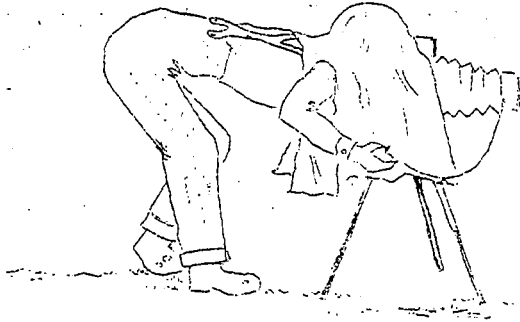
Federation doings were reported in the previous magazine, but arising from Council's decision to seek opinion on its organisation, Kath Brown asked that our delegates should be given some instructions and suggested that members who had definite opinions on the operation of Federation should comment. This brought several speakers to their feet to say that Federation had once been an important voice in conservation matters, but with the formation of other organisations whose whole raison d'etre was conservation, its significance had paled, except in the S. and R. aspect. It was proposed that, instead of monthly meetings, Federation Council should meet only twice a year, leaving management sub-committees to handle the rest of its affairs. It was recognised this would need a major review of Federation's Constitution, if adopted, and also some amendment of our own charter. At this stage it was accepted we should not instruct our delegates immediately, but should obtain a more comprehensive view of Club opinion at the June General Meeting before defining our proposals. Spiro also notified his resignation as a Federation Delegate.

Peter Downs referred to activities of sand and gravel mining firms in the Ebenezer area and moved we write to the State Pollution Control Commission supporting the opposition voiced by local Preservation Societies. This was carried, and with the sands running out for the May meeting we retired at 9.50 p.m.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: As follows:-

Full members	\$7.00 p.a.
Married Couples	\$9.00 p.a.
Full-time Students	\$3.50 p.a.
Non-active members	\$1.50 p.a.

* * * * *

MUCH ADO....

or

CAMERA OBSCURA.

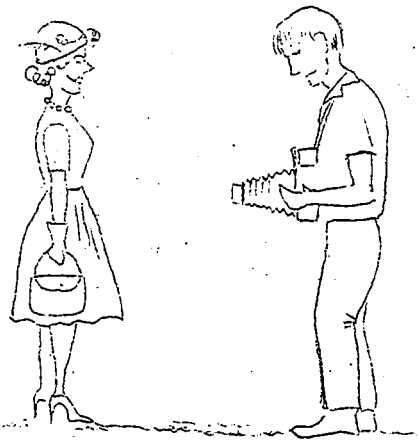
by Don Matthews.

Illustrated by
Helen Gray.

I know I'd read it somewhere, and tonight I found the photographic newspaper wherein I'd read it. "Yellow filter" (it said) "gives better tonal quality to outdoor portraiture....." (amongst the many other qualities it imparts to panchromatic film).

I took my zoom lens to the Reunion, and particularly to the damper competition, and I put the yellow filter on. George, who knows about these things, and whose judgment I respect, said, "What, you've got a yellow filter? You'll ruin them." Perhaps he thought I was using colour film. Anyhow, the picture of him saying it as he raised a piece of damper towards his mouth, was the best of the bunch, yellow filter or not.

This comeback to photography has its drawbacks. Once I had a pre-war second-hand camera, and knew by experience what would or would not be worth a shot - black and white, of course!



I missed the colour craze, and now I'm madly in pursuit of black and white perfection again, but this time with a plethora of gadgets which are irresistible but of doubtful value.

I mean, either you're an artist or you're not! There's a great deal of variety in those shots I took of the damper competition. Some are clear and bright, some are a bit hazy - almost fogged, you might think. Of course, I took quite a few from a fair distance away,



Turking in the high grass and zoom-ing in looking for the unposed posture.

"Was the haze due to the heat from the ashes of the campfire?" I mused. "Was George right about the filter? Was it camera shake from the strain of holding up several kilograms of camera? or was it a combination of the dull, flat light and lack of contrast due to the thirteen elements of the lens, coated though they might be?"

Regardless of the quality, there are some quite interesting expressions. More than that, seeing that I've known most of the victims for a long time, there are some downright spot-on, typical, it-couldn't-be-anyone-else expressions that give me a great deal of pleasure.

