

'What a day! What a party! What a hike!'

**Tasmania's Mystery Train Hikes of 1932
and the Commercialisation of
Bushwalking**

Kirstie Ross
Senior Curator Cultural Heritage
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

14 September 2021

Mercury, 3 September 1932, p. 12



1

**BASKED IN
THE SUN**

**ENGLAND'S RECORD
EASTER**

(SPECIAL SERVICE)

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney) 28
March 1932, p. 5

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.

GLORIOUS WEATHER.

CROWDS IN OPEN AIR.

(Australian Cable Service).

Marlborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett
Advertiser, 29 March 1932, p. 7

**ENGLAND
BATHED IN
SUNSHINE**

GLORIOUS WEATHER IS
EXPERIENCED ON
GOOD FRIDAY

The Labour Daily (Sydney)
28 March 1932, p. 1

SUNNY EASTER.

England's Experience.

(British Official Wireless.)

LONDON, March 26.
Despite the early date of Easter Eng-
land experienced one of the sunniest
Good Fridays in the present century,
and the fine weather continued to-day
in most places. No rain fell anywhere
in England yesterday, and although
the wind was somewhat cold over 10
hours' sunshine was recorded in most
parts of the country. Great crowds
visited all the usual centres.

Brisbane Courier, 29 March 1932, p. 8

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EASTERTIDE.
Fine Weather in England.
"MYSTERY EXPRESS."

LONDON, Saturday. — Despite the early date of Easter, England experienced one of the sunniest Good Fridays in the present century, and the fine weather continued to-day at most places. There was no rain anywhere in England, and, although the wind was somewhat cold, over 10 hours of sunshine were recorded in most parts of the country.

Great crowds visited all the usual centres. The most popular holiday innovation was a "hikers' mystery express," by which Great Western trains, which had to be duplicated, took walking enthusiasts to an unknown destination, which proved to be the lovely country on the borders of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Having provided the route for a walk the trains brought them back from another centre at night.

Burnie Advocate, 28 March 1923, p. 7

Successful Holiday Experiment.

LONDON, Saturday.

PERFECT spring weather assured the success of the "hikers' mystery express"—a Western Railways holiday experiment. One thousand hikers took 4/ tickets from Paddington to a destination unknown until the train started, when they were handed the itinerary, giving the places of call, time of return and maps and plans of rambles through the woods and fields of the most beautiful parts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Another thousand were left behind—bare-legged, bare-headed and carrying sticks and knapsacks. They were accommodated in a second "mystery" train, which was hastily provided. The popularity of the experiment exceeded all expectations. The second train, consisting of 14 carriages, was packed to capacity.

Burnie Advocate, 28 March 1923, p. 1

3

LIEUT. AND MRS MASSIE, Mr. Grace Fortescue, and the enlisted man, A. C. Jones, leaving court at Honolulu after the Kahahawai murder case.



OMAN suffer the effects of poisoning in a house was of by Eastern ce men with on a demonstrated

MELBOURNE has followed England with a "Mystery Express." Hikers' entran for an unknown destination from which they begin their "hike." Issuing tickets in Melbourne.

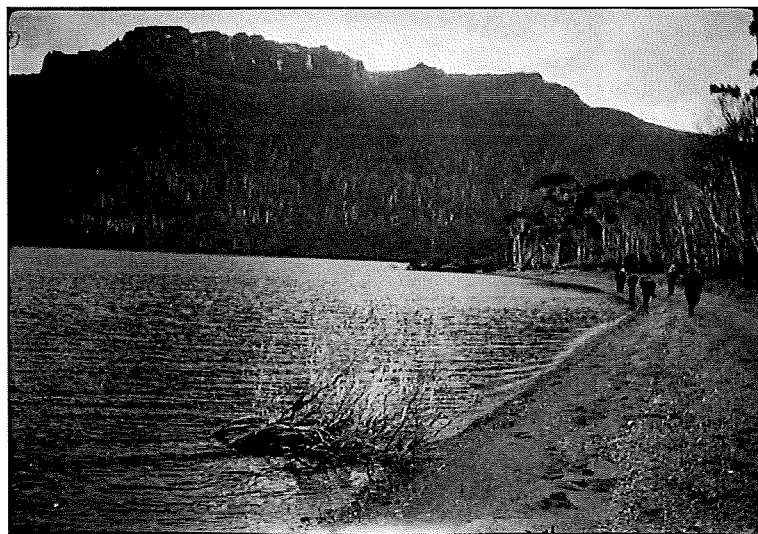
Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 27 May 1932, p. 14

