

# the mountainer



number 6    december 1970

REGISTERED FOR POSTING  
AS A PERIODICAL —  
CATEGORY B



### SALE

Stocks of the Club Journal, OXO, are now running short. If you have not got your copy of this magazine, produced for the 25th Anniversary of the Club, and containing many interesting articles, then rush to Aikman's Road with 35¢.



*"Tell me again how much fun this is - I keep forgetting."*

From Macquarie University  
Mountaineering Society  
Year Book.

Recently, a 153 lb. case of stunk, a relic of Totter's first reconnaissance of MT. RUMDOODLE, was sold at auction for 40,000½ bohees.

An item of interest for those who appreciate luxury from the makers of Happy Ade.





# The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

Number 6, December 1970.

Price: 10¢

Correspondence: The Editor, M.U.M.C.,  
Sports Union, University of Melbourne,  
Parkville. Vic. 3052.

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With the Festive Season upon us again, your editor wishes all mountaineers a Merry Christmas and a New Year of successful and enjoyable trips.

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## TRIPS PROGRAMME

Notice change for phone bookings - contact Harry Schaap  
(80-3581).

Better still, enter details in Trips Book at Aikman's Road.

December 12      Orienteering - Cardinia Creek Reservoir Area.  
A night score orienteering contest of one  
hour duration starting at 7.30 p.m.  
Organisers: Chris Penna (478-3122; ask for  
Dr. Uren's phone),  
Bruce Caldwell (82-4541 A.H.)  
(see elsewhere in this Mountaineer).

December 15      Monthly Meeting - Pre Xmas Get-together.  
Sports Union Activities Room.  
7 - 12 p.m.  
(see elsewhere in this Mountaineer).

December 12-20      a) Bushwalk - The Grampians : Victoria  
Range : Aboriginal Caves.  
Leader: Dave Hogg.  
Transport: Private.  
Standard: Medium/Hard, with provisions  
for bludgers.

- b) Climbing - Arapiles.  
Leader: Brenda Kaye.  
Transport: Private.  
Contact leader for further information  
(398-2424).

December 24-27      Walk - Lorne.  
Leader: Jeff Rossely.  
Transport: Private.  
Standard: Easy.

December 27 -      Walk - Genoa River Gorge.  
January 1 (approx) A rarely visited area on Vic./N.S.W. border  
followed by 2-3 days near Mallacouta Inlet.  
Leaders: Bob Cannon (340-6406) and  
Martin Wardrop.  
Standard: Medium, plus bush-bashing.  
Transport: Private.

December 27 -      A.S.F. Conference and Field Trips - Hobart.  
January 10      See John Taylor for information.

December 27 -      Tasmania - Lake Pedder, Mt. Anne.  
January 10      Leaders: Ron Frederick, Tony Kerr.  
Standard: Medium.  
Leaders' consent is necessary.  
Transport: Group flight to Hobart,  
8.30 a.m., Sunday 27th December.

January 1-3      Walk - Wilson's Promontory.  
Leader: Jeff Rossely.  
Transport: Private.  
Standard: Easy.

January 9-10      a) Walk - Bogong High Plains.  
Leader: Harry Schaap.  
Standard: Medium.  
Transport: Private.  
b) Climbing - Arapiles.  
Leader: Brenda Kaye.  
Transport: Private.

January 16-17      Canoeing - Goulburn River.  
Leader: Roger Little.  
Transport: Private.

January 19      Monthly Meeting.  
Sports Union Activities Room; 7.30 p.m.  
(See elsewhere in this Mountaineer).

January 23      Orienteering - Twilight Score Contest.  
Urquharts Bluff - Airey's Inlet. 5.30 p.m.  
Organiser: Bob Cannon (340-6406)(a.h.813688).  
(See elsewhere for more details).



