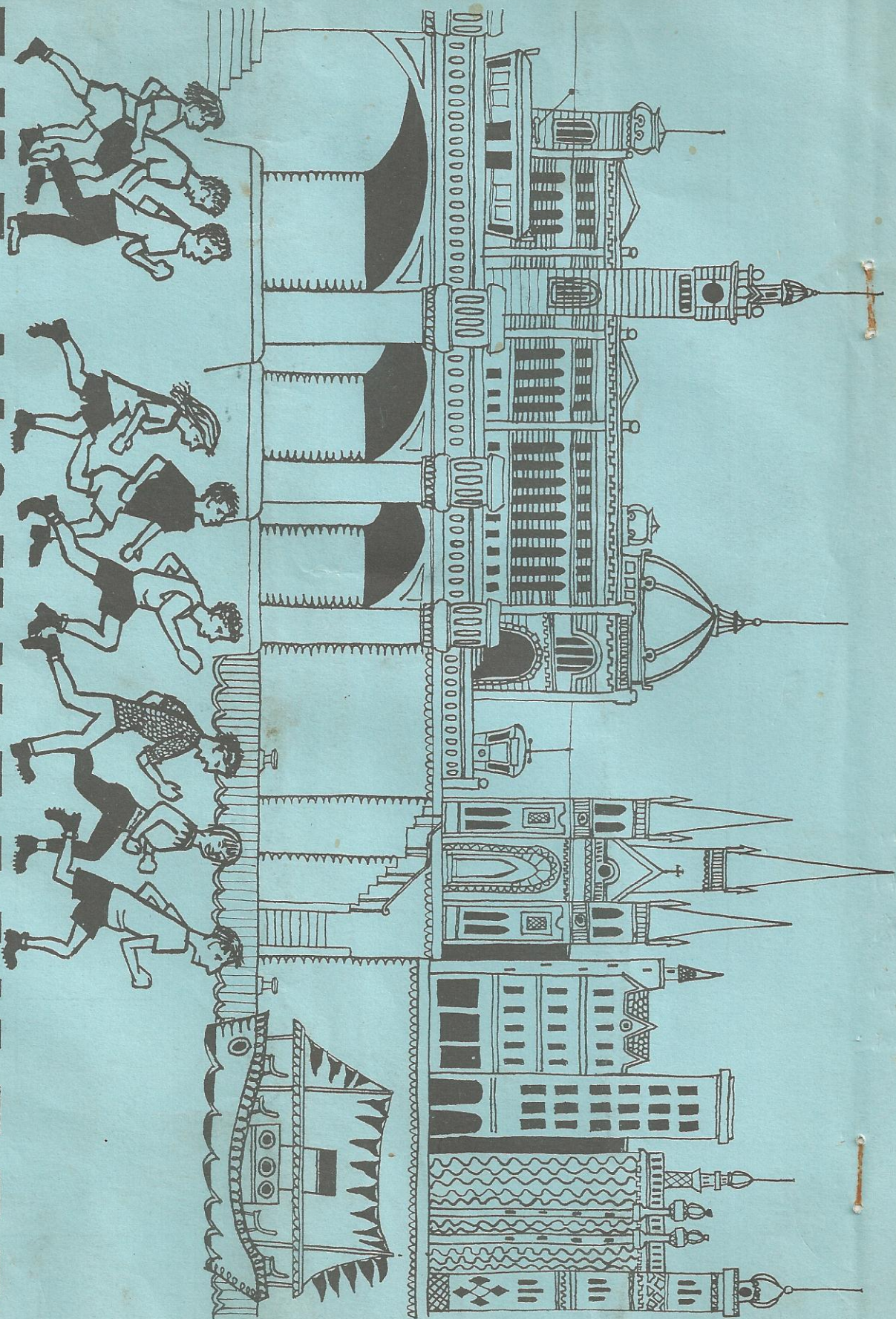
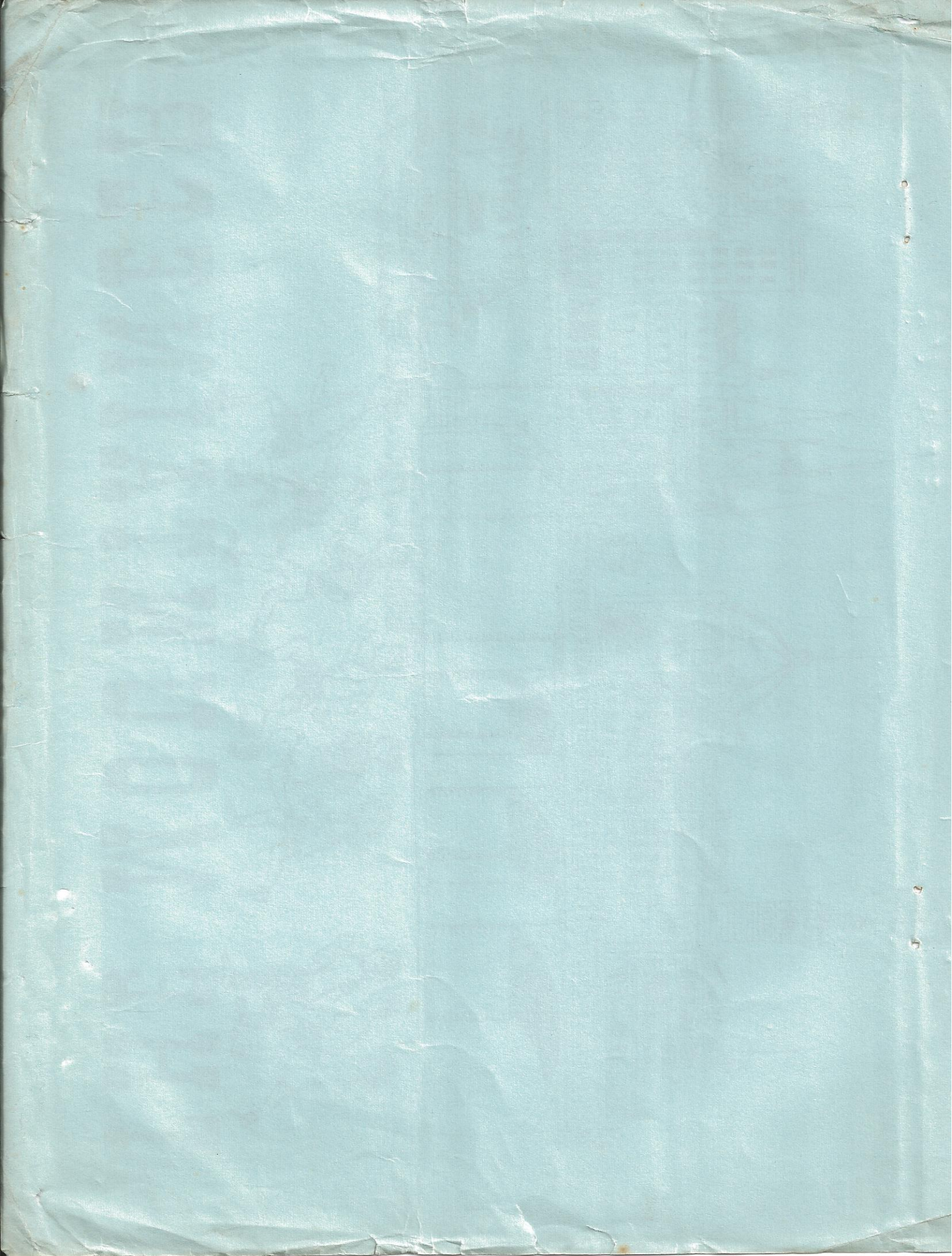