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Hobart Walking Club first outing 30 November 1929, Richard C Harvey (photographer).
NS1029/1/762, Tasmanian Archives, Hobart

5



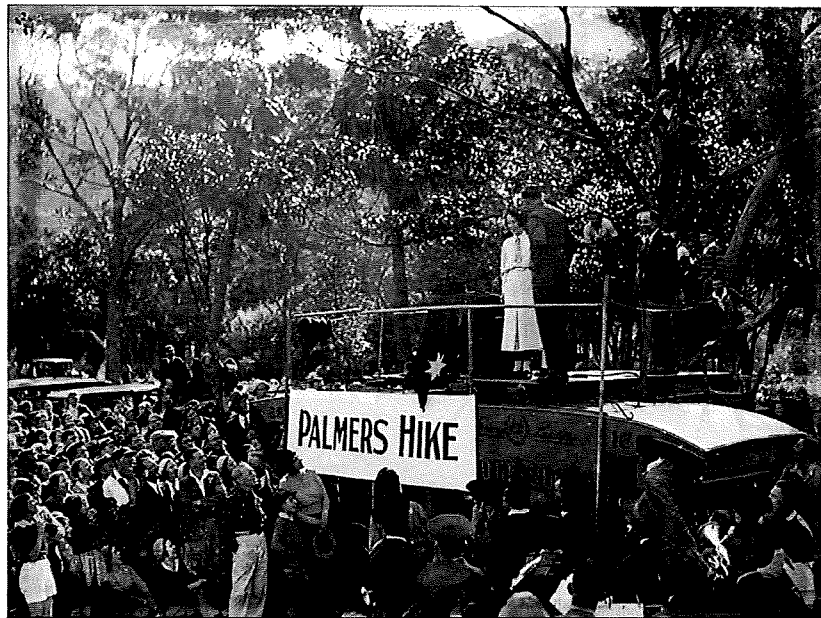
Hobart Walking Club first trip over
Overland Track, 1931, unknown
photographer. NS3195/2/1605,
Tasmanian Archives, Hobart

6



Second Sydney mystery hike, 10 July 1932 (Valley Heights in the lower Blue Mountains along the old Lapstone Road to Penrith). Ref: 94/63/1-57/2. Collection: Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Photographer Tom Lennon

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Wedding of Ivy Springett and Henry Hillier, Palmer's Mystery Hike No. 4, Sydney, 7 August 1932. Ref: [94/63/1-68/6]. Collection: Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Photographer Tom Lennon

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Second Sydney mystery hike, 10 July 1932. Ref: 94/63/1-57/12 Collection: Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Photographer Tom Lennon

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HIKING

"Walk and be healthy" is a good slogan these days, and nothing tones up the system like a good brisk walk on a winter's day.

Here are two very popular styles for present wear:—

Made of soft, warm, cushion, white linen, lined up, light, with rubber soles, extra padding, giving the foot and protecting the feet from cold and wet. Guaranteed to last.

18/6
FREIGHT FREE



18/6
FREIGHT FREE



18/6
FREIGHT FREE

Note Our Address:

JAMES DUNCAN & CO

Launceston Examiner
2 June 1932, p. 11
(right, centre and below)

CRAWS

LADIES' HIKING BREECHES, in Fawn, Gingham and Whipcord, 19/6 and 25/6 pair (at Clothing Department).

GREY ALL-WOOL GOLF HOSE, suitable to wear with same. Special, 1/9 pair.

J. L. CRAW PTY. LTD., Charles-street

Try
LUDBROOKS
For Your
"HIKING OUTFIT"



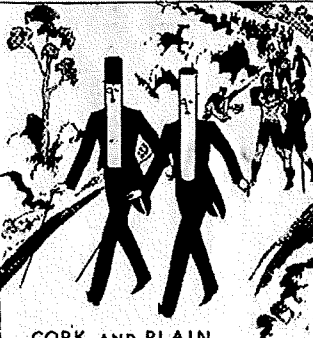

YOU'RE BETTER EQUIPPED IF LUDBROOKS EQUIP YOU

CORK AND PLAIN
the Capstan Twain

'Cork' and 'Plain' went up the hill
With all their friends a-hiking—
While other folk grew tired and stale,
Their freshness was most striking.

