

Official Journal of the  
Melbourne University  
Mountaineering Club.



# THE MOUNTAINEER

Number I , 1963.



Registered at GPO Melbourne  
for transmission by post  
as a periodical.







"Don't worry about us Sidney - save yourself!"



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Correspondence: Union House, University of Melbourne, Parkville. N.2.

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The Club welcomes back 'old' mountaineers and extends a warm invitation to all aspiring climbers, caverneers, bushwalkers, explorers etc. to join our ranks for '63.

This year we hope to use this, our journal, more efficiently as a means of co-ordinating and publishing the usual news and reports of our club's equipment, trips and general progress and at the same time attempting to publish news and views about mountaineering topics of more general interest with an Australian slant wherever possible. It is appropriate at this point therefore, to mention to clubs interstate, as well as to our own members, that brief reports (preferably type-written) of any really outstanding achievements either in the field of climbing, walking or equipment will be accepted with alacrity.

An interesting example of the type of news wanted comes from within the M.U.M.C. At present we are corresponding with an American firm of outfitters who have produced a jacket made of waterproof material which "breathes". In fact the club is at present testing one of these same jackets and a full report will probably be published later in the year.

Last year the Mountaineer published an article on the pros and cons of solo walking. This is only one of a number of controversial subjects associated with a club such as ours and we feel that it would be valuable to set out in print arguments put forward by competent people who, with first hand experience, are qualified to speak on such things as bushwalking at night, solo walking and climbing etc. It is with these thoughts in mind that we again invite anyone with an axe to grind to do so briefly in our columns and thereby help everyone with the exchange of ideas.

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### Cover illustration

The northern wall of Buffalo Gorge is an almost sheer face of smooth granite, broken only by lines of slender cracks and small terraces. Below Wilkinson's Lookout, on the rim of the gorge, the northern wall falls away about 700 feet. It is only to the East of this point that the wall breaks up into long buttresses and steep gullies, and offers some prospects for climbing. While closer examination could prove otherwise, it does appear that the main section of the wall will remain untouched by climbers for a long time. On the opposite side of the gorge the steep walls are more broken up. This South wall is cut by a great buttress. The section of the wall from the buttress to the



waterfall at the head of the gorge consists of long terraces, mostly scrub covered, and small but smooth faces between terraces, the faces being cut by many cracks. Long routes which include a lot of scrambling, often very exposed, are to be found in this area. Behind the long main buttress however the gorge wall becomes more impressive. It is this part which is illustrated on the cover of our Journal. A smooth sheet of granite falls away beneath Bent's Lookout (top centre of illustration) for about 400 feet. Between this wall and the buttress is a deep and wide crack, possibly climbable, and below it a long bush-choked gully. A series of terraces and cracks lead diagonally upward from the foot of the main crack and eventually terminate in a gully below the picnic shelter hut. The main face in between is smooth, as shown by the long white stains down it. Further East again the wall becomes more broken. A very small amount of climbing in the gorge has been done in recent years and a long weekend could, no doubt, be spent very profitably there. The climbs are easily accessible - the base of the gorge walls can be reached in an hour from the Chalet area by following down the Mushroom Rock track, descending below this to a large terrace, and traversing across into the gully below Bent's Lookout. From that point it is only a short and easy scramble to the stream in the gorge proper, below Pulpit Rock and Wilkinson's Lookout (This route can be clearly identified from Wilkinson's Lookout). Climbs in the gorge have the added advantage that at the end of the climb there is no descent to the camp again. The latter point tends to look on the lazier aspect of the climber's nature of course, but it is undeniably pleasant to be able to complete a climb and then only have a few minutes walk to the Chalet or carpark area.

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GORDONVALE

From Lex Johnson, Secretary of the H.W.C. in Tasmania, we hear that the homestead at Gordonvale is no longer under L.W.C./H.W.C. control and that anyone contemplating a stay there should obtain permission from the new owner - Mr. S. Richardson, Sandford, Tasmania.

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HEARD ISLAND

The current ascent of Mt. Mawson (9,000 ft), also called "Big Ben", on Heard Island is of especial interest to the M.U.M.C. since only last year our club outlined and carried through several stages, a programme which it was hoped might finally lead to club members climbing the peak and carrying out a scientific programme very similar to that being conducted on the island at present. The following account will present a brief outline of the aims of the present expedition, its members, some of the obstacles to be faced in such undertakings and a resume of their success to date.



Heard Island<sup>✱</sup> appears to have been sighted first by Captain Peter Kemp in 1833. The island was apparently visited from time to time by sealers but prior to 1947 only four scientific expeditions had called there. On 11th December, 1947, the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition established a base camp on Rogers Head adjacent to Attas Cove. Over a period of the next nine years geological, meteorological and biological data were collected mainly from the perimeter areas of the island.

The Island is situated almost halfway between Australia and South Africa at a latitude of 53°05' S. This puts the little circular volcano with its island appendages and heavy burden of glaciers, approximately 2,400 miles from Melbourne. The island is 28 miles long and 12 miles broad, the coastline is precipitous, alternately presenting cliffs and the vertical ice fronts of the many swift-moving glaciers. The island is a volcanic cone and it is the combination of meteorological factors and the rugged grandeur of the cone that make the island so impressive and add difficulties to any attempts at scaling the peak. The prevailing westerly winds consistently bring gales and snow to the island, especially at altitudes below 6,000'. In fact it has been said that to sight the peak from Atlas Cove once a month is a good record. Mists and heavily crevassed glaciers at lower attitudes therefore tend to confine practical climbing routes to one or other of the three rock ribs running up to the 7,000' mark.

Dr. Graeme Budd and his party proposed to climb from the south-west up a relatively uncrevassed route alongside the Abbotsmith glacier, their return route followed one of the three rock ribs down to the thin strip of open shingle known as Long Beach. From here the party intended to complete a circumnavigation of the island making observations of birds which had been banded in earlier expeditions - Giant Petrels, Fulmar Prions, Skuas, Black-browed Albatross were included in these birds, not to mention the small number of Macaroni Penguins.

The geological aspect of the expedition included visiting steam vents which have been observed high on the volcanic cone and collection of rock specimens which might lead to confirmation of certain evolutionary characteristics associated in other volcanoes of this type. Glaciological observations are to be made especially of the effects of the combination of ice and fire near the summit. Other photographic records may be useful in checking marked changes in the Mawson Peak area that may have occurred since 1947 - glacial recession has been evident in some parts of the island. Dr. Budd, specialising in environmental physiology intends to study problems relating to various conflicting findings on the subject of man's acclimatization to cold.

