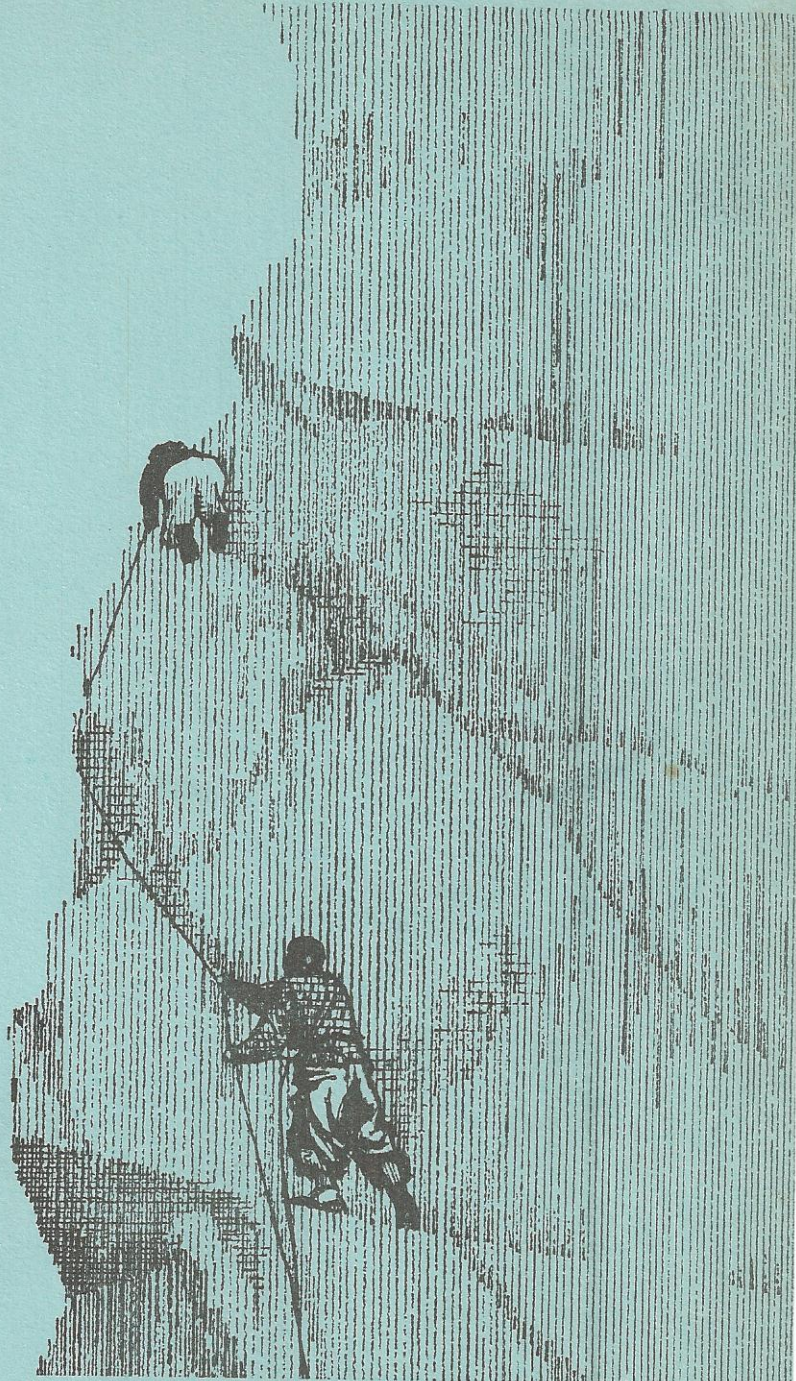


Official Journal of the  
Melbourne University  
Mountaineering Club.



# THE MOUNTAINEER

Number 5 , 1963



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



"WHAT! NO CARTOON?"

'THE MOUNTAINEER'

Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

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

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne, for Transmission by post as a periodical.

No. 5. 1963

Price 6d.

Editorial - "We've All Got Troubles".

Student: October. Hell. Three terms' work in three weeks. Must get to work.

Asst. Secretary: No. 5, 1963. AND its October; no more trips, therefore no trip reports. But there's still No. 6, 1963 to come. God knows what we're going to put in it. This one is nearly half trip reports.

Student: I've got no B- time to write not for that rag.

Asst. Secretary: Balderdash. When you're sitting in front of an open text book and starrng out of the Baillieu window thinking that there are better things to do than sitting in front of an open text book starrng out of the Bally Hoo window thinking ... Don't just think of those better things, write 'em down and send 'em to me.

Student: Argus -

Asst. Secretary: I'm sure you could think of better "things" to do.  
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A Reminder and Two Requests from the Trips Secretary.

Members are reminded that in order to benefit from the Sports Union Insurance Scheme they must register their trips with the Trips Secretary as a "Limited Club Trip".  
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Anyone wishing to lead a trip over the long vac is asked to contact the Trips Secretary (Max Corry) or Dave Hogg.  
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As Fred Mitchell is heading for the "big stuff" in Europe at the end of the year, the Secretary or Trips Secretary would like to hear from anyone wishing to act as Club Booking Officer. This necessitates access to a phone during the day and evening, although arrangements may be made on occasions for other people to lend a hand. This system of booking has proved the most satisfactory so it is hoped that some conscientious Mountaineer will apply.  
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Another Request

It is hoped that in the not too distant future another edition of "Equipment for Mountaineering" will be published. If you have any additions to, or criticisms of, the present edition, please send them to the Secretary, M.U.M.C., Union House, University of Melbourne, Parkville. N.2.  
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Trip Reports

Tallarook Plateau. 31st August - 1st September

Party - Rod Aujard, Tony Gartland, Max Corry.

This trip eventuated when the trip from Mountain View to Tallarook via Mt. Hivkey was cancelled due to less than ten members being interested in this, the last club weekend trip before the exams.

