

# the mountaineer

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# The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

Number 4, September 1971

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

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Victoria has been the most active centre for the development of orienteering, which as a sport, is still very new to Australia. Until the recent formation of the V.O.A. last year, the M.U.M.C. 24 hour walk was the only orienteering event of any kind held regularly. Contests now being run by the V.O.A. more or less follow the style of competitions in Scandinavia, where the sport originated. In November this year, Australian Championships will be held for the first time and teams from New Zealand will also be competing.

Unlike other club activities, orienteering is a competitive, individual sport, and may appear to be contrary to the aims of a mountaineering club. Recently, many members have been concerned that orienteering is becoming too prominent within the club, and is drawing experienced mountaineers away from other trips.

On the other hand, orienteering provides excellent navigation practice which is invaluable for anyone who is keen to lead bushwalking trips. It also improves physical fitness, since for some reason, those elusive red buckets seem to provide a stimulus for running instead of walking.

As long as orienteering continues to be enjoyed primarily as a recreational, but exhilarating sport, and does not dominate our trips program, then it will surely remain a source of enjoyment and benefit for club members.

OXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO

TRIPS PROGRAMME

September 4  
(Saturday)

Canoeing- day trip on the Yarra ,near Warburton. Beginners are encouraged to come along. Excellent coaching; easy rapids.  
Leader: John Bennett  
Transport: Private

September 4-5

Beginners' Ski-Touring.- Baw Baw Plateau. Some skis will be made available by the club. Novice skiers are welcome, but hiking (pack-carrying ) experience is desirable.  
Leader: Pat Miller  
Transport: Private

September 11-12

Federation Weekend Walk  
Sheepyard Flat - Great Rand Mine - Lickhole Creek - Eagles Peaks - Sheepyard Flat. This is a F.V.W.C. organized trip. MUMC is a member of F.V.W.C., and club members are encouraged to meet walkers from other clubs.  
Leader: Ian Bissett (VMTC)  
Transport: Private.  
Bookings Close: September 3.

September 21

Monthly Meeting.  
See bottom of page 3.

September 25-26

Canoeing - Thomson River  
This is an extremely difficult river to 'do' and consequently beginners are discouraged from booging.  
Leader: Mike McNicol  
Transport: private

October 3

Day Walk.  
Lodden Falls - Diers Falls - Walls Crossing- Holcombe Hill - Woolnough Crossing - Kangaroo Falls.  
Leader : Gary Whipp  
Standard : Easy (9 miles).  
Transport: private.







Summer Vacation Trips.

Anyone interested in a medium walk in the Bogong and/or Dargo High Plains somewhere within December 10-24, please see Rhonda Jones, or phone 346204.

Tasmania; January 1-25; medium.

Mt. Anne circuit, Lake Pedder, Port Davey, Catamaran.  
See Jeff Rossely, (phone 3793238)

Eastern Victoria Divide; a 9-10 day walk in early January;  
ring Paul Hobson, 60 1721 (Business) or 51 2501 (Home).

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Lost, Stolen or Strayed.

2 greasy-wool mittens  
1 wool scarf  
1 maroon woollen beanie  
1 old pair of black footy shorts.

...Last seen at Pat and Carla's engagement party at Breamlea. Some of these are named.

Please return to Duncan Stevenson,  
C/o Aikman's Road.

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Sleeping Bag for sale.

Paddy Pallin Superdown Hotham. Excellent condition.  
\$ 20. Phone; 42 6716 after 5.30 p.m.

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OMEGA STATION

The last "National U" students' newspaper had a double page spread on the proposed 'Omega' Navigational Radio Transmitter to be built possibly between "the summits of Mt. Pelion" - in the Cradle Mt, Lake St. Clair National Park. While many people would oppose its siting anywhere in Australia on political grounds - the station's prime use would be for submarine communication -, I hope that all mountaineers will actively oppose its siting within one of Australia's most popular National Parks.

Tony Kerr

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THRUTCH - The Australian Climbing Magazine.