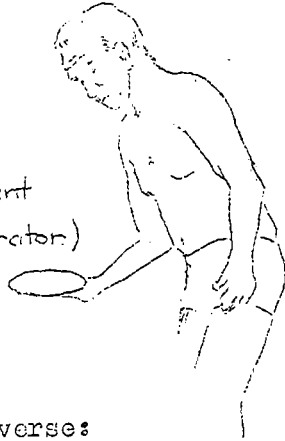
Then, of course, with a Zoom, you can vary the depth of focus and accentuate the main subject, whilst reducing the others to a non-disturbing blur. My aunt, who takes perfectly clear pictures with a plastic-eyed box, does not approve. "Look," she said, "only one out of four of those people is sharp."

This could cause problems. For example: Snow Brown is in focus, but the back of Spiro's head is not. Will Spiro be willing to stand relative obscurity for the sake of art? I'll have to wait until a rogues gallery night, and then pin them on the notice-board. And perhaps next year I'll slip in a roll of colour film. Perhaps I should have a second camera. Now there's an idea! Meanwhile, if you can't gaze upon these artistic masterpieces at a slide night, at least you may read and wonder at the verse which accompanies the prints which for a few weeks at least, will adorn the wall of our spare room.

They are glued onto a piece of butchers paper and are appropriately

titled. This is necessary. Bill Burke, for example, is not about to hurl a discus,

(Apologies to Bill,
and to Don's excellent
photo, from the illustrator)



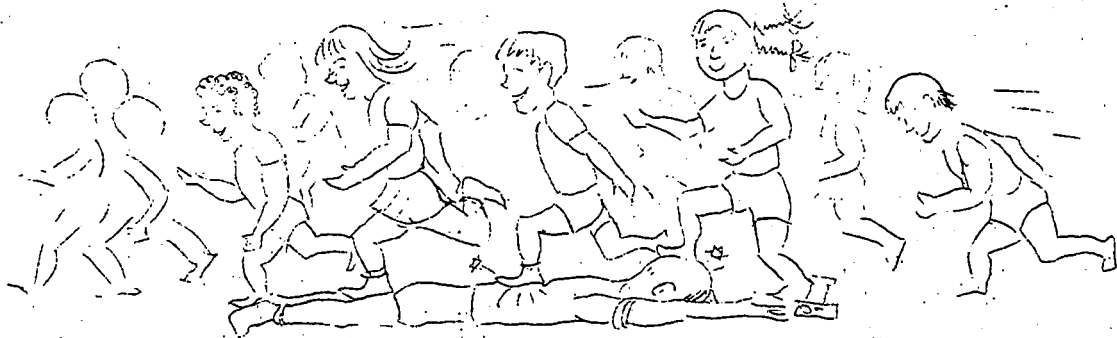
He is admiring the crust
of a damper.

Oh, yes, the verse:

"This tattered document I sometime found
A relic of an episode profound,
A record of some prehistoric rite
Wherein the celebrants first rend, then bite.
A substance from the ashes, wrapped in foil,
The product of much craftiness and toil.
A strange and powerful remedy, perchance?
A nostrum which may very well enhance
Athletic prowess, even illness hamper.
What's that! It's just an ordinary Damper??"

And now I must prepare for my next project, which is the local primary school Walkathon. Think of the challenge - three hundred kids all coming out through the gate at once.

If the shutter doesn't jam, and if the wind-on mechanism doesn't slip, I'll tell you about the results next time.



YERRANDERIE.

by Ray Hookway.

The first white man to enter the Yerranderie area was Ensign Francis Barallier.

In 1802 Governor King sent Barallier to find a route over the Blue Mountains. To circumvent a regulation that soldiers were not permitted to go exploring, King sent Barallier on an "Embassy to the King of the Mountains".

Some confusion exists regarding Barallier's exact route, but investigations by Elsie Mitchell in 1938 indicate that Barallier reached what is now Yerranderie on November 24th, 1802, crossed through Byrnes Gap, proceeded down either Church or Cedar Creek, along the Kowmung and up Middle Christys as far as Barallier's Falls. He then turned back, not knowing that he was only about 4 miles from the Kanangra plateau and a crossing of the Blue Mountains.