After another encounter with the Victorian constabulary we left our car on the Tallarook - Trawood Road and proceeded up one of the many spurs heading to Meadow's Hill in the North East corner of the plateau. After lunching here a seven mile road bash brought us to Mt. Hickey with its unlocked fire watching tower. The haze restricted the view somewhat but we could still see for miles.

Another hour of spur bashing brought us to our overnight stopping place at one of the best camp sites that can be imagined. The tent was pitched beside a mountain stream on a grassy flat and sheltered from the wind by the surrounding hills and spurs; to cap it all off, firewood abounded, the wattles were in full bloom, and the whole place had not been spoilt by human hand.

We awoke in the morning with the sun breaking through the light frost and this seemed to symbolize the change from winter into spring, which had officially occurred overnight.

Reluctantly we proceeded up a spur to the plateau again and headed north to Breech Peak where we lunched. After dropping down to the gorge of Mill Creek, we rock-hopped along the gorge bottom to the road and the car.

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Bogong Bunnies. 8th - 11th August.

Party - Peter Druce, Geoff McNicoll, Oliver Raymond, Campbell Macknight.

Feeling lazy, we set off up the T-bar from Falls Creek and ran down to Rocky Valley. We were not feeling lazy by the time lunch came at Watchbed Creek and we consumed our liquid lunch with glee dear to the interests of C.&U.B. Restored confidence was necessary to get us to the top of Nelse and for some of us to get down the other side. After digging Roper's Hut out of the snow, we had the usual comfortable night there and even managed to get away by about 8.30 next morning. We do not recommend Timm's Lookout to those who are affected by heights, but it does provide a very good view of Bogong across the valley. Unfortunately the valley has to be crossed. After admiring the extensive ice formations in the Big River, we waded up the other side through soft snow to the Quartz Nob. This pleasant grassy knoll presents an interesting and icy scramble under winter conditions. We were chiefly interested when we got to the top. Finding Yeti tracks, we followed these along, being very interested to observe on the way that on one particularly elevated hillock, the Yetis had allowed their young, called Crampons, to construct a Snowyeti. This resembled a large cairn. A little further on, we noticed where the young had been allowed to gambol on one of the flat open spaces. Neglecting the tracks which led down to what were later described as 85 degree slopes, we found Cleve Cole inhabited by native skiers, believing in a

strange cargo cult called Airdropping. However they proved very friendly and after listening to a few of their strange legends concerning a far-off land called Lakealbina, we slept very soundly after the exertions of the day.

Being tourists, we decided to complete the round trip via T and Duane spurs. The day started well on the slopes of Camp Valley, but as the two foot icicles hanging from the rocks indicated, the water in the Big River was not warm when we waded through it. On the way up Duane spur we tried hard to start a bush fire in the tangle of hops scrub hanging to the cliff, but all our language was of no avail. We were however thankful for having skins on the last part of the spur. "As evening shades were falling fast," we gorged ourselves on the food supplies left at Roper's.

Next morning on the side of Nelse, we discovered that a certain purple chemical is not an effective agent with which to write 60 foot high letters in the snow, and all our dreams of collecting advertising money from the manufacturer of a certain beef broth were shattered. Our disappointment was only compensated for by the run down Watchbed Creek and the scorn felt for the ants swarming at Falls Creek when we returned.

NOTES

1. We recommend most strongly that any winter trip on the High Plains be surveyed first in summer. Huts are difficult to find under snow, and most of the snow pole lines are in very bad repair.
  2. The Quartz Nob route to Bogong, though approximately equivalent in time to the T spur and much more interesting, should only be attempted in good weather.
  3. After extensive tests, Central Finnish Female Sealskins were found to be satisfactory under all conditions ranging from severe to downhill. These are available in Central Finland at reasonable cost.
- - - - -

Mts. Beggary - Everard - Jerusalem. 18th August

At the usual approximation to 9 a.m. Jimmy Rees' van left Batman Avenue with a cargo of 6 'xomen, 4 Oxowomen and 4 Melbourne Bushwalkers for "a day trip slightly harder than usual but crossing a wide strip of country" (according to the notice board). After visiting Kinglake, eventually disembarked at the Cookson's Hill turnoff, altitude 1380 feet. Following unenthusiastic contemplation of the steep slopes, first down, then up, of Jerusalem all turned about and pointed noses upward in the direction of Mt. Beggary. Twenty minutes later the summit (altitude 1600 feet) was gained and as there was no more uphill work in sight for a while a move was made along the ridge to Mt. Everard, altitude 1560 feet. Some faint cries of "lunch!" were heard here, but they were disregarded and all set off southeastwards across the headwaters of Stony Creek and on to a spur where the results of recent milling operations were viewed. The pleas of "lunch" were stronger now as we set off down to Stony Creek and the road where Dry Creek (which wasn't) was located and a stop made for food.

Having been fortified internally, it was decided to attempt the ascent of Mt. Jerusalem. This started as a half hour road bash followed by a quarter hour orange stop (one member was oversupplied). A short drop to the valley floor, then came the start of the climb. Hidden reserves of strength (well hidden in some cases) were summoned to enable an astounding climbing rate of 3,000 feet of altitude per hour to be maintained for five minutes or so when the summit ridge was gained. Thereafter the only difficulty was to decide which local prominence was the summit (altitude 1,500 feet).

Some careful sorting out of ridges was necessary on the descent to avoid ending up either too far up the road or in the Jehosophat valley, but the road, Steele's Creek and the van were reached without incident.

The weather was fine and warm, and as the country is virtually free of undergrowth a reasonably smart pace can be kept up even off the tracks. Total time from leaving to rejoining van, 6½ hours; distance covered, about 10 miles.

R.P.H.