This is available at \$2.00 p.a. for 6 issues.  
For 'Thrutch t-shirts', send 50c. plus postage to:-  
Miss J. Graham,  
30 Edgecliffe Esp.,  
Seaforth, 2092, N.S.W.



Apply: Victorian Director  
Australian Outward Bound Foundation  
9/65, Queens Road,  
MELBOURNE. 3004.  
Telephone - 51 6566

[illegible]



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam,

I wish to protest about the disgusting<sup>state</sup> of Glay's jeans.....they're NEW! This lowers the high standards of the club, and as he is a stores officer, the President should reprimand him.

Anon.

-----  
Dear Madam,

The establishment of a club can have only two aims; either to unite a set of people with common interests, or to further the common interests to people outside the club. The MUMC must surely fall within the second category as a club devoted not only to uniting mountaineers, and I use the term in a wide sense to include all members, but also to let other people outside the club, to come to terms with what we consider an important part of lives. I do not see how the club can restrict its help to club members and function as a MOUNTAINEERING club. Who could be so mean as to not allow others to share his enjoyment, wherever they may come from.

And yet what of the club store? Why, even when there is plenty of equipment, must there be this rule of one article of each type of equipment only per person, even when the borrower is a known member. Why this general distrust of non-club members? Why is a new lock on Agnes Place? Certainly it is possible to get around Sports union restrictions if the spirit is willing. Is the club store to act, in what would seem to be the only right way, or is a tool of beurocratic (sic) rule minded people to be run as they see fit. Instead of opening doors it is closing them and refusing an experience we cannot predict. To people who we can have no idea of the effect of the so called "united call" that we feel. Just how low are we ?

To me it seems the club can have one aim, and that is to help people to discover more and more the call of the mountains. And this includes members of the club, for new awareness does not cease and it also includes people who are not in the club but who wish to share our feelings. Would you be so great as to deem that those emotions should be withheld?

But they may be withheld by this pendantiscism and beurocracy.(sic) On one hand we the L.H.S.O. writing against beurocracy(sic) in the club and then on the other hand, the very attitudes of the stores officers, governed explicitly by the L.H.S.O., refusing to work outside of this very beurocracy.(sic)

As the equipment is restricted there must be restrictions. Perhaps club members first and club trips preference (which is to some extent the supposed system). Remembering of course each student pays \$10.50 per year into the Sports Union, under whose magnanimity the club







LEADERS

On July 21st, at the Sports Union, Bill Bewsher gave a very interesting talk on the qualities necessary of a 'leader', and the current need of leaders trained in outdoor activities for the safe handling of the many youth groups that are taking to the bush for weekends. He differentiated between the leaders in school environments - personality leadership and leaders of groups in later life, who most often were not the school leaders. These leaders need competence in the particular field, confidence in himself and acceptance by others, to mention but a few of the necessary traits. Intelligence is a major factor, and Bill quoted Dr. Phil Law's apparent aversion to accepting as Officers in charge for Antarctic Bases, people with outdoor skills and minimal academic qualifications. The success of a group's aims; however, are not solely dependent upon the leader, but also on the individual members of the party who must respect and be loyal to the leader. Bill illustrated various types of leaders, with interesting views at the leadership of Fuchs in the Antarctic Traverse, and of Hunt who lead the first successful Everest Expedition.

With the rapid increase in youth groups taking to the 'Bush', there is a great need for Leaders trained in outdoor activities. The paucity of such leaders could lead to a tragedy in Victoria similar to that which befell a school group in the Cradle Mt., Lake St. Clair National Park a few summers ago. To try and rectify the situation, the Victorian Education Department, the Police Department, the National Fitness Council of Victoria, the Outward Bound Memorial Foundation and the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs provide representatives which constitute the Training Board controlling a Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership Certificate Course. Financed by the National Fitness Council, the course has an intake of 20-30 at the end of each year, (see article in the Mountaineer, no. 3, 1970). There is nearly a 50% drop-out rate, but those that receive their certificate at the end of two years are indeed fully qualified to lead outdoor groups.

