

PHIL WARING

# THE MONTANA-A-TAZCOM

Mt. Arapiles



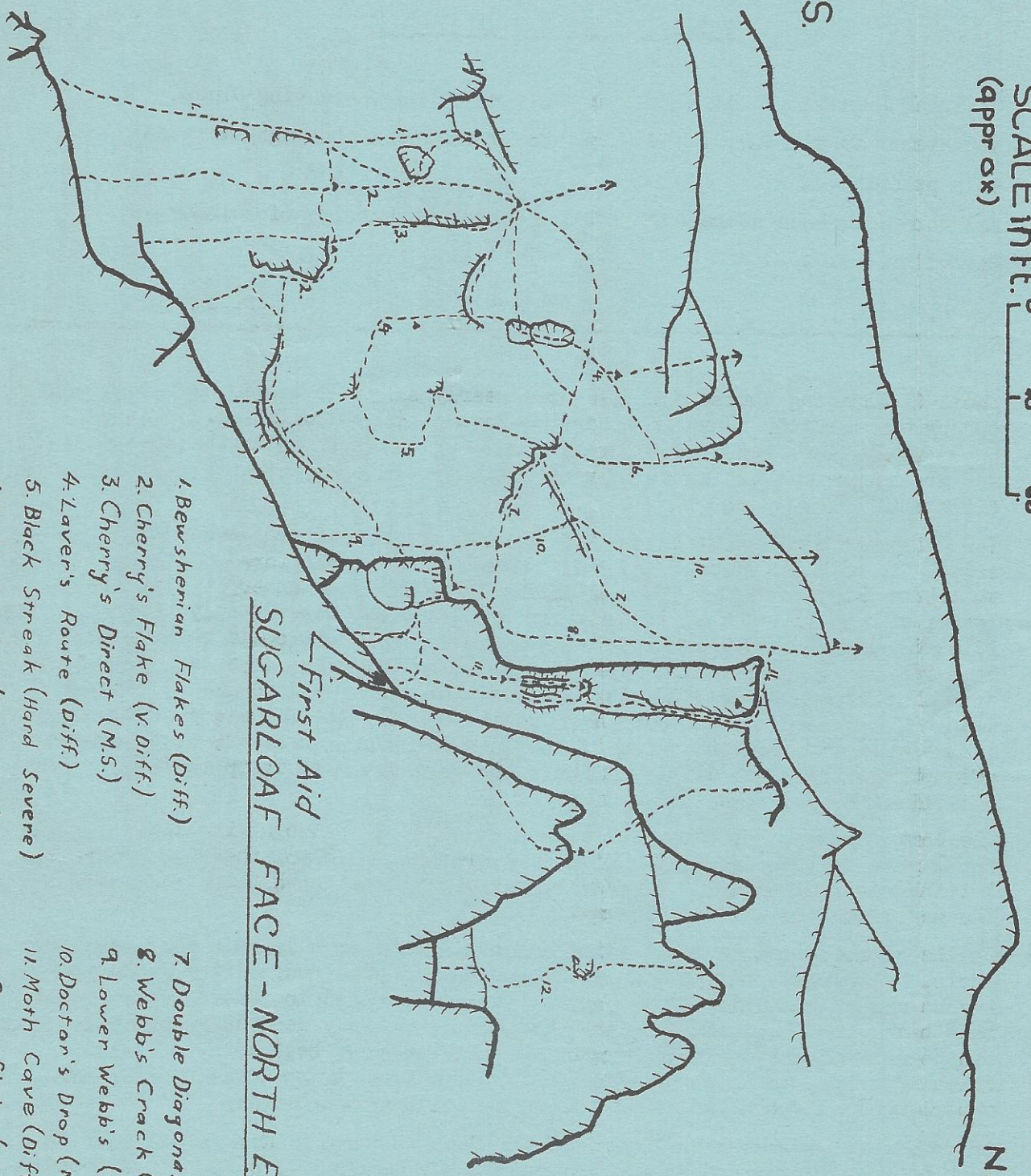
NO. 6. 1965.



SCALE in ft. 0 20 40  
(approx)

N →

S



SUGARLOAF FACE - NORTH END

First Aid

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Bewsherian Flakes (Diff.) | 7. Double Diagonal (Diff.) |
| 2. Cherry's Flake (V. Diff.) | 8. Webb's Crack (V. Diff.) |
| 3. Cherry's Direct (M.S.)    | 9. Lower Webb's (Severe)   |
| 4. Laver's Route (Diff.)     | 10. Doctor's Drop (M.S.)   |
| 5. Black Sreak (Hard Severe) | 11. Moth Cave (Diff.)      |
| 6. Delicatation (Mod. Diff.) | 12. Cave Slab (M.S.)       |

N.B. It is possible to climb almost anywhere on the south end.



## THE MOUNTAINEER

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission through the post as a periodical.

All correspondence addressed to Union House, University of Melbourne Parkville. N.2.

No. 6. 1965.

Price 6d.

The 1965 Climbing Course has been over nearly six months and, as usual, only two or three of the many on the course have continued climbing. Most of those who haven't would admit lack of interest, but it is to the remainder who are interested in further participation in the sport that this advice is directed.

The Climbing Sub-Committee is often blamed for lack of organised climbing on, trips. However, obvious differences make it impossible for a Climbing Leader to take a party of 10 or 20 on a difficult climb in a manner similar to the leader of a walking trip. Some years ago Sugarloaf was the only cliff climbed on by M.U.M.C. and most climbs being lead on it could be seconded by a reasonably competent beginner. Under such circumstances the principles of club climbing trips, Climbing Leaders, etc. were well founded. The standard and scope of climbing has changed to the extent that now climbers in the club are forever trying to raise their standards and to some extent attempting climbs too difficult for most beginners. It is up to the individual to progress in climbing.

The cost of the basic equipment necessary to begin climbing is less than that for a pack or sleeping bag. Often two climbers begin together and share the initial cost. The club's Rope's Officer can advise on what is necessary in the way of slings and karabiners.

On the climbing course a potential climber should have learnt the necessary knots, belaying technique and ropemanagement, and gained a little confidence. Anyone who showed interest and ability was encouraged to lead a pitch. With this background beginners are in a position to safely lead easy climbs. These can be done on private trips organised by a group of beginners, on club climbing trips, or in conjunction with the private trips organised by more experienced climbers and indicated on the club notice board.

After several weekends at Sugarloaf and days at Hanging Rock a beginner is such no longer such and should be comfortably leading V. Diff. and attempting the old M.S. He is now ready to tackle bigger cliffs, preferably on a trip where there are some more experienced climbers to advise on locations and standards of routes. The Climbing Sub Committee soon notices an up and coming climber and if his climbing is of a reasonable standard he will be made a Competent, and with continued improvement a Climbing leader.