THE MOUNTAINEER





THE MOUNTAINEER

Official journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.
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With the Queen's Birthday weekend approaching, and thinking about the numbers of people involved, it may be important to not only think about cleanliness about a campsite but also do something. Only too often in past years have I noticed mountaineers, climbers and bushwalkers neglect a campsite in similar ways to what they severely criticize tourists for doing. Exactly why mountaineers should be exempt, I have yet failed to work out.

HATCHED, MATCHED, DISPATCHED COLUMN:

Congratulations to Peter Morgan and Carol Griffiths on their recent engagement.

Also congratulations to Jennie Lawrence and Bill Meares.

News from New Guinea is that Phil and Val Willy are settling out on mountaineering expeditions in the Rabaul area.

FILMS FILMS FILMS!!!

THURSDAY 8th. JULY, 2.30 pm. Union Theatre.

Film afternoon to raise money for the Memorial Hut.

Details of films will be forthcoming later.

24 HOUR WALK: Thank you to the organisers.

Congratulations to the two Monash girl winners -

TRIPS PROGRAMME.JUNE 11 - 14. Queen's Birthday.

Mount Arapiles - climbing, walking and otherwise bludging.
 Transport - van and private. Van leaves the front of the Union on
 Friday June 11th. at 6.15 pm.

Fare - £2:10:0 min. - £3:12:0 max.. Cancellation after June 6th,
 £1:6:0.

Lake Tarli Karng

(a) Leader - Geoff Smith.

Licola - Wellington River (Sat. night) - Lake

Tarli Karng (Sunday) - Licola (Monday).

Standard - easy.

(b) Leader - Dave Hogg.

Bruni's Knob - Crinolin - Mt. Tambarethra - Benn-
 ison Plains - Licola.

Standard - hard. Could encounter snow.

Transport - van leaves front of the Union Friday 11th. at 6.30 pm.

JUNE 25th. - 27th.

Weekend walk. Cathedral Range. Leader - Ron Jelleff.
 Buxton - Mt. Cathedral - jawbones (camp) - Razorback - Sugarloaf
 - Keppel's Lane.

Standard - medium.

Transport - Van leaves front of the Union, Friday June 25th. 6.30 pm.

Cost - £1:1:0 min. - £1:12:0 max. Cancellation fee after June 21st.
 11/-.

Climbing - Mt. Rosea. Leader - John Cayley. Private trans-
 port.

JULY 2nd. AUCTION OXION AUCTION:

A highlight of the year's activity! Funds raised to go
 towards the Feathertop Memorial Hut.

Oxioncers - Don Thomas and John McLean.

Trophy Hall, Beaurepaire Centre, 7.30 pm.

JULY 4th. Day walk and Goldpanning at Blackwood.

Leader - Nick White

Standard - easy.

Transport - Van leaves top of Batman avenue, Sunday July 4th., 9am.

The trip is destined to finish in Little Bourke St., Sunday
 night. Cancellation fee after Tuesday 29th. June.

JULY 10th. - 11th. FEDERATION WEEKEND:

Warburton area. Transport private or public - train and bus.

Day walks to be arranged for both Saturday and Sunday. Satur-
 day night to be spent at or near YHA hostel with a campfire and
 folk singing led by members of the Bush Singing Club.

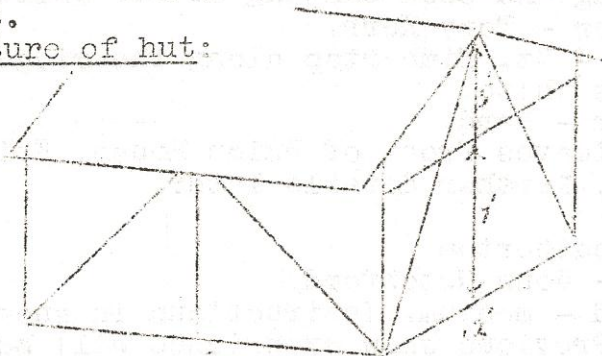
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FEATHERTOP MEMORIAL HUT:

As most members know, it has been decided to build a hut on Mt. Feathertop as a lasting memorial to Russel Judge and Doug Hatt, two of the club's foremost members, who were lost on Mt. Cook, N.Z., during the Christmas vacation.

At the A.G.M. on April 2nd. the Hut committee was given the Club's approval to proceed with the raising of finance necessary and to proceed with investigations into designs, materials and costs. A great deal of work has been done already in these matters.

The committee recommended that the hut be built to accomodate 12 people comfortably and up to 25 if necessary. An unconventional shape is favoured, but details of construction take longer to assess. There has not been enough time between the A.G.M. and the special general meeting (May 7th) to complete plans for more than one type of hut.

Structure of hut:

The basic structure of the plan which has been considered is as shown.

More detailed plans may be inspected at Aikman's Rd. It is a conventional type hut, composed of frameworks which could be prefabricated prior to assembly on the site, thus simplifying construction.

The upper part would be used for sleeping, and be equipped with bunks, and the lower section, with a stove, cupboards, sink etc. would be used for eating and general purposes. The hut has been designed to stand up to very harsh conditions of wind and snow, whether in an exposed or sheltered position. Other problems associated with the structure of the hut and weather conditions are being studied at the moment.