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SNOWY HORIZONS

The night is cold and frosty and I climb the many stairs  
On my way to a meeting of some woolly mountaineers.  
We're heading on a journey to a far off land  
And I'm wondering bout the members of this M.U.M.C. band.

The smallish room is cluttered with some chairs and a table,  
It's Willy Whiskers talking and sounding very able  
He says tonight we must be sorting out the mess  
Of maps and gear and food for eight no less.

We're packed at last so climb aboard the pot  
The things that we've forgotten are important like as not.  
But not to worry for the wind is on our faces,  
The twinkling lights and swishing swell promising far off places.

It's Whirling Pill the famous glorious leader  
Who guides the heavy load as long as oils do feed her.  
Along by rocky lakes and rocky hills we drive  
We feel at peace and good to be alive.

The rising watery moon tells passing of the day,  
But the splashing and the crashing help us find the tricky way.  
In the flicking searching beam there are tiny disks of red  
To mark the padded trail leading onwards to our bed.

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Awake with a start then a thudding crashing cry,  
The torch flickers dimly and someone lets fly.  
It's Eagle Eye mumbling bout a possum very silly  
Was hanging in the chimney and sniffing in the billy.

She's Helen Earlyhours who's pushing us out on the track.  
It is wrong unjust and cruel by the pain in my back.  
Some yellow egg scunge and a small bit of pog  
Small wonder that I slip on the first greezy log.

Despite the marlin rigging that's strung about the camp,  
The snow is soggy weighty and forces us to cramp  
Grim words are being spoken to a long leaking lilo,  
That's quietly lowering Pill to the cold watery flow.

There's Tanglefoots persistence and patience to admire,  
He's holding out his socks on the cold smoky fire.  
The rain from his parka pouring off down the wool  
Is making of the ashes a rather muddy pool.

The bottomless pit called by some, Rumble Spartin  
Moans and groans in hunger that the menu's rather thin.  
I finally hear the reason for a face so long and glum,  
It's because of three times seven coming out to twenty-one.

When days are few and short and climbing's nearly over,  
We join with Native Flora in pining flowers and clover.  
So down the cliffs and track to running tinkling streams  
Leaving much behind, but taking much for many future dreams.

Sparrowlegs

INFORMATION - TRACKS HUTS ETC.

Bogong Area. Recent examination shows Ropers Hut to be in bad condition. The last occupants of the hut appear to be of the 4-legged type, the chimney is down and generally the hut has a strong smell! Bivouac and Summit Huts are in fair shape. The former provides accommodation for 8-10 people while the Summit Hut is essentially an emergency shelter only, nevertheless provides space for about five. In summer, to obtain water would be a problem at both huts. The track to the summit is in reasonable condition, but when visibility is poor, the best approach to the Cairn is to climb directly from the Summit Hut, for the snow pole line bypasses the top.

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Mt. Fainter. Permission from the superintendent of the S.E.C. by letter is required if one intends to stay overnight on Fainter during winter. Vehicles can be left at Big Hill lookout and from there it is an easy walk by jeep track to Spring Saddle. Care must be taken to locate the cattle track leading off the jeep track, 200 yards beyond the stockyard, before climbing over Bald Hill to Bogong Jacks. The accuracy of Robinson's Map is rather doubtful for this section.

J. Griffiths

PROGRAMME - VACATION TRIPS

November 22nd-24th Post Exam Weekend. Mt. Buffalo. Leader: Peter Morgan.  
This year's post exam weekend will be to Mt. Buffalo where a large variety of activities are possible. For example, you can spine-bash by Lake Catani or swim. You can rock-climb or if you are very energetic, you may desire a two day, 17 mile walk around the plateau on well-marked tracks.

Climbing will be restricted to those members of the club who have attended beginner's courses and those desiring to climb should indicate so when booking.

The two day walk will be of moderate standard and will be accepted as one of the necessary pre-requisites for the February Reserve trip.

Transport. Van will leave Union House at 5.30 p.m. Friday, November 22nd. Fare: £2 to £3/10/-. Cancellation fee: £1/10/-. Those desiring to go by private transport may do so but are asked to let Peter Morgan know of their intentions. For booking, phone Fred Mitchell, 60 1111, Ext. 44 (day), 42 5270 (evening).

December 4th - 12th (probable dates) Lake Tarli Karng. The trip will be run in two sections:  
(i) Glenmaggie Reservoir - Ben Cruachan - Miller's Hut - Tarli Karng - Mt. Margaret - Licola. Leader: Dave Hogg. Phone: 87 1630. Standard: Hard. Distance: 65 miles. This section will be a limited club trip, i.e. all those coming must have the approval of the leader and the Trips Secretary. This will be an ideal opportunity to get fit for hard, longer trips later in the vac.  
(ii) Foot of Bennison Spur - Wellington River - Tarli Karng - Mt. Margaret - Licola. Leader: Geoff Smith. Standard: Medium. Distance: 30 miles and day walks. This will include 3 or 4 days at Lake Tarli Karng itself which can be spent swimming, fishing, sun bathing, eating, sleeping and for the more energetic, day walks to the Sentinels, Gable End and Mt. Wellington. This trip is open to all and is very suitable as a qualifying walk for the Open Cradle Mt. Reserve trip.

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Transport: Public. Approx cost: £3 to £4/10/-. Booking for both trips is to be made with Dave Hogg. Phone: 87 1630.

January 10th - 12th Warburton - Mt. Donna Buang - Dom Dom Saddle via Federation Track. Leader: Lorraine Symons. Standard: Medium.  
Transport: Van if economical, otherwise public. This trip is particularly recommended as a qualifying walk for the Open Reserve Trip.

January 24th-27th Australia Day Weekend. The trip for this long weekend has been tentatively listed as Gentle Annie Gap to Power's Lookout via the Typo Range. It is hoped that enough people will turn up so as to make a van economical, otherwise transport will be private. This trip, in the superb country to the north of Mt. Cobbler, should be an ideal training trip for the Open Reserve Trip.