Any members who are interested in climbing, whether they can afford their own rope or not, are urged to contact the climbing leaders, who will be only too willing to include them in future trips. Any interest will be encouraged and climbers will be directed in basic or advanced techniques and safety methods.

\* \* \* \* \*

### TRIPS PROGRAMME

Friday 7.30 p.m. Personalities Slide Night and Miss Oxo Quest.  
September, 10th Trophy Hall, Beaurepaire Centre.

18th - 19th F.V.W.C. Track Clearing Weekend.  
September Track to be cleared is the F.V.W.C. track from Keppel's Falls to Lake Mountain, which was cleared a few years ago but is now overgrown again.  
Transport :- Private, either Friday night, Saturday morning or any other time during weekend.

Equipment required :- Chain saws, axes, hatchets, wedges, sledgehammers, slashers, etc. Also metal discs are required for track marking.

Light work (e.g. painting blazes) available for the girls. Anyone interested in going should contact Dave Hogg (871630) for further details, before Friday, September 10th if possible.

Friday 7.30 p.m. Trophy Hall, Beaurepaire Centre.  
24th September SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING in conjunction with the hut. To get approval to spend money and build a hut to the sub committee's specifications. Constitutional changes to allow the borrowing of money by the club.

1st - 3rd Wilson's Promontory. Van leaves front of Union at 6.30 p.m.  
October sharp on Friday 1st October. Fare £2.7.0. to £1.18.0.  
Trips : (1) Lighthouse. (2) Sealers Cove and Refuge Cove. Leaders : Carol May. I am looking for some other young members who would like to lead one of the trips on the Prom.

19th - 21st Post Exam Weekend Bludge - Fred Fry's on the Howqua River.  
November Good swimming and racing on the river. There is ample opportunity for walks e.g. The Governor's, The Bluff. Either day walks or the whole weekend. Anyone interested in leading such trips, preferably younger members should contact Nicholas White (34 3986 evenings).



Trips Programme (cont.)

December and January      Building of the Feathertop Hut. Work will go on throughout this period. Would people willing to work please give in writing, the details of the dates they will be available to Nicholas White 171 Park Street, Parkville. Further details at the Special General Meeting (24th September) and on the notice board.

Christmas Trips      New Zealand. See the details on other pages of this issue.

All bookings should be made at Aikman's Road or Nicholas White (34 3986 evenings). Vans will leave the Union at 6.30 p.m. sharp. Cancellation fees of half the minimum fare are operative after the Friday preceeding the trip. It is at the discretion of the Trips Secretary to allow people who have not paid cancellation fees to go on further club trips.

Club contact - is Nicholas White (34 3986)

All people going on trips are advised to carry a personal first aid kit. And ALL mountaineers are advised to have a working knowledge of first aid and how the club first aid kits. These should include bandaids, disinfectant personal drugs and/or bandages for particular ailments, snake bite outfit (rubber tube and razor blade), aspros etc., something for burns and indigestion.

\* \* \* \* \*

FEATHERTOP MEMORIAL HUT

Work Party - August 28th - 29th

The work party was hampered by lack of numbers, however the perfect weather made up for it. One Peugeot tried to float down the Ovens River and some time was spent towing it back across on the Saturday morning.

The track already made was still in good condition and only a little work is still necessary. The first bridge needs to be higher. We split into two parties.

(1) Accomplished about half a mile of benched track up the steep ridge leading to the site and built an excellent bridge at the second creek crossing. This has two levels allowing crossing even when the creek is up about five feet. The builder seems to be A. Tuft who has inscribed his name on the tree forming the bridge.



Feathertop Memorial Hut (cont.)

(2) Site party. It took most of Saturday to get to the site. A 800 gallon capacity dam was built and lined with polythene to provide water for concrete making later on. The view from the site is excellent and one can see the whole of the West side of Feathertop and Little Feathertop. Buffalo stands out to the West. To the East are the Niggerheads, Mt. Faihter, the Razorback and Mt. Bogong. These all gave inspiration throughout the whole weekend. On the way down a number of markers were put out.

Another work party for a full weekend is necessary to complete the track (25 - 30 people). Also, a summer access track from the Razorback to the site needs to be surveyed.

Nicholas White

\* \* \* \* \*

"OLD WOMEN'S" PAGE

As usual M.U.M.C. managed to get a lion's share of publicity on Open Day. Congratulations to all who took part in the Tynolean etc. display. Most impressive!!!

Congratulations to Carol and Peter Morgan on their recent wedding. Congratulations and best wishes also to Brian Fleming and Anthea Hart on their engagement.

Carolyn Robertson will be arriving in Melbourne on 17th September after 18 months overseas visiting some most interesting countries which included the Soviet Union, Greece, Spain, Sweden etc.

Ian Speedie is the new Climbing sub committee convenor as John Cayley has gone overseas. Jenny McMahon has been elevated to the leader's list.

Mawson has had a very cold July as the Newsletter reports but has been active with field trips. Max Corry and Don Allison have been out on field trips and Scott Cameron is to go out soon. Don has been used as the new crevasse electoctor for putting his foot in things. Mawson seems quite concerned with hairstyles - Greg Martin has a "cupie doll" style but John Bennett seems to remain the same from his nickname - Haystack.

4 SALE

Volkswagen For Sale

Volkswagen 1958 Excellent order, only 47,000 miles. 1 owner (my wife). Extras windscreen washer and seat belts. Price £310.

Contact Phil Waring 60 1361 ext. 10 (business hours).

\* \* \* \* \*



FIRST AID FOR MOUNTAINEERING - R. Webb

Knowing there was to be a revision of "Equipment for Mountaineering" I became interested in recent materials and pharmaceuticals. I showed Wing Commander Fitton, of Medical Equipment, R.A.A.F. the first aid hints as outlined in the above publication. He made several suggestions, most of which have been acted upon by the sub-committee concerned with the book. One comment on the kit as described for extended trips was to the effect that it is probably the most comprehensive and adequate first aid kit he has seen outside the services.

I am indebted to him for supplying to me the "list of contents, and directions for use" of a Survival Pack, First Aid Kit as issued to the R.A.F. and R.A.A.F. Its purpose is "General tropical survival pack, one per ejection seat survival pack", that is, it is a personal kit to be used if on a life raft at sea, or a dense jungle. One point to remember is that the Air Force counts on getting sophisticated medical aid to the patient within three days. It is comparable then, with a personal kit for use on weekend trips.

Dimensions 5" x 4" x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Weight 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  oz.

It is packed in a mylon bag, within an aluminium tin.