10 to 1 it's a CAPSTAN 10/6

NOW CORK TIPPED AND PLAIN

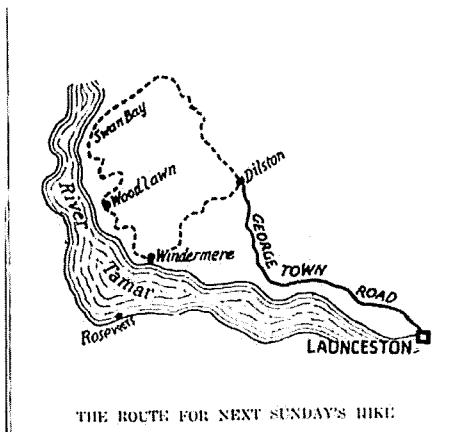
Burnie Advocate, 2 September 1932, p. 1 (above)

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HIKING CATCHES THE POPULAR FANCY

Interesting Routes Planned for Week-End

Launceston Examiner 2 June 1932, p. 11



Hiking!

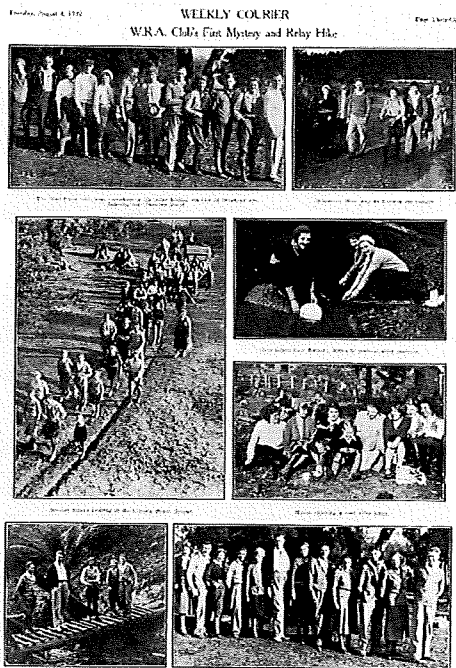
Monday, June 6, 1932
9.30 a.m.
Open to All
MYSTERY HIKE
Of 8-10 miles,
After Motoring from
LAUNCESTON
TO
(X)
Fare, 3/- Return
Home About 5 p.m.
Tea, Sugar, and Milk Provided
Free at lunch and afternoon
Tea.
BOOK SEATS.
Phone 1780.
Webster Rometch Astor
Motors,
43 BRISBANE-STREET.

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HOPWOOD'S
HIKING
THERMOS FLASKS
Guaranteed for 12 Months.
4/11, 8/11, 10/11
INSPECT TO-DAY AT
HOPWOOD'S FOR BARGAINS

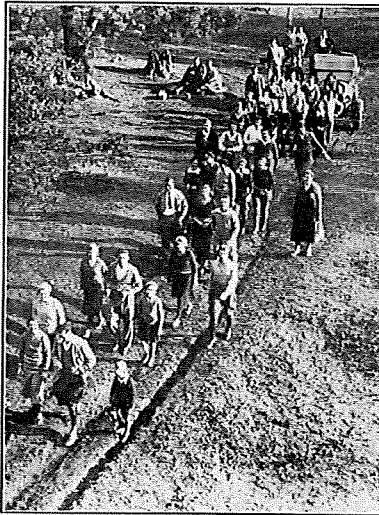
W.R.A. Hiking Club
MYSTERY HIKE, JULY 31st
OPEN TO ALL. FARE, 3/- RETURN

Launceston Examiner, 28 July 1932, p. 9



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Weekly Courier, 4 August 1932, p. 31



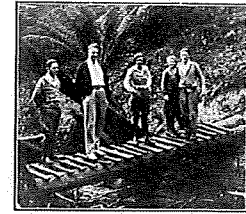
Hikers arriving at the Lyndale picnic ground.



Two hikers have moments of rest to perform after lunch.



Hikers enjoying a chat after lunch.



Hikers on their way to Lyndale picnic ground.



Hikers on their way to Lyndale picnic ground.

15

'Anti-Killjoy': 'these times call for self-denial and self-restraint rather than self-pleasing and self-indulgence'.

'Anti-Killjoy Too': 'Sunday hiking is but a preliminary to worse things that will follow'.

'Healthy Non-Hiker' warned of: 'the danger that Sunday will eventually become a day of work instead of rest.'

'Two Hikers' noted that they were 'office-bound from Monday until Saturday noon and ... Sunday is the only day we can spend in our beautiful bush country'.

'1932' deplored anyone opposed to hikers' efforts to 'get away from microbe-infested streets, halls and offices of the city'.