February 2nd-15th or 16th Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair Reserve, Tasmania.

The Cradle Mt. - Lake St. Clair National Park is reputed by most bushwalkers to be the most scenic, most interesting and most enjoyable hiking country in Australia and it is to give all Mountaineers the opportunity to see this area, that this Open Reserve trip has been planned.

ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THIS TRIP WILL HAVE TO HAVE BEEN ON AT LEAST A TWO DAY WALKING TRIP WITH PACKS.

The party will travel through the Reserve in groups with no more than 6 members per group. Routes are being planned to cater for those who have done the standard trip through the Reserve before. There will be opportunities for rock climbing with ropes for those with previous experience.

Tentative bookings, which are already in the high fifties, will close on ~~October 27th~~ <sup>Nov 27th</sup>. Such bookings can be made via a list on the club notice board or via Fred Mitchel (Phone: 60 1111, Ext 44 (day), 42 5270 (Evening). All who have booked by this date will receive in the mail a detailed plan of the trip. Definite bookings, which will be received with the deposits (see letter) will close on November 16th.

A limit will be placed on the number of participants and when the number of definite bookings reaches this limit, no more deposits will be accepted.

Enquiries should be directed to: Tony Kerr  
Richard Schmidt  
Bob Chappell

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Those of you who belong to each of the following classes of homo sapiens  
a) can get to M.U.M.C. noticeboard,  
b) are capable of reading,  
will have noted that eminent oxo man of the Birchip type, i.e. Bob Monkhouse, is leading a trip to the South West during Xmas sometime.

If you are in class (b) but not class (a), this will be news for you. If you are in classes (a) and (b), this is still interesting reading. If you are not in class (b), then one A. E. Spiegelman will tell you the contents of both writings, for a small fee, of course.

Bob did this self same trip back in '58 and has written this record for those who are interested. If you are interested in going on this excursion into the wilds of Tasmania, Bob can be contacted at Box 152, Birchip, Victoria.

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The trip was up the Rasselas Valley to the King William and thence to the Lyall Highway near the King William Saddle. There were five on the trip - namely Glenda Kellam, Trevor Kellam, Keith Ball, Bill (I've forgotten his name) and myself.

After hitch-hiking to Maydena, we made contact with a Mr. Francome, who drove us along the Adamsfield Track as far as he could. We slept that night in a hut at the beginning of the track up to "Gordon Vale".

December 21st saw us walking the Rasselas Valley towards "Gordon Vale". It is about 14 miles from the beginning of the track to the hut. "Gordon Vale" is quite an interesting hut underneath Mt. Wright. It sleeps quite a few and has several outhouses - connected to the main building by covered pathways. They include an office, bakery, blacksmiths, shop etc.

The next day we climbed Mt. Wright. A beautiful view was to be seen on all sides. To the south are the Thumbs and the Gordon Gorge, to the west are the Prince of Wales Range and north the King Williams. The climb was not difficult.

The following day we walked about 7 miles and made a base camp somewhere below Lake Rhona. About 2.30 p.m. we set off to Lake Rhona, but got on to the wrong ridge, and had to bash down across a creek and up on to the southern ridge (which is the right one).

Lake Rhona is really beautiful, and nestles under Reeds Peak (sometimes called Denison Peak). It has spectacular cliffs at the back of it, and is somewhat surrounded by a white sandy beach.

We quickly headed for the beach and enjoyed a swim in its cool waters. Lake Rhona plays host to anaspides. These are a very ancient form of animal life and are found only in Tasmanian Mountain Lakes.

The next day we went again to Rhona - then walked around the Lake to the ridge leading to Reeds Peak; from Reeds Peak we then traversed across to Bonds Peak (4,200 feet). The weather closed in quickly and we were forced to head back to camp.

Xmas day 1958 saw us again heading north up the Valley with the Denison Range on our left. We had dinner on Squirrel Creek and pushed on to make camp that day on the Gordon River. I made a Xmas pudding that night which was thoroughly enjoyed - by myself anyway.

We arose late the next day and lunched on the Gell River. We had wonderful views of the King Williams all that day. We slept that night by a creek in a sort of moss jungle.

The day after we pushed through some rather typical Tasmanian scrub for a few hours until the Hobhouse Ranges were visible on the west side. We camped that night at the foot of the ridge leading up on to Mt. King William III.

The next two days were spent in our tents as the weather closed in and we had snow and all that stuff that goes with it!!!!

It took us about 3 hours to reach the top of King William III - and the rest of the day was spent climbing around King William II and III.

The next day we arose at 4.30 a.m. and were on top of King William I by 8. After that it was an easy few hours down to the Lyal Highway, from where we headed to Queenstown.

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NEW SONG BOOK

During the long vacation and the beginning of next year, a new M.U.M.C. song book will be written. While we have quite a selection of songs already, we still need a lot more variety in order to give the book a wide appeal.

So if you know any songs or oxometric rites which you think would be suitable for publication, could you please send them to either of the following two names, via the club box, Aikmans Road, or by post.

Richard Schmidt,  
32 Cootamundra Cres.,  
Blackburn.

Jeannette Boer,  
C/- Post Office,  
South Yarra.

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MAP INDEX

The Club has recently obtained copies of the Federation of Victoria Walking Clubs Map Index which lists and categorises all current map issues in Victoria. The Index is kept at Aikman's Road with the map library (which contains a very large selection of Victorian and Tasmanian maps) and members planning trips are urged to make full use of this library to consult maps. (Maps, may not however, be removed from Aikman's Road). An Index of Tasmanian maps has also been compiled along the same lines as the F.V.W.C. Map Index and a Club Index, of all the maps in the library, which has been greatly expanded this year, is at present being prepared by the Maps Officer, Max Corry.