His explorations, however, led to a steady stream of squatters who settled along the Nattai, Tonalli and Wollondilly rivers.

Silver was first discovered in 1871 by Billy Russel and Billy George, at a spot later to become the Fildsworth Mine, two miles east of Yerranderie Post Office.

The first mining title was issued in 1874 and by 1885 about 20 leases had been issued but little mining done as transport difficulties made it uneconomical.

The main Yerranderie lead was discovered by John Viga Bartlett in 1898 and by the end of the year about 80 men were engaged in mining in an area of about 500 acres.

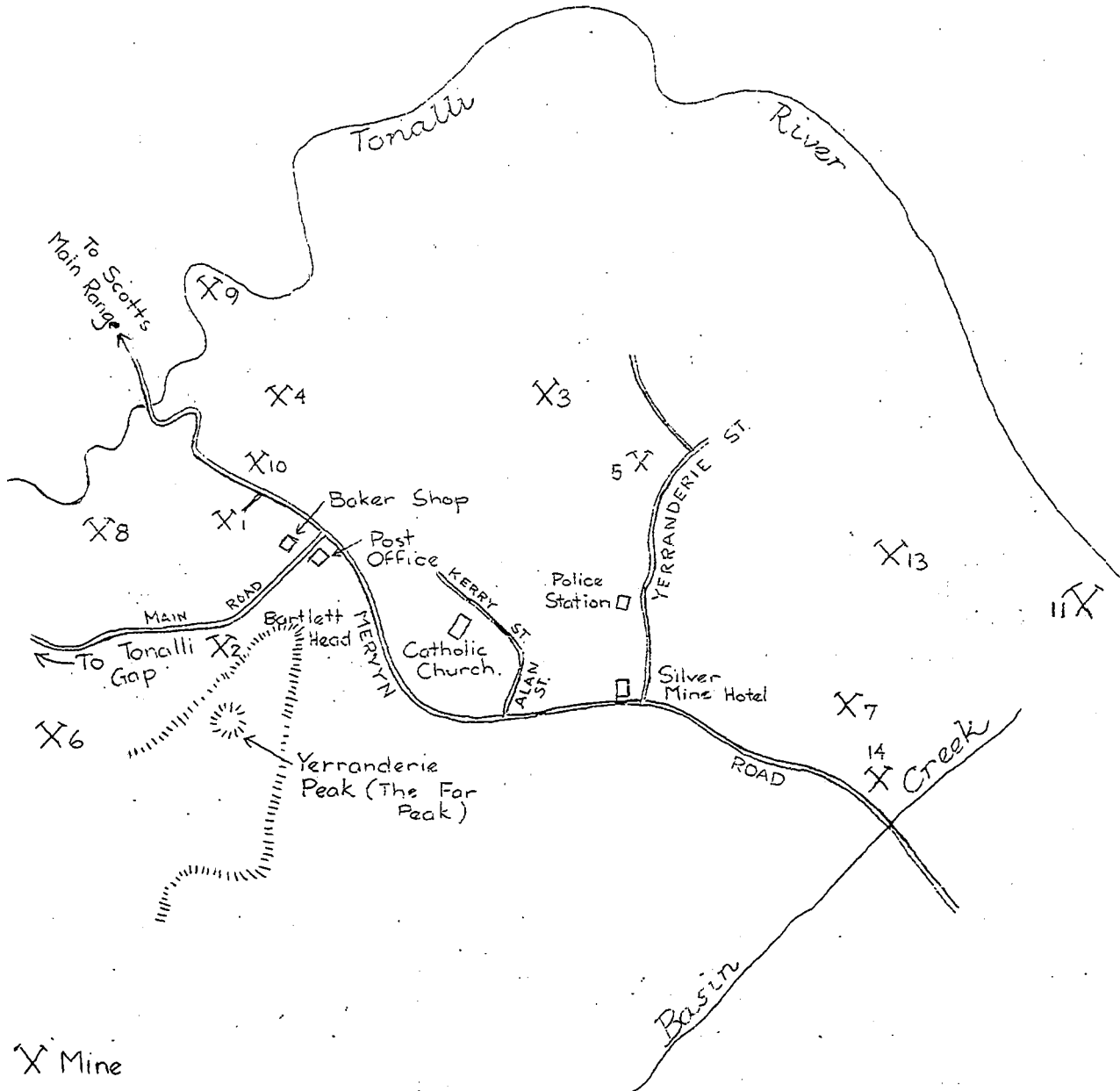
One sample from Bartlett's St. George lode assayed 3000 ozs of silver to the ton (silver was 24 c oz), and a Mr. Webb Mackie recovered from 60 tons of ore, 3420 ozs silver, 20 tons of lead (\$25.05 a ton) and 6 ozs of gold (\$7.75 an oz), a total of \$1,352. However, returns were patchy and the total return for Mr. Bartlett in 1898 was only \$1,600. Between 1898 and 1921 Mr. Bartlett's Colon Peak Mine produced nearly \$1.5 million in silver.