- January 30 - Australia Day Weekend.  
February 1 Walk - Macalister Springs - Viking - Razor  
- Despair - Speculation - Cross Cut  
Saw - Macalister Springs.  
Leader: Geoff Lay.  
Transport: Private.  
Standard: Hard.  
A medium trip in the same area will be organised if enough people are interested.
- February 3-17 Tasmania: Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair reserve.  
Standard: Medium/Hard.  
Leader: Jeff Rossely.  
Total cost: Approx. \$70; deposit \$2.
- February 6-7 a) Feathertop Hut Work Party.  
Leader: The Hut Warden.  
Transport: Private.  
b) Canoeing - Lower Glenelg.  
Leader: Tony Kerr.  
Transport: Private.
- February 13-14 Canoeing - River not decided (depending on water).  
Leader: John Bennett.  
Transport: Private.
- February 16 Monthly Meeting.  
Sports Union Activities Room; 7.30 p.m.  
(See elsewhere in this Mountaineer).
- February 20-21 Walk - Baw Baw Plateau.  
Leader: Max Corry.  
Standard: Medium.
- February 28 Day Walk - President's Pre-practice President's Day Walk.  
Rye - Portsea backbeach.  
Leader: The President.  
Standard: Easy.  
Transport: Private.
- March 6-7 Canoeing - River undecided.  
Leader: Mike McNicoll.  
Standard: Wet, hopefully.  
Transport: Private.
- March 13-14 Beginners Bushwalk - Wilson's Promontory.  
Leaders: Harry Schaap and Co.  
Standards: Very easy to impossible.  
Transport: Vans.

March 19

Annual General Meeting.

Election of committee, reports, guest speaker and supper.

March 21

President's Day Walk - Venue not clear.

Leader: The "new" President.

Transport: Van.

Standard: Easy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TRIPS1) Orienteering

a) December 12 - a night score orienteering contest of one hour's duration will be held in the Cardinia Creek Reservoir area.

Starting times - between 7.30 & 9 p.m.

The start is about 30 miles from Melbourne and the organisers are giving a map on how to get there.

For further information and entry forms ring Chris Penna (478-3122) or Bruce Caldwell (82-4541 a.h.) or see notice board at Aikman's Road.

b) January 23 (Saturday) - a twilight score contest organised by Bob Cannon will be held at Urquhart's Bluff near Airey's Inlet (exact location will be given on receipt of entry form).

Because of the hot weather expected, starting time will be 5.00 p.m.

The contest will last for 90 minutes of "random searching".

Ring Bob Cannon on 340-6406 or 81-3668 for further information.

2) CanoeingNational Fitness Council Canoeing Course.

March 1971.

This course, being run by Bryon Scott, will cater for the keen canoeists who will, after this course, be equipped to teach their own groups. It is intended for teachers, youth leaders, etc.

M.U.M.C. has reserved 6 places, and the course will include two Wednesday night theory classes and two weekends canoeing.

If you would like to take part in this course, no matter how unskilled, contact Tony Kerr (329-8040 a.h.).

Closing date - February 17.



3) Store

During the vacation the Store will be open every weekday from 1.00 - 1.30 p.m. only (Christmas/New Year week excepted). The Store will also open on the following Thursday evenings between 6.00-8.00 p.m., December 17, 24, January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25.

4) Trip Reports

In order to keep our publications up-to-date a "trip report form" has been printed, and all trip leaders (private or otherwise) are requested to fill in this easy questionnaire. No literary skills are involved, and the form should be obtained and returned to the trips secretary. It should be used for all trips including caving, canoeing, climbing, and walking.

5) Equipment

All our equipment may be borrowed by Club members in the first instance, and Sports Union members (with permission from S.U.). This equipment is to be used only for mountaineering and excludes hitchhiking, car touring, picnics and tourist type camping at beach resorts. We ask all members to hire equipment only for mountaineering trips, otherwise there will be genuine mountaineers who may miss out.

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FOR SALE

One Paddy Palin "Federation" A frame pack. It is in good condition except for a little repair which is needed on the canvas.

\$10 or offer.

Contact Phil Waring (82-6845).





NOTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8th OCTOBER1. Increase in membership fees.

A motion that membership fees be raised to \$1-00 for Sports Union members, \$1-50 for non Sports Union members and \$2-00 for married couples was passed. Before coming into effect the motion must be put before an A.G.M. of the Club, and if carried there, must be approved by the Sports Union.

2. Ski Touring.

The Club's official policy is that ski touring is a facet of "mountaineering" and thus is promoted under Section 4 of our constitution which reads "Aims: 4. The aims of the club are to foster interest in, provide facilities for and publish material related to mountaineering".