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STORES FOR LONG VAC

Members requiring food from club stores for trips in the coming vac are advised to let the Stores Officer (Richard Schmidt) have their orders as soon as possible (via club box or Aikman's Road) so that he can stock up in plenty of time to fulfil the orders. Available at Aikman's Road at reduced rates are dehydrated vegetables, dried apples and apricots, sultanas, raisins, instant mashed potato, chocolate, glucose tablets, egg powder, shellite and greenlite matches.

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Because of the large number of enquiries the Hobart Walking Club receive about the South West, they have requested that all our members, before contacting them for information, should consult our own files and maps in the Club Library. In particular much time could be saved if people ordered specific maps from them, instead of asking for maps of the South West. Latest copies of all their maps are currently held in our own map library so let us help you to help the H.W.C. to help you again.

The H.W.C. publishes the following dyeline sketch map:

	<u>Area</u>	<u>Scale</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>M.U.M.C.</u> <u>Map No.</u>
Field West - Cox Bight	Port Davey track; Cox Bight to New River Lagoon; Junction Creek to Blake's.	1" = 2m.	1952	8/-	148
Picton - La Perouse	Sth Picton Route; Recherche Bay to New River; La Perouse-Precipitous Bluff.	1" = 2m	1957	4/-	138
Federation	Four Peaks and Moss Ridge Routes	1" = $\frac{1}{4}$ m	1958	4/-	199
Arthur Ranges	Eastern and Western Arthur Ranges	1" = 1m	1959	4/-	169
Lake Pedder	) Lake Pedder and environs ) )	1" = 1m	1956	3/-	171
Mt. Anne		1" = 1m	1960	3/-	233
Rasselas Valley)		1" = 1m	1953	3/-	170
Cox Bight - Ironbound	Detail of South Coast Route	1" = $\frac{1}{2}$ m	1956	4/-	147
Spring River	Port Davey Track detail; Bathurst Harbour to Lost World Plateau	1" = $\frac{1}{2}$ m	1956	2/-	202
Mt. Wellington	Tracks	1" = $\frac{1}{4}$ m	1956	5/-	200

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In the 1962 edition of the Victorian Year Book, we notice that there is an extensive article on Victoria's Mountain Region. This interesting article gives a general coverage of the subject touching on the following aspects: mountain surveys, climate, hydro-electric resources, mountain forests, Victoria's high catchments, soil conservation and tourist attraction. The geology of this region was treated in a separate article on the Geology of Victoria in the previous year book (1961).

From the same book, we learn that the Department of Lands and Survey has determined better values for the heights of some of the mountains due to better accuracy using improved instruments and methods and better control which has resulted from the opening up of the area by access roads etc.

The most recent values (in feet) of all mountains over 6,000 feet and some of those below 6,000 feet are:-

Mt. Bogong, 6516; Mt. Feathertop, 6307; Mt. Nelse, 6181; Mt. Fainter (South), 6157; Mt. Loch, 6152; Mt. Hotham, 6101; The Niggerheads, 6048; Mt. McKay, 6045; The Cobberas, 6030; Mt. Cope, 6026; Mt. Spione Kopje, 6025.

Mt. Buller, 5919; Mt. Gibbo, 5763; Mt. Wills, 5758; Mt. Howitt, 5718; Mt. Buffalo (The Horn), 5654; Mt. Speculation, 5650; Mt. Tamboritha, 5381; Mt. Wellington, 5355; Mt. Cobbler, 5349; Mt. Kent, 5329; Mt. Phillack, 5140; Mt. Baw Baw, 5130.

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#### MAP LIBRARY

The Club has recently spent £20 in bringing the map library up to date. The library now has 370 maps, so every Club member should make the full use of this facility. It is claimed that this collection is probably the best collection of Victorian maps and the best collection of Tasmanian maps outside Tasmania. Next year we hope to get a full set of New Zealand maps.

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#### SKYLINE

Copies of the 1963 edition of this annual production of the Launceston Walking Club are available for 2/- a copy at Aikman's Road. As usual this contains many interesting articles, among them being an article on the Lake Pedder Mt. Anne district, and one on the ascent of Kilimanjaro. Also walks information on the West Coast of Tasmania.

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#### HEYBOB

This 1963 edition of the University of Queensland Bushwalking Club's annual magazine contains articles on some of the many interesting, but rarely heard of down here, walks and trips available in Queensland. There is a very good article on the Lamington National Park which rivals the "Reserve", Tasmania, for popularity.

This magazine may be ordered through the Sec, M.U.M.C. or directly from the Sec, University of Queensland Bushwalking Club.

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MOUNTAIN MULE

This pack is made in Australia by Kimpton's Feather Mills of Budd Street, Collingwood. It is considered to be the best H frame pack available in Australia. They are selling for £14/17/6 from the factory.

But if you wish a 5% discount, order your pack through the Secretary, M.U.M.C.

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HONORARY MEMBER

At this year's annual club dinner it was announced that Fred Mitchell had been given Honorary Life Membership to M.U.M.C. This was the most fitting way for the club to show its appreciation of the endless energy that Fred has expended in the club during the many years of his association with it.

It was Fred who brought into being the present "Mountaineer" which replaced a newsheet. Fred's cover designs, numerous articles and cartoons have added quality to every issue.

It was Fred's drive and initiative that lead Roger Riorden and himself to compile the very successful "Equipment for Mountaineering".

Out in the bush his "mountaineering" skills put him in a class by himself. This is born out by his climbing skills and by the number of times he has been in the winning team in the '24'.

It will be a true Mountaineer in every sense of the word and a very worthy honorary member that we will lose when Fred sails for Europe next January, in pursuit of his enjoyment in Mountaineering.

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Perhaps one of the reasons why mountaineering is such an enjoyable pastime is the inherent danger which is never very far away. Each risk one takes is a calculated one; occasionally the calculation is faulty and an accident results. Ideally this shouldn't occur, but it does and every climber should be prepared to meet any such emergency.