Throughout the course, each candidate must undertake to spend at least 16 days on trips, including at least three weekend walks, a four day continuous walk, and one weekend in snow conditions. On some of these trips there is an observer attached to the B&MLCC training board.

The aim of the course is to enable men and women with some experience in bushwalking to become qualified by training and further experience to lead groups in this field of activity. The courses are primarily directed towards practising teachers and youth leaders.

If you are interested in taking part in such a course, further information can be obtained from the National Fitness Council, 131 Queen St., Melbourne.

Tony Kerr.



### RESULTS OF THE 24 HOUR WALK

The following is a list of the first 20 teams who reached Hash House Two. (The full list is on the notice board at Aikman's Road). Several of the teams did not find all the checkpoints, and so have an earlier 'In' time than other teams who did find them all. For example, our team, into HH2 at 9.40 a.m., was 15th at the previous checkpoint, although going by the time of arrival we were 26th at HH2. (No!, 11 teams did not pass us between these two checkpoints, except Ron Leitch, who was going the opposite way.

There is no indication in the list whether a team is men's, women's, or mixed. The times given are arrival times at HH2. A £ beside a name means that a person set out for, (but not necessarily reached) Hash House 3.

I will not be held responsible for spelling mistakes, wrong times, or any other errors or omissions.

Donald Collins

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. 2.30 a.m. | B.Kaye (£), G.OakEs (£),, G.Whipp (£).                                     |
| 2. 3.30      | P.Callander (£), G.Hume (&), R.Tucker (£).                                 |
| 3. 3.42      | M.Easton (£), R.Frederick, T.Kerr (£), B.Parsons (£).                      |
| 4. 4.15      | M.Corry (£), M.James (£), N.White.   |
| 5.4.17       | J.(S.S.)Mason (£), N.Oddie (£).  |
| 6. 4.20      | R.Harris (£), J.Higgs (£), C.Lello (£).                                    |
| 7. 5.17      | A.Rouse, R.Rouse.  |
| 8. 5.25      | Harrison (£), Harrison (£), I.McDonald (£).                                |
| 9. 5.39      | R.Fraser, M.Wardrop.   |
| 10. 5.45     | G.Craven (£) D.Moore (£), A.Wheeler.                                       |
| 11. 6.08     | S.Bardwell (£), J.Scott (£).   |
| 12. 6.33     | Bramamis, N.Clutterbuck (£), G.Martin (£),<br>R, McKenzie (£), R.Webb (£). |
| 13. 7.35     | R.Hambling, P.Moore, R.Leitch.   |
| 14. 7.37     | B.Brown, I.Martin.   |
| 15. 7.55     | D.McCredie (£), L.Sparrow (£), P.Whitmore (£).                             |
| 16. 8.00     | D.Fell, Livingston, L.Patrick, J.Rossely.                                  |
| 17.8.02      | A.Morris, B.Morris, Veenstria.   |
| 18. 8.18     | D.Gotts, A.Waugh.  |
| 19. 8.25     | L.Clarke, G.Hughes (£), A, McBride, K.Paton,<br>F.Shaw, J.Thorpe.          |
| 20. 8.28     | C.Kerr, J.Whitaker.  |

The final winners in each section were:-

Men's: 1. Tony Kerr, Barry Parsons.  
2. Rod Harris, J.Higgs, C.Lello.

Mixed:1. Brenda Kaye, Graeme OakEs, Gary Whipp.

Women's: 1. Sandra Bardwell, Jenny Scott.

OXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



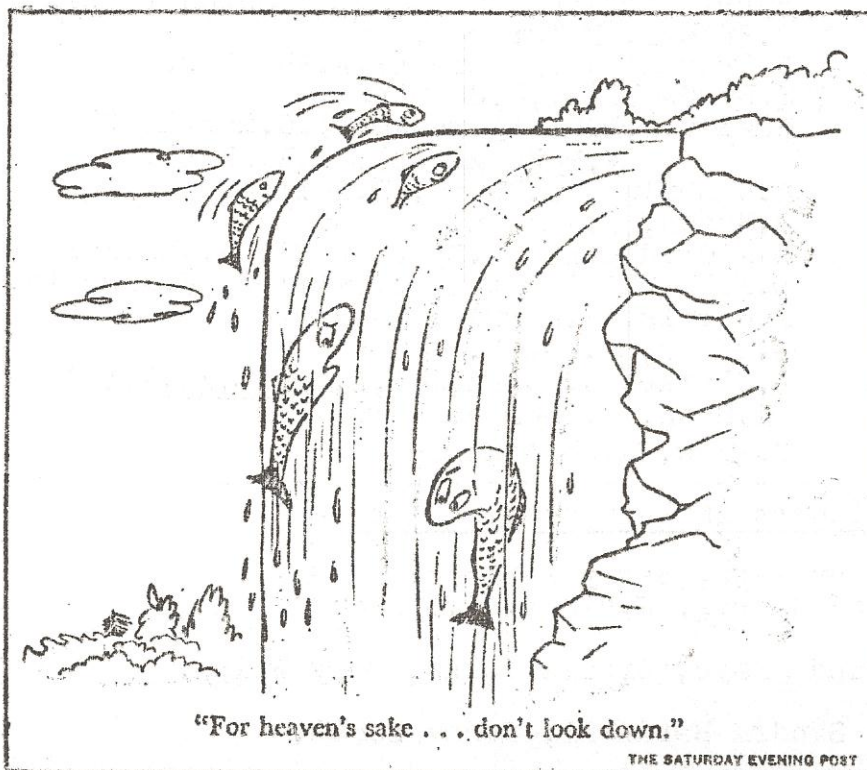
A SENSE OF VIRGINCY

It seems that Australians have a new policy for the 70's - to sell our natural resources for a few lousy bucks. Of interest to bushwalkers is the F.C.V. policy of turning Victoria's forests into huge lumber farms. Not even the last small patch of virgin mountain ash is to be spared. The F.C.V. is bringing this about by their controlled burning, "timber stand improvement" and selective seeding practices.

Our Alpine and High Plain areas are in grave danger. I would like to see an immediate stop-gap (i.e. temporary) measure brought into effect. A strip some 80 chains wide, stretching along our main Divide (and onto adjacent ranges of prime interest) should be declared a wilderness area. This would prevent forestry and grazing practices damaging the area, and give us a small area for recreation for future generations. All forestry roads existing in this area should not be used, and efforts made to let them re-afforest themselves.

In many areas, this 80 chain strip could be expanded - e.g. Bogong High Plains, Snowy Plains etc. There does not seem to be any convincing reason why other interested parties (timber-men, cattle-men, skiers) should have first claim to this area astride our main Divide. These areas represent a large proportion of the recreation areas for not only us, but for future generations, and must be preserved.

Peter Cox.





A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINEER

## A FIRST?

Tom Kneen and two friends are claiming their winter traverse of the Crosscut Saw (part of a trip from Mt. Buller to Tamboritha saddle) as a first. Do you know otherwise?

## MUMC TO THE ANDES

A recent postcard from Canada told of a planned trip to South America by Mike Feller, Peter Kneen, Rob and Sue Taylor. They are hoping to conquer a few virgin peaks.

And yet ANOTHER engagement! This time it is Joan Holroyd and Peter Selby-Smith. Congratulations! Bob Vincent and Vivienne Harvey are getting married on August 21st, and Peter and Joan some four weeks later. To keep up the 1971 tradition, there will have to be another engagement/marriage/elopement before the next Mountaineer is printed. (Copy deadline is October 8). I wonder who will oblige??!!

21st Congratulations to Dusty Miller (11th August), and Gary Whipp (FRIDAY 13th August). No wonder Dusty wanted to pike from the intrepid OakEs Expedition; who would want to celebrate a 21st in the Ladies Toilets at St. Bernard!