The record of this mine was unique as practically no capital was raised during its life, all costs being met from the ore won.

In 1908 the Wollondilly Mine (later the Yerranderie) employed 351 men and the ore output was 7402 tons, having a value of \$228,058. A peak in ore output at Yerranderie was reached in 1910 and by December 1914 the main two mines had exhausted their first grade ore. First grade ore was hand selected and dressed underground, second grade ore was concentrated locally by gravity methods. Because of selective mining first grade ore comprised 50/60% of the total.

Up until 1925 when motor trucks were introduced ore was shipped to

YERRANDERIE SILVER FIELD



X Mine

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Colon Peaks (Bartlotts) | 8. Coffey's |
| 2. Silver Peak or Borchblock | 9. Piece of Pork |
| 3. Wollondilly | 10. St. George |
| 4. Wonga | 11. Feldsworth (off map) |
| 5. Burragorang | 12. Myall Ridge (off map) |
| 6. Great Western or Nevada | 13. Silver Star or Terni |
| 7. The Silver King | 14. The Great Peak |

Camden, 42 miles, by waggons drawn by six or more horses, thence by rail to the Sulphide Corporation smelter at Cockle Creek. In 1922 when this smelter closed the mines were forced to ship their ore to Port Pirie in South Australia. In 1914 there appeared enough second grade ore available for the Government Geologist to propose a railway to Yerranderie from Picton Lakes, and surveys were undertaken, but in 1916 the then Government Geologist warned that mineral prospects could not warrant the expenditure and the project was dropped.

At the peak of mining there were 14 mines operating, but between 1923 and 1925 this had dropped to four, Colon Peak, Silver Peak, Wollondilly and Wonga.

The extensive workings on the western side of the Tonalli Gap road belonged to the Silver Peak Mine which commenced in 1904 and in twenty years made \$650,000.

Mine workings were extensive. Three multipair boilers with a total capacity of 300 H.P. drove one surface winch and one underground winch on the main shaft. Fifty tons of material per shift could be handled and 30/40 tons milled in the steam driven hammer and roller mill. Two concentrating tables handled the second grade ore.

Recovery from the mill was 60/70% of the assay value and unrecovered metals left in the slime assayed 10/18 ozs silver to the ton. Most of the mess at Silver Peak resulted from the treatment of the slimes in 1935 to recover this residue.

Mr. Bartlett's Colon Peak Mine which was located about 500 feet N.W. of the rear of the Baker shop had four main shafts. One shaft 700 ft long extended under the Baker shop to a spot S.W. of the Post Office.

All mines closed during the general mining strike in 1929/30 when miners who earned \$10 for a 44 hour week struck for higher wages and a 40 hour week, and from then till 1938 only sporadic mining or treatment of the mullock heaps was carried out. The total production of all mines to 1930 was over \$4 million.

In 1927 there were over 500 people in Yerranderie. Three general stores, a Baker, a Butcher, a Milkman and a Hotel which took up to \$240 in good weeks. (The license was later transferred to St. Mary's.) Three established churches attended to the community's religious needs and crib games, picture shows and dances in the community hall provided entertainment. Fourteen differently pitched mine whistles regulated their working day.

In 1955 a visiting journalist reported a population of 25, all former miners and most on silicosis pensions, and in 1959 the filling of the Warra-gamba Dam spelt the end for Yerranderie.