This consideration warrants the inclusion of this article on rope stretchers in "The Mountaineer". This article is from The Rucksack Club Journals 1943-44 and 1945. We are deeply indebted to our venerable friend Prof Cherry who supplied both the information and the idea of publishing it here. The Rucksack Club is a British group and the Prof would like to point out that their conditions are different from ours in this respect - there is no timber available for stretcher poles.

"A Rope Stretcher" (see diagrams on inside of cover). Rucksack Club Journal 1943-44.

"The diagram shows a simple form of stretcher that can be made easily and quickly from a climbing rope. Start twelve feet from one end (A-D) and tie a series of loops nine inches apart using the ordinary overhand knot (D). The loops should be roughly three feet long BEFORE they are tied and can easily be measured by taking the distance from one's nose to outstretched finger tips. After tying they will be about 28 inches long, and 23 inches long in their final state. An eighty foot rope is enough for eight such loops, giving a bed of about six feet. Longer ropes can be usefully employed by making more and closer loops. Bend the ends of the loops over (E) and pass the free end of the rope (A) through. Before tightening the knots at E, adjust shoulder loop at B to suit the height of the bearer. Pad bed with coats, woollies and so on. Place a rucksack, back uppermost, for pillow; unbuckle straps, pass both round first loop, one strap through first three knots at E, the other through opposite three knots at D, both straps around third loop and rebuckle. Only the three knots so used at E will require lashing with string or handkerchief to prevent loosening.

"If there are five helpers do not make a shoulder loop for the bearer at the foot end. It is better to carry with a man each at A, B, and C and one at each side in the middle. This method prevents bumping or pressing on the patient's feet. With only four helpers it will be necessary to make a shoulder loop for both of the end bearers even though it means shortening the stretcher.

"It is hoped that an improvised stretcher of this kind may be found useful for getting the patient to warmth, shelter and medical attention more quickly, particularly if the accident should be in a place remote from help, or if exposure is likely to be long or serious. If the condition of the injured permits time could be saved by carrying him down to meet the rescue party coming from the valley. Broken limbs must be immobilized so that movement doesn't cause pain. A broken leg might be firmly tied to the other, sound one, or a broken arm to the chest."

After this article had been published the occasion for use of one of these stretchers arose, and the following notes and improvements were suggested in the 1945 edition:

"The Rope Stretcher Again"

"The knots used to attach the loops to the side rope tended to slip. E. Moss has designed two others, one of which should be used instead of the knot described last year. Knot 2 uses less rope, and is quicker. Its disadvantage lies in that with it the loops tend to twist and do not lie as flat as with knot 1.

"Rope is better than alpine line. It is easier to carry and less uncomfortable.

"One party found it easier to carry sideways down steep ground, that is, with the body of the patient parallel to the contours of the slope; the other carried straight downhill. The first method has the advantage of keeping the patient level and with improvised side slings is easier for the rear bearers. Without side slings this last benefit is cancelled as the side bearers would become rear bearers.

"The heaviest work devolves on those holding the rope by the hips or shoulders of the patient, or some point between, and the bearers there should be changed frequently. The work at the end by the feet is comparatively light and may be given to women or boys.

"If the rope is a long one, the additional length can be used to advantage by passing the ends back, tying them to the longitudinal ropes near the hips and using the free ends as slings to pass over the shoulders of the bearers carrying there.

"Another way of using extra length of rope is to make a shoulder loop for the bearer at the foot end. The front bearer should then lean forwards, and the rear bearer resist the pull by leaning backwards. An advantage is that the longitudinal ropes are kept more taut. A disadvantage is that the front bearer is apt to bump against the patient's feet, which might be serious should he have a leg injury.

"The pathfinders were of great value. The line of evacuation should be prospected and the carrying party guided along it. If two men can be spared for this work one might be employed some way ahead to determine the best route and the other act as a connecting link between him and the party.

"A rope stretcher demands hard work from the bearers and may be uncomfortable for the patient. It is important that a messenger should seek better equipment and send it to meet the carrying party.

"It is suggested that climbers should make themselves acquainted with the construction of the stretcher BEFORE an emergency occurs.

"When using garments to make a bed or to protect the patient, arrange them so that sleeves and small articles are not likely to trail on the ground.

"The disadvantages of the stretcher are obvious and have already been mentioned. All that is claimed is that it provides one method of moving a man quickly when the factors of time and weather make that desirable and when the condition of the patient allows it. Climbers will find it most useful for the type of accident in which the patient, though incapacitated, has not been injured seriously. It is repeated that broken limbs must be suitably immobilized".

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MOUNTAINEER'S SCRAP BOOK

As if to add weight to the previous article, the following two articles appeared in the press.

"2 Climbers Die In Andes" - Herald, August 19th.

LIMA, Peru, Sun. Aug 18th. Two young British climbers have fallen to their deaths in an assault on the formidable 19,300 feet Mount Rondoy in the Peruvian Andes.

They were members of a London School of Economics six-man expedition, which had reached the summit of August 6th.

The expedition leader New Zealander Peter Farrell said in Lima today that the two men, Peter Babbington, 25, and Graham Sadler, 24, had disappeared during fog as they climbed down a ridge from the summit.

Their bodies were found after a four-day search in a deep crevasse. Efforts to retrieve the bodies had to be abandoned because the crevasse was dangerously insecure.

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"Audacious Rescue in French Alps" -

PARIS, August 12th. - Two French mountain guides fought darkness and a violent storm in an audacious all-night rescue operation to save an unconscious Scots climber.

Neal H. Macniven, 21, was climbing the west face of the 11,556 ft. Aigille de Blaitiere, in the French Alps with a 20-year-old friend, Robin Campbell, of Perth (Scotland) when he was struck by a falling stone.