<sup>✱</sup> Peter's club screed available in limited supply.



The climbing party on Heard Island consists of the leader, Dr. G. M. Budd from the Environmental Health Section of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, University of Sydney. Dr. Budd has had experience with ANARE expeditions including one to Heard Island. The experience of the second member of the party speaks well for itself as Dr. Jon Stephenson was geologist with Dr. Fuchs Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The third member of the climbing party is Mr. Warwick Deacock who has had experience in the Karakoram region of the Himalayas and Arctic Alaska. The support party consists of three Victorians, Mr. M. Downes, superintendent of game management with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department; Dr. A. Gilchrist who was a member of an earlier ANARE visit to Heard Island; and Mr. N. Lied, technical officer of the Melbourne Bureau of Meteorology.

Dr. Budd's party were scheduled to leave Melbourne in the Nella Dan - chartered by the ANARE for its annual visit to Mawson Base in Antarctica. If all had gone to plan the ship would have landed the party on Heard in time to complete eight weeks scientific work and their ascent of the mountain. However, setbacks occurred at the very first when the Nella Dan's departure from Melbourne was unexpectedly delayed for a few days. Trouble struck again a short while after leaving Albany, W.A., when a crewmember took ill with acute appendicitis and another week slipped by during the subsequent return to Albany.

On the 2nd of February a Herald press report stated - "On Tuesday, the Nella Dan sailed around the island to Long Beach only to find a 50 knot westerly blowing and making landing impossible. At 4 a.m. on Wednesday the wind rose to 60 knots, but by 7 a.m. it had dropped to 30 knots. Dr. Philip Law, director of the Antarctic Division, decided to attempt the landing.

"Eleven men, including the three climbers, together with their equipment and supplies, were taken on a rubber pontoon, towed by the ship's boat, to just outside the surf line of long beach at 8.30 a.m.

A buoy was anchored and the dinghy took a long line ashore, landing three men wet but safe. Stores were quickly unloaded and carried to the camp site....."

At this stage the climbers had only five weeks to complete their programme.

The Herald carried a report from Canberra on Thursday, 13 February.

"The six man Australian expedition attempting the first ascent of the 9,000 foot volcano Big Ben, on Heard Island, was reported to have reached 4,000' today and established a depot. The climbers are now out of radio contact and will not be heard from until they have completed the ascent and returned to the depot at the 4,000' level.



"The support part at Atlas Cove reports favourable weather with no storms since last radio contact was made, and it is assumed the men are continuing their climb according to plan .....

"The External Affairs Department said ..... the climbing party aimed to carry out one week's study of the geology and glaciology around the 8,000' level."

Good progress has been made in scientific studies by the support party at Atlas Cove, where Mr. Downes discovered two banded giant petrels, one of which was banded by him in 1951. The party reported that the fur seal population had been increasing.

There has been a marked retreat of glaciers along the entire coast of the island and enormous quantities of pumice from the volcano litter the beaches to a depth of three feet in West Bay.

Latest reports reveal that the three-man climbing party has returned to the base at Atlas Bay but no reports confirming the exact details of their climb have been published to date.

F.G.H.

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Postscript: Thurs. 28th Feb.

A full report in today's "Age" describes how blizzard conditions turned Dr. Budd's party off Mt. Mawson when they were camped within 1,500' of the summit.

On Thursday afternoon the following telegram was received from the "Nella Dan".

"Melbourne University Mountaineering Club Stop Greetings from Heard Island from Dr. Budd and party stop Weather joined with mountain to repulse our attack see press for details."

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News from New Zealand

Pioneer Hut, owned by the New Zealand Alpine Club, is situated on Pioneer Ridge, above the Fox Glacier at about 8,000 ft. It is one of the most popular huts, being in a highly suitable location for a great number of excellent climbs on the Main Divide in the heart of the Southern Alps. It commands a view to the west over the ocean, only fifteen miles distant, and of the coastal country below the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. Though a small hut it is usually packed during the main climbing season and its logbook contains a few entries by members of the M.U.M.C. The construction of the Hut was a major task - building materials were air-dropped by the Air Force and huge snow-caves were dug for the large work parties. The sharp and exposed ridge on which the Hut was built required much work to level out a sufficiently large platform.



This involved removing large boulders on the top side, and building up a rock wall on the lower side, made more stable by anchoring heavy wire mesh and steel cables around the wall and back into firm rock. The sturdy hut was then built on the platform and similarly anchored with cables. It has accommodation for about ten people, and a few more may squeeze into a small tin "bivvy" a little higher up the ridge. All peaks along a six mile section of the Main Divide are accessible, from Graham Saddle to Mt. Tasman, plus a number of other peaks on western ridges of the Divide. The only other huts on the Westland side of the Divide are too low for climbing on the higher peaks. Pioneer Hut is, therefore, considered as one of "the" huts for first-class climbing. Apart from the somewhat insecure nature of the foundations of the hut, climbers unquestionably accept it as meaning safety and comfort after the climb. And this applies to practically all huts - the climb may be one long battle against difficulties, but when returning to the hut afterwards, the danger (if any) and risk is past. The hut is accepted as safety to which the climber can retreat, or comfort to which the climber can return. As an indication of the exception to the rule we reprint the following paragraphs from the Melbourne 'AGE', January 9th, 1963.

ONE KILLED, 2 HURT IN N.Z. AVALANCHE

WELLINGTON, N.Z., Tuesday - A well-known British climber was killed and two other people were seriously injured when a rock avalanche hit a hut at the head of Fox Glacier, in the Southern Alps, early yesterday.

The man killed was 31 year old school master Gilbert Murray, formerly assistant master at Oundle School, Northamptonshire.

Mr. Murray, who had climbed extensively on the British Isles, Norway and the Alps, was master at Christ's College, Christchurch, for the past two years.

The injured were Mrs. Nancy Cawley of Christchurch, broken arm, and Peter Dyer, of Lower Hutt, who was pinned under a boulder for eight hours and suffered a broken thigh and dislocated knee.

Eleven people were asleep in the New Zealand Alpine Club hut when the avalanche struck.

Three men walked from the scene and told police while others stayed behind to look after the injured.

One of the men who went for help, John Peter Walton, of Christchurch, said the main avalanche missed the hut, but four boulders about five feet in diameter came through the wall. One man was killed instantly. Two others were buried but one got out quickly.

Dyer, however, was trapped with just his head and shoulders showing. He was conscious the whole time and helped the others shoving up the boulder.

A Cessna plane is on its way to evacuate the injured.