Materials and costs:

After much research into weights and strengths of different materials it has been decided that a framework of aluminium tubing would be the most satisfactory, with members of dimensions $4'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{8}''$. The total cost (estimated) is £759:

Cost of aluminium frame ...	£316 approx.
Roof (£87) & ext. walls (£91) ...	£178
Floor, bunks, int. walls ...	£172
Lining, windows, doors, masonry ...	£93

There are a number of reasons why aluminium is more satisfactory than (eg.) wood. Wood (Group D strength - Oregon, Radiata, Pine etc.) is cheaper, but with combined bending and compression a member $6'' \times 5''$ solid would be required to do the same job as a $4'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{8}''$ aluminium tube. Hardwood weighs 10.4 lb./ft. and costs 4/9d per foot, compared with aluminium - weighs 1.54 lb./ft. and costs 10/9d per foot. The saving on the cost of the frame would be about £170 but the increase in weight is 575% and thus the framework would have to be made stronger to support its own weight. Construction in wood also raises transport costs and building

difficulties - prefabricated frames could not be carried. Quotes for Comalco and Laminex and other products have been obtained and are being considered.

Transport to site:

The use of various means of transport has been offered for the cost of the petrol. A truck, landrover and furniture van are available for the first part of the trip. Two routes from the Harrietville area to the site have been investigated - the first is a steep $4\frac{1}{2}$ mile climb from Harrietville and the second is along the Razorback from Diamantina. This would be about 5 miles, but it is estimated that with axe work and 4-wheel drive, quite a distance along the Razorback could be covered. The third possibility, put forward at the special general meeting, is the use of a fire-track from the north, along which the materials could be transported (by vehicle) to within about 3 miles from the proposed site of the hut. The use of pack horses has also been considered - the cost is £20 per horse per day plus the cost of the "driver". This would come to approx. £100 altogether. The means of transport depends on the amount of money available finally.

Finance:

Various plans are afoot for the raising of the necessary finance for the hut, and the committee would be pleased to receive any further suggestions members may have. The profit from the camera raffle held recently was £46, the raffle being won by a friend of Phil Waring's. Approx £85 has already been promised in donations and the treasurer hopes that many more donations will soon be forthcoming. An oxometric auction will be held in 2nd term where anything at all will be auctioned. Coffee is available at Aikman's Rd. at lunchtimes, and there is a proposal to sell soup in the Union. Picture nights and other functions including a ball are being discussed. A 1/- supercharge on van fares will be made - this will cause no hardship to members and should raise about £60 per year. The club can give £150 by maintaining a static balance of £250 for services and the running of the club, instead of the £400 of last year. The Sports Union grant has been increased this year, as about £150 could come from this source. An overdraught of £200 - £500 could be obtained if a constitutional change approving such an action was made. "Equipment for Mountaineering" is being compiled at present, and it is estimated that proceeds from sales could bring in about £50 which could be given to the hut fund. Van fares from the 24 hr. walk could also raise about £50. Other plans are being discussed and details will be put on the noticeboard as they are finalised. Please support any functions held, as the success of the project depends on the interest and participation of the Club as a whole.

Approval of Plans:

The plans are subject to approval by the Mt. Hotham Alpine Reserve Committee which controls the area. The committee has approved the building of the hut in principle subject to :-

- (a) submission of full plans and specifications

- (b) particulars of building supervisors
- (c) details of transport
- (d) locality plan details
- (e) that the building be kept unlocked and available as a safety refuge.
- (f) rental \$1 per annum is charged.

However, your support is requested in this venture. It is a big undertaking for the club, though it should not be too big, as our numbers alone are the greatest they have ever been.

SUBS

SUBS

SUBS

Did page one of this journal have, scrawled on it, one bold, incriminating red line? If so..... shame on yer!!!

It signifies, I am sorry to say, that you are very nearly in the "red". ie. We have no record of your subscription being paid for the year 1965 - 66. Unless same is forwarded to the Club before the end of June, your membership card will be mercilessly removed from the membership list. If that infamous act has to be performed, you would no longer be able to call yourself one of the "Oxometric Clan" and the periodic (or should it be "spasmodic") appearance of "Mountaineers" in your letterbox would cease.

If this phenomenon has not happened recently, it may be either (i) we do not have your present address
(ii) your letterbox is too small!!

If you intend to continue your membership (as we hope you will) please forward the required sum before the end of June. (This is necessary to enable publication of the membership list). Please don't leave money (coins or notes) in the Club box. 13,000 people have easy access to it. Please pay at "Aikman's Rd.", or if you wish to pay by mail, please be sure to cross any cheques or postal notes, all of which should be made payable to the MUMC.

A subscription form may be found on the last page.

oxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo

TOKYO ROCK:

An article in "Newsweek" May 3 1965, reported that "alarmed with the reckless abandon with which the Japanese practice alpinism (157 lives lost last year), a tent manufacturer has adorned his new Tokyo headquarters with an 83.4 degree, 66 foot. vinyl-coated concrete cliff, complete with ledges, ridges and plastic flowers peeping from crevices.

For 56 cents an hour, reophyte mountain climbers can test their skill on the man-made rock face - with safety net under them before heading off for Mount Fuji. It may save lives, the manufacturer figures - and help sell tents."

Perhaps we could ask the tent manufacturers here!

"Compared to the Alps of Europe, the Australian landscape is extraordinarily colourful. Here are no sombre black swathes of fir trees, monotonous in their uniformity, but groves of snow gums whose graceful, sinuous trunks are slashed with pastel shades of olive, yellow, pink, lilac, blue and gold. The sun glitters through their feathery leaves, melting the snow with delicate shadows, and against the deep blue sky their twigs glow a rich red; from a distance, as the wind ruffles the foliage, it changes from grey-green to sienna and then to orange and back again....."

from "The Call of the Mountains" by Colin Wyatt.

OXOMETRIC OXION!!!

July 2nd. Trophy Hall 7.30 pm.

Your chance to sell your old equipment or buy someone else's. The Club proposes to auction items and charge a commission to be agreed on between the seller and the Club. All proceeds to the Memorial Hut fund.

We will attempt to sell anything! Equipment, clothing, books, photos. dehyd., etc.

If you have anything to sell, please bring it to "Aikman's Rd.", A.S.A.P.!

Pancakes made by one of the Club's most celebrated pancake makers (John Steele) will be on sale at a flat rate.

Lord High Oxocutioners - Don Thomas, John McLean.

Be there.....!

LOST PROPERTY:

There is still some lost property from the 24 hr. walk at Aikman's Rd. Speak now or forever hold your peace!

oxoxoXOXOXOXOXOXOXoxoxo

THE FLINDERS RANGES PACK:

The Flinders Ranges "Venturer" series consists of three packs - lightweight, medium and large. For purposes of comparison the large Venturer is approximately equivalent to the Mountain Mule and Paddy Pallin "Mountaineer" and costs less. The Medium Venturer costs about the same as the Paddy Pallin "Pathfinder". The Lightweight Venturer is unique in that it is the only light weight H-frame pack on the market. This report is primarily concerned with the Medium Venturer.