Nomenclature	Quantity packed	Directions for Use
This list is packed inside the tin also		
1. Chalk aromatic and opium lozenges	14	For severe, persistent diarrhoea. Dose: suck 2 lozenges every 3 hours.
2. Cyclizine hydrochloride tablets 50 mg.	8	Antihistamine. Also to prevent and reduce air and seasickness. Dose : No more than 3 tablets per day.
3. Dibromopropamidine isethionate cream 0.15%	3 x 5 gm. plastic containers	Smear on cuts, burns, grazes.
4. Halazone tablets 4 mg.	20	Water sterilization : 1 tablet to quart of water. Shake, allow to stand $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
5. Morphine sulphate lozenge $\frac{1}{4}$ gr.	4	For severe pain. Dose : One lozenge dissolved under tongue or chewed. No more than 4 hourly.
6. Proguanil tablet B.P. 0.1 G.	tin of 21	To suppress malaria : Dose : one tablet every day.



First Aid for Mountaineering (cont.)

	Nomenclature	Quantity packed	Directions for Use
7.	Sodium chloride tablet B.P. 20 gr.	Bottle of 5	Dose : One tablet dissolved in not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of water.
8.	Sun screen and insect repellent cream	3 x 5 gm. tubes	Apply lightly. Do not apply near the eyes.
9.	Tetracycline tablets B.P. 250 mg.	Tin of 12	For severe prolonged fever, and badly infected wounds. Dose : 2 tablets followed by 1 every 6 hours.
10.	Elastic adhesive 3" x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " dressings	6	For small cuts, grazes and blisters.
11.	Standard B.P.C. No. 11 dressings	3	For larger wounds, cuts and grazes, and those which bleed persistently. Bandage on firmly.
12.	Safety blade razor	1	
13.	Splinter forceps	1	
14.	Cord Housewife	1	Needles for extracting thorns etc.
15.	Plastic water bottle	1	
16.	Labels		To record time, date and quantity of morphia taken.

The following information was supplied by A.S. Cattanach, a practising pharmacist with wartime medic experience on the field, and by Wing Commander Fitton. It concerns the types of preparations most suited for use by medically inexperienced persons isolated in the field for up to 3 weeks. To classify people as medically inexperienced does not by any means classify them as medically ignorant for our purposes. All people who go on trips should know what materials are contained in the club kit and how to use them quickly but efficiently. Almost all the preparations discussed come under the two headings of Antiseptics and/or antibiotics, and pain relievers.



First Aid for Mountaineering (cont.)

Antiseptics; Antibiotics :

NEOMYCIN TOPICAL POWDER. A dry antiseptic used for both shallow and deep wounds. It has also been used to prevent compound fractures of bone becoming complicated by gas gangrene. Obtainable in powder puff tubes as Neotracin, Neosparin in very small tubes Spersm, Cicatrin in large packing.

All four cost almost the same, regardless of size differences.

HIBITANE. An antiseptic for general use. It has no disadvantages, but contact of it with the eyes should be avoided. It is obtainable as a powder or as a 5% solution in 100 ml. bottles.

It may be used at a dilution of 1:10,000 with water but is still effective against golden staph.

(STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS) at a strength of 1:125,000. A 1:10,000 solution is made with 5 drops of Hibitane to 4 fl. oz. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup) of water. It may be used for a mouth rinse to treat buccal infections with 2 drops of Hibitane to a glass of water.

BUTESIN PICRATE. A dual purpose ointment for small burns; antiseptic and painkilling to a certain extent. It should NOT be used if the burn is severe; for such cases no lotions nor unguents (greasy or oily preparations) should be used, but instead, a powder antiseptic and cover with a non adhesive dressing. If the burn is large or very severe, such as one from an exploded primus, give the patient morphine, and make up a Normal saline solution using  $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons of table salt to a pint of sterilised water and add  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of Hibitane. Soak the dressing in this solution and then apply. In addition, treat for fluid loss by giving the patient coffee or tea with much sugar.

GUANAMYCIN. An oral antibiotic consisting of sylphaguanidine and streptomycin available as tablets powder or solution. It is much more powerful than Carbontron and is used against severe gastroenteritis, summer diarrhoea, salmonella food poisoning. Its action on lower bowel infections is powerful and was largely responsible for the eradication of dysentery among troops in the New Guinea Campaign. It should be used with care when in dry conditions. These impose a water stress and use of the drug then may induce crystalluria. The dose is 2 - 4 tablets three times daily.

TETRACYCLINE. An oral antibiotic used against systemic infections (as opposed to gastro intestinal ones) such as blood poisoning pneumonia, meningitis, dysentery and scrub typhus, but not against malaria. It is sold under the trade name of Mysteclin V, a preparation which also contains Nystatin which means that it can also be used to treat diarrhoea. It replaces Sulphadimidine and Oral penicillin, and the rate of administration is two 250 mg. capsules for the first dose, followed by one capsule every 4 - 6 hours.



### First Aid for Mountaineering (cont.)

ANTI HISTAMINE while not antiseptic, antihistamine tablets are used to alleviate the irritant effects that many native plants and insect bites have on tender skin. Tablets are sold under various trade names but Avil and Allecur have the least toxic and other side effects. Every doctor will tell you something different about which is best. They are usually administered at the rate of one 20 mg. tablet every 4 hours.

### PAIN KILLERS

CODEIN COMPOUND a general analgaesic for less severe aches and pains. Some formulations contain caffeine and are therefore not suitable for use at night. Administered at the rate of 2 tablets every 4 hours, preparations are sold under several trade names such as Veganin (which are handily packed in a tin tube) and Codral. For mild headaches, earaches etc.  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablet may be used.

ORAL PETHIDINE A pain killing drug that has largely displaced morphine due to its relative lack of habit-forming properties. However "its action is not as prolonged nor as potent for severe pain as morphine" (B.P.C. 1963). It is still as toxic. Available on prescription as 50 mg. tablets administered at the rate of one every 4 hours, it has a top dose of 100 mg. per 4 hours.

MORPHINE A pain-killing drug available as Syrettes, 0.25 grain/tube, 6 tubes in each pack. It is used to alleviate severe and deep seated pain and is administered at the rate of 0.25 grain at 4 hourly intervals, injected intramuscularly (in the buttocks or in the upper arm). Syrettes are disposable type syringes capable of being used by the patient. Oral pethidine is not as effective as the Syrettes. Probably the only occasion members of this club would have occasion to use such a drug would be for the victim of a climbing accident.

N.B. For all pain-alleviating drugs the patient must be labelled with dosages and times. Incidentally, in addition to being obtainable only on prescription, such drugs are dangerous and must be kept under lock and key, or in an otherwise safe place while not on trips.

To quote Wing Commander Fitton "for successful first aid treatment, three things that are necessary, and which are usually in the shortest supply, one common sense, improvisation with crude materials, and knowledge".