----- A.A.P. Reuters.



Peter Morgan

John Bennett

Peter and John departed by air for Christchurch New Zealand, on Friday 8th February. They were expecting to put in some climbing in the Mt. Cook National Park. Peter reports that they have joined and are now working with a New Zealand geological survey group doing glaciological work in the Mt. Cook area. A fortuitous meeting for our club glaciologists, we wish them good climbing.

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A TASTE OF HONEY

(On the ascent of Thunderghut - New Zealand)

<u>PARTY</u>	Eskimo Pete	Horsey-Horsey
	Donny the Sparrow	Overcast John
	Rusty Fumblemut	Wright Charlie

I am looking at stones, grey, rounded, monotonous gravel type stones. They come towards me in a slow and wobbly stream like a conveyor belt. They've been coming for hours now and its becoming tedious, for I am too bent to look up. So I am thinking - thinking of such as cold beer, quiet restful places and other wonders I don't have at the moment.

Now there is a pair of large boots in view going crunch, crunch on the stones. They must belong to Horsey-Horsey. He's the only one with feet so big. A big effort and I look up. Yes, they belong to Horsey-Horsey alright because they are a long way from his head. He is called Horsey-Horsey on account of he always eats his share of the tucker, and anyone else's that is getting cold, drinks everybody's share and carries his own share with most distressing ease.

Scattered about are four more undulating packs on legs. That one way out front must be Eskimo Pete, the Tararua-demented demon of the main divide snows; also a demon for the sack.

We are grinding along the gravel paddocks of the Expanse river to climb some inhospitable heap called Mt. Thunderghut, and progress is primitively touch. It's a holiday, dammit - we don't have to go so fast! Surely they want a rest? Hell, how my shoulders ache. That's Dunkin Creek ahead - I'll suggest a spell there.

Ah, a rest at last - to hell with the view, I gotta lie down. "Goff, goff and we're off!" - O Gawd no! Bloody Donny the sparrow (sparrowlegs) is hopping off again - wait a bit longer you sadist, some people are human!



Dunkin creek is up somewhat and Overcast John submerges, leaving a fine bow wave round his fair crew-cut. He is called Overcast John on account of his persistence in tipping over and getting cast in most clammy places. We are also suspecting he has some Jonah properties with respect to the weather, and as he follows these incidents with a truly shocking turn of Kiwi, I am blocking my ears when he surfaces.

It is evening, I think, and we are at the hut, staggering into the dim chaos and stale wood smoke. My merciless pack is off and I hook my hat on a nail. It falls to the floor. It isn't a nail - it's a fly. Now to beat Rushy Fumblemut to get the stew crud out so I have less to carry tomorrow.

A fine day, dammit, I am all set for a wet day in the sack! I ache all over, I am feeling better than yesterday. Today we put in a high camp on Grauncher Saddle. This fortells a rough trip up Benighted creek, up beside the Masher Falls by the Six Bluff, profanity thru the monkey scrub and on to the saddle. We are off conventionally 3 hours after we leave the sack, and old Rusty is getting left behind as he thinks and operates rather slow, particularly in the mornings. I am afraid that it's on account of foggy glasses. A scroggin stop or two and I sense dissention ahead. Through the scrub at the bottom of Six Bluff I see Eskimo Pete slinging his rope over a tree branch while Horsey-Horsey ties a noose in the other end. It appears that Donny the Sparrow, or Sparrowlegs for short, is to be strung up for some lousy navigating - he is leading us up the wrong side of the creek. Overcast John lights up a smoke as he is not able to take the tense atmosphere, and he scratches at a wog on the back of his neck. His cigarette drops down inside his shirt so he is jumping about like a decapitated hen. We all laugh - the tension is broken and we are giving Sparrowlegs another chance. We point his front teeth in the right direction, polish up his glasses and send him off.

The Six Bluff is somewhat of a projagation and Horsey-Horsey won't load up because of his constricting heart trouble - he is getting married soon. So ole Rusty is grabbed, roped up and sent aloft, belayed by both Eskimo Pete and Horsey-Horsey. I am arriving in time to see them picking straws for Rusty's gear. This Six Bluff is a beaut, and it is rumoured that someone went for one over it. Rusty looks like he might be a seventh, up there mumbling about victimisation and sending down a shower of schist and small stones. But Rusty makes it and is pulling us all up so we are away again.

We are all uncomfortably woven into our sacks for the night with no room to hammer a piton between us. This is after Eskimo Pete decides to sort his wet from his dry for the morrow and goes through all his gear like a header-harvester. The windrows are none too organised. Now Rusty comes into the tent, and what has he got but his perpetual lilo. By jingo he is getting unpopular insinuating both himself and his lilo into the crush.



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It is the makings of a good climbing day, so we are all miserable as we shiver about preparations and Eskimo Pete and Sparrowlegs are surveying the challenges of Thunderghut. Sparrowlegs remarks like this: "We can" he says, "roar of up the Tomb Glacier, hop around the icefall, shoot up that gut on to the Seven Bells Ridge, scream along the ridge and knock it off by about midday." "It would be a hose-over" agrees Pete, "and there will be a monty of a view." So we are attempting to roar, hose, scream and what have you.

On top we are bolstering our morale with scroggin and any ginger Pete Hasn't eaten. We are reminded of mists we have seen and scenes we have missed as we gaze about in a white shroud. "Pete", I says, "here is a match-box. Put your monty view in this. We can look at it when we get down to the warmer altitudes".

We are retreating via Bastinado Creek, according to the whim of our navigator (Overcast John). And this involves a climb over Mayhem Col, risks down the slot glacier, and more battle with the Queen's English scrub. Real pioneering stuff! On a sidle of Blue Duck gorge, Rusty reckons it would have been better pioneering down in that dark chasm. But we stick to our slabs as rumour has it that only a blue duck ever gets through this gorge.