The design follows the standard H-frame pattern with steel tube frame with a detachable bag. The bag has side laces so that it can be adjusted for width, and the separation of the shoulder straps can also be adjusted. The pack is equipped with a waist band. Another good feature is the easily accessible map pocket on the back of the external pocket.

All those club members who have used the pack have found it comfortable to carry and easy to pack.

The materials and workmanship seem to be of good quality. The leather does not seem to have stretched as is often the case, and the canvas is strong and as waterproof as can be expected. Generally, it gives the impression of being a sturdily built unit and should have a long life.

However, all is not unstinted praise; we have some criticisms to make. The first arises from the previously mentioned sturdiness. The pack is relatively heavy, weighing nearly 7lb., and in some ways seems overdesigned. The inner throat, for example, is made of a heavy vinyl-coated fabric which seems much too strong for a part which should not be subjected to too much wear. The makers claim the pack can carry 100lb. This may be just a number for advertising purposes but how many people can carry 100lb.? It seems to us that most people who intended carrying this load would buy the Large Venturer and that the load in the Medium Venturer is seldom likely to exceed 60lb. There are two other points. The addition of keepers on the flap would be an improvement as crossed straps is not an entirely satisfactory way of closing the flap. We have had some trouble with the tubular rivets and have had to replace a total of five on the three packs we own.

To sum up, the Medium Venturer is a strong, well-made pack and although improvements could be made, the design is basically good. It is rather heavy but at about £9-7-6 represents good value for money.

THE FLINDERS RANGES TEEPEE III TENT:

The Teepee III is one of a range of tents made by Triumph Leathergoods of Adelaide. It is a wall tent with the following dimensions: length - 7'6", height 4', width 5', wall height 15". It is nominally a two man tent but is wide enough to take three in good weather. The tent is made from light japara which is apparently unproofed. This does not mean that it is not water proof, as any unproofed japara tent will shed water if there is little wind and it is not touched on the inside, although some always comes through as a fine spray.

Comments: All people should have a chance to be successful at all times.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1. HINTS ON SNOW TRIPS (for those members with little experience of snow trips)

account of this momentous victory.

minds for the battle ahead.

islands.

surrounded an enemy caravan, and the occupants surrendered without a struggle.

cause.

forward to the inevitable liberation of the entire state.

T.K.

tracks on dunes leading the one way. Keep on or near a dune top.

heavy scrub. Good water about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up Wilson from the Waterloo track.

Navigation, could be difficult in fog or bad weather.

Wilson's Promontory Liberated (Cont.)

Boulder/Wilson Saddle to Waterloo : quite easy if damp through the swamp.

Waterloo to North Waterloo :- a good campsite and water available. Peaty soil could prove dangerous to fire and stone fireplace needed.

Saddle to Oberon Summit :- up telephone line with no problems apart from snakes. A perfect 360° view from the top of Oberon.

Comments : All people should have a snake bite kit within easy access AT ALL TIMES.

All should have adequate waterproof, e.g. parka.

* * * * *

HINTS ON SNOW TRIPS (for those members with little experience of snow trips)

When you read this issue we should be well into winter. Many of the trips in the next two months will be into snow regions and it is imperative that anyone contemplating participating in such a trip must be prepared to meet the worst conditions that nature can produce. Extra clothes must be carried, items considered luxuries or unnecessary in summer and autumn become necessities on snow trips, and care must be taken in selecting food.

To ensure warmth during the nights, a spare set of clothes must be carried for sleeping in. Others musts are woollen balaclava and mittens (waterproof over mittens are desirable), waterproof parka (with hood), snow goggles (to protect your eyes against howling blizzards, and snow blindmen, which may occur on me, sometimes, many clear days that are encountered on trips), waterproof boots (there should be large enough to allow the wearing of two pairs of thickish woollen socks). At least four pairs of woollen socks (Norwegian Rag socks are probably the best available) must be taken on weekend trips. Puttees are also very desirable. There are two 1 yard - 2 yard strips of reasonably waterproof material (wool). 3 - 6 inches wide which are wound around the top 2 - 3 inches of the boots and up to at least 6 inches above the top of the boots, outside trousers or slacks. Tapes at the end of each puttee help for securing purposes. These serve to keep the snow away from the warmth of the legs.

One must always remember in selecting clothes, that it is easy to over-dress. Your body systems cannot function properly if the air layer close to the skin cannot circulate. Non-circulation of this air layer would result in general sluggishness very early in the trip.

Lilos and "choofers" are necessities on all snow trips. The insulating properties of a sleeping bag depend upon the thickness of air trapped between the inner and outer surfaces of the bag. At the points of contact between yourself and the ground, your sleeping bag is no more than 1/8" to 1/4" thick. Hence the necessity of lilos. A "choofer" (stove) for each tent group is a must. After a days walk, strenuous or otherwise, the usual procedure is to pitch camp and hop into sleeping bags as quickly as possible. Tea is cooked on the choofer just outside the front of the tent; the surrounding snow being used for water. Under such conditions an ideal cooking billy should have clean polished sides and a rough black base. (Depending upon the cook, this can occur on the inside of the billy). The blackened base absorbs heat more readily than a clean one. Also black sides would radiate much more heat to the environment than would clean

Hints on Snow Trips (cont.)

(polished) sides. As much cooking as possible should be done with a lid on the billy, to conserve heat.

Tents. Tents with storm guy attachments are much to be preferred. Without storm guys, and in a snow storm, the roof of the tent approaches ground level at a remarkable rate. For ease of access, packs should be in the tent. So 4 people, or even three people in a four man tent would be unwise.

Snow can be very slippery. To prevent tobogganing out of the tent during the night, the ground sheet should have eyes in the edges to enable staking it down.

Much enjoyment is to be found on snow trips if one: you are warm and two: you have sufficient well cooked food in residence inside your stomach. To ensure this, careful selection of food is a must. Ease of preparation must be a main consideration. Breakfasts and teas should consist of substantially hot courses. Lunches are usually quick affairs with no time for the lighting of fires. One breakfast course should be slightly overdosed with salt as a lack of salt, together with the cold environment can produce nasty cramps. Biscuits, spreads, scraggin etc. are the usual lunch foods. "Miracle" margarine is very spreadable in cold conditions. The first course at teatime should be very easily prepared, hot, and easy to "down" e.g. soup, milo, chocolate drinks etc. "Equipment for Mountaineering" has a very comprehensive food list which should be referred to frequently.

The above should only be taken as a guide. It by all means does not mention everything necessary for a snow trip. Written criticism of the above via the Editor of the Mountaineer, is welcomed.

Anonymous

* * * * *

SNOWSHOES

Much of Victoria's snow country never gets enough sun and fine weather to form a crust on the surface. Thus, either one has to plunge along in the footsteps of the leader who soon becomes tired or an alternative must be adopted. We successfully used snowshoes on the Bogong High Plains last August. These were made by ourselves in relatively little time. They are unsuitable for steep climbing but in other conditions permitted us to travel at a maximum of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h. whereas without then we would have been considerably slower and much more tired.