The Dinner Dance was a huge success socially. The following awards were presented:-

Piker of the Year.....Martin P. Wardrop.(absent).

Stirrer of the Year...Tony P.P. Kerr.(serves him right.)

Mr.Equipment, 1971....Les Southwell

Frozen Gnome.....Tom Kneen,

Scungiest Beard..... Rowan Webb.

Cuddly Couple of 1971..Tim Patrick and Rob Flint.  
(who else ??)

It appears that Virginia Reeling (?) at the Dinner Dance was too much for most people. Only a handful recovered sufficiently to arrive at the Escott Orgy in the Dandenongs the following day. To celebrate the happy thought that there were only 153 days left in the year, Ros, dressed(?) in nightshirt and boots, lead a day walk to the local golf-links.

While running down North-West Spur after the Alpine Instruction course, Harry Schaap sprained an ankle. Everyone else who ran down developed 'North-West Spur Legs', and shuffled around painfully for days. (Moral: Never run down N-W spur if you live in a 2nd-storey flat.)

A new classification on the membership list? (applicable to female members).....A for Available.....

OXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO



Extracts from SKIING, (by Arnold Lunn, London, 1913.)

'This book is written primarily for beginners. It is chiefly written for those who have never yet visited the winter Alps, and who are utterly ignorant of all matters of outfit and expenditure. To these I would say make up your mind that you are sure to ski.....You may believe that ski-ing is a vastly dangerous sport fitted to the young and adventurous. .... Wherever and whenever there is snow he can hope for sport, and in any centre, ....As to tobogganing there are very few centres where this is considered a serious sport. ....And so the novice to winter sports may fairly assume that he will sooner or later be forced into ski-ing. He will find the most unlikely folk starting on long tours, not only adventurous youths, but elderly men and even elderly women. Before he has been out a week he will be absorbed in fierce discussions on style and bindings and the correct method of marking jumps.

'Let me say, by way of preface, that the ordinary beginner has very little idea of setting about his purchases (of equipment). He walks into a shop and announces that he is going to the Alps for Christmas and would like to be suitably fitted up. He is lucky if he emerges without a pair of curling stones, skates, and a toy toboggan.....

'I always advise people to send an outline of their foot without stockings to Herr Bjornstad, Bern. .... They should enclose with this elegant sketch a note of their height. The boots and ski will then be sure to match. He should send a letter to some good Swiss firm, ie. those that are allowed to advertise in ski-ing journals, couched in some such form as the following:-

"Dear Sir, - I enclose a sketch of my foot without socks. Please send a good pair of ski-ing boots to A. Jones, Esq., c/o The Concierge, Hotel des Alps, Schöenthal. 'Contre rembourse-ment'. Send also a pair of goats'-hair socks. The boots should be large enough to allow me to wear these socks and two other pairs of stockings. Please send a pair of skis with Huitfield bindings. I am anxious to secure a good grain. I also need a pair of stout sticks, a pair of water-proof gloves, and a woollen helmet. I arrive at the Hotel des Alps on December 25, and I wish to find the ski waiting for me. I do not want to pay more than frs.36 for the boots and frs.35 for the ski."

'The gloves will cost about five shillings; the woollen helmet about two. The boots are more expensive and will probably cost about twenty-eight shillings. A very good pair of skis can be bought for twenty-seven shillings, and cheaper ones will stand a lot of knocking about. Sealskins will cost about ten shillings. A complete outfit... will cost about £3.15.0; these are essentials. As the novice becomes more expert he will add a lantern, axe, and rope to his outfit.

Another point often raised is the age of the beginner. Some folk seem to think that no-one can become a first-class runner unless he has been born on ski. I think







EARLY EXPLORATION OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA

It has never ceased to amaze me that historians have consistently, even wilfully, ignored the visit to these shores of one of the most celebrated explorers of the last century. It is true that he published only a few accounts of his wanderings, and all in obscure languages, but the recent happy discovery of an original camel hide covered edition of his diary led me once again to speculate on why an event of such profound socio-politico-moral significance has been so sadly neglected.