I am arriving at Piker's Hut, in the country of the incombustible wood, much behind the Adrenalin boys. Horsey-Horsey is standing amid shreds of a "Swanddrei" stinging Geology at a Kea. He picks up a goodly piece of geology, hauls off and sends it at a furious speed at the kea which does a neat side step with a jeer. Horsey-Horsey is glaring at me and snarls at me in this fashion - "Is that your bloody parrot?" Horsey-Horsey is uneducated with respect to parrots. Just now Overcast John motors out of the hut seething with ideas. He has Eskimo Pete's copious off white shirt, which he spreads over himself after assuming the horizontal. Keas, he explains, are dumb, and have an affinity for snow, hence are likely to land on a white shirt. This kea is obligingly stupid and Overcast nabs its feet through the shirt, ignoring an active beak. I am truly astounded at the immediate reaction. There is suddenly a fluttering shape heading for the hut, screaming for some first aid to sew fingers back on. Following this, events are confusing in the extreme. It appears that Overcast, blinded by rage and shirt, pounds into a primus filling operation being carried out by Pete, causing a heterogeneous heap on the floor. The stew and its functioning square primus quietly upend on to this heap, lighting all the white spirits so I see what is happening. Poor old Rusty gets fouled in the burning shirt somewhere and is blazing a trail into the tall timber. Sparrowlegs is playing soccer with a flaming primus. Horsey-Horsey is making like wallpaper, Overcast is whining quietly under a bunk and Eskimo Pete is standing dumbly in the centre holding a burning flask, his arm making like a sacrifice. It is all most spectacular and I am somewhat disappointed when the flames die down, although I never say so.



Some days later we are out of this country and are making a scroggin stop at Squadron Pt. just opposite Vampire Creek. This is the land of blood transfusions. A big one is on to Pete, but Pete is quick and ducks behind his pack, and the mosquito is stuck with sucker clean as a whistle through Pete's pack. Pete is wrapping a knot on to the end of its spike, while hollerin' for an ice axe to do murder. You see, he is no little annoyed at having his pack speared. But while Pete is reaching for the axe, the mosquito gets up a goodly number of revs and takes off with the pack. Pete is now highly incensed and gives out some of the mosquito's history which I never knew about. He tears Overcast's pack apart, rips out the silver horseshoe ( which he put there earlier) hauls back, and with a mighty heave lands it squarely over the struggling mosquito's eyes. This encumbrance causes the beast to stall and it crashes into the scrub. Now I will have no truck with killings, so I do not look, but later I am told that the things Pete did to that mosquito in the scrub would shame any butcher.

We are finally quit of the rigours of the tall timber and are sinking suds in true pioneer style in the "Boozer". Its "Falling Angels" and tall yarns all round according to convention. After this trip of ours we've got everyone in the bar beat as far as lies go. Poor old Overcast, he daren't risk a glass in those mangled fingers of his, so he is seated on the bar, next to the barmaid, with a plastic tube to the supply. He's a kind of shy guy, and I notice he is a bit nervous being so close to the doll, so I give him a bit of string to play with. Horsey-Horsey is lying to some strangers, but that old melancholy look he gets between yarns looks like heart trouble to me. Donny the Sparrow drinks very little and is probably thinking about Australia. Eskimo Pete is holding some of the floor on a ridiculous theory about more efficient travelling on river flats if a party makes braided tracks. We are most out of dough, so we move out to find a ride home, leaving Overcast John sitting on the bar winding up his little ball of yarn.

----- Wright Charlie

Editor's Postscript

After contacting W.C. by devious means the Ed. ascertained that Mt. Thunderghut is situated somewhere between Mt. Cook and the Arthur's Pass area and is approximately 8000' in height. The "Blue Duck" gorge actually is the Lambert Gorge and as far as is known has only been traversed completely on one occasion before Eskimo Pete and Co moved in. The Lambert Gorge butts into the Wanganui River in the Rakaia area of Canterbury in the South Island of N.Z.

The trip described was actually a traverse of the main range of the Southern Alps. The journey in took approximately three days and the descent from the very precipitous west side of Mt. Thunderghut took another 3-4 days.

A "Swanddrie" it seems is kiwi language for a bush shirt.

----- Ed.



THE PEOPLE YOU MEET

After a pleasant three week sojourn in the Pelions and Du Canes over Christmas it became evident that some measure of our enjoyment of the trip was undoubtedly derived at the expense of other walkers. When several hundred persons make the trip through the Reserve it is natural enough to expect that number to include the odd 'odd-bod', and we certainly seemed to meet up with or hear of quite a few. Not everyone who goes through the Reserve these days can be classed as the 'real thing' with neatly packed rucksack, blackened aluminium billies and rations and clothing conforming to the best laid-down standards for the safety and convenience of the bushwalker. Apparently anything goes....

Climbing slowly up to Du Cane Gap one afternoon, with grey skies promising foul weather before the day ended, we passed one chap making his way northward. He wore shorts and singlet, and a battered pair of sandshoes. He carried in his left hand an airline-type overnight bag, and slung over his right shoulder was an old hessian bag containing the remainder of his gear.

We spent New Year's Day on the Gap and during the morning watched a procession of over thirty people cross the Gap. Among them was a party of girls - their leader, a hefty German, wore a two piece bathing costume in preference to the more traditional walking garb. Very cool! They were followed by a group of Rover Scouts. Their leader stepped across Campfire Creek (clearly named on the map), leant heavily on the sign which states 'Campsite Creek', and asked "Has this creek got a name?"

Struggling up to Pelion Gap one hot morning we first met the party of German girls mentioned above. What struck us most of all then was the appearance of one girl - with freckles, long curls dangling beneath a straw hat, dark rimmed glasses, and a strange grin. Unmistakably she was straight from St. Trinians. We hurried on after that sudden meeting which had quickly around us from the dull thoughts of the heat of the day and weight of the pack.

We heard of a pair of walkers in the pelion district who were making exceptionally slow progress. The reason being that one had blisters and couldn't walk, the other was lazy and wouldn't walk.

Many people wear badges on their shirt and the best example of this we saw was at New Pelion Hut. The front of his shirt was a black and orange notice proclaiming "FIRE DANGER" and setting out the rules for fire-lighting and the penalties relating to same. The back of the shirt consisted of an equally large notice ordering the "INSTANTANEOUS DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS AND VERMIN".

Two Austrian gentleman arrived at Cynthia Bay, carrying small suitcases and wearing suits, complete with cravat. Their plan was to 'Hostel' their way through the Reserve.



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Age is apparently no barrier. One couple, at least in their fifties, were met along the track. The helpful advice passed on by the lady was that "walkers should wear stockings on their hands for protection." (From what?)

Outside Derwent Bridge Hotel one girl was heard to ask a small male party "And did you meet many queers?"

Also overheard was this conversation piece between two Y.H.A. people back in Melbourne.

"Were you in the Reserve at all?"

"Yes, for a while anyway."

"I suppose you went right through to Cradle Mt."

"Not exactly, we were only around Lake St. Clair."

"Well you were in the Reserve then."

"Oh yes! We had lunch there one day."

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After all that we were convinced that times must change. Surely the Reserve was different back in the fifties.

-----  
F.J.M.

