

registered at the G.P.O Melbourne
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Number 4.

August, 1968.



The Mountaineer



MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

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The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.
Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical.

Correspondence: Beaurepaire Centre, University of Melbourne,
Parkville, 3052

National parks, scenery and wildlife conservation etc. are frequently cropping up in the news. Most people will remember the war of words which raged in the correspondence columns of the daily papers when the building of a motel at Wilson's Promontory was first proposed. More recently, suggestions have been put forward for the establishment of national parks in north-eastern Victoria and in the Glenelg region.

Whenever the question of preservation of large tracts of land in their natural state arises, opposition is met from those who cannot bear to relinquish, even for a short while, the comforts of their houses and the ease of motorized transport. These people are supported and encouraged by commercial interest who see the opportunity for making money by providing expensive tourist facilities. On the other hand, walkers, naturalists and other who enjoy the peace and beauty of unviolated surroundings can be relied upon to give their support to any moves in favour of conservation.

The tourists advance as their main argument the idea that the beauty of bush, mountain and coastline belong to all, and not only to those hardy?? individuals who prefer to go on foot and sleep in tents. What these people do not realize, is that they can never come fully into contact with the bush, no matter where they choose their hotel sites or park their caravans. The view they obtain from their hotel balconies is not the same as the bushman sees from his campsite or the mountaineer from his peak. Moreover, by insisting that each area in turn shall be opened up to tourist traffic, and provided with comfortable accommodation, they are driving the bushwalker out of his own domain, and depriving him forever of the treasures which he once enjoyed.

What is being asserted is not that the mobs should be confined to a few tourist resorts while the enlightened few roam the wilderness at their pleasure. The bushlands are the property of everyone, and each has the right to enjoy their beauties in his own way. However, this right belongs as much to the bushwalker and mountaineer as to the tourist and motorist, and since the interest of these groups are incompatible, separate areas should be set aside for them. While plenty of areas are being opened up and developed for the tourist trade, the remaining tracts of virgin bush should be jealously guarded against the trespasses of commercial enterprise. The fact that man's activities produce an essentially irreversible destruction of natureland, leading sometimes to the extinction of plant and animal species, makes vigilance doubly necessary.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It has come to our notice that some of your members have been engaging in the pursuit of mountain running, and have sought to claim several new records.

I wish to inform you that, with the aim of rationalising future activities in this field, the Australian Institute of Mountain Running, Peak Bagging and First Ascents adopted the following ground rules at its Annual Conference:

- (a) Two classes of records shall be recognized. Class A, attempts shall be made carrying not less than 20lb load, at least 10lb of which must be carried on the back. Class B, attempts can be made 'clean'
- (b) Timing shall be to the nearest minute with an approved timepiece. Both the start and finish of the attempt are to be witnessed by a person or persons of unimpeachable integrity.
- (c) All record claims shall be submitted to the Institute for ratification.

We feel sure your members will agree to follow these rules, which should establish a bureaucratic structure that will effectively strangle this activity at birth.

Yours rapidly

P. Tonn (Hon. Sec.)

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AIR TRAVEL

The following information has been received from the secretary of the Sports Union.

REVISED CONDITIONSCONCESSIONAL TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS1. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:

In conjunction with Ansett-ANA, we have revised the conditions applicable to concessional travel by students attending a registered Australian University.

These new conditions become effective on and from 1st August, 1968.

The changes to the previous conditions are:-

- 1.1 Elimination of the clause restricting the travel to between home and University, and
- 1.2 Elimination of the previous minimum age of 19 years.

Thus a University student, provided he/she is under 26 years of age, can travel as often as he/she desires to and from wherever he/she desires at a concession of 25% off the published adult fare.

2. GENERAL:

Students enrolled for a full time day course during the current scholastic year and not in receipt of any remuneration will be granted a concession as follows:-

Group A

Students fifteen years of age and under nineteen years, enrolled at an educational establishment, but excluding a registered University - 50% concession (half adult fare)

Group B

- (i) Students attending a registered University who are under twenty-six years of age - 25% concession (three quarter adult fare)
- (ii) Students nineteen years of age and under twenty-six years enrolled at a Technical College, Theological College or Seminary - 25% concession (three quarter adult fare). This concession applies only to travel between home and place of education.

Air Travel Cont'd.....

- (iii) Papuan and New Guinean Theological full-time students, irrespective of age and not in receipt of any remuneration 25% concession (three quarter adult fare).

3. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS - Identification Card:

The use of the standard Trans-Australia Airlines Student Concession Certificate by University Students is no longer applicable after 31st July, 1968.

University students can obtain from TAA Offices a University Students' Photo Identification Card at a nominal cost of 10c each to which a passport-type photo of the bearer must be affixed. The card, which will include the birth date of the student, will be signed and stamped by the University of attendance with the University stamp appearing on the card and overlapping the photo. This card will be current for one calendar year.

TRIPS PROGRAMME

6 SEPT.

THE CLUB DINNER DANCE

To be held at the "Cuckoo", Main Road, Olinda, at 7.00 p.m.