Omar Abdullah, Rhumb-al-Guz of Deloosia, arrived in the colonies on 2 June, 1818 having been sent by the Sultan on a journey throughout the known world in search of a fabled land suitable for fleecing American tourists. He travelled widely, and his diary shows him to have been a keen observer of the local scene: 'The natives ; he wrote, 'are most industrious. They have lately invented a food made from some meat wrapped in a kind of pastry, which they heat and spread with a sauce made from tomato and pumpkin. They are simple folk and want for nothing more, save a few tchoobes (sic) of beer.'

His wanderings eventually brought him to the mountainous parts of the Port Philip District and he prepared for an expedition, one of many, to the lofty peaks. 'I intend to continue my journey through the Cobberas mountains', he wrote. It seems that the Sultan detected signs of weariness: 'The travelling companions you sent arrived today with your emissary, (whose cheerfulness and reliability I can only praise). I can but admire your choice; one built for speed, and two for comfort one might say. Their presence will make the journey easier, though I confess I am very tired'.

'We journeyed a full day into the mountains and came at length to Buchan Rock. To the south the Buchan River flows away through deep valleys. To the north we saw our goal, and far beyond, the highest peaks in the land.' He writes of the wildlife: 'There are many wild horses here, some as fine as those in your highness' herd. We find their tracks useful. The stallions mark their territory with large dung-heaps, but they are shy and we rarely get close to them.'

The party then set out on their most ambitious conquest. Battling through impenetrable scrub, and up awe-inspiring precipices they came to a strange isolated plateau. They fought their way across this, past the fabled Cleft Peak, and down the northern side of the range. Afraid of being benighted they pressed on through more impenetrable scrub until they came at last to the head of a mighty river, and there camped. 'It was', he wrote, 'hell, but we made it'.

'We pressed on northwards towards a solitary mountain they call the Pilot, but here we encountered strange, hairy man-like creatures in black hooded jackets, large boots and naked knees. We believed these were the dreaded Pullen's Mob and, greatly frightened, we fled the place and the mountains'.



The first volume of the diary ends with Omar safely returned from the mountains and planning further expeditions. Anyone wishing to consult these fascinating documents may do so by appointment.

(Sir) Augustus Twitt F.S.U.R.

OXX

Answers to Crossword in the last Mountaineer.

Across.

1.Colong. 5. Pedder 7. Go.8. chocolate 11.Agfa 13.Blue  
14.at 15.Kerr 17.Howqua 20.air 22.men 23.Rhonda 24.Prom  
25.Buggery 27. Piker 28.IV 30.noise 31.standard 34.easy  
36.ask 37.your 38.Catani 40.line 41.Tucker 42.ld 43.NW  
44.canoes 46.Oakes 48.dehyd 49.lilo 51.oxo 53.skill  
55.decision 56.Rd 60.Timbertop 61.checkpoint 63.van 64.name  
67.Frunut 70.map 72.high stores officer 73.pub.

Down.

1.Cobberas 2.omen 3.hot 4.boring 5.PE 6.emu 9.Harry 10.too  
12.Grampians 16.Eve 17.Happy-ade 18.wake 19.Franklands  
21.Roger 25.Blackwood 26.Glay 29.Vesta 32.rolls 33.dud  
35.Sc 39.inversion 41.Taylor 44.Cannon 45.oxo 47.EMI 50.Pilot  
52.Ossa 54.Lloyd 58.TT 59.Anare 61.clue 62.Cath 65.APC 66.emr  
68.OS 69.of 71.PP.