Basically, they decrease the weight per square inch thus stopping one from sinking knee deep in powder snow.

Materials : 2 x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ' of solid cane (as in cane furniture)
2 x 250' of hemp rope. Some greenhide leather for fastenings.

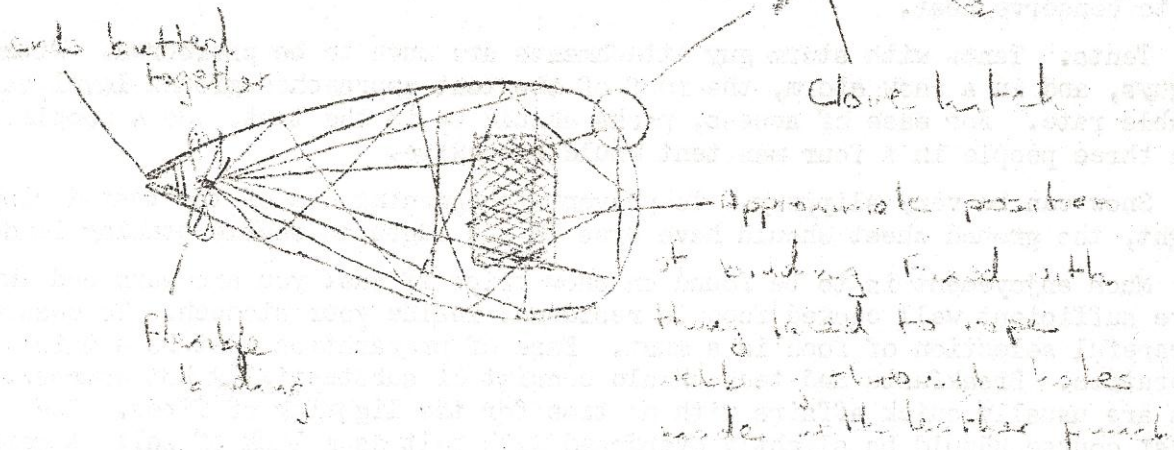
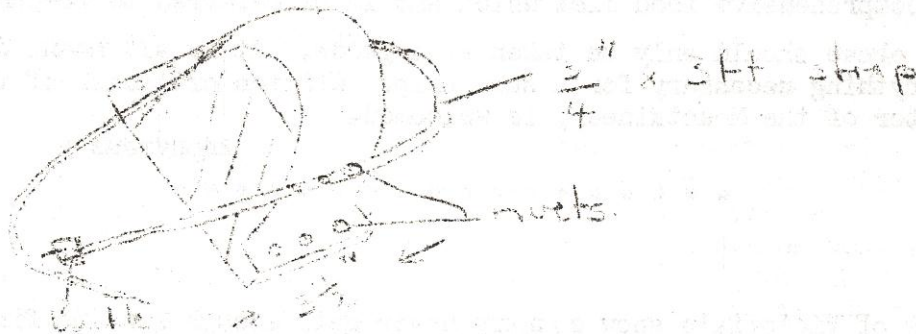
2 x 3' 6" x $\frac{1}{4}$ " sheep

2 x 16" of $3\frac{1}{2}$ " width leather for fastening

12 knots

1 m. H. punch

Snowshoes (cont.)

Right Binding

The cane was bent around a drum after steam heating and the two ends butted together and bound through holes with leather thonging. This binding was not made rigid due to the fear of the cane splitting. The rope is then put on as tightly as possible using a clove hitch as indicated, and using an over and under technique to make it firmer. The leather fastenings were made to fit snugly over the front of the boot (make sure the big toes are well out of the binding so that the binding fits over ball of foot). The binding is then attached to the rope webbing with leather or nylon thonging laced around the outside.

Snowshoes (cont.)

A loop is attached to the heel of the boot to thread the strap through.

This is only the basic outline, we had three variations on this theme and all were successful. The length of cane suggested was arrived after actual use - 5', being considered a bit short and 6' a bit long. Cane proved ideal because it is flexible enough and is whippy and does not break. In 2 weeks of use only running repairs were made. It is suggested that spare rope, thong and rivets be carried for such a purpose. The total was about 28/- per pair.

For any enquiries contact - Nicholas White.

* * * * *

EQUIPMENT FOR MOUNTAINEERING

There is a chapter in the booklet devoted to books on mountaineering equipment and techniques. To bring this chapter up to date, it would be appreciated if anyone, who has read any of the following books, could write a short review or notes (50-100 words) and leave it in the club box or post to "Equipment for Mountaineering", Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, Union House, University of Melbourne, Parkville. N.2.

"Teach yourself rock climbing"	Godfrey Francis
"Bush Lore"	T. Nolan
"Mountaincraft"	G.W. Young
"How to survive"	B.F. Hildreth
"The Bushman's Handbook"	H.A. Lindsay
"On Snow and Rock"	Gaston Rebiffat
"Artificial Aids in Mountaineering"	Geoffrey Sutton
"Tackle climbing this way"	John Disley
"The Young Mountaineer"	Walter Unsworth
"Getting to know mountains"	Showell Styles
"The Craft of Climbing"	W.H. Murray and J.E.B. Wright
"Modern Mountaineering"	George Alan Smith

and any other books which are not adequately reviewed in the 1961 edition.

Cover photo.

A suitable cover photograph is still required for the new edition. The general theme should depict the following aspects :-

Bushwalking

Rock climbing

Equipment for the above.

Any suitable photographs should be sent to Dave Hogg via the club box or "Aikmen's Road". All possible care will be taken with the photographs which will be returned to the owners after a suitable one has been chosen.

MT. STAPELTON (Flat Rock)

In the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Easter break members of M.U.M.C. and V.C.C. made continuous ascents of Mt. Stapelton, putting up seven routes in all. The cliff is about 300 feet high, steep, and has many overhangs of various standards. Most of the climbs put up were very difficult, all interesting and exposed, but there are many unsolved problems that would offer climbing of a higher standard.

Descent from the cliff can be made down a large gully to the left of the main face, or by walking right off the mountain and back to the car park.

Mt. Stapelton is situated in the N.W. corner of the Grampians. Follow the Rose's Gap road, (turns left off the Western Highway 15 miles beyond Stawell West, just past the 161 mile post), for about 5 miles to a road junction. Straight ahead for 6 miles is an excellent campsite at Trooper's Creek Crossing, and 9 miles along the road to the right is the Flat Rock car park. The cliff is a large "amphitheatre" on the south side of Mt. Stapelton. In Winter and Spring it would be possible to camp near the car park, water being provided by numerous rock pools in the area.