3. Canoeing.

The Canoeing Sub-Committee submitted a report on progress and the recommended policies regarding the Club's canoes. The four canoes are now completed, and a 4 canoe trailer is being built. The general policy on trips is that easier rivers are proposed for the first year while greater experience is gained, before harder trips are contemplated. Maintenance: compulsory work-parties are held on the Tuesday before the trip for all those going. Life jackets have been purchased. Investigations are being carried out as to the advantages of joining or affiliating with the Victorian Amateur Canoeing Association.

NOTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24th NOVEMBER1. Trips Program.

As can be seen from the program in this Mountaineer, there is considerable variety of trips during the long vacation. The beginners' courses for next year were discussed. The Beginners' Bushwalk for next year will be along the same lines as last year, and Wilson's Promontory will again be the venue, as this has the advantage of many varied standards of walks. The Canoeing Beginners' Course will also be held in first term, and it is hoped that some valuable assistance from the National Fitness Council will be received.

2. Trips Reports.

A greater emphasis will be placed on trips reports from leaders in the bushwalking field. This will take the format of a roneod guide, and track notes, campsites, water, etc. listed on it. It is felt this is essential for future leaders in the area, and also for keeping the guidebook up-to-date.



### 3. Dinner Dance.

Several people have been asked to investigate places and prices for next year's Dinner Dance so that early bookings can be made.

### 4. Resignations.

Both the Trips Secretary and the Secretary have resigned as a result of leaving for New Zealand, and the location of jobs on return to Australia. Harry Schaap has taken over as Trips Secretary and Robert Cannon has taken over the duties of Secretary.

Carla Van Driel

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### POST EXAM BLUDGE TRIP - CHILDER'S COVE, WARRNAMBOOL, NOV.21-22

Twenty-three bodies scrambled from the van on Friday night to be told there weren't any trees for tent poles, and there may be some flat ground 100 yards further back. Those with tent poles were lucky and set up tents in the long grass, whilst others slept under the stars.

A shout of "Where's water?" was heard next morning as one surveyed the barren slopes of our desolate chosen bludge site. During the weekend drinking water was obtained from various sources at varying distances from far away to very far away - the water ranged from living stew from a well to brown water from sand dunes, and lovely clear water obtained by climbing a windmill. It did not take long to realise that long grass harbours snakes, so all tents finally moved to a place where the grass was short. Breakfast was on the beach, but not at Childer's Cove where we expected, but rather at Anne's Bay which was just outside the tents.

By the end of the day many burnt people could be seen, but at night a large fire was lit for a sing-song, and the passing and tasting of assorted beverages, as well as for keeping warm. A few more hardy souls braved the water on Sunday, but not so many were braving the sun. Some people seemed anxious to leave on Sunday afternoon as the assisted in pulling down tents; however departure was at a reasonable time with an increase in number of passengers, plus a motor bike on the van. It is hoped that the Club made adequate profit out of transporting it.

A very enjoyable, relaxing weekend was had by all, though some were obviously affected by the sun. Example 1: half through a game of cards on the van someone was heard to exclaim "Hells bells, what do clubs look like?!", and Example 2: another person was heard saying "I've already read the same line six times".

Carla Van Driel



THE VICTORIAN ALPS - A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

With the current growth in the population of Melbourne and the urbanisation of surrounding areas which until recently were regarded as rural, it is becoming increasingly difficult for city dwellers to "get away from it all". The main hope for those wanting to do this lies in the Victorian Alps, one of the last parts of the State to become explored, exploited and settled.

The first white men to venture into the Alps were cattlemen, but it was the gold miners who, in the last half of the 19th century, turned this uninhabited area into a maze of mining tracks and shanty towns, some of which grew into respectable cities while others disappeared into oblivion almost as rapidly as they had been borne. As the mining boom declined, most of the settlers left the mountains and the major industry remaining was cattle grazing. As the 20th century progressed, the Victorian Alps have become increasingly popular for recreational purposes with the growing interest in bushwalking, skiing and motor-touring. The utilization of the Alps' resources in providing timber, hydroelectric power and water catchments have led to the construction of major roads into the mountains. These roads in turn have made the mountains more accessible to the motorised tourist, while they are regarded by the bushwalker as a mixed blessing. In addition to these "active" ways in which the Alps are utilized, there is also developing a growing concern to have some areas conserved as wilderness or primitive areas. With so many diverse activities developing in the Alps, it is inevitable that at least in some areas, conflicts will arise that will result in some activities suffering at the expense of others. In order to accommodate all these activities so that the community of the future can obtain the greatest benefits from its alpine areas, the implementation of an overall plan of development for the Alps appears essential.