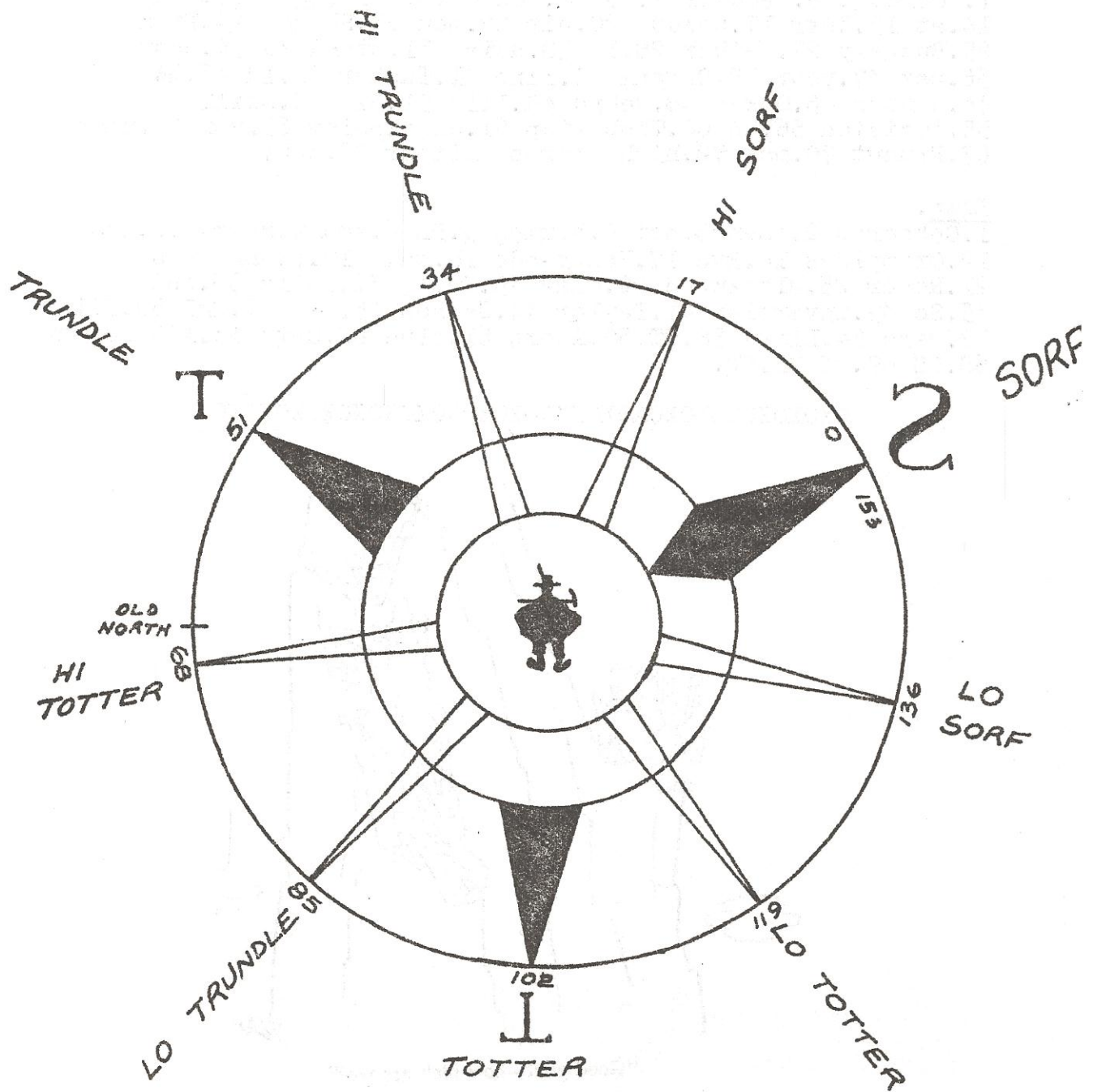
OXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXOXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



"Good grief—how high are we?"



THE RANKLING COMPASS.





GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES

by Eoanthropus Wishi \*

It was one of those hard and boring slogs up the hillside when you just look at the ground in front of you and keep plodding on. With my thumbs stuck under the shoulder pads and the damp, sweaty tail of my shirt working its way uncomfortably upwards into the small of my back, I was mechanically repeating to myself- as all famous mountaineers do under such circumstances - a certain senseless rhyme about Binder's Butter Beans, composed some years ago by a frustrated desk bound mountaineer. There was no doubt about it actually, my pack WAS getting heavier, and every numbing step got me no closer to the elusive aluminium igloo.