RESERVE RAMBLINGS

Party: Fred Mitchell, Juliet Hillman, Lynn Burbury, Rosemary Arnold  
Dec 22nd to Jan 13th.

We began the trip with two rest days in Pine Valley - the first needed to recover from the two strenuous trips from Narcissus (one to carry up eighteen days dehydrated food and the other to carry up Christmas Dinner, not dehydrated). The second rest day was taken up by Christmas Dinner.

From Pine Valley we went via Du Cane Gap, where we dumped five days food and climbed Felling Mountain, to the Pelions. There we camped for several days, sleeping, eating, reading, swimming, fossil-collecting, and even climbing Pelion West and Oakleigh. Then we returned southward to Du Cane Gap, collected the food dump and had yet another rest day before leaving the track for the Du Cane Range. The following few days were spent energetically rock-hopping from Felling Mountain over Massiff Mt. to Lake Helios. Then a leisurely trip down the Labrynth, up Walled Mt. and on down to Pine Valley. Here we collected our second food dump. Two days later Rosemary and Lynn went up the Acropolis while Fred and I climbed Gould and the Guardians, returning to camp via the Parthenon Ridge. The following day we set off for Cynthia Bay, stopping overnight at Echo Point Hut.

The end of the trip was celebrated in the usual manner at Derwent Bridge.

-----  
Juliet.



LAKE ST. CLAIR - CRADLE MT.

Party: Robin Hawthorne (Leader)      Bill Abud  
         Lorraine Brown                   Simon Benham  
         Brigitte Coulthurst             Don Phillips  
         Marie Murphy  
         Carolyn Robertson

Half a dozen of the party were safely delivered at Hobart by Ansett ANA on Sunday, January 13th at 9.30 a.m.

After a brief detour to Port Arthur, provisions were bought and we hitched to Cynthia Bay on the Wednesday. On the way we were joined by A. E. Speigelmann who for a small fee offered to escort us to Narcissus. At Cynthia Bay we met Simon and Lorraine.

With the help of a launch we managed to reach Pine Valley in one day's walk. The second day we scrambled up to the Labyrinth to see if the rain looked any different higher up. Pine Valley is a delightful place where one looks up at rocky peaks which are shrouded with clouds as they deliver the goods to Pine Valley.

The third day saw us to Du Cane Hut. The absence of a suitable log over the Narcissus River meant that our feet did get washed while in the reserve. Du Cane Hut has the liveliest night life in the reserve as one of the possums gives several demonstrations of how to climb chimneys solo. His technique was so good that we stayed another night to watch it.

At last we had a fine day, so on the way to Pelion Hut we climbed Pelion East for the best view we had in the reserve.

Now we were hungry for civilisation (or just plain hungry?) and so got to Waldheim in two days from Pelion, spending the night at Waterfall Valley.

After a few days relaxation on the sands of Devonport, we went home on the P.O.T. accompanied by other OXO fans.

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WILSON'S PROMONTORY

16th - 25th February. Party: T. Kneen, P. Kneen, D. Woodruff.

Hearing that Mr. Rylah plans to subdivide the National Park into building lots for selected people, we hurriedly left to survey possible sites before staking a claim. Saturday night found us camped on Oberon Bay at the mouth of Fraser's Creek where there is a reasonable campsite and good water.

On Sunday morning we climbed Mt. Norgate in two hours from the south end of the beach. Although the mountain is not high, the view is very good, especially to the north. From Mt. Norgate we headed in a generally easterly direction along a rather badly defined ridge to a trig station overlooking the lighthouse track. The scrub over this section is mostly very thick and progress was slow.



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That night was spent at Roaring Meg Creek fighting off attacks by ravenous possums and next morning we followed the creek down to its mouth. In the afternoon we visited South Point and shouted "oxo" from the most southerly point on the mainland that we could reach.

On Tuesday we moved down the lighthouse track, climbed South Peak and made a reconnaissance of the area north of South Peak as far as a trig point about 1500' high.

After camping the night at the base of South Peak, we headed for Mt. Boulder. North of the trig point the going is hard, through thick, dusty re-growth scrub overlying rotten logs. After lunch overlooking Waterloo Bay we bashed for another hour to Mt. Boulder, about half a mile away as the crow flies. From there we moved down a long spur to the Waterloo Bay track. Much of this spur is covered in medium size rocks and low scrub and is excellent ankle-breaking country. We then followed a good track to the north end of Waterloo Bay.

Next day we reverted to club tradition and started at 10.45 for an easy day's walk to Sealers' Cove. This was not quite as easy as anticipated because the good blazes from Waterloo Bay disappear on Kersop's Peak, necessitating a long bash into Refuge Cove.

Leaving our gear at Sealers' Cove we climbed Mt. Ramsay from Windy Pass and then Peter and I bashed on for almost three hours to Mt. Latrobe. This was enough to persuade us to spend Saturday at Sealers' Cove where we encountered a group of lifesavers who wanted a shorter, easier way back to Tidal River, and a young Scout troop who staggered in carrying and dragging the wierdest collection of equipment we have seen.

On Sunday we climbed Mt. Wilson in strong winds and low cloud and then returned to civilisation in the form of Tidal River where we startled the tourist horde and demolished the traditional plum pudding.

If anyone has a compelling desire to bash through some of the thickest scrub there is, we can recommend this trip. Most of the places we visited are the type that you visit once for the sake of it but leave alone in future. But if you prefer to hibernate and admire the rugged beauty of the Prom., we know several perfect places.

T.K.



IN RUSSIA

No sport has blossomed more under the Soviet Government than mountaineering, writes Ari Polyakov in the Soviet Weekly of 24 May 1962. For instance, up to 1914 Mount Elbrus had been climbed by 59 persons (47 of them not Russian); since then, 13,000 have climbed the peak.

A big alpine base is under construction on the slopes of Elbrus. Roads leading up to it are being paved, hotels erected, and a four mile ropeway rigged between Azau Clearing (more than 7,000 ft) and Priut Shelter (nearly 13,000 ft). In a year from now, alpinists, spending two hours to rise to Priut Shelter, will be able to ascend Elbrus the same day.

Twin-peaked Ushba has been scaled by 500 Soviet mountaineers. They have followed British Alpinist Cockin - first man to climb it, in 1888. The U.S.S.R. Mountaineering Federation issued a special badge to scalers of Ushba, and when a party of Soviet alpinists went to Britain in 1960 they presented a badge to the Alpine Club, thus marking Cockin's fine achievement.