For those interested further information could be obtained from Pete Smith (our honourable guide to the area); or Ian Guild and John McLean of Lygon Lane.

* * * * *

A few very hurried comments on life at Mawson,
within a couple of hours before the departure
of the Nella Dan for warmer latitudes.

This year almost 20% of the party at Mawson consist of M.U.M.C. members. Max Corry is the Surveyor, John Bennett the moral physicist, Don Allison the power Electrical Engineer, Scott Cameron the doctor and myself the Electronics Engineer. Altogether there are 27 people on the base. Don, John Scott and I have been here almost two months, whilst Max has just arrived, having spent his time on a survey of the country west of here whilst based on the ship.

The trip down was unprecedentedly calm, and virtually nobody suffered from seasickness. Our good fortune with the weather has continued. So far we have not experienced a blizzard. We have had winds up to about 60 knots and temperatures down to 12°F, but at no time has the weather been as ferocious as some we experienced last summer in the New Zealand Alps. Winter will of course bring another story. We have had many fine days when with the temperature in the high 30's (°F) it has been quite enjoyable strolling around in the sunshine in light clothes. I think everybody has found more than enough work to do. I know I have been busy. Too busy I fear to have written the letters that I should have. Now with the departure of the ship only a couple of hours away and still no letters written I must apologise to my friends.

A lot of the time has been spent in settling in activities, such as unloading the ship and unpacking equipment. Don and I both have "dongas" in Shackleton Hut. There are four sleeping huts, Shackleton, Balleny, Wilkins and Ross. Each hut can accommodate 7 men each in a curtained off 6' x 6' cubicle. John and Max are in Balleny, and Scott is in Wilkins. I spent quite a bit of my spare time during my first week ashore remodelling my donga. I repainted it and constructed a variety of shelves and racks for storage. In such a small cubicle

Life at Mawson (cont.)

it is essential to use all the available space efficiently, and this provides considerable scope for personal ingenuity.

There is a great deal of outdoor interest close to the station. If one doesn't mind the possible consequences of skiing on ice there are good slopes just behind the rock outcrop on which the station is situated. We have found a good steep snow slope only 10 minutes walk from the station, which is ideal for practicing step-cutting, cramponing and glissading. Near to this there is a windscour with vertical ice walls where a little artificial climbing may safely be tried.

The country within a twenty mile radius of Mawson contains several ranges which offer great scope for climbing.

Life at the station can not be described as anything but comfortable, and the quality and quantity of food is excellent.

In fact the kitchen is open all night with large coke stove burning and fluorescent lights ablaze and food within easy reach for anyone inclined to some midnight chomping.

It is fact of human nature that no matter where one is, there are times when one wishes to be elsewhere. And I daresay that before the year is over there will be times when I will wish I was at Arapiles, or sitting by a campfire near Mt. Cobberas, or cooking under the stars in Waterfall valley, or sunbaking on Digger bland. However at present the prospect of the year here is good. I dare say that between the five of us we will have many stories to tell and even more colour slides to show when we arrive home sometime in 1966.

Greg Martin

Recently we have received another monthly newsletter for April from Mawson. Mawson this year is featuring as Riviera of the south, and did not have its first snow until the 6th April. Max Corry is spinning yarns about mountains upside down in the sky near the Northern Prince Charles Mts. Greg Martin and Scott Cameron are trying to convert people to bushwalking with yer Olde slide nites. Don Allison has been proving himself a friend of the R.S.P.C.A. by helping rescue a pup from a crevasse. And oxo's are sent to all.

An UNEXPECTED SNOW TRIP

Easter 1965 Mt. Beauty Township to Harrietteville via Mt. Fainter and Mt. Hotham

The trip was successful despite the fact that many of the 19 members of the party have suffered afterwards from the 'flu.

Not long after starting on the hike a halt was called to check whether the list had gained two autographs extra, at the S.E.C. Tourist Office. This was not to be, and after much questioning of who had occupied whose car, we discovered that "Turtle" and his friend, Gerry, were lost. They were with the party at the start of the hike, but after travelling about 250 yards became separated, and arrived back at the start. We extend our thanks to the Fire Spotter who chaperoned them to our camp just on dusk.

An Unexpected Snow Trip (cont.)

The next day was cold and bleak becoming worse as we neared the Mt. Fainter summit. Amid rain, hail and sleet, we spent the remainder of the day either following fragments of tracks or walking on a compass bearing. At the end of the Niggerhead Spur, Herb spotted a relatively new galvanized hut (14' x 9') in which 14 spent the night. On Sunday the disentangling process was long and involved : when completed - 12.00 noon - the party broke camp.

On the Bogong High Plains, sleet and mist brought visibility to less than 50 yards. In these conditions Mt. Jim held no fascination for us, so we left the snow poles and took a direct course by compass to the Dibbins Hut turn-off.

The descent of 1,500 feet to Dibbins Hut brought us out of the rigorous weather; now only a few large snow flakes drifted down to melt in contact with the ground. With mixed feelings we left the huts shelter in the late afternoon and arrived, cold and hungry, at Dimentina Hut, after dark. Feelings by now were mutinous; the weather was far worse than before.

By Monday most had had their fill of conditions on a winter play-ground and were contented to by-pass Mt. Feathertop. The direct route to Harrietteville via the Bon Accord Spur did however, give us some inkling of the gold mining and pack horse days.

Robert J. Vincent

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CAVING AT BUCHAN - 21st-23rd MAY

This year there were twelve starters on the annual caving trip to Buchan.

On pulling into the kerb at Morwell, we were greeted by one of the locals, who reversed his car into ours. Weight of numbers persuaded him to pay for the damage, and so we proceeded into the night, honour satisfied.

Late arrival (2.30 a.m.) led to a late start, but by mid-day there was a group in Hope's cave, a group in E.B. 17 and the remainder were crawling around in "Trog-dip" (E.B. 10). The descent of E.B. 17 commenced with a 40' ladder pitch. As the first trog descended, the others peered down after him. The ladder clear, trog 2 was preparing to descend when he was aroused by a hearty cheer, and looking round saw trog 1 walking up the hill - he had found an exit from the cave.

After E.B. 17 we proceeded down to the river and entered Trog-dip. With the help of a veteran Trog-dipper, the entrance to the old stream course was located. For the keen ones, it takes approx. 7 hours of walking, crawling, squeezing and swimming to reach the end (i.e. 14 hours round trip). Needless to say we only went in for about 3 hours, but this involved swimming through three swamps on one's stomach. Emerging in the dark, we returned to the hot showers at Buchan.

Caving At Buchan (cont.)