He fell about 20 feet, fracturing his skull.

Though he fell yesterday morning, it was not until late afternoon that other climbers who heard shouts for help, alerted Chamonix rescue centre.

Two guides, Charles Bozon and Rene Novel, together with police and gendarmes, flew by helicopter in the evening to a glacier at the foot of the west face.

The guides battled through a violent storm and reached Macniven and Campbell at 10.30 p.m. Because of the seriousness of Macniven's condition, Bozon and Novel decided to make the descent immediately, despite the darkness which made a difficult climb even more dangerous.

Bozon had Macniven strapped on to his back and descended by rope to the glacier, from which the helicopter immediately flew the unconscious Macniven to Chamonix hospital at 5 a.m.

The rescue was considered by Chamonix climbers as one of the most audacious ever attempted in the area.

A.A.P. - Reuters.

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Those of you who have read "The White Spider" will know what a treacherous climb the north wall of the Eiger is, and hence what a meritorious effort is noted here.

"Solo Climber Conquers Swiss Peak"

BERNE, August 4th. Michel Barbellay, 29, alpine guide, yesterday made the first successful solo climb of the treacherous north wall of the Eiger.

There have been five unsuccessful solo attempts recently to scale the 13,025 feet mountain by the north.

Barbellay made the climb in 19 hours - only two hours less than the record set by a two-man Swiss team last Thursday.

Five days ago ace Italian climber Walter Bonatti climbed down from the sheer rock face in agony after being struck by a rockfall during a solo attempt.

All three previous solo attempts had ended fatally. About 25 climbers have died on the north face.

A.A.P. - Reuters.

"Climbers Conquer Dangerous Peak" - Age, Tuesday 15th October.

COURTMAYEUR, Italy, October 14th. Walter Bonatti and Cosimo Zappelli, two noted Italian alpinists, last night claimed a first-ever climb of an almost vertical ice-coated wall of Mont Blanc. It took them 36 hours.

The climb included a night bivouac roped to spikes on the rocky wall of the eastern side of the Grand Pilier d'Angle, where no man had ever set foot before. The Grand Pilier d'Angle is a cliff of 3850 feet. Its base is on a glacier of Mont Blanc - Europe's highest mountain.

Bonatti, 33-year-old conqueror of the world's second high peak, the K-2, in the Himalayas, left the Italian alpine resort of Courmayeur on Thursday night. With him was Zappelli, his 29-year-old companion of several daring climbs in the Alps and the American Andes.

FREEZE DRIED MEAT

A quantity of freeze dried meat is being obtained for the Reserve trip. Freeze dried meat should be available in club stores within 4 weeks.

Initially two varieties will be available for sale in club stores, namely:

- 2½ oz. packets of Beef Mince at approx 3/6 ea.
- and 1¼ oz. packets of Precooked Beef Stew at approx 3/- ea.

If demand for freeze dried meat is sufficient, more varieties will be obtained. If you wish to obtain a large quantity of this meat for a long trip, contact the Secretary, M.U.M.C., via the club box, Union House.

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ADDENDA TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

AUJARD	Rod	7 Proudfoot Street, Mont Albert.	89 2349
BLACKWOOD	Anne	16 Rae Street, Hawthorn.	81 6219
COFFEY	David	48 Park Street, Parkville. 122 Hope Street, South Yarra.	34 2253 26 5968
COLES	(L) Rodney	75 Mountain View Pde, Rosanha. N.22.	45 2144
COUCH	Marie	880 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.	88 4317
CROCKETT	David	359 Whitehorse Road, Ringwood.	87 7170
DEWAR	Robert	59 Winton Road, Ashburton South. S.E.11.	25 3349
DOSSER	Peter	55 Caroline Street, South Yarra.	
GOLDBERG	Peter	140 Park Street, Parkville.	34 5620
JAMESON	Graeme	Queens College. 52 Wheeler Street, Pascoe Vale South.	36 8268
JUDGE	Russell	75 Elgin Street, Hawthorn.	
MELBOURNE	(L) Bill	Flat 6, 202 Punt Road, Prahran.	
RICHARDSON	Garry	"Belton Cottage", Berwick.	166
RYMER	Bernie & Elidia	72 Gatehouse Street, Parkville.	34 4810
WATTS	Anthony	7 Garden Street, Hampton.	98 3718
WILLIAMS	David	16 Memlong Street, Ringwood East.	87 5892
WILMOT	Graeme	C/- Physics Dept, McGill University, Montreal 2, Province of Quebec, Canada.	

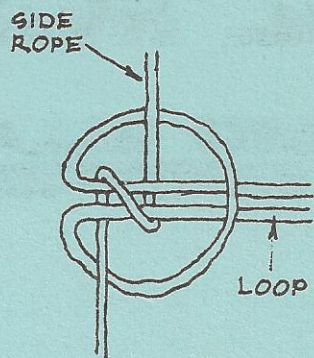
# THE MOUNTAIN

No. 5, 1903

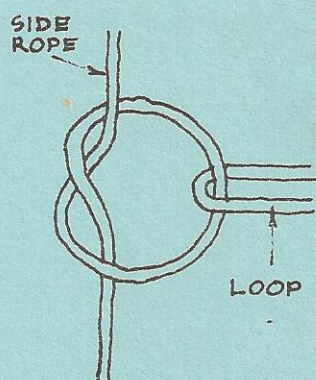
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## ADDENDA TO MEMBERS LIST