Keeping this in mind, anyone who goes on a trip should be capable and prepared to take charge when confronted by a situation requiring first aid treatment.



### First Aid for Mountaineering (cont.)

#### First Aid Course

Early in 1966 a course in first aid techniques may be arranged for club members. The usual course, such as that given by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade does not teach anything about the use of drugs etc. because it is meant only as first aid. However on club trips my impression is that the majority of ailments involve aches and pains of the gut, blisters, cuts, broken ankles and hangovers.

Any enquiries should be made to Rowan Webb C/o Club Box.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### GUIDE BOOK TO CLIMBS AT MT. ARAPILES

The preparation of a guide book to climbs at Mt. Arapiles is well advanced. Any climbers who feel they have a new route to claim, should describe the climb, (in pitches) name it, give it a grading, and include the date and names of climbers on the first ascent. This should then be forwarded to Ian Speedie through the club letterbox.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### RECIPE

Apple Pie - make pastry from flour, salt, water and butter. Line fry pan or metal plate with pastry and cook in oven made from 4 gallon tin can. Then fill with cooked dried apple or other fruit and cover with pastry crust. Sprinkle with sugar. Return to oven to cook the crust. Eat with "cream" i.e. very thick powdered cow.

Apple Charlotte - Stew apples crush up biscuits and line pan, then put on alternate layers of apple and crushed biscuits and finally sprinkle with sugar. Pour some of the juice into the mess and cook a while in the oven. Rolled oats and other cereal can be also added to the crushed biscuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NOTICES

Phil Secombe is interested in organizing a Reserve trip in the Christmas vac. Anyone interested contact Phil C/o Club box or at Aikman's Road.

Nicholas White has some Kendal Mint Cake (a peppermint sweet) which is used extensively in England by mountaineers. 6oz. block for 3/-. Contact Nicholas White, 171 Park Street, Parkville. (34 3986).

\*\*\*\*\*



### KARABINERS

Two copies of the N.E.L. Report No. 162 "The Strength of Karabiners" by L.J. Griffin have been acquired and are kept in Aikman's Road.

Tensile tests on a representative range of karabiners were carried out to establish a basis for the definition of a performance standard. The performance with keeper open was found to depend on shape and in many cases was very poor, no karabiner tested satisfying the British Mountaineering Council requirements. The performance standard recommended for a screw sleeve karabiner with keeper closed is that it should withstand a load of 4,500 lb.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW MAPS

The following maps have been placed in the club library :-

Juliet	R.A.S.C.	1:50,000
McMahon's Creek	R.A.S.C.	1:50,000
Matlock	R.A.S.C.	1:50,000
Aberfeldy	R.A.S.C.	1:50,000
Skene	R.A.S.C.	1:50,000
Jamieson	R.A.S.C.	1:50,000
Gembrook A, B, C, D.	State Aerial Survey	2" = 1 mile

\*\*\*\*\*

### CHRISTMAS VACATION TRIPS

Each Christmas there is a mass exodus of club members to places both near and far. Most of the trips are private or semi-private, but frequently people are looking around for additional starters. Some of the places regularly visited are the Cradle Mt. National Park, Frenchman's Gap, S.W. Tasmania, and the N.Z. Alps. Each of these places offer a variety of scenery, and opportunities for experience which is seldom encountered in Victoria.

This year, groups are already planning trips to S.W. Tasmania, New Zealand and New Guinea. All that is required is the initiative of one or more people to start things moving. Full use should be made of the notice board and the Mountaineer to contact interested persons. Other avenues available are the 'grape vine' at Aikman's Road, or a letter to the secretary.

The following are some previous vacation trips. Any more interesting suggestions would be gratefully received.

\*\*\*\*\*



MT. CHRISTINA - One memorable day in the New Zealand Alps.

"Blast it!" and other expletives which I won't record here, were heard muttered with feeling in the hut. "Another b..... fine day!" With these words, we, that is Keith McNaughton, John Ritchford and I started the day on which we were to attempt Mt. Christina. It was 5 a.m.

Don't think that we weren't keen to climb the mountain - far from it! But in the seven days since we had climbed Mt. Aspiring we had been travelling flat out to reach Homer Huts and by now we were all secretly hoping for a break. On most days we had risen at the painful time of about 3 - 4 a.m. and on each day we had covered a lot of ground thinking that it could be the last day before the weather broke again. For the weather had been very poor that season with wet snow, warm north west winds and all that follows on from them. The cycle for the previous weeks had been roughly three fine days and then three fair days with the ominous high wind clouds oriented north west never disappearing and consequently the snow was kept in poor condition. With such an abundance of bad omens, big snow climbs were out. That is why we dashed for the Danons where snow conditions are not so critical.

Yesterday we had traversed the peaks of Mt. MacPherson and Talbot in glorious weather. We would have been content to leave it at that, had it not been for the thought that when the next bad cycle set in we would probably lose 4 or 5 days. When collapsing into our bunks late that night, we had resolved that we would have a go at Christina on the one condition that the weather be perfect in the morning. At dawn on the big day there was not a trace of cloud in the sky. Now we had to go!

For me this was the third reason that I had gazed upon the sheer mossy walls of Christina, intrigued at how people ever got off the bottom, let alone reach the top! Last season I had studied the routes from adjacent peaks and eventually it had seemed possible that the mountain might "go" (to use that wonderful expression from "Rum Doodle".) to foreign mugs like ourselves. This time the mountain demons inside us prevailed in the end, despite the vague feeling that we were taking on too much. Tense at the prospect of what lay ahead the usual round of weak jokes at breakfast seemed even worse than usual.

Mt. Christina is situated in the Darran ranges, as the Main Divide is called just inland from Milford Sound. On the Milford side the Darrans are dominated by Mt. Tutuko, a giant with ice climbs matched only by Mounts Cook and Tasman. Inland just off the Main Divide but higher than the divide, lies Mt. Christina. Although its summit is at an altitude of only 8300 ft. it is formidable by any standards. For the valley floor below it is at an altitude of about 2000 ft. and it rises in sheer walls straight from the valley floor. At about 6500 ft. it flattens off - relatively speaking of course.

It is impossible to circumvent these walls. If one tries to approach from the main divide, one is faced with a cat-walk along a razorback ridge with gendarmes blocking the way and incredible drops down the sides to the valley 4000 ft. below. On the other three sides it drops somewhat further to the Hollyford River and Lake Marion. Christina had been climbed once from the



Mt. Christina (cont.)

lake, and it had been climbed from lower down the Hollyford, but this was by veterans who had been studying the mountain for years. We elected to go up the "standard" route commencing at a large buttress near a cirque. We were fortunate in meeting one of these veterans who kindly pointed out the details of the standard route, but it was like being told how to find your way through a labyrinth. (Incidentally he turned out to be the chap who made the second ascent of Mt. Tutuko about 30 years ago).