On Sunday, three members, inspired by the previous accounts of Trog-dip, returned to launch another assault. When they finally returned that night they were plastered with mud from head to foot. The others went to the Murrindal pot-hole area and entered M.14. Having discovered a gaping black hole, we lowered our 90' of ladder down, and two members made a wavering descent to the bottom. This involved climbing down to a ledge to get onto the ladder and then rock climbing down the last 10' when the ladder ran out. Arriving at the bottom, we shone a flickering beam on the wall, only to reveal a 'gone home' sign and an arrow pointing up to the top.

You never know, one day we'll find a virgin cave.

R.H.S.

* * * * *

ARAPILES - DESCRIPTION OF A CLIMB : "HAWK" (During the weekend of 31st October-1st November.

I imagine it would always be difficult to describe a new climb even if rough notes were taken at the time to assist later.

I have no such notes so must rely, some months after the climb, upon a poor memory.

However such an obvious natural line is followed for the first few pitches that a general guide should suffice, and each climber may choose his own variation.

The key landmark for the climb is the very large chimney running from the ground to Flinders Lane, and situated on the left hand end of Tiger Wall. I think it has been called Eagle Cleft.

As one faces the cliff a very obvious diagonal line is apparent. This runs from left to right and crosses the large chimney perhaps one third of the way up. The earlier pitches follow this diagonal line.

Beginning somewhat to the left of the large chimney, the first pitch is up smooth sloping rock, then over some large loose slabs until the diagonal line, consisting at this point of a wide ledge, is intersected.

The second pitch follows the diagonal line, and is quite an easy scramble until the corner of the cleft is reached. Here the exposure increases but the holds are good. One traverses round into the chimney and finds a suitable spot to belay. Looking upwards from here, the left hand side appears broken and juggy whereas the other side is smooth and vertical. The only feasible place to cross the chimney seems to be where the diagonal line crosses.

This is the third pitch. Stepping across a gap onto an outward sloping ledge with not much to use as a handhold above ankle level gets one out of the cleft.

The diagonal line is followed for another 30 feet or so and then a small overhang is climbed, this offering good jug handholds. Belay with a stance above the overhang in a cleft.

Description of a Climb : "HAWK" (cont.)

The fourth pitch leads up behind and slightly to the left of the belay for perhaps 20 feet. Then traverse left around a corner out onto the large face. Numerous places will be found in the vicinity of the corner to hang a secure runner. This face is exposed and steep, and the holds are small. Climb directly up until on a ledge immediately beneath a line of orange overhangs. Belay here. These overhangs can probably be passed in several ways. On the far left the ledge appears to run into Eagle Cleft. We chose a shallow chimney which seemed to run up a fair way. This is difficult to get into below the overhangs, because it is undercut. It is narrow and probably best climbed on the outside edges. Higher up one can either remain in the chimney or move onto the face beside it. This fifth and final pitch leads onto the left hand end of Flinders Lane at the place we had camped on the previous Arapiles Trip.

Whilst here Bluff Minor can be climbed. This is climbed on the face facing the camping ground. The first pitch has some awkward delicate moves. Some large ledges break up the face and provide good belay points. Once at the top it is necessary to descend.

John and I shared the leads during this climb. As for the grading, this is difficult to determine. We suggest "mild serve" as an initial guide.

During the climb we had been worried by a large bird who had made many fast passes at us, squarking loudly each time. This incident gives the climb its name.

* * * * *

RECIPES

Here is a recipe for cooking porridge which we used very successfully in Tasmania for 5 days.

2 tablespoons rolled oats	} carry together in plastic bag
1 tablespoon Acta Vite	
tablespoon of honey,	
pinch of salt	
raisins etc. if desired.	

Soak rolled oats and acta vite overnight in water. In the morning put on the fire. Add salt. When boiling add honey and raisins, and take off the fire.

Serves about 4.

* * * * *

FORMS - Please use block letters

To Treasurer, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, Union House, Parkville.

Please find enclosed subscription of

6/-	Sports Union Member
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Enclosed also is a donation of £ for the Russell Judge and Douglas Hatt Memorial Hut Appeal. (Receipt will be forwarded).

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Douglas Hatt - Russell Judge Memorial Hut.

To : Richard Schimdt, Treasurer, Hut Committee, M.U.M.C., Union House, University, Parkville, N.2.

Enclosed is a donation of being in the form of cheque/postal note/money order/ cash, for the Douglas Hatt - Russell Judge Memorial Hut.

Name :

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.....

A receipt will be forwarded.

MEMORIAL HUT - MT. FEATHER TOP:

D. ALLEN. J. RETCHFORD. P. KNEEN

Following investigations into possible routes for access to the proposed Hut site on May 29th and 30th, another trip was organized for Queen's Birthday.

Initially we drove from Mt. Beauty along a reasonable gravel road to Pyramid Hill on the razorback running northwards from Mt. Feather top. Most of the approach to the summit is along level ground on an extremely good cattle track. Another log track in good condition starts in the Ovens Valley four and a half miles from Bright and climbs up to the razorback (5500 ft.) at the start of the cattle track. To get to the hut site a track would have to be cut across a valley from the razorback. Walking time would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