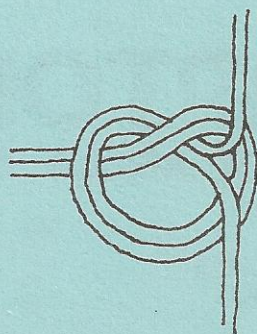
ALWARD	Robt	7 Broadwood Street, West Albany.	69 1903
BLACKWOOD	Anno	10 Red Street, Newtown.	61 1903
COTTEY	David	48 Park Street, Parkville. 122 Hope Street, South Yarra.	21 1903 26 1903
COLES	(E) Robert	75 Mountain View Rd, Rosanna, N. 11.	43 1903
COUCH	Marjo	520 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.	66 1903
CROCKETT	David	229 Whitehorse Road, Ringwood.	61 1903
DEWAN	Robert	29 Union Road, Ashburton Road, N. 11.	23 1903
DOHERTY	Robert	22 Caroline Street, South Yarra.	
DOHERTY	John	140 Park Street, Parkville.	24 1903
JAMISON	Thomas	22 Wheeler Street, Traralgon, N. 11. Glenora Cottage.	26 1903
JONES	John	75 High Street, Newtown.	
MELVILLE (E) HILL	John	124 St. John's Road, Brighton.	
RICHARDSON	George	"Union Cottage", Glenora.	74
RYAN	George	22 St. John's Road, Parkville.	24 1903
WATTS	Anthony	7 Gordon Street, Brighton.	63 1903
WILLIAMS	David	18 Leinster Street, Ringwood East.	67 1903
WILSON	Thomas	61-63 High Street, North Melbourne. Montrose St. Station at South Yarra.	



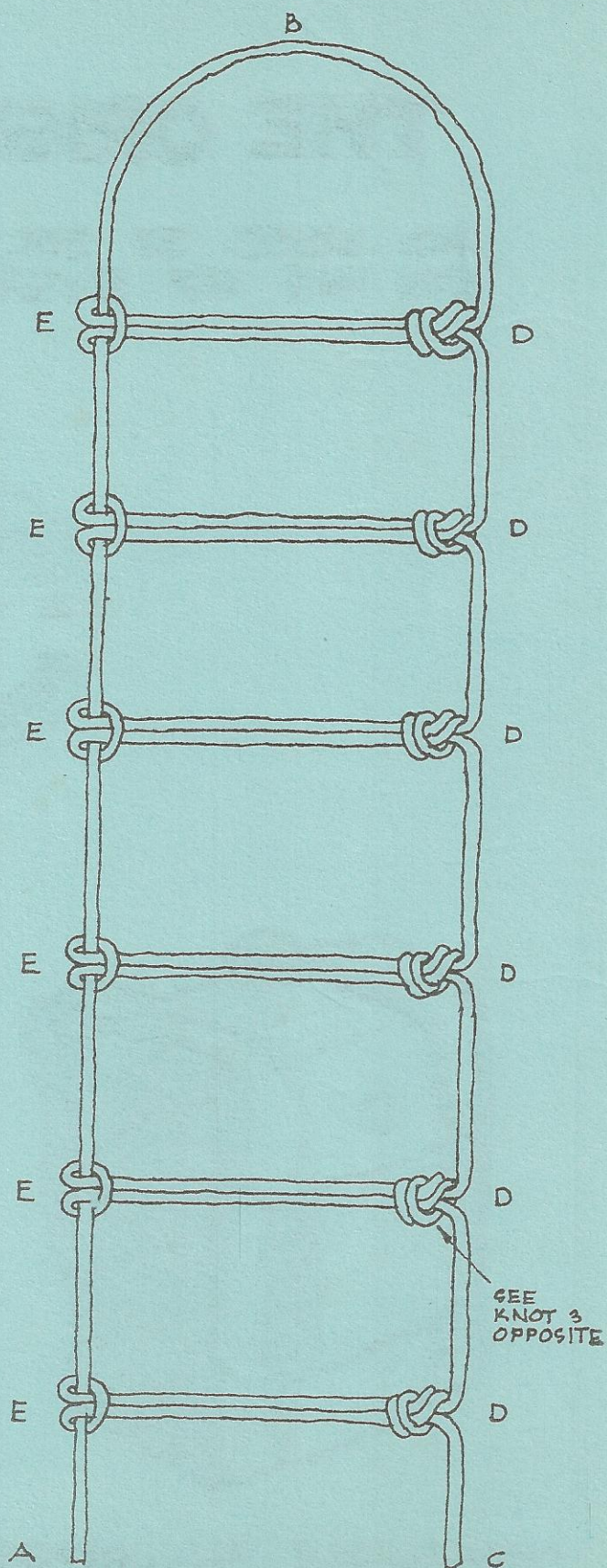
KNOT 1



KNOT 2

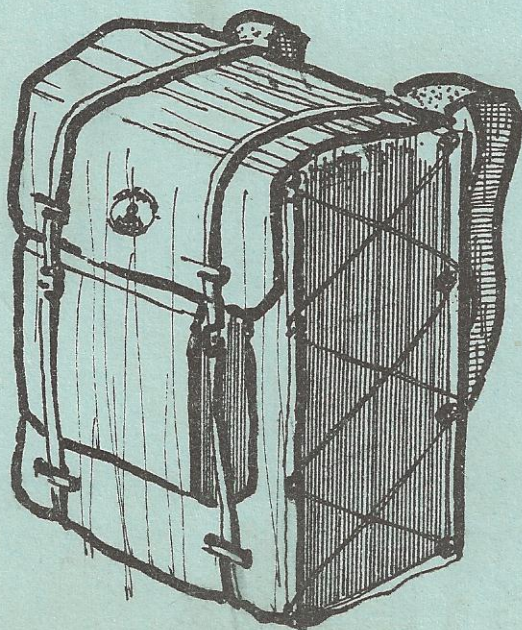
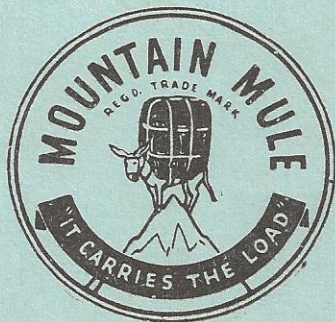


KNOT 3



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