Cost - \$3.50 single

Due to the anticipated last minute rush on bookings, the time limit has been extended, but book as soon as possible - we have 100 tickets only.

14-15 SEPT.

F.U.W.C. WEEKEND - ANAKIE-STEIGLITZ AREA

SATURDAY - An ORIENTEERING CONTEST will be held during the day. This is a test of fitness and navigational skill lasting about 6 hours (a mini 24 hour walk).

At night, a social function, including dancing and a bushwalker's concert (!!) will be held in the Anakie Hall.

SUNDAY - A DAY WALK of easy standard.

Transport - Private

Come for all or part of the Festivities.

18 SEPT. (WEDNESDAY) SPECIAL LUNCHTIME MEETING.

To be held in the James Crow Theatre,
First Floor, Architecture Building,
from 1-2 p.m.

The proposal of the Club building another
hut will be discussed. If you have any
ideas for or against this proposal come
along and have them discussed. Anyone unable
to attend, but having ideas, could put them
in writing and send them to Michael Feller.

20 SEPT.

FILM NIGHT

To be held in the Botany Lecture Theatre,
Botany School at 7.30 p.m.

The full length film "THE CONQUEST OF EVEREST"
will be screened. This was the official film
of the first successful Mt. Everest expedition.
Shorts will include "WILDLIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS"
(of New Zealand) and "SKI" (a Canadian Film
depicting all types of skiing, from Downhill
skiing to ski mountaineering.

Supper will be served. All welcome.

Donation to cover the cost of supper.

22 SEPT. (SUNDAY) DAY WALK - CAMPASPE RIVER VALLEY.

Leader - Michael Griffin

Standard - easy

Distance - 10 miles

Transport - Private

Maps - Castlemaine and Pyalong 1" to 1 mile.

An easy walk along a pleasant valley visiting
several picturesque waterfalls, tressellated
pavements, etc. The last walk before the exams.
To be mentally fit you must be physically fit
so take a break from studying.

30 NOV.-1 DEC. POST EXAM BLUDGE - HOWQUA RIVER VALLEY.

Leader - Paul Callander

Standard - Extremely easy

Distance - Not much

Transport - Van, leaving Union Car Park,
6.15 p.m. on Friday.

Fare - \$3.50 - \$4.00. Cancellation Fee - \$1.50.

Swimming togs are essential. Lilos facilitate
travelling down the Howqua River. There are
many hard or medium walks for those so inclined.

BOOKINGS OR INFORMATION - visit the Club rooms any lunchtime
(1-2 p.m.) or phone Michael Feller on 20.2232,
any evening.

FEDERATION WEEKEND14-15th September

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Weekend Camp will be held this year in the Anakie-Steiglitz area under the organisation of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club. Camp will be made at the camping ground at Anakie Gorge. Private transport will be used.

The programme will be as follows:-

Saturday 14th

10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. Orienteering Contest. This will be a test of navigational ability and physical fitness. Competitors must enter in teams of two or more, and will be supplied with a list of about 20 checkpoints, indicated by a description and a grid reference. Teams must then visit as many as these checkpoints as possible in any order during the period of the contest. Different point scores will be allocated for each checkpoint visited, according to the degree of navigational difficulty and the distance from the start, and the winning team will be the one with the highest number of points at the end of the contest. There will be separate sections for male, female and mixed teams, and winners will be announced in each section. Each team must supply itself with a copy of the map, "Meredith" 1" = 1 mile, Military Survey, a compass, a reliable watch and a box of matches. Competitors are advised also to carry sufficient food to see them through the contest and a parka, and a pencil and ruler may be useful in planning the course before the start. Details of the checkpoint will be available at the Anakie Gorge camping ground from 10.00 a.m. and the contest will start at 10.30 a.m.

There will be no other activities organised during the day, but for those not wanting to compete in the orienteering contest, short walks can be taken from the camping ground along Anakie Gorge or up Nelson's Lookout.

8.00 p.m. Concert and Barn Dance. This will be held at the Anakie Hall which is about 2 miles from the campsite. The evening will consist of dancing interspersed with short acts. Members of all Clubs are asked to contribute their talents to the concert, either solo or as a group. Any items which will add a little more fun to the evening are suitable, e.g., songs, skits, mock ballet, short sketches. Fine quality of performance is certainly not essential, and many items will probably be unrehearsed. A piano is available in the hall and any other musical instruments will be welcome. Supper will be provided and a small donation will be asked for to cover costs.

Sunday 15th

A historical ramble in the Steiglitz area. Go by car to Steiglitz (about 10 a.m.) and spend an easy day wandering around the mines and other relics of this once-prosperous gold-mining area. (For the story of Steiglitz, see "The Melbourne Walker", 1966, p.27).