A proposal for developing this plan is as follows:-

1. Establish what parts of the Alps are already committed to projects which are regarded as essential to the State's development, for example, water catchment in the Thomson River area or chromite mining on the Dolodrook River. Such committal would necessarily preclude the further use of these areas for some activities, e.g. timber getting, but still leave them substantially open for others such as bushwalking.
2. Decide the minimum area required for conservation as a primitive area and attempt to scavenge this from the few areas of the Alps that still remain entirely in their primitive state, for example, the Crinoline Range and the Moroka Gorge-Snowy Bluff area. Such areas would be desirably left completely undeveloped, even to the point of excluding or at least severely limiting cut walking tracks.



3. Of the remaining areas that are essentially undeveloped except for walking tracks etc., select those areas that have the greatest potential for bushwalking, ski-touring, alpine climbing, and other outdoor activities, and develop them for these purposes through the construction of walking tracks, snowpole lines and refuge huts. A start in this direction has already been made with the Tourist Development Authority's alpine trail which will ultimately run through the Alps from the Baw Baw Plateau to the N.S.W. border. Some obvious choices for this type of development are the Baw Baw Plateau, Mt. Feathertop, Mt. Bogong and the Mt. Howitt area.
4. Restrict the size of existing ski resorts according to the number of skiers they can accommodate on their slopes and also to prevent them from spilling over too far into undeveloped areas, at the same time giving consideration to new areas which could be developed for skiing without interfering too greatly with other activities in the area. The positioning of resorts with respect to their value as centres for ski-touring deserves consideration. Possible sites for new resorts which have been suggested are Mt. Stirling and the Eskdale Spur on Mt. Bogong.
5. Establish a firm policy on cattle grazing on the high plains. It is well established that cattle grazing causes drastic changes on the ecology of the high plains, and depending on the other uses of the area, a good case can be made for abolishing this industry from the mountains, or at least restricting it to defined limits.
6. Assess the tourist needs of the Alps in terms of roads, accommodation, picnic facilities, etc. Consideration should be given to drawing the tourist's attention to things that are a short distance off the road, and parking areas should be provided to encourage him to leave the car and walk there. Access roads to the fringe of undeveloped alpine areas, rather than roads through the middle of them, are certainly preferable.
7. Decide which jeep tracks should be available for the use of private four-wheeler drive vehicles and trail bikes, and which should be restricted to vehicular access only during emergencies such as searches and bushfires. The erosion caused on jeep tracks by private vehicles is currently a matter of concern in the Forests Commission.
8. Select areas for timber-getting according to their freedom from other activities as well as for their commercial value. While primitive areas would be totally exempt from timber-getting, it is quite unrealistic to hope that the same would apply to all areas undeveloped for bushwalking or tourism. Nevertheless it should be possible for some areas, such as the western slopes of Mt. Feathertop, to be spared, while in other areas the Forests Commission's programme of active reafforestation should ensure that the



total area of the Alps denuded of its timber will not become too great at any time. The interest existing in the Forests Commission in conservation and outdoor recreation is greater than most people realize.

I am not intending to suggest that these points should necessarily be considered in the order in which they are listed, although obviously some priorities must arise. Rather the whole scheme must be considered as a unit, and with the present way in which the Alps are administered, this appears to be extremely difficult. The bodies which at present have a hand in the control of the Victorian Alps include the Lands Department, the Forests Commission, the State Electricity Commission, the National Parks Authority, the Soil Conservation Authority, the Tourist Development Authority, the Committees of Management of the various ski resorts, the Country Roads Board and various shire councils. In addition, there are other bodies that at times make recommendations on aspects of alpine development and undertake various projects in alpine areas. To name a few, there are the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, the Victorian Ski Association, the Victorian National Parks Association, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Conservation Council of Victoria and various local progress associations. With so many fingers in the alpine pie, giving rise inevitably to some conflicting interests, an overall coordinating body would appear to be the best means of implementing any plans for development.