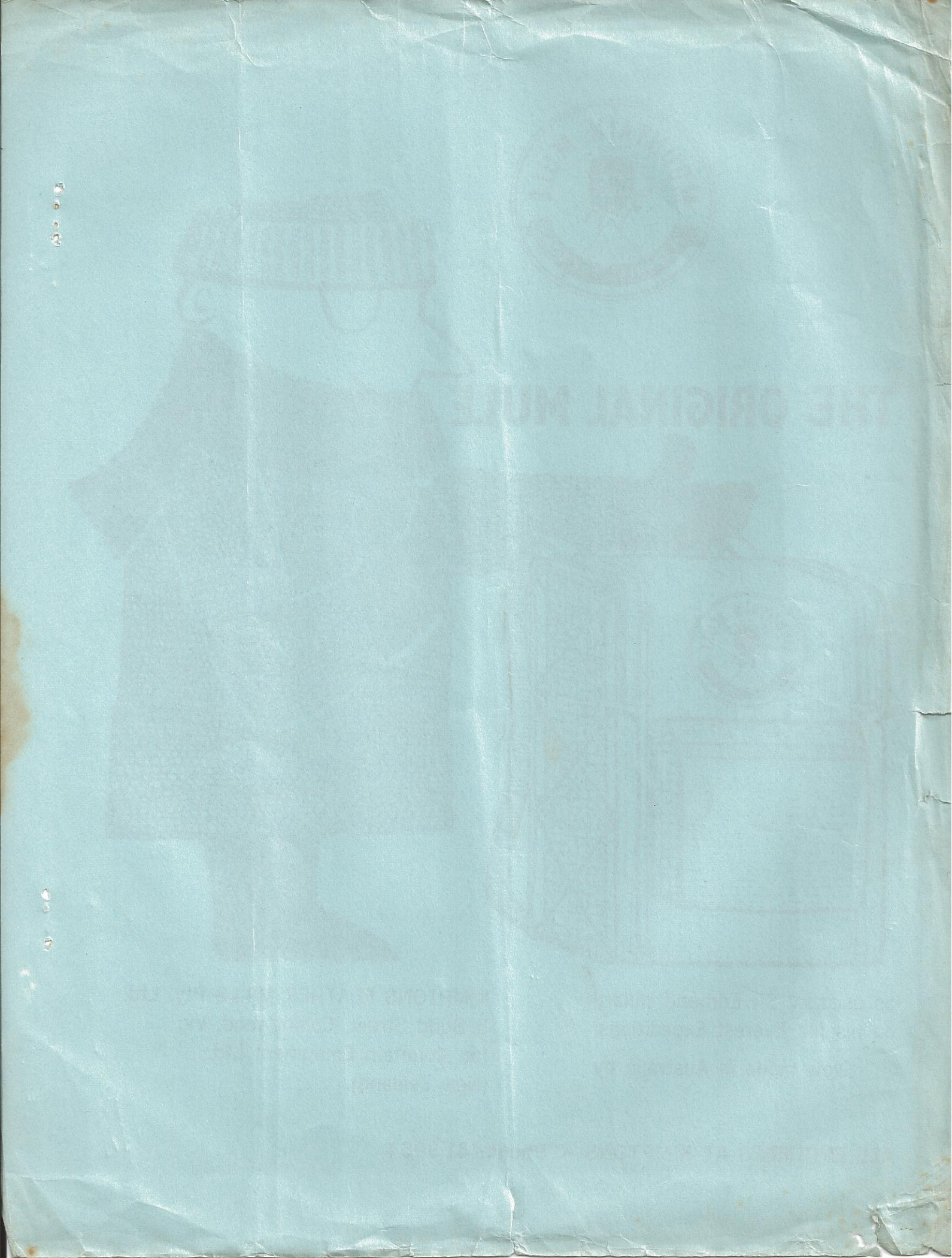
Another route suitable for winter access starts at the junction of Stony Creek and the Ovens River and follows up this for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles then climbs steeply up a sput to the site.

Maps showing the above information are shown in Aikmans Road and photos will soon be available showing the site and views from it.

Work parties will commence on July 5th - 11th to complete track clearing which are necessary before hut building commences. Following this other parties will start trial excavations on the site and other preparations will commence. A more detailed works programme will be placed on the notice board to indicate purpose, tools and transport required.

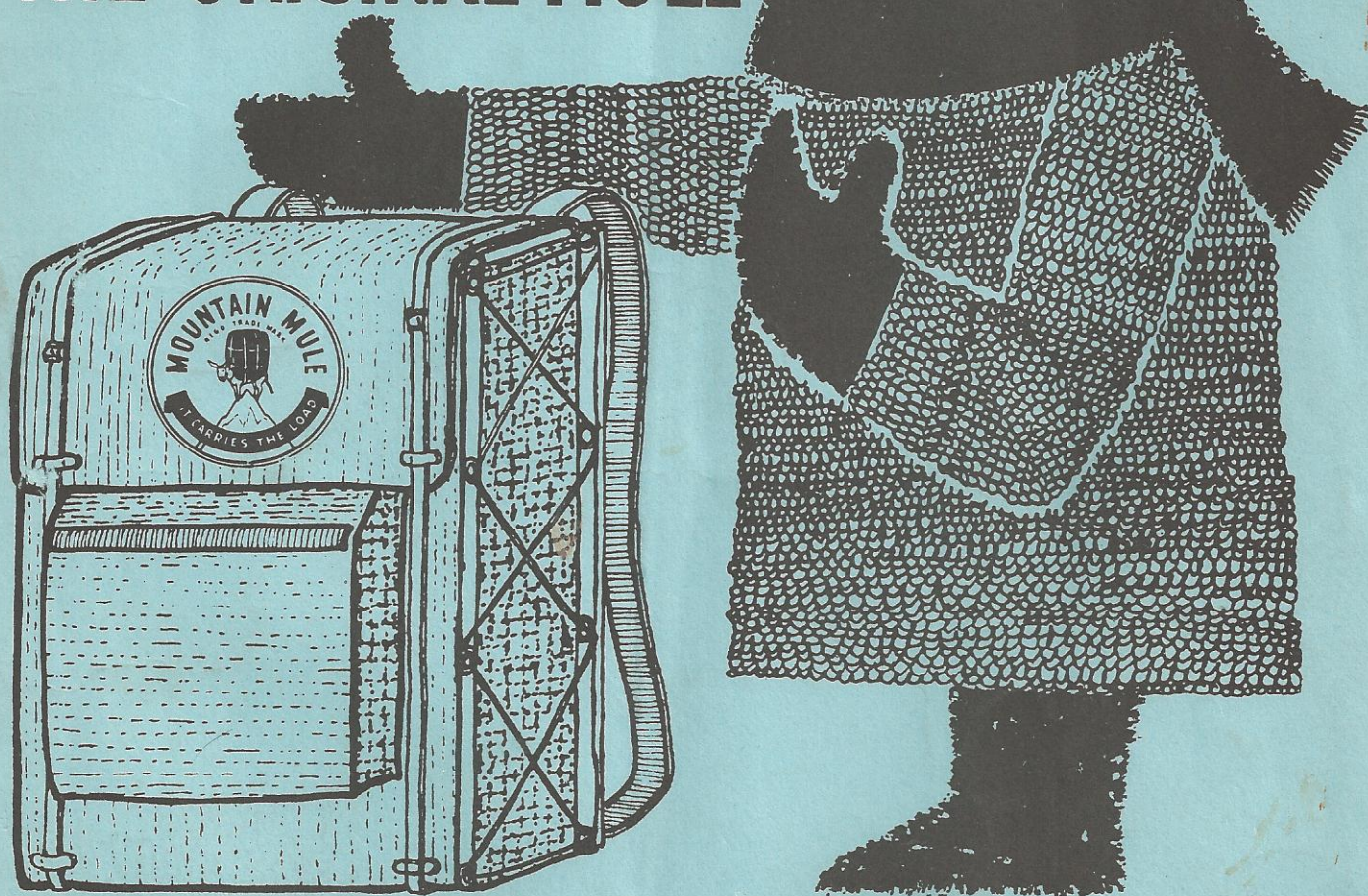
It is important to note that most work parties will not be concerned with the summit region and visits to the summit are not encouraged.

P. KNEEN:





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