Instructions for getting to Anakie Gorge

Follow the Western Highway to Bacchus Marsh, then turn left along the road to Geelong which leaves the highway just before the hill on the far side of the town. Turn right immediately before this road crosses the railway line (about 1 mile) and follow this road for about 12 ml. when the turnoff to Balliang and Staughton Vale is reached (Grid ref. 418. 332). Turn right here and follow the road through Staughton Vale. About 1¼ ml. beyond here, a dirt road goes to the right with a signpost, "Anakie Gorge" (grid ref. 346 299). Follow this road until an open area with fireplaces is reached. Camp will be made here, and this will be the start and finish for the orienteering contest.

To get to the Anakie Hall, continue along the main road for about 1½ ml. from the Gorge turnoff. The hall is on the right. The road to Steiglitz leaves the main road in the township of Anakie.

For further details, phone David Hogg - 329.8484 (evenings).

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering is a sport in which the competitors make use of a map and compass to find their way as quickly as possible across country according to a predetermined course. While the term "orienteering" may be new to many M.U.M.C. members, what it represents is well known to those who have had the experience of competing in a 24-hour Walk.

The form of an orienteering contest may vary from the type in which controls (or checkpoints) are visited in a specific order (cross country orienteering) to the type in which a large number of controls are allotted different point scores according to the degree of difficulty in finding them, and competitors visit as many controls as possible in a certain time, the winner being the competitor with the highest point score (score orienteering). An exceptionally searching form of contest is where competitors follow a line drawn on the map and the controls are at unknown points along this line (line orienteering). Hence it is necessary to keep exactly to this line to avoid the risk of missing a control.

Orienteering as a sport originated in 1918 in Sweden, where it now has over 25,000 active followers, and where the largest national event involves about 1,700 competitors. Orienteering has been established for some time also in Norway and Finland, and in 1962, it was introduced to Scotland. In 1964, the first English orienteering club was formed, and in 1965, the English Orienteering Association was founded. Since this time, the popularity of orienteering has been growing rapidly in Great Britain, where it has attracted former Olympic athletes such as Roger Bannister, Chris Brasher and Gordon Pirie. Pirie in his first contest, spent two hours racing backwards and forwards, finding only one control of the six that were in the few square miles of forest and sandstone country, and eventually had to knock on an old lady's door to ask her the way back to the village school from which he started. A few months later, however, his navigational technique vastly improved, Pirie was up among the winners. This tale is a classical illustration of how physical fitness alone is not sufficient in orienteering.

Orienteering has recently achieved International status. In 1961, the International Orienteering Federation was established and in 1966, the 1st World Championships were held in Finland.

By international standards, orienteering is a young sport and it is not surprising that it is only now becoming recognised under that name in Australia. However, the general concept of orienteering has been in existence in M.U.M.C. since 1947 when the first 24-hour Walk was held. For many years, this was purely a club event, and was unique to M.U.M.C. About 1963, the 24-hour Walk concept spread interstate to Adelaide, and interest in Bushwalking and Mountaineering Clubs in other Universities was stimulated by suggestions from M.U.M.C. to conduct an Intervarsity 24-hour Walk. Such events were held on an unofficial basis in Melbourne in 1964, 1965 and 1966, in Adelaide in 1967, and in Newcastle in 1968. Moves are now afoot for official recognition of an Intervarsity orienteering contest. Outside University Clubs, the development of orienteering in Australia has only just begun. Paddy Pallin conducted a contest for the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs earlier this year, and M.U.M.C. is organising a 6 hour score contest for the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs on September 14th.

It appears that orienteering is on its way in here in Australia, and there is every reason why it should be. We have an active population of bushwalkers and an abundance of suitable country for holding such contests. If its rise in popularity in Australia is as rapid as it has been in England, orienteering may well attain a national level here in the not-too-distant future.

David Hogg.

NEW FEATHERLITE MOUNTAIN MULE PACK

For many years now the general superiority of the 'H' frame type of pack for comfortably carrying moderate to heavy loads has been widely recognised by most bushwalkers and in particular the 'Mountain Mule' version is very familiar to most mountaineers.

Recently a new model of the 'Mountain Mule' called the 'Featherlite' has appeared on the Australian market. Priced at \$29 and weighing 21b.14oz., some 3 lb. less than what is now known as the heavy duty 'Mountain Mule' this new pack appears to be a significant advance over any other pack that is at present available.

The new pack was designed specifically for Sir Edmund Hillary's 1966 Himalayan expedition and due to its strength and lightness was found to be completely satisfactory for the purpose for which it was designed.

The frame of the pack is similar in layout to the heavy duty model but is constructed from duralium alloy, the top corners are now rounded over to make the frame less likely to snag on branches when bush-bashing, the webbing and straps are now made of either nylon or terylene.

Available in four bright colours (red, blue, green and gold. - the red and gold colours in particular providing an added safety feature to help locate the pack should it be put down in the bush for any reason). The bag is made from a very light, yet strong, synthetic cloth and is approximately 20" long, 16½" wide and 7" deep with two 12 x 2 x 6 inch pockets on the outside and to the back (to avoid being damaged in thick scrub), the outside pockets are closed by nylon zips with water deflecting cover strips. At the top of the bag is a nylon 'tie-up' extension sleeve and a single nylon strap pulls the tailored flap tightly down over the opening. The sack also has a double waterproof bottom.