Many people believe that Yerranderie will live again and that rising metal prices coupled with world shortages will render mining economical. Several recent prospecting leases have been issued and test drillings have been made.

Miss V. Lhuode, a director of Tonalli Mining, who owns 1,100 acres

Paddymade

Lightweight bushwalking and camping gear.

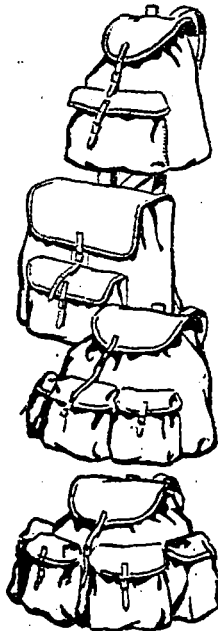
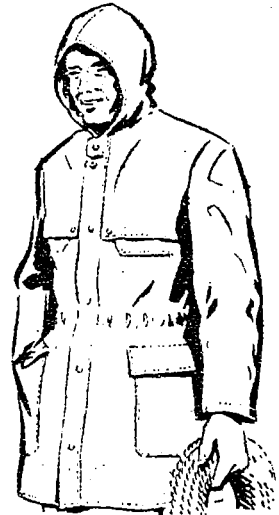


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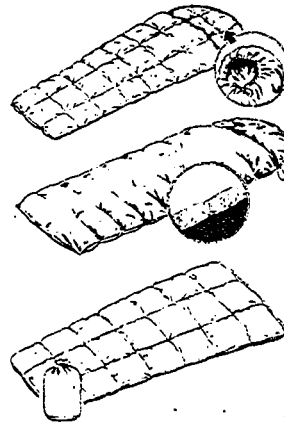
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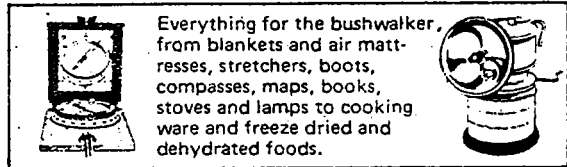
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Paddy Pallen

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of Yorranderic land, including the old Post Office, believes the mines could be re-opened, but has come to believe that this would ruin the fascination of the place. She would now rather see it become an artists' colony.

Bushwalkers who have visited the area will share her feelings.

References: Dept Mines Geological Survey of Mineral Resources No.35
Royal Australian Historical Society Journal Vol.23-24
1937-38

PINERS AT PORT DAVEY.

by Ken Church.

In the year 1875 Surveyor J. Reid Scott read a paper to the Royal Society in Hobart. In his address he described his second visit to Port Davey, where there was a village of timber-cutters engaged in harvesting the centuries-old Huon pines.

Scott's report read, in part:-

"The road from Victoria to the Craycroft is so overgrown and blocked up, that the journey from Hobart Town to Port Davey by that route could not well be made now under four days, and I would not advise a stranger to attempt it at all. On the second occasion I went and returned by water, going down with Captain Lloyd in the "Swansea Packet", and returning with Captain Dominicy in the "Ripple".

The inhabitants were little changed during the four years which had elapsed. I found the same well-remembered faces, and received the same cordial welcome and hospitality as before. The children had, of course, grown up beyond recognition. Doherty, the oldest inhabitant, who has been there ever since 1849, placed a hut at Observatory Point at my disposal, and Captain Lloyd lent me a good whaleboat.

Those at Port Davey settlement numbered about 50, with an isolated settlement at Spring River. The houses at Bramble Cove were now all unoccupied, as settlers moved closer to the mooring-place.

A sad accident befell Mr. George Baker, who slipped from a platform and struck his left shoulder against the tree. There was no chance for nearly a month to get him to Hobart Town for medical treatment, because of the persistent gales which blow in 1866. His arm had withered.

The Davey River has been followed up and the timber cleared until the present beds are reached about eighteen miles up. Doherty, Woolley, and others are working further up; there are numerous young trees growing up,

which should be preserved until they have reached a certain size.

When a vessel comes for a load, from 10 to 18 logs are fastened together to form a raft and towed alongside the vessel at the usual anchorage.