I can see three possible ways in which such overall control could be achieved. The first is by having the whole area declared a multi-purpose national park. This is the approach currently being tried by the V.N.P.A. The second is to delegate responsibility for the whole area to the Forests Commission, which already has control of a large part of it. The third is to establish a new, entirely independent body, the "Victorian Alpine Authority" (as a suggested name), which would have ultimate control of the whole alpine area, although the actual work of maintaining and improving it may better be left to those departments that are at present in control. To discuss the pros and cons of these three possibilities would occupy a considerable amount of space, and they are mentioned here mainly as food for thought.

What do you think?

David Hogg

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WANTED KNOWN

Max Corry is planning a four day combined vehicle-walking trip to the Nunnyong Plateau - Cobberas - Mt. Pinnibar - Mt. Gibbo region during Christmas/New Year or immediately after the New Year. Anyone interested may contact Max at 338-2306 (after 6.30 p.m.).

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Hawkins Masters have a more flexible sole, with leather-faced canvas upper. They cost \$15.00 and are in a broken size range, but this includes 3½, 11½ and 12. We still have a few R.L.'s in sizes 5, 10 and 11 only, at \$12.00. They have a stiff sole with black canvas upper.

We have samples only of some of the Galibier mountaineering boots. We would not be able to get stock for this Christmas - except by airfreight - and will delay ordering for stock until we have had a few reactions from those interested in high-climbing boots. Prices would range from \$30 - \$50 on the samples we have and there are others, such as the Hivernale double boot, which would cost more again. It should be realised that no matter how good or expensive the boot, it will not take kindly to the moraine-bashing usually involved in getting to climbs in New Zealand. Doubtless the ideal solution would be to have a good pair of tramping boots for this section and a sherpa to carry your heavy and expensive boots for the high climbing. This tends to be rather hard on the pocket. Those visiting New Zealand for the first climbing course have generally found that our tramping boots have served adequately, cramponing included. When your climbing is further advanced, you will be able to decide for yourself how necessary it may be to have a stiffer, flatter sole for front-pointing for thousands of feet.

We are now making snow-gaiters in various styles & materials. Prices are about \$3.50 - short, \$4 - long, \$5 - long with opening zip covered with dome flap. We have used light vinyl-coated nylon in a double layer - this is completely waterproof; we have also used 6 oz. Kordux single - this will stand more wear & tear but some water seems to force through under extreme provocation, which can be had by ploughing through soft, wet snow for a day. We will try a set with Kordux outer & nylon inner, or given a bit of time we can make something up to suit your particular requirements. Kordux overmitts are \$3.00.



# FEATHERLITE

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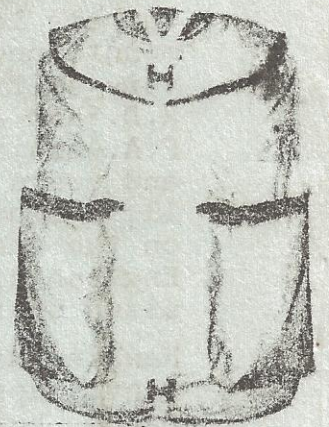


Terylene strapping is used for greater strength, less weight and its non-stretch properties.



Featherlite II has double bag-strapping, one outside pocket, and a waterproof nylon plastic outer double bottom. Map pocket under the flap. Weight approx. 3lb 4ozs.

Price

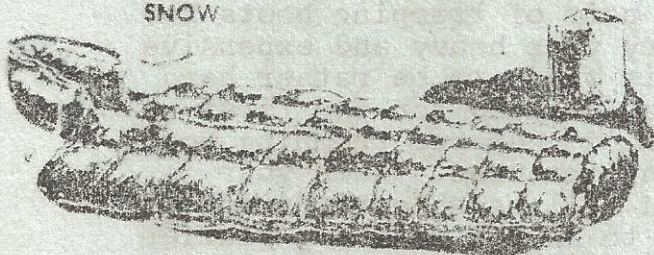


Featherlite I has single bag-strapping and two outside pockets and waterproof nylon plastic outer double bottom. Weight approx. 2lb 14ozs.

Price

## KIMPTON'S "EIDERLITE" SLEEPING BAGS

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**Snow:** Tailored hood. 36" nickel chest zip. Circular insert for feet. Cut 6' x 30" plus hood filled with Super down. Feather down.

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