Christina has an uncanny ability at getting people benighted on its slopes. For, on the way up, at least it is possible to see where one can or cannot go in the section immediately confronting one and thus avoid the hardest sections.

But on the way down, the bluffs (as New Zealanders call them) are hidden from sight until one is actually on them, and then it's a case of ascending and trying another way down. The similarity of the features on the mountainside together with its massive scale are the strap. The valley, with cars full of tourists strung out along the road, is literally just beneath one's boots, and entices one into a frame of mind which taunts "Let's go straight down there." This is the reason why, of the people that have climbed Christina, few have made it back to the bottom with out first having unintentionally spent a night on the face. (Yes, if I may anticipate your thoughts, that sort of stuff is O.K. for north wall climbers, but, I assure you, not for us!) The danger in this is that the weather can charge, making the mossy descent in the lower reaches exceedingly treacherous, as exemplified in many accidents in the Darrans. Christina, indeed, is a classic example of the mountaineering maxim that "Speed, but not haste, is safety."

From Homer Hut we trudged down the road for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles and after an icy river crossing, we set off on the climb at the late hour of 7.00 a.m. Blindly following the way which we thought the old timer had indicated, we almost spoilt our chances. The bottom couple of hundred feet was nearly vertical, with scrub requiring continuous chin-up type movements to get up. Like the scrub in S.W. Tassie, it seemed intermirable, but eventually we all collapsed exhausted at the end of it. We expressed our opinions on his advice in no uncertain terms.

From there on we were on steep snowgrass and rock so typical of the Darrans. With a rainfall of about 300 inches a year, the snowgrass manages to grow on incredible slopes. We all ground on upwards, slowly and extra carefully, with a conscious effort being required to overcome the natural but quite erroneous feeling that you are safe on snowgrass. (A slip on steep snowgrass is exceedingly difficult to check and many deaths in the N.Z. Alps have resulted from little slips becoming big dipper slides into orbit over rock bluffs.)

Inevitably we made our next route-finding mistake. On a long traverse to avoid some overhangs, we were forced into a mossy gut. One hour was lost gaining the next 100 ft. Another blue like that and we could give the game away! For the essence of climbing in the Darrans is speed. The difficult bits are climbable by any competent rock climber, but it would take days to climb the 6000 ft. from the valley if the easiest route was not followed.



### Mt. Christina (cont.)

Way down below us we could see the yellow crosses of toilet paper we had laid out to mark the route on our descent. This indeed proved to be the key to getting off the mountain in reasonable time, by showing one of the few routes that "goes".

At about 5000 ft. the snowgrass gave way to rock and then to snow. Although much harder work plugging steps up the snow, it was more comforting. The ice axes obtained good shaft belays, and for the first time we were able to cast off the tension of exposure. One fascinating feature of the snow was several large grooves - about 10 ft. wide by 3 ft. deep - down which boulders charged sporadically, polishing the snow to a hard shinny surface texture. After a few anxious moments, these were crossed. Every now and then, boulders became dislodged from the bluffs above and came sliding down the slopes but fortunately none came near us.

After a brief lunch we were back on rock again about 1000 ft. from the top. Beneath our feet a plane load of tourists flew up the valley, unaware of the battle we had to restrain John from hurling a rock in its direction. The summit was still hidden from view. From time to time the afternoon mists swirled in only to disappear again. Now we were cursing the rottenest rock you could find anywhere in New Zealand (and that's saying something!) Surprisingly it was granite, a rock generally thought not to occur in the Darrans. We found also that certain boulders were key boulders, supporting truck loads of boulders above them. The problem was to pick out the key one before and not after you trod on it, for failure to do so would start a whole cavalcade of boulders on their way down. We were at a loss to puzzle out how the mountain had not collapsed years ago into a pile of rubble. With a last desperate leap for safety, we were on the ridge.

On one side a dislodged boulder would end up in the beautiful and incredibly green Lake Marion. And on the other side with a bit of luck, it would land about 100 yards from the road in Hollyford Valley we had left 10 hours ago. For it was now 3 o'clock. We could see the regular afternoon mists from the west coast, dammed up like water behind the passes, come tumbling and swirling down into the valley on our side of the divide. North of us was the jagged skyline of the Darrans near Moraine Creek Hut - the aptly named Mt. Sabre, and others. The scene was rugged and exhilarating.

Pushing on steadily we reached the summit ridge, a glorious knife edged snow ridge rising gently to the summit a couple of hundred yards away, and at 4 p.m. we stood on the summit. The mists had engulfed us and the view disappeared. After stuffing some chocolate and scroggin into our mouths, we uttered the usual mountaineers' cry in such triumphant moments ..... "Let's get the hell off this bloody mountain before we're stuck here!" For the real test, getting down, was about to begin.

The first 3000 ft. was easy, once off the loose rock - a series of traverses and then glissades on snow. In this glorious fashion we descended the last 1500 ft. to the snow grass being careful not to lose sight of the footsteps which we had so laboriously made on the way up. Soon we were on our trail of yellow toilet paper crosses and rock cairns (all of which we demolished to avoid confusing subsequent parties who might mistakenly take them for their own cairns on their descent). Following our markers proved to be extremely



Mt. Christina (cont.)

easy for they stood out much more clearly in the failing light than rock cairns or vaguely memorised physical features. In fact this system is recommended to any who might climb in similar country provided they return before the paper blows away.

At 9.30 p.m., 14½ hours after setting off up the mountain, we were at the bottom, exhausted, relieved, and still hardly able to believe that we had done it. An hour later we were back in the hut, putting on a brew, so ending one of the most enjoyable climbs we had ever done.

Dave Allen - 30/8/65.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW ZEALAND - 1965/66 SEASON

Anyone wishing or intending to go climbing in New Zealand this summer is invited to attend one of the courses of instruction run by the New Zealand Alpine Club. On these, instruction in all aspects of mountaineering is given and climbers are strongly urged to attend one of these courses before attempting any climbs.

It is proposed to hold three climbing courses, two being at the Crow Valley near Arthurs Pass and one being at De La Beche Hut at the foot of Mt. Cook. The dates have not yet been finalised but at least one of them will be for the week before Christmas. If possible, it is recommended that people attend the course at De La Beche where the training is more realistic than at Crow Valley. The cost of instruction usually works out at about £3 for guide fees plus food.

Between December 27th and January 5th there will be a "meet" in the Matukituki Valley. A "meet" is an occasion on which mountaineers come together from all over New Zealand and have a terrific time. Last year there were about 70 on a meet in the Rangitata Valley. People with less experience are placed in small parties led by experienced climbers and in this way learn much more quickly than by climbing separately. For the less energetic, there are lots of people who just go along to have a good time and to get to know other climbers. Incidentally, Mt. Aspiring lies at the head of the Matakutuki Valley.