There are twenty alpine training clubs in the Soviet Union. Last year they attracted more than 12,000 young holidaymakers. Half the trainees are accommodated completely free of charge, while the other half are provided with accommodation, training and equipment at less than a third of the actual price. Balance of the expenses are covered by the state-provided social insurance funds. The alpine centres provide all with free equipment and first-class instructors. In every centre there are skilled men entrusted with the task of following all ascents from beginning to end.

Ascents are divided into five grades, ranging from simple routes (Grade Ia) to those for master climbers (Grade 5b). To qualify for the master of sport title, one must accomplish many ascents, including six of Grade 5. So far, 467 people - including 50 women - have won the honour. Leaders of outstanding ascents and expeditions can gain the honoured master of sport award. Forty-one people hold this, three of them women.

All four of the highest peaks in the country, Communism Peak (24,590 ft), Lenin Peak (23,405 ft), Evgeny Korzhenevsky Peak (23,310 ft) and Victory Peak (24,406 ft) have been mastered by 376 climbers.

Record numbers of high altitude ascents belong to Kirill Kuzmin. He has climbed Communism Peak and Lenin Peak twice each and Victory once. He has also climbed Mustag-Ata and Kungur-P in China. Evgeny Ivanov comes next with six. But he is the only Soviet Mountaineer to have climbed all four highest Soviet peaks as well as the two in China.

F.J.M.

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THE ALPINE CLIMBING GROUP

The British Mountaineering Council Journal, as a regular feature, introduces several of the member Clubs each issue. The September 1962 Journal introduces a Club for which membership is not by "who you know" or "where you live", but by "what climbs you have done" and "how you have done them" (as far as it is possible to tell). This is the Alpine Climbing Group, formed in 1952/53 by the hard core of British climbers who had just begun to solve the most difficult Alpine climbs of that time. The express purpose of the Group then (and now) was to encourage mountaineering of the highest standard - with particular reference to the Alps and other great ranges. Generally at present a climber is eligible for 'full' membership of the ACG if he has led several routes of Tres Difficile standard on rock, ice and mixed terrain and (ideally) if he is personally known to at least one member of the Committee. If, as often happens, a climber has led only one TD on rock and/or has shown that within a season or two he will probably be eligible for 'full' membership, then he is elected to 'aspirant' membership. The third type of member is the 'retired' member - one whom the Committee feel no longer climbs to the standard of 'full' membership. This is normally decided by reviewing each member's climbing record after five years.

F.J.M.

New Book:

STANDARD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE WORLD'S MOUNTAINS

Edited by Anthony Huxley. Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson (Educational) Ltd., London. 1962. 383 pages, including 80 photographs plus 16 colour plates. Price in Melbourne: 55/9.

One of the few books of its kind (another being "Abode of Snow" by Kenneth Mason) it is a useful addition to any collection of books on mountaineering. Strictly an encyclopedia, both in content and presentation, practically all of the main ranges, glaciers, passes and peaks of most countries have been included. About half a page is devoted to each to give the essential facts. Twelve pages of maps are included, plus a Gazetteer which lists 1,500 peaks and ranges, a glossary of mountaineering terms, and a section on pioneers of mountaineering.



The following are extracts from articles in the December 1962 Bulletin of the New Zealand Alpine Club, to whom acknowledgement is made.

WARNING - POLYPROPYLENE ROPE

Recently a new lightweight rope became available in New Zealand Stores. This rope, polypropylene, has been marketed under a number of different trade names overseas, which in some cases would give no clue to its identity. It has some interesting properties. The breaking strain is high:

7/8 in. polypropylene, breaking strain : 2,000 lb;  
British Standard Nylon, breaking strain: 2,000 lb;

7/8 in. polypropylene, approx. weight/100 ft, 1.8 lb;  
7/8 in. nylon, approx. weight/100 ft. 2.6 lb.

It is thus very light and floats on water. The amount of stretch is about the same as nylon.

However, advice was received from Messrs. M. B. Rands of A.F.F.C.O. and P. Skinner of A.I.D.L. that the impact resistance of polypropylene became zero at -10°C (14°F). Deterioration sets in at room temperatures, becoming appreciable long before -10°C is reached.

Such a rope would thus become very brittle and could be crumbled in the hand. It would be extremely dangerous to use under any cold conditions in the mountains.

Like polythene, its tensile strength is lowered by sunlight, this effect being less in pigmented varieties. No actual figures could be found for this type of deterioration. The two brands, both manufactured by New Zealand firms, were a bright orange colour and were being sold under the names "Polypropylene" and "Proplon".

This rope, although having excellent resistance to solvents and other properties useful for some applications, is definitely out for any climbing purpose. These findings would suggest extreme caution when choosing any plastic or type of rope other than those recommended for climbing. Moreover, other factors than an impressive breaking strain must be known.

Nylon is now being manufactured in New Zealand to British Standard Specification 1330, for nylon climbing ropes.

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RECENT MARRIAGES

Three couples within the club have recently been married - we extend congratulations.

Margaret McKinnon	to	Jim Menadue
Joan Milner	to	Bro Dick Myers
Jan Southwell	to	Frank Hicks

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Ph.D.

The club would like to congratulate Phil Law on receiving an honorary doctorate of philosophy in applied science from the University of Melbourne.

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### OVERSEAS

Members will sympathise with Bob Jones on hearing that he is sitting out the 'deep-freeze' conditions of the U.K. in a convalescent's bed after undergoing an operation in a London hospital. Bob blames the big "K's" nuclear policy for the freeze-up and stands firmly behind the "Committee of 100"!!

Little has been heard from other members overseas - Jack O'Halloran, Les Southwell and our honourable friend 'Juff' Shaw.

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### FOR SALE

Kodachrome 25 A.S.A. 20 and 36 exposure - 32/6 and 50/-.

Fred Mitchell. day MY1111, ext 44

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### FOR THE NEW MEMBER

The M.U.M.C. provides a lot of services for its members some of which will be outlined below. These services and general activities however have to be organised and maintained. It is the job of the general committee to initiate changes as well as direct club affairs, anyone in the club is eligible to stand for the committee, more important still any member is eligible to offer their services as leader of a club trip, as assistants to the editor of The Mountaineer, as assistant to organisers of club meetings and such trips as the 24 Hour Walk. New members are urged to squeeze information out of people as to what they could do to help - we can assure them any help well received.

### Climbing

For information concerning climbing, e.g. possible trips, climbing courses, copies of club rules on climbing etc. new members are advised to contact the Convenor of the Climbing Sub-Committee, Ian Guild, via the club-box, or any of the club climbing leaders.