The shoulder straps are made of terylene webbing which is lighter and stronger than leather as well as being softer, more weather resistant and less prone to stretching. All the metal fittings are corrosion resistant and provision is made for carrying a tent or sleeping-bag on top of the pack when the full volume is required for other gear. The sack may also be readily removed from the frame.

A great deal of thought appears to have gone into the design of this pack, many attempts have been made over the years by individuals to produce various items of hiking gear and many packs have been produced with varying degrees of novelty and design but I doubt if any pack has so far been produced that would equal the new 'Featherlite' mule.

The pack appears to be extremely practical in every detail, very strong and able to withstand all normal wear and tear although for really rough work undoubtedly the heavyduty version would give longer life but, for \$29.00 I would suggest that the 'Featherlite' is an excellent buy for any Mountaineer be they a Tyro or a Tiger.

John D. Steel,
14th March, 1968.

For further information, see Pat Miller's equipment report in this issue. (Ed.)

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Mountain Mule Packs.

With the recent change by Kimptons to the Featherlite packs, the price of these has increased and the availability considerably reduced. I have been assured by Mr. Kimpton that the old standard models can be made on request for \$35. The reason given for the price increase being that they are no longer mass-producing them.

The packs in the club store are starting to show the faults in design. The bag pockets and zips are very good, as are the nylon parts. The only real omission here has been a drawstring in the top. The stitching has held out alright as have the frames. The points of failure of most 'Mules' broken so far has been the webbing and the leather straps. More recent models have a stronger webbing and may be better. The straps however seem prone to break, particularly the leather connecting the buckle of the shoulder strap to the bottom of the frame of the pack. Another point of weakness appears to be the connection to the top of the frame.

Generally considering the abuse club packs receive they have performed well.

Featherlite (1st Design).

The club has had two of these packs for about 9 months now and they are beginning to show signs of wear. The material is holding out fairly well, but small tears and holes are appearing along seams and folds. The bottom of the bags also have small rips and I think that here may prove to be the weakest point. No straps or webbing have as yet broken. The frame seems to be of adequate design except the pack pins are very easily bent. This however is very difficult to avoid.

It should be pointed out that these packs have been used every weekend except one or two and this might equal several years of private use.

This pack is perhaps the best guide to the strength of the new design.

"Aquascade" tents.

We have had one of our tents for about 18 months now and there have been no complaints. The material still has its excellent property of not leaking when touched and not causing condensation. I can recommend it to everyone.

These reports on club equipment are written to guide people in the purchase of equipment. It must be remembered that club equipment receives a tremendous amount of use and is considerably abused. For this reason it leads to the quick detection of faults. Beginners contemplating buying equipment must remember that a years club use may be equivalent to five years of personal use.

Pat Miller .
L.H.S.O.

NEW EQUIPMENT

"Aquascade" sleeping bags.

These bags are made by Kimptons and are his standard "Arctic" or "Snow" bags but made with "Aquascade" coverings. They are claimed to be waterproof without "sweating" on the inside. While they are not completely waterproof, they certainly are a great improvement. One was left against the side of a wet tent overnight and did not get wet. However the Feathertop Hut succeeded in getting the outside layer wet. They certainly would not stand being left out in the rain but would even then not soak right through. For the extra \$3.00 it is worth getting this covering.

Featherlite Packs (2nd Design).

These packs have been imported from New Zealand to meet demands for a lightweight pack of larger capacity than the original Featherlite. They have the same light aluminium frame as the original model but the bag is closer in design to the original Mule. It has only one outside pocket, double straps for the flap, a map pocket in the flap and at last a drawstring in the nylon extension of the bag. It is made of the same lightweight material as the original Featherlite, with a double waterproof bottom. The club has just purchased one and will report on it after some use. It is priced at about \$34.00 and is available from sports stores and Kimptons Feather Mills.

Pat Miller.
L.H.S.O.

Case of Vandalism

The M.U.M.C. Feathertop hut lies in a rather isolated track up Feathertop. It was hoped that, due to its position, it would remain untouched by vandals hands. However, this was not to be, and a year ago, a mindless moron inscribed his insignificant name, Richard Tye, over a large area of the hut. This was subsequently erased and covered by a layer of insulation. Mr. Tye was informed of his senseless act and several pointed comments were written in the hut log book by club members. We thought this might stop Mr. Tye.

However, only a few weeks ago, Mr. Tye and a Jim Woods, again gave vent to their egotistical outpourings by carving their names boldly in a tree beside the track up the N.W. spur to the hut.

Those who have walked up the Bungalow spur track to Feathertop are familiar with the wide variety of cans, papers, plastic bags, etc. which adorn the bush beside the track. We had hoped that our track would remain free from such rubbish. Unfortunately, Mr. Tye came along and, with his pointless act of mutilation has ruined, not only a tree, but the joy that many people feel when surrounded by unblemished nature.

Mr. Tye and Mr. Woods, and any others like them are most unwelcome in our hut and are requested to keep well away! Any further cases of vandalism will not be tolerated, and will be met by strong action.