Anyone interested in going to New Zealand is invited to contact Dave Allen (by writing to 54 Bridge Street, Benalla West) or John Ritchford, 9 Summit Road, Burwood, also at Physics Department, Monash University). Please do so urgently, even if not definite yet.

Dave Allen.

\*\*\*\*\*



### NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN WEATHER

The joys of windy wet days in mountain high places are not much lessened by knowing why we should be so miserable so let us inquire further into the whims of Hui the rainman. Not that understanding makes the wind less strong or the rain less wet but it may help us to regard events as due to take their course anyway despite all frantic prayers to the gods.

The key to an understanding of the weather anywhere on this planet is to know about the movement of pressure systems. Their general movement is due to tropical heating, polar cooling, and earth rotation. In the latitudes of Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand the movement is from S.W. to N.E. The pressure system of most interest here is the anticyclone (Fig 1) which is a large high pressure area with winds blowing outwards from the centre round an anticlockwise spiral.

As an anticyclone approaches from the S.W. it is marked first of all by decreasing southerly winds and rising pressures then light winds and clear skies near the centre, followed by increasing northerlies and falling pressure as they move away. Summer weather over our latitudes is commonly marked by a succession of such anticyclones following one behind the other with the line of low pressure (trough) between the anticyclones (Fig 2) a region of turbulence and bad weather. In this trough the warm northerly airstream of the first AC meets the cold southerly airstream of the second AC and if the cold drives in under the warm we have what is known as a cold front (Fig 3).

Already we have the basic knowledge necessary for an understanding of the cyclic nature of say Melbourne summer weather. After a few days fine weather (the time depends on how fast the systems are moving) of the AC centre winds turn to the north and slowly freshen (hot and dry in Victoria) then tend westerly and stronger until the trough of low pressure and its associated cold front arrives when the winds turn south, the temperature drops suddenly and cold rain falls (the "cool change"). As the next AC moves across winds drop and tend to the east and skies gradually clear as the next A.C. arrives. This sequence occurs in the same way over Tasmania and New Zealand, but the weather is modified by two additional facts which are that these islands have water to the north and west and generally lie further south than Victoria (and so are colder). Thus the northerlies and westerlies of the departing AC are usually heavily laden with moisture which falls as heavy rain if it strikes mountain barriers in its path.

So for example in New Zealand, where the Alps form a long chain running SW-NE, with the departure of an AC the winds turn N then NW and freshen and it rains heavily on the West Coast and the Alps (and is fine on the E coast). When the cold front arrives the winds turn cold and south, it commonly snows in the alps, rains on the E coast and is fine on the W coast. Then as in Victoria winds decrease and tend easterly as the next fine weather "high" arrives.

Commonly the whole cycle takes about a week to repeat itself which of course can be very frustrating if as sometimes happens the weekends are consistently wet and the mid-weeks fine.



New Zealand Mountain Weather (cont.)

More prolonged periods of bad weather can occur, as those who have visited SW Tasmania and Fiordland will testify. These are due to a number of modifications of the basic cycle described above. Two cold fronts may follow each other prolonging the westerly weather. Or the "high" may move to the south after passing forcing the cold air back over part of its length to the south (Fig 4) forming what is known as a warm front, and often a depression (low pressure area) at the region of frontal kinking. (These depressions commonly form over Lord Howe Island). Both the warm front (Fig 5) and the depression bring bad weather for periods depending on the path the depression takes as it moves along the low pressure trough.

A period of continued bad weather can also arise from prolonged westerlies. These occur (Fig 6) when a series of depressions move from E to W in southern latitudes with a high pressure area to the north. The Bad weather with strong westerlies and rain may last for a week or more, and improvement only comes after a cold front and its associated southerly change sweeps the country. In fact all bad weather periods end only after the wind has shifted to the south indicating the advance of a "high", any other lulls are only temporary however tempting they may be to the unwary climber.

Understanding the weather is one thing but so also is the ability to predict ahead say for about 12 hours, which is quite possible by careful observation of wind, clouds and sky. Coming bad weather is indicated by many signs; Mares tails (high cirrus cloud) or halos round the sun and moon indicate the coming of a warm front or depression; this cloud gradually thickens and lowers as the pressure falls (see Fig 5). Other telltail signs are Westerly winds or strengthening northerlies, low fast moving skud, high hogsbacks (Fig 7), a red morning sky or a pale yellow sunset. Experience will tell you how much fine weather remains in your particular location. A fair idea of how far away the stormy weather is can be estimated by noting the rate of change of the telltail signs that is "Long foretold - long past; quickly come - soon past."

Your climbing holiday will probably involve alternate periods travelling between districts, and climbing in these when you get there. Here's hoping that you're travelling on the east coast when the winds and rain is raging high up and stepping high with nothing above on calm and sunny days. What are the chances of a good season? Never believe long term predictions! However the effects of the Bali eruption which has been blamed for the last 2 bad seasons seem to be wearing off so hears hoping!

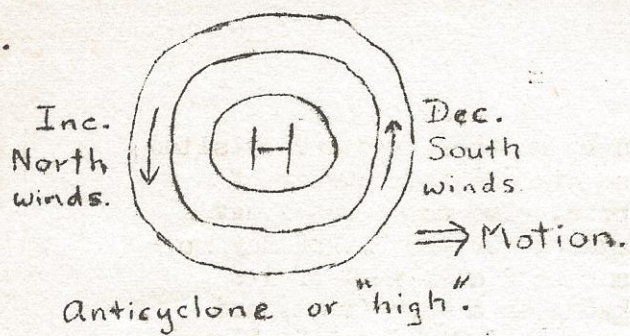
Oxos from Sparrowlegs - your N.1 correspondent.

\* \* \* \* \*

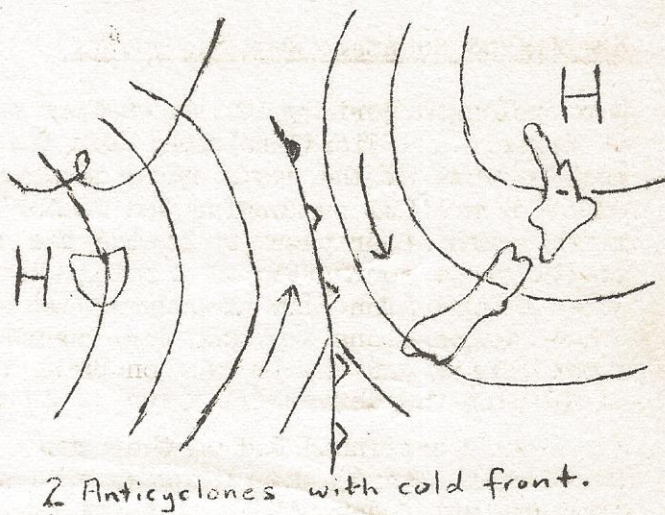


New Zealand mountain weather. — diagrams.