Then, quite suddenly and out of the blue, like a bikini clad yeti stepping out from behind a snowgum, I was aware of the senselessness of the conventional compass with the north pole attracting its disciples from 360 degrees of the globe. No wonder nobody has found Rumdoodle since its first ascent! The earth has THREE poles, and the circle is divided into only 153 indivisible units! Then and there I got out the toilet paper and made the necessary calculations. It was so simple.

Let me explain: The earth has three symmetrically placed poles:- The principal one, SORF (2), plus TRUNDLE (T), and TOTTER (1). On the real compass the poles are regularly spaced and the circle divided into 153 equal units of angular measure: the RANKLING (derived from the Yogistani, symbol: b, as in bl5.3). Furthermore the real compass is graduated ANTICLOCKWISE (the Yogistani would insist that our clocks go backwards, of course, if they had clocks) with the old north perpendicular to the left of vertical, and Sorf at old N153E (i.e. somewhere upwards and to the right). Notice also that Hi Trundle (Totter) would be before Trundle (Totter) which would be before Lo Trundle (Totter) but for the fact that Hi Totter and Lo Trundle are interchanged. Note also that Sorf is the other way round. This leads to much greater simplicity than was ever possible with the complicated and clumsy SE, NW, etc. under the old system. Besides, it looks nicer with all the Lo's on the same side of the circle.

Now that we have an understanding of the basis of the Rankling compass, it only remains to convert degrees to Rankling. This is simplicity itself:-

To convert  $Y^\circ$  into bx

$$bx = 153 - \left( \frac{\int_0^{153} B^n dp}{60W \sqrt{16R}} \right) (8Q^4 - 39999 - \sqrt{r}) \pm^\circ$$

\* Alias Adrian Davey. His accomplice was Andy Spate.



And where :

- H = The number of hundredweight of ice necessary to calibrate a thermometer, divided by 6.5
- B = The local bulldust factor.  $B = 153 - L$ , where L = the bulldust level. (For all intents and purposes B can be taken to equal 1 anywhere near this article).
- N = seventeen times the square of the number of ears on an atrocious snowman
- W = four times the conversion factor for Bohees to pence.
- R = the square of the height of the mountain of all mountains.
- Q = twice the Yogistani porter's daily pay (in Bohees).
- r = the inverse of  $2/3$  of the Yogistani sacred number.

For example, it is immediately obvious that

15.3 = b58.5 or approximately Hi Totter Between Trundle, or THAT. Similarly, between HT and T lies HTTHT, but note that between L1 and L2 lies 1 between 2, or 212.

With this major breakthrough of navigation, I expect it to be a matter of months before Rumdoodle is once again located after remaining clouded in mystery for many years. Of course the next 24 Hour Walk will be run using the Rankling compass - the ultimate test of the true oxo-man!

[illegible]

HOW TO EXTEND A SNOW WALK: Feathertop to Hotham in  
Five days.

The 'Feathertop Five':- Martin P. Wardrop (Leader), Robyn Fraser, Gill Hume, Duncan Stevenson, John Terrell.

Our original plan was to leave the Alpine Instruction Course on the Sunday for Blair's Hut, followed by the the Niggerheads, Fainter, Tawonga Huts on Monday, Mt. Jim to Dibbin's Hut Tuesday, and via Loch to Hotham by Wednesday. However, after deciding that the walk to Blair's Hut was an easy half day, we decided to leave early on Monday, and so we spent Sunday digging snow-caves (i.e. undermining the cornice), sliding on overpants and groundsheets and throwing snowballs. This all convinced me that snow was fun.

Next morning we left early at about 11 a.m., an hour or so behind the intrepid Oakes Expedition (the 'Hard' trip). The climb up Feathertop was made more difficult by the poor visibility and the strong wind, blowing