M. Feller
(Hut Warden)

Flaming Idiots

Once upon a time in a not too distant land there was a group of people who roamed around the mountains carrying small stoves that they treated as some kind of firework. They overprimed them, spreading volatile fuel everywhere, refueled them in confined spaces within a few feet of naked lights, and left the filler caps open. The resulting explosions were not very serious, causing only loss of some hair and considerable surprise, but this was only because of the low temperatures. These supposedly intelligent people, having not recognized this possibility, apparently did not realize its significance and continued in their merry way. Soon huts and tents were going up in flames everywhere. In fact, on a clear night it was often possible to navigate by the cheery glow of a burning hut or the occasional dull thud of an exploding choofer.

Not very funny, especially if you're on the receiving end. The situation should never happen and is quite inexcusable. People should have enough sense to realize how volatile shellite is. Choofers should not be filled inside huts or tents or near naked flames. Fuel should be kept in a safe place in a tightly stoppered container. Care should be taken not to flood the priming bowl.

There are still some people around who put a lot of work into the hut and who don't want to see it burnt down just yet, but if the events of a few weeks ago are repeated we'll probably lose both our insurance and our hut through some clot's carelessness.

OPERATION SPIKE 17/5/68 - 26/5/68

And here comes another climbing story - a most successful expedition to the Blue Mountains by six fearless and dashing climbers.

Start: - 8.00 p.m., at a booze party. At 3.00 a.m. in the morning, (some of the expedition members, already sleeping in the van) the driver and the more lively members staggered out of the wrong door, and found themselves driving through the city.

Many frigid hours later (Saturday night - 9.00 p.m.), they arrived in Sydney and began looking for Caffin's place. As the Caffins were not home, there began, under the guidance of one of the female cooks, a search for the Blue Mountains. After travelling in circles round Sydney and crossing the Harbour Bridge at least 10 times, we bought a map and only got lost twice after that. The cook's excuse. the d.....Blue Mountains are hard to find in the dark.

Arrived at Katoomba 10 a.m. Sunday and tried to climb the Three Sisters - except for Peter McK who was 1,500 ft. down the valley looking for a blown away stack hat. Due to a strong wind and freezing conditions, we abandoned the attempt (PIKED) and set up "mansions" at nearby Narrowneck, amidst squalid conditions and eating habits (chooks' feet!)

On Monday the Fearless Ones knocked over Fuddy Duddy, and Cave Climb (only mod. dif. stuff), and on Tuesday returned to Sydney to buy a guide book to the area, and also to find Caffin. We bought the guide book at Paddy Pallin's and then headed off to Linfield, a snorker boulder problem area only five miles from Sydney. The first fall was recorded when Anne peeled off and fell into the eagerly awaiting arms of Bruno (planned?) - then back to Sydney, where we located Caffin (tough luck Roger!!) and set up camp on his lounge room floor.

Five o'clock Wednesday morning we were awoken by two sounds (1) a baby crying and (2) a female voice saying "Roger, get up!....."

Wednesday we set up camp amidst the swings and see-saws on Mt. Piddington. Gordon and Peter climbed Joseph (severe), while Anne and Bruno tried to do the Bastard. Bruno went up the first two pitches, but Anne could not do the second - a wide bridging move between a tree and the cliff proved too much for her legs. Fortunately Richard and Alison PIKED off the near-by Bugger, so Richard finished off Bastard with Bruno. Alison found the climb was really a bastard after performing a beautiful pendulum, and then joined Anne in PIKING.

On Thursday, due to threatening weather, we imitated the tourists (PIKED) and went sightseeing around Katoomba, taking a close look at the Dogface - an enormous 300 foot face as smooth (and about as soft) as cheese. After failing to look like tourists due to extreme scruffiness the expedition went back to Piddington via the scenic railway.

Peter and Gordon hurried off and just managed to do Phantom (severe) before dark, but the rest went rabbit hunting (PIKED). Due to their great success we all had vegetable soup for tea.

On Friday Richard and Alison experienced their Finest Hour (mod. dif. and also the easiest climb in the guide book). Before Anne and Bruno climbed Hope (hard v. dif) Bruno gave

vocal and technical support to Gordon who was having psychological (spelt as in PIKING) trouble on the start of TOMBSTONE WALL (severe), which he finally finished with Peter. After their success on Their Finest Hour, Richard and Alison climbed Faith (hard v. diff.). Richard and Bruno then did Flake Crack (hard severe) and headed back to camp. But Peter, after having a good look at Amen Corner (mild, very severe), spotted a bolt plate on it, and his Scottish (?) background overwhelmed good judgement and up he went. Amen Corner is a 100 ft. right-angled, slightly overhanging, corner, with 100 ft. of laybacking, handjamming and delicate bridging - a real snorker.