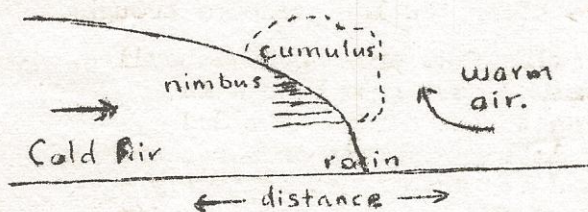
1.



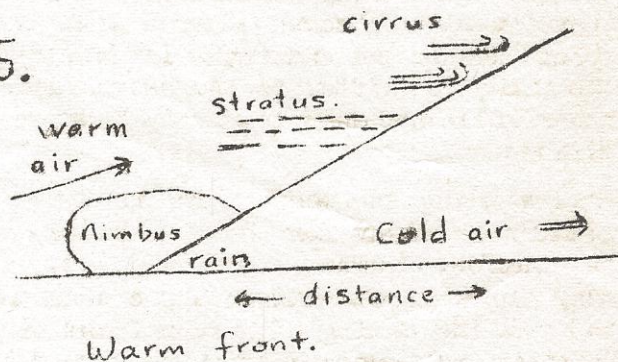
2.



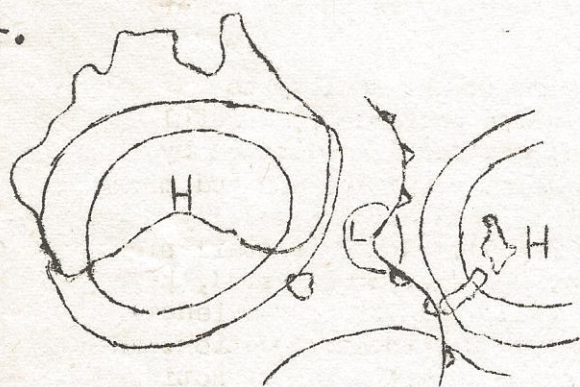
3.



5.

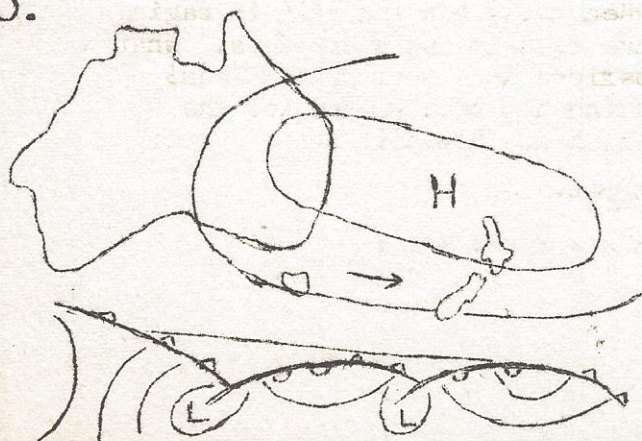


4.



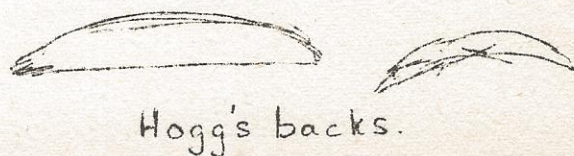
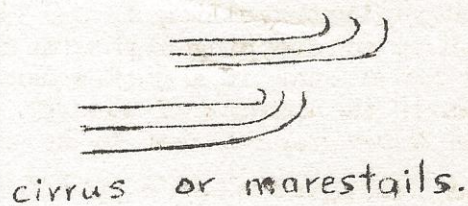
Formation of warm front and depression.

6.



Prolonged westerlies.

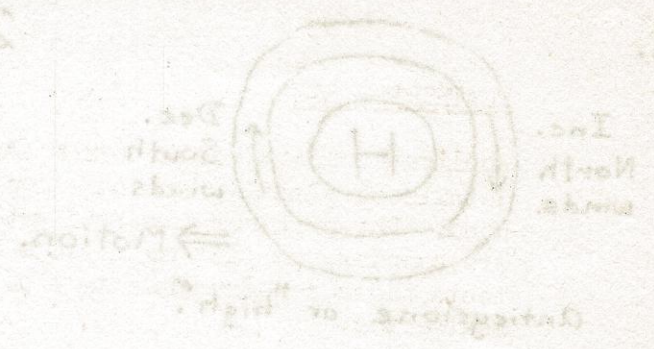
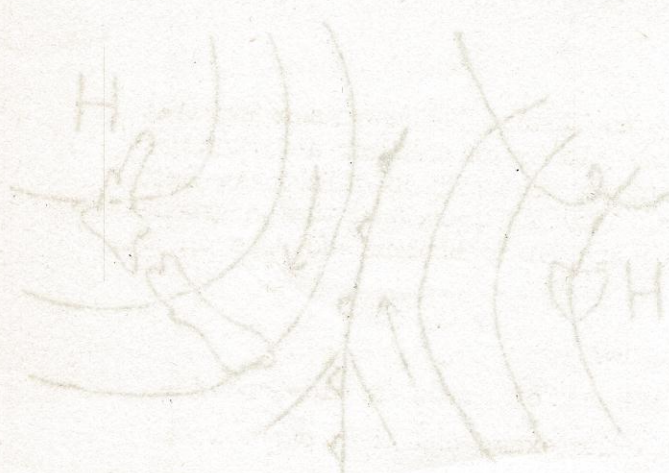
7.





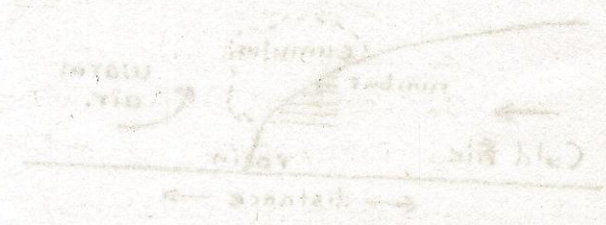
New England mountain weather - diagrams

2.

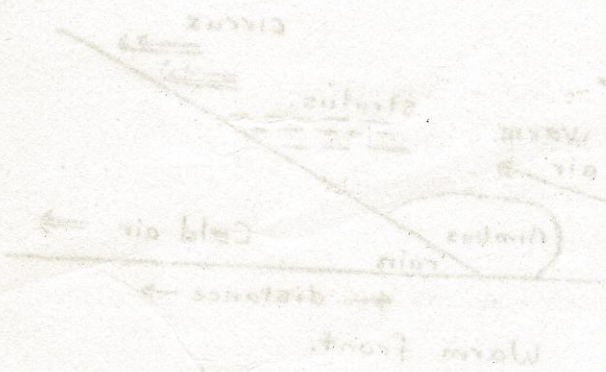


3.