### Noticeboard

General information regarding trips, club meetings is posted in advance on the club noticeboard which is situated on the west wall outside the Union Theatre.



Club Box

This is used for communication between members and general mail. It is situated on the first floor of Union House opposite the drinking fountain outside the duplicating room.

Stores

The club hires out equipment at nominal rates worked on a length of time basis.

Equipment for hire includes:

- tents      4-man
- 3-man
- 2-man
- sleeping bags
- packs

Food is also sold at comparatively cheap rates and includes.

- dehydrated potato, carrot, parsnip, pea
- this year there probably will be apricots and powdered potatoe on hand
- there is also some tinned food (sausages and veg etc.) available at low cost.

The M.U.M.C. through the good offices of Peter Morgan has worked in conjunction with Millers rope manufacturing company to produce a very high quality rope conforming to the rigid British Mountaineering Council standards. Generally there is a stock of rope on hand but often it is necessary to order rope in advance so that orders can be placed with Millers.

Revised prices now stand as follows:

Rope Size	(cost per 1 lb) Members	Non-members
No. 1	48/-	
2 )		
3 )	30/-	34/-
4 )		

Also available is a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " linen rope of 750 lb. strength, suitable for waist-loops or prussic slings. Price 48/- per pound, approx. 50' per pound.

Orders to be placed in club box, addressed to "Stores Officer - Rope".

The club also has available a large range of "Stubai" pitons and karabiners.



TRIP BOOKINGS

For official club trips the procedure will be as arranged last year.

1. Booking is solely by phone to Fred Mitchell.  
Day MY 1111, ext 44. 8.30-12.30. 1.30-5.30.  
Weekend and evenings. JB 5270
  2. Only the trip leader will fill in names on the trip list posted on club noticeboard.
  3. Fred will quote a price for transport and this amount must be paid in full to the trip leader before boarding the van.
  4. There will be a cancellation fee of 15/- for people withdrawing from trips later than one week before the trip leaves.
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SEARCH AND RESCUE SECTION

The "Search and Rescue Section" is a voluntary organisation controlled by a sub-committee of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. Each member club of the Federation with male members is entitled to nominate a delegate and an observer to this committee. This committee meets regularly throughout the year to discuss matters concerned with search and rescue work.

From the committee a Convenor, Field Organiser (F.O.) and Police Liaison Officer (P.L.O.) are selected. The latter two hold very responsible positions in the event of a search.

Club members desirous of joining the section should have enlisted the sympathy and understanding of their employer, so that, in the event of a call-up, he will be co-operative. Members should also be prepared to maintain themselves and their equipment in a state of readiness, and to have three days food in hand. Remember it is difficult to buy food late on Sunday night - a time when you will most likely require it. If a search last more than three days the government usually comes good with the necessary food and equipment. When your application has been accepted you will receive a yellow form giving you more detailed information together with food and equipment lists.

More experienced members of the club can be nominated as leaders. This is a responsible position and there is a blue form available from your club delegate giving valuable hints.

In the event of a search the Field Organiser will try and organise things so that a leader has in his charge a group from his own club.

Intending members should note that they can register under various priorities.



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- 'A' priority means that you are available immediately - in actual fact about two hours warning is usually given.
- 'B' priority means that you are available within "reasonable time".
- 'C' priority means that you are available for base duties re camp establishment and maintenance, hygiene, firewood, amenities etc.

'A' priority is strongly recommended for intending members. Remember that if you do register you are still only a volunteer and are under no compulsion to answer the call if it is not convenient.

On the application form it is important that you give at least a 'home' phone number and if possible a business number. If you have not got the phone on at home try and enlist the co-operation of a neighbour who has.

The application form is in duplicate. One of these goes to the Federation while the other is kept by the club. In the event of a search each registered member is covered by an Insurance Policy taken out by the Federation. The insurance company insists that members must be registered if they are to be covered.

Each club appoints a club contact. They have the club search and rescue list and in the event of an alert they contact the people on that list. For this to work properly this list must be kept up to date. If at any time you do not wish to continue with this work please let your club delegate know and he will remove you from the list.

Quite often there is publicity before an alert is given. In this case it is important that you do not try and phone the club contact to see if the alert has been given. It is the contact's responsibility to contact you. On returning from a search it is very important that you phone the contact and let him know that you have arrived back safely.

Each year there is a search and rescue practice. This year it is over the weekend of 18th-19th May. It is very important especially for new members and new leaders to take advantage of this opportunity of gaining experience. Further details concerning the practice will be given as they come to hand.

Experienced male bushwalkers are urgently required to develop our S. & R. section. If you are interested apply now. Application forms are available from the M.U.M.C. display during Orientation Week or from the club delegate who would also welcome any queries.

John Cole  
S. & R. Club Delegate.  
WF 8150

or via club letter box in Union House.

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PUBLICATION

Mountain Search and Rescue - L. D. Bridge  
225 pp. 13/- . Aust. 1960.

This book is recommended to all members but especially to those present or intending members of our club's S. and R. section. Copies are available from the club delegate - John Cole.

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PROPOSED FIRST TERM PROGRAMME

- Mon 4 March : Commence Orientation Week Display.
- Weekend Commencing
- Fri 15 March : Cumberland River. Leader Rob Hawthorne.  
Swimming, walking, scrambling, loafing.  
Fare: quote via Fred Mitchell.
- Fri 22 March : Men's Lounge, 7.45 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting. Supper provided.
- Sun 24 March : President's Opening Day Walk.  
Area undisclosed but it is bound to be fun so be in it.  
Leader - President of course!  
Fare: quote via Fred Mitchell.
- Fri 29 March : Commence M.U.M.C. Climbing Course.  
Talk on theory, demonstrations etc. in Men's Lounge - 7.45 p.m.  
New members are advised to follow the climbing course from beginning to end if they wish to get full benefit from it.
- Sun 31 March : Climbing Course continued. Hanging Rock day trip.  
Scrambles on low rock pinnacles.  
Fare: approx £1 book via Fred Mitchell.
- Fri 5 April : Slide night. Men's Lounge, 7.45 p.m.  
Members are invited to bring a selection of their slides from recent (vac) trips and be prepared to talk (loudly and engagingly) about them.
- Fri 12 April : EASTER.  
Three trips are proposed - Wilson's Promontory and a double crossing from Mt. Cobbler to Mt. Howitt (and vice versa).  
More details will be published later.
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year one of our own accomplished club members, Dr. Fritz Loewe, will give an illustrated talk entitled "Greenland Revisited". Dr. Loewe has done considerable work in arctic regions of especial note was his first visit to Greenland in 1930-31.