On Saturday Bruno and Richard, not to be outdone by Peter and Gordon, decided to try Solomon, a harder climb than Amen Corner. After one fall each, and unable to finish the last third of the climb, they retreated (PIKED), and climbed Phantom, where Richard peeled off seconding, and sprained his ankle due to Bruno's belaying technique. Gordon's turn to lead a climb, so he picked the crux pitch of Genesis (hard severe), leaving to Peter, the airy second pitch. They then did a boulder problem, Sincerity (mild severe), and then Gordon started out on Avago (severe), but soon PIKED due to Saturday lassitude. After saying hullo to Caffin who was there for the day, we choofed off home in the Volkswagen.

Many hours later we reached Melbourne again after passing through Canberra, Sindaloyne, Buchan etc., and Operation SPIKE ended successfully with a house to house food gathering and person dropping manœuvre.

Staff List: General: Anne McKenzie
Mess Officer: Alison Neville
Privates: Richard Schmidt
Bruno Zeller
Gordon Talbett
Peter McKeand.

SCRAMBLES AMONG THE STREETS

Here follows a mountaineering epic in the Rum Doodle tradition.....

The past twenty years have seen the conquest of the world's mightiest peaks, and the advancement of the science of rock-climbing into the realm of the incredible. As the cliffs become more infested with Sunday climbers sporting fantastic arrays of equipment to assure their perfect safety, as the rock-faces disappear behind the pegs and bolts, so it is that the young adventurous climber of to-day seeks newer and finer worlds to conquer. What more obvious site for climbing of

unlimited scope is offered than the man-made massifs of stone and steel that each year rise higher at the heart of our metropolis?

New skills are needed as dangers become multiple and various. No longer are there any protective spikes or chockstones, no welcome fissures in which to try one's multitude of crackers, while bolts and pitons are out of the question, and strictly not cricket. These dangers are, however, merely secondary; the prospective climber has many primary dangers to contend with, dangers peculiar to his chosen sport; the night-watchman, the security officer, the 'fed' on the beat, the floodlight, the neon sign, the high-tension wire, and last and most fearsome of all - the law.

Heedless of these many difficulties, aspirants to this novel sport at that seat of radicalism and pastoral delight at Oakleigh determined to conquer the unconquered, having been induced, needless to say, by the proverbial 'niner'. At once (one might almost say overnight) a number of blue flags inscribed with words of support to a well-known charity, appeared on such peaks as the Russell Street Police Station, Princes Gate and Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Two members of this club, thinking entirely of the glory of the club tradition, and not being satisfied with leaving it to challengers of Andean pinnacles, conceived and organized an assault of grand magnitude. And yet, there was one major obstacle to be overcome - a flag. It was difficult to imagine the 'Oxo-man' at the summit of a well-known edifice on the north-east corner of Flinders and Swanston streets, so it was with sad hearts that these stalwarts decided to climb under an opposition flag.

Equipment consisted of - 1 flag, 1 Polaroid camera, 1 transistor radio, 20 feet of string, and 1 torch. Footwear was necessarily absent above the first pitch as speed, nimbleness, and grip were a priority. There was, of course, no question of any standard equipment such as ropes.

The first pitch (12 feet, 2+) consisted of a chimney between two buttresses on the North face, onto a wide and sloping ledge of slate that was somewhat loose. Behind a line of boulder to the right of the ledge, excess gear such as coats, shoes, and radios were discarded. The second pitch (30 ft, 5+) was a straight lay-back of the drainpipe variety and very exposed, especially to the aforementioned primary dangers. One member happened to drop the expedition torch from 15 feet and the resulting deluge of slate later proved these gallants' downfall.

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THE PEAKBAGGER

(with no apologies to anyone!)

One day as I walked down the track
I saw a man who wore a pack
Approaching me with lengthy stride,
And as he drew close by my side,
I turned my head, his face to view,
And asked, "What kind of man are you?"
He stopped, and looked me in the eye,
"A peakbagger," he said, "am I".

"And how does one bag peaks"? asked I.
Like a flash came his reply.
"One climbs them", was his sharp retort,
"Don't tell me you've not tried the sport?"
Why, peakbagging's the very latest,
And of all walkers, we're the greatest!
So stop, and take a breath or two
While I relate my tale to you."

"The road to my success was long -
It started with Mount Dandenong,
And then the You Yangs and Mount Bride,
Mount Disappointment and Mount Slide.
Then I moved on to harder stuff,
I conquered Buller and the Bluff,
The Governors, Stirling, Timbertop,
Mount Wellington and Skion Kop.

"The Cobberas gave me not great worry,
Nor did Fainter, Cope or Murray.
Selwyn, Blue Rag, Razor, Viking
All were greatly to my liking.
Magdala, Howitt, Lovick, Clear,
William, Useful, Hoad, Rosea,
Cobbler, Koonika, Despair,
And Typ, now have you been there?

"One day when I was feeling tough
I conquered Kent and Snowy Bluff.
The Twins, St. Bernard, Skene, McDonald,
Ben Cruachan, Margaret, Ronald,
Hotham, Jim and Speculation,
Torbeck, Matlock, Federation,
Bogong, Hotham, Nelse and Wills,
Four Sugarloafs and three Big Hills.