Anticyclone with cold front.



5.

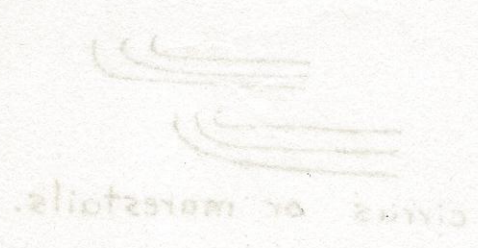


4.

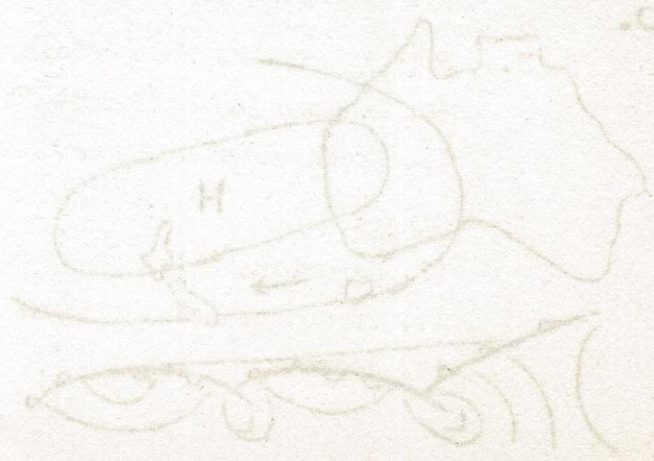


Formation of warm front and depression.

7.



6.



Prolonged westering.

Hogg's backs



FEATHERTOP HUT

Applications are called for following positions. A chart showing the details of planning and building of the hut is on exhibit at Aikman's Road. The problems involved with ensuring that all deadlines are met are complex, so that no holdups occur. It is imperative that organization meets these requirements many of which are in Melbourne and some on Mt. Feathertop.

A. Design and Erection Crew (Melbourne)

1. Purchasing Officer - available end of exams to mid-December.
2. Draughtsmen (2) - 1 week after exams and then part-time.
3. Assistant Designers (2) - 1 week after exams and then part-time.
4. Cost Advisor - 1 week after exams and then part-time.

B. Prefabrication (Melbourne)

5. Inspector - End November - December
6. Setting out officer - End November - December
7. 6 Technicians - End November - December

C. Building on Site (Mt. Feathertop)

8. Foundation Supervisor - December (before Christmas)
9. Concrete Mixing Supervisor
10. Inspector and Setting Out

D. Transport (Melbourne)

11. Overall Supervisor of Transport.
12. Transport Organizers (2) (a) people  
(b) materials
13. Packaging Organizers (2)

E. Site Labor (Mt. Feathertop)

14. Foremen (4) Different stages
15. Track Clearing Supervisor

F. Others

16. Reporters (2)
17. Treasurer and assistant
18. Secretary



Feathertop Hut (cont.)

People interested in these positions should contact Nicholas White C/o M.U.M.C. Union House or 171 Park Street (34 3986) either personally or in writing. Some of the positions require specialist knowledge and all require an ability to organize men and materials. Coordination with other people will be essential. It is anticipated that most of the people holding these positions will be available during the Christmas - New Year period when their familiarity with the work at hand will prove invaluable. We hope to fill these positions provisionally before the Special General Meeting September 24th. Girls are welcome in many positions. Some positions require access to a telephone, personal transport, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*







# KIMPTON'S

## NOW MAKE AND SELL THE ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN MULE

### AS USED BY SIR EDMUND HILLARY ON HIS MT. EVEREST EXPEDITIONS.

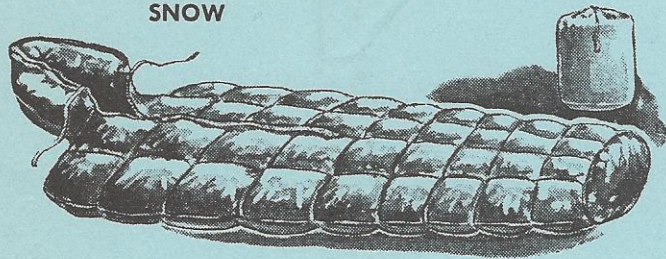


This super lightweight, super strong pack always puts the load in the right place distributing the load evenly without objectionable pressures on the back. Plenty of room and complete protection from weather incorporating lightweight "ripstop" Terylene canvas and fuel tank frame are standard features. Standard Model £14/17/6. Large Model £15/7/6. Mulette £14/17/6. Post free. Extras include Leather bottom 15/-, Terylene Webbing 15/-, Camera pocket 10/-, Packing Brackets 15/- (pr.).

# KIMPTON'S "EIDERLITE"

## SLEEPING BAGS ARE MADE IN 3 POPULAR MODELS

SNOW



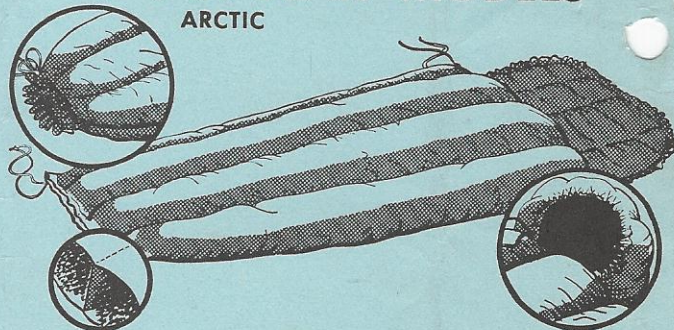
**Snow:** Tailored hood — 36" nickel chest zipp. Circular insert for feet. Cut 6' x 30" plus hood.

**Combination quilt — Sleeping bag:** Designed for all-the-year use as either an eiderdown quilt, or sleeping bag. Simply fold in half and zipp the bottom and side and presto! your

quilt becomes a sleeping bag. A double sleeping bag can be made by zipping two of these quilts together.

**Arctic:** FOR SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes top, bottom and at the side joins, thus

ARCTIC



a complete cell of superdown gives the sleeper warmth all-round. When tied the end allows no heat loss however in hot weather the down can be compressed to the bottom of the bag and the end left open for ventilation. This makes the Arctic a dual purpose bag. Cut 6' 6" x 30" plus hood.

# KIMPTON'S FEATHER MILLS PTY. LTD.

5 BUDD STREET, COLLINGWOOD, VIC.

Tel.: 41 3964.

CABLES: KIMFORTY