According to our constitution any proposed changes to this constitution must be published a fortnight before a duly assembled General Meeting of club members. This year the general committee endorses several proposals designed to streamline this committee and allow it to work more freely and efficiently.

The first proposed amendment allows for the addition of a committee member who will be solely responsible for the receipt, issue and custody of club stores and equipment.

Section 10

now reads: "The governing body .... a walks secretary, stores officer and three other members...."

An additional section called 10 (b) will read as follows:

10 (b) "The stores officer shall take full responsibility for the receipt, issue and custody of all club stores and equipment."

The second change is designed to eliminate the first-year member of committee (not necessarily excluding first year members from the general committee of course) and refill the position with a leader from the climbing sub-committee.

Section 13 by proposed amendment should now read:

13. "The general committee shall co-opt a climbing leader from the climbing sub-committee as its remaining member".

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It is thought that these amendments will give graduates a greater chance to participate responsibly on the general committee and to work in conjunction with under-graduates who are in closer contact with university events. While calling for nominations for positions on the 1963 general committee, the present committee would like at the same time to recommend the following list of duties to be attached to each position. It is felt that the allotment of duties within the committee needed some clarification and applicants can now see which positions carry which particular function.

Nominations (duly signed by applicant and nominee) are called for the positions of:-



1. President.

1 (or 2) Vice President(s). The vice-president(s) shall organise all club meetings, including booking of halls and supper, arranging for speakers and clearing up afterwards.

1. Secretary. Duties are to deal with official correspondence, subscriptions, membership list and general co-ordination of the committee's activities.

1. Assistant Secretary. Duties are to edit the club journal "The Mountaineer."

1. Walks Secretary. Duties include recruiting of trip leaders, briefing leaders on club rules, ensuring S. and R. rules are adhered to, organisation of accident insurance claims and the organisation of official club trips.

1. Stores Officer. To take custody of all stores and equipment excepting rope. This officer may have a number of non-responsible assistants preferably recruited from the committee.

1. Treasurer. Club finances and accounts.

The three other committee members will include one co-opted climbing leader and two committee members. Of these two members one will take charge of club rope orders while the other will assist the stores officer.

Nominations close on Tuesday, 19th March.

The President's new business phone number:

Bus : 63 7748

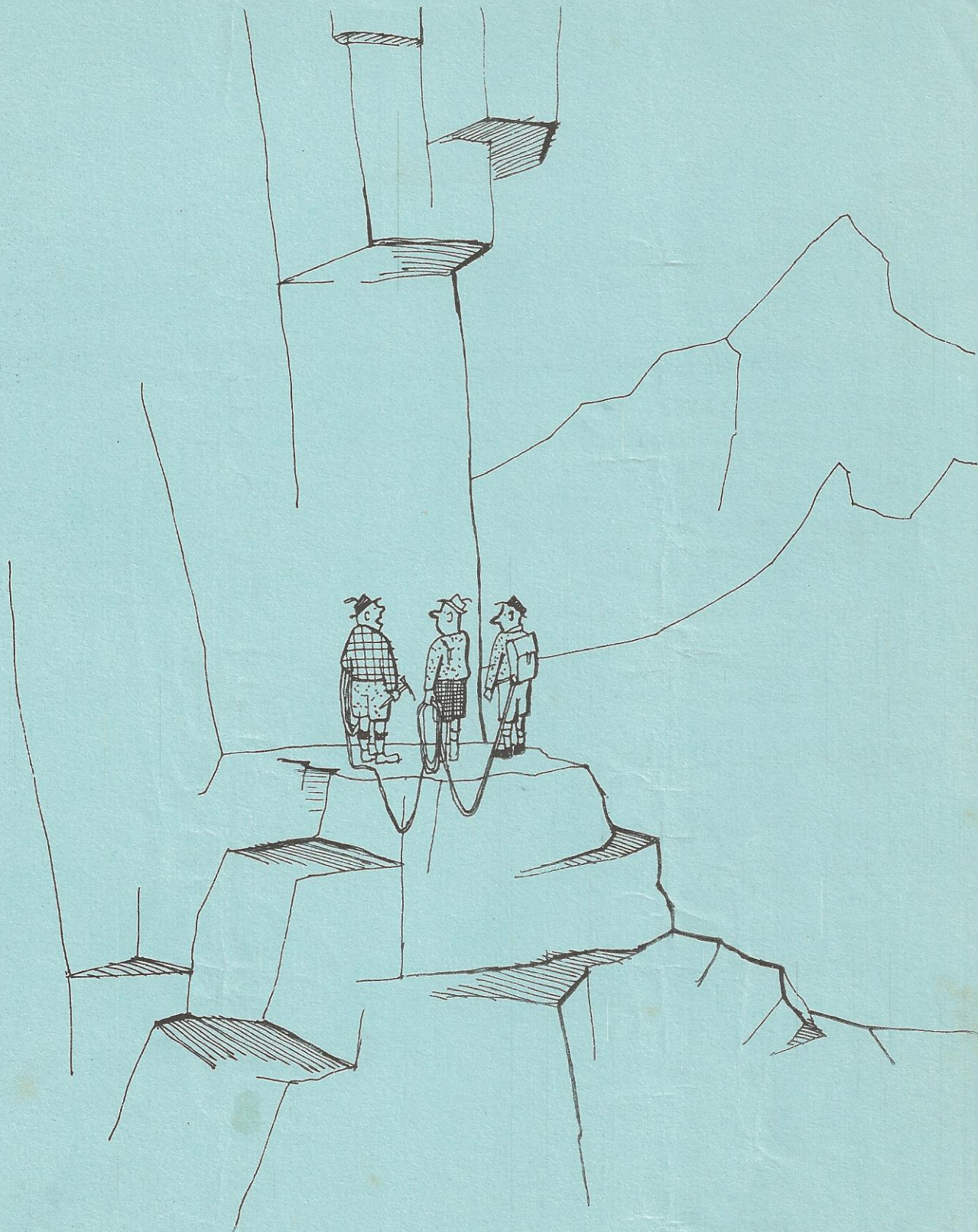
Priv: 91 1880

Treasurer's new address:

R. Hawthorne, 22 Coppin Grove, Hawthorn. 81 1126

Bus 62 4311, ext. 29





"LET'S BIVOUAC HERE OVERNIGHT IN THE  
HOPE THAT SUDDEN BAD WEATHER WILL  
MAKE FURTHER ASCENT IMPOSSIBLE."