"On one of my more recent trips
I climbed Mt. Livingstone and Phipps.
Arthur, Pilot, Selma, Loch,
Macedon and Hanging Rock
Reynard, Shillinglaw, McKay,
And then the Snowies caught my eye:
Townsend, Twynham, Tate, Carruthers,
And Kosciusko, among others.

"And in Tasmania, I liked best
Olympus, Cradle, Pelion West,
Oakleigh, Gould, Hyperion,
And all four peaks of Geryon.
Ramsay, Wilson, Vereker,
Baw Baw, Whitelaw, Erica,
Baldhead, Mueller, Pinnibar,
Juliet and Vinegar.

"Arnold, Grant and Singleton...."
(He just kept going on and on)
"....Higginbotham, Feathertop...."
(I prayed to God that he would stop)
"....Gibbo, Ritchie, Thackeray...."
(I wished that I could sneak away)
"....Zero, Redman's Bluff, Abrupt...."
At last I had to interrupt

And asked "What are your plans to-day"?
He said, "That peak, four miles away
I shall be adding to me list.
There's not too many that I've missed!"
I watched him go with great relief,
And now it is my firm belief,
While peakbaggers may be great walkers
They surely are the world's best talkers.

Rhubarb

(Dedicated to Tom Kneen et al)

You are old, gentle walker, the new-comer said
And your pack is exceedingly light.
The food that you eat is all dehyd and rice,
Do you think deprivation is right?

Well, when I was your age, the wise one replied,
My pack was filled up to the top.
The food that I carried weighed more than my gear
But now I have learned where to stop.

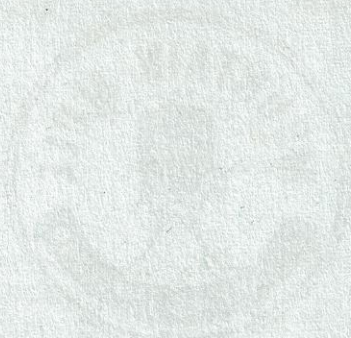
For men in their youth have got strength quite enough
To manage a load such as yours,
But I, in my dotage, am feeble and weak,
And cannot defy natural laws.

You are wise, gentle walker, the new-comer said
And I see there is strength in your eyes.
Perhaps I can learn, without breaking my back,
The value of sweet compromise.

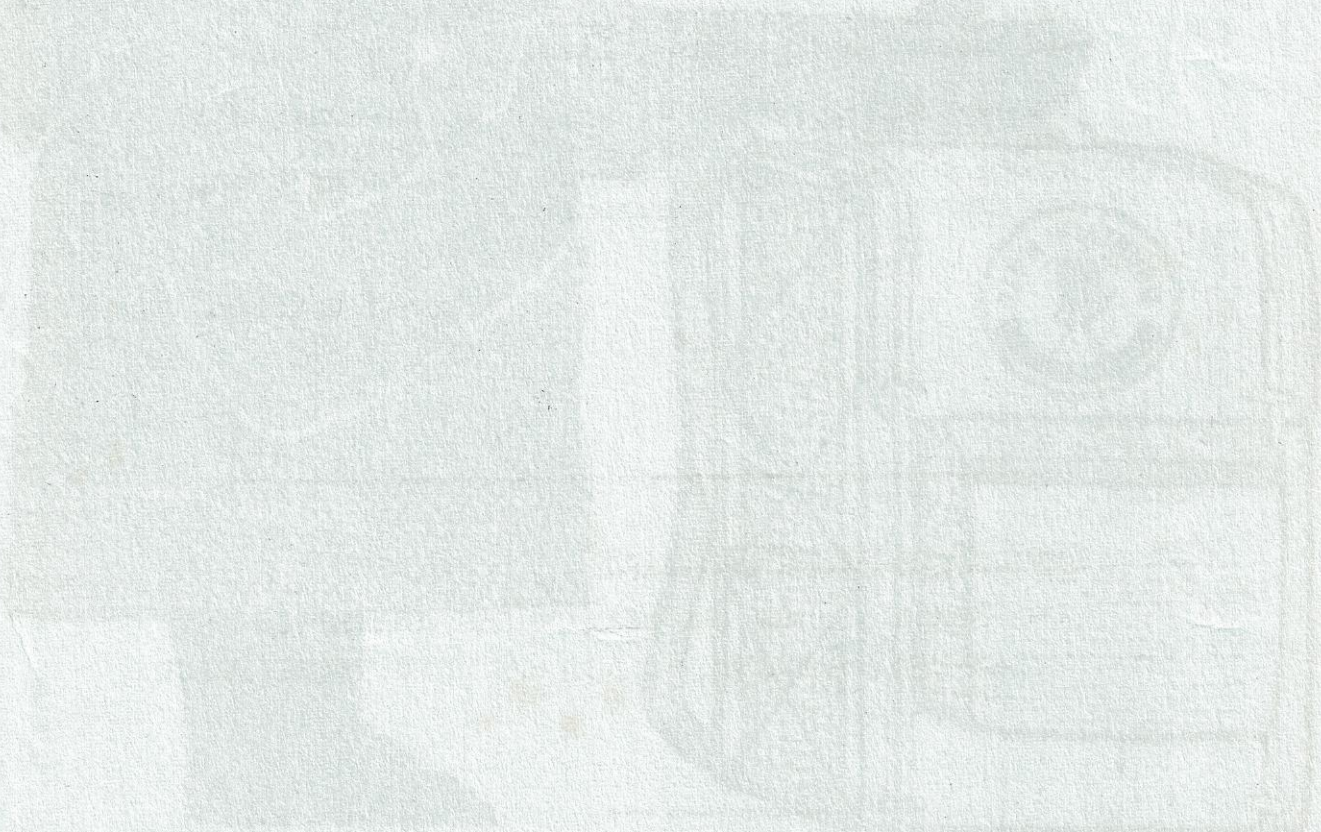
Michael Griffin.