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Mercury, 3 September 1932,
p. 12 (right)

Voice, 3 September 1932, p. 5
(below)

THE HIKE IN BRIEF

Date: Sunday, September 11th.
Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Trains: Leave all termini at 9.30 a.m.
Trains: Leave Hobart Station at 10 a.m.
Stops: Trains stop at New Town, Moonah, Derwent Park, Glenorchy and Claremont.
Destination: ? Unknown?
Lunch: Take your own.
Songs: Community singing, featuring "The Road to Anywhere" (official song).
Hike: A picturesque walk to?
Tickets: 3/6 each return.
Seats: Form a party and book at once (no extra charges).
Result: Health, Exercise and Happiness.

Hikers' Mystery Train

(Under Charter from the Tasmanian Government Railways)
Thousands of happy, healthy, carefree hikers will put behind them the cares and worries of office, factory and shop on
SUNDAY, SEPT. 11TH-10 A.M.
WHEN THE HIKERS' MYSTERY TRAIN LEAVES FOR ITS UNKNOWN DESTINATION
A Day in the Great Outdoors at a Price within the Reach of All.
FARE: 3/6 Return. (Book at Tourist Bureau or Railway Station)
FORM A PARTY AND LET'S GO HIKING OVER THE HILL
(Entire Organisation by the Hiking Committee)

THE WEEKLY COURIER
Hobart Hikers Organise Walk from Brighton to Dromedary Station



Hobart Hikers Organise Walk from Brighton to Dromedary Station



Mr. H. Corzine (ex-M.H.A.) and a group of hikers about to entrain.



Resting at Brighton Railway Station before the long hike to Dromedary.



Easy hikers on the look-out for the solution of the mystery.



A happy group of hikers, of whom there were 700, who took part in Hobart's first mystery hike from Brighton to Dromedary Station. There is no doubt that Hobart has received favourably by a "hobby" hiking tour, which promise to be immensely popular in the South as well as in the North.

Weekly Courier, 15
September 1932, p. 27



This party recommend milk for long endurance hikes.



Mr. Geo. Lomer, the well-known cyclist, of Launceston, was amongst those who joined the hike, and is here snuggled with fellow-members and lady friends.



Some of the members of the hiking party who went by the first train.



Young and old alike enjoy themselves at Hobart's first mystery hike.
D. J. N. Barnett Photos

Weekly Courier, 15 September 1932, p. 27

The Mercury
HIKING SONG

The Road To Anywhere

REG STONEHAM

Copyright

Tasmanian Archives,
Hobart

LET'S GO HIKING!

Everyone who loves the breath of the bush, the great open spaces, and the feeling that, after all, life is worth while, is making a certainty of joining in the

MYSTERY HIKE

SUNDAY, September 11, at 10 a.m.

And when you get to this unknown destination, which is so mysteriously shrouded, what will you do?

SING THE NEW HIKING SONG

Composed by Reg. Stoneham, who wrote "Mellon Jerry Moon."

"The Road to Anywhere"

Not the old favourite, but a brand new number specially written for Mystery Hikes.

HEAR IT FEATURED ON THE STAGE

— By —
CHARLES CLAY (Tenor) and MARY BEVIN (Pianist)

Prince of Wales

BEGINNING TO-NIGHT

And at all Night Performances for One Week.

The New Song, "THE ROAD TO ANYWHERE," is now on sale at "The Mercury" Office, and at A. Payne and Son, 124 Liverpool Street, Hobart.

Mercury, 3 September 1932, p. 12

RK1

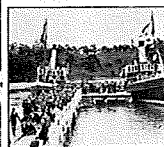
WEEKLY COURIER
Hobart's Mystery Hike by Steamer to Bruny Island

'Some of the 700 happy hikers at Denne's Point, Bruny Island, where the hikers re-embarked for home.'

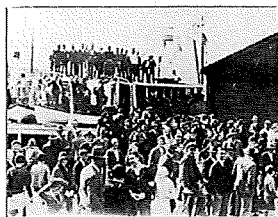


'One of the joys of hiking is a good lunch, and this party looks as if they had it'

'The party waiting to board the *Cartela* for the first mystery by river, the secret destination being Barnes' Bay.'



The good ships of *Dover* (left) and *Cartela* landing their freight of hikers at Barnes' Bay, Bruny Island, where the mystery hike commenced.



'The barbed-wire fence proved a barrier to many to many a bashful maiden.'

'A happy sextette who found hiking in flannels most comfortable.'



'The Okey Boys, who were the life of the Hiking party.'

'The sands of Denne's Point provided a pleasant place for tired hikers.' (middle)

Slide 21

RK1 Ross, Kirstie, 14/09/2021