The men are generally employed in pine-getting during February, March, April and May, with occasional visits home for rations. After that they are on constant watch for floods and go up the river to clear down the logs; some are four feet in diameter.

Longley, before mentioned, kept a careful and minute diary for several years, with entries such as the following:-

- 1863, April 3 - Went in the dinghie to a stump to make a fire and boil the kettle for breakfast.
- 1863, April 7 - Log getting; Longley and Doherty cut off a log, up to our waistbands in water.
- 1863, July 4 - Water two feet up the posts of the bunk this morning. Hard to boil the kettle on a stump.
- 1864, Oct. 12 - Took rations to the Badger Box. Water up to our waists.
- 1867, Aug. 22 - Did not go to bed last night as the water was rising until daylight. Hitched the boat to the bed-post.
- 1868, Oct. 6 - Flood over the second step this morning.

And many others to a similar effect.

Longley's diary for the years 1863-1868 will give a fair sample of a pincer's employment.

The huts are covered with bark, with a thatch of grass along the ridge, and are generally 14 x 10 feet at the ground. The sleeping bunk, raised about three feet, occupies the whole of one end, and can accommodate six people easily.

The other end is enclosed by the fireplace, if on high ground; but those in the flats are left open in front, with the floor slabbed.

I find that Longley's time is occupied each year as follows:- 100 days each year up the river felling timber and clearing down; 135 days at work at home, catching logs, squaring, sawing, rafting, and loading ship, repairing boats, huts, gardening; 55 days hunting, fishing, getting mutton-birds; 55 days visiting Hobart Town, including voyage and detentions; 20 days unemployed, being Sundays, holidays, or bad weather. In the season ending June 1864, they got pine logs to the extent of 58,336 feet, the quantity varying each week, owing to track or creek clearing.

The size of the trees recorded also varies much. Logs 10 or 11 feet

in girth are counted large. The average seem to be 6 or 7 feet in girth.

It is a matter for consideration whether the supply of timber should be preserved, and the destruction of the beds prevented, by prohibiting the cutting of any trees under a certain size - ."

WALKS SECRETARY'S NOTES FOR JULY.

by Bob Hodgson.

- 1974
- 5, 6, 7 July - Alan Pike is off to conquer the mighty Guougang, starting from Carlon's Farm. No fears of getting cold on this trip, although the Sunday will be quite leisurely (?) following the grassy banks of the Cox's River.
- Sunday 7 - On his last trip around the Bantry Bay area, Alistair Battye was delighted by the beautiful creeks in that area and vowed he would return and follow one of these relatively unpolluted creeks all the way down to Bantry Bay.
- Sunday 7 - Ocean views galore with Kath Brown on a delightful Sunday ramble from Lilyvale to Otford via Burning Palms.
- 12,13,14 July - This walk is worth every ounce (correction, gram) of the energy that you will expend. Ray Hockway, starting at Bats Camp, will lead you through some of the most scenic spots in the Blue Mountains, to the "Ghost Town" of Yerranderie and back, via the famous Colong Caves.
- 12,13,14 July - Limited numbers only, so book early for this very hard ski tour with Rod Peters. From Guthega Power Station up the Mungyang and north to that mighty edifice Jagungal.
- Sunday 14 - Carl Bock is up to something different again. This time it's a pleasant ferry from Brooklyn to Little Patonga, then a delightful stroll with panoramic views of the Hawkesbury and Broken Bay to Wondabyne.
- 19,20,21 July - As Gough is going to shut down the munitions factories, the army will have to hoard its bullets, so you will be quite safe with Tony Denham on his little jaunt from Sassafres through the firing range into one of the most interesting areas of the Budawangs, using the good tracks to Mt. Sturgiss, then down to Sluice Box Falls and return via Folly Point.
- 20,21 July - Federation Search and Rescue practice. Meeting at the Gordon Falls Reserve, Leura. The search for the "lost" party will take place in the Mount Solitary - Cedar Creek area on Saturday. On Sunday a mock rock rescue will be

M O U N T A I N

E Q U I P M E N T

* * * * *

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staged on one of the Three Sisters.