COPY FOR NEXT MOUNTAINEER

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT "MOUNTAINEER" IS
FRIDAY 12th OCTOBER. START SHIFTING THOSE PENS!



THE ORIGINAL WRIT



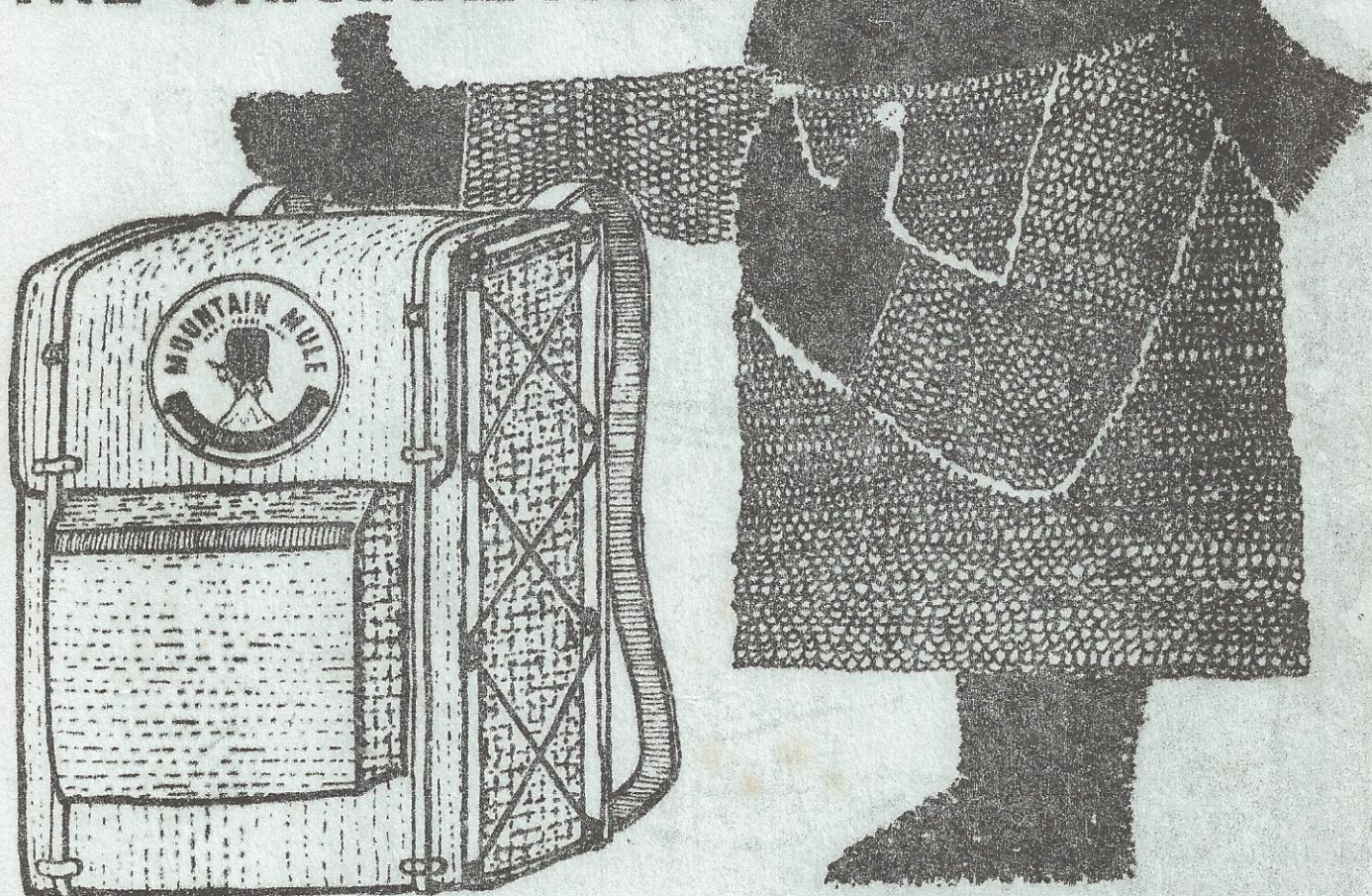
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