- Sunday 21 - If you don't care to rescue any mock rocks, Peter Miller will welcome your company, just up the road at Blackheath, on his variety-packed walk down the Grand Canyon and up Govetts Leap, then round the cliff tops back to Evans Lockout.
- Sunday 21 - Margaret Reid leads a sedate stroll from Wondabyne up onto Kariong Ridge, where there are glorious views of the Hawkesbury and Broken Bay. Also many aboriginal carvings are to be found in this area.
- 26,27,28 July - Frank Taeker is at it again, this time it's Faulconbridge Creek that is going to cop the bashing. You will follow the Creek from its source at Faulconbridge to where it becomes Springwood Creek and on down to the Grose River, where it is easy going all the way back to Faulconbridge.
- 26,27,28 July - You shouldn't need any needling to come along on Mike Short's trip to Russells Needle and the Nattai. Mike informs us that he knows a nifty way out of Rocky Waterholes Creek that will save a lot of hard slogging on the way out to Hill Top. 8.47 Country train - return tickets to Mittagong. Please note: Mike's correct phone number and extension is 69-0444, Ext. 513 (B).
- 26,27,28 July - Ski touring in the heart of the Snowy Mountains with Wilf Hilder. A must for the enthusiast. Guthega up onto Mt. Anton, then following the peaks around to Rawsons Hut, then back across the wide open tops to Wrights Creek, then a long downhill slide back to Guthega.
- Sunday 28 - You thought we had forgotten about Royal National Park day trips, hadn't you? Moryl Watman to the rescue with a very pleasant Heathcote to Engadine trip via Kangaroo Creek. Good tracks all the way.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Anyone wishing to go to Bali for 26 days? Nothing organised. Twelve S.B.W. members are interested and we must have 15 to get the cheap air fare (\$335 return). Departing 13th December, Qantas, returning 7th January, Pan Am.

Contact Owen Marks (Tel.30-1827) or Helen and George Gray (Tel.86-6263) as soon as possible. The general idea is to stay in native villages in Government Rest Houses, which are very inexpensive. But you may make any other arrangements you like as long as you travel with the party and are a club member.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

The Club extends its deepest sympathy to Dot Butler on the accidental death last month of her son, Norman.

* * * * *

EUROPE IN MIDWINTER.

(From letters home by
Frances Colley.)

Vienna.

Went on a tour today to the "Romantic Valley of the Blue Danube". First we went to a huge monastery at Melk (?), which didn't look much like a monastery except for a few cloistered walks here and there. Like a palace, it once used to house 400 monks, and now only 45 are there. It was freezing inside - long empty marble hallways. They don't have it heated now and from the lack of stoves I don't think it would have been very warm even at its peak.

We are in the world of the Hapsburgs here - Maria Theresa and Emperor Franz Joseph. Vienna must have once been a very wealthy city when it was the centre of Europe. Now it is rather decayed and like most other European cities at this time of year - very grey and misty.

At any rate the Danube when we got there wasn't very blue. Apparently it is usually frozen at this time of the year, but it is slightly warmer now and so the river was running swiftly. We then went on to a medieval village of Durnstein which had a ruined castle where Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned for two years. The sense of great age and history one gets over here is incredible - something Australia does really lack. We still haven't seen any cities even faintly resembling Sydney with its newness and skyscrapers. Even looking at the map of Vienna it is obvious it is a very old city, as the streets radiate out from the city centre and there are several circular streets going around the city which at one time must have been the sites of the city walls.

Rome.

Went for two tours today and were amazed by Rome - both by the bright, warm sunshine here and all the countless number of ruins which they treat in such a nonchalant manner.

This morning we went to the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel. Only... saw the inside really so have no idea what the outside looks like. The Sistine Chapel was stupendous, incredibly huge and it is hard to believe that Michaelangelo worked for four years on his back with a light attached to his head. The top part of the ceiling looks rounded and I could only half believe the guide when he said it was really flat and it was only Michaelangelo's brilliant use of perspective that makes it look rounded.

Rome is the first city we have been to that is bigger than Sydney - it has four million. The old statues, ruins and such things are everywhere. We saw ruins of the Temple of Saturn, the Temple of Julius Caesar, the Roman Forum - a huge area which was the meeting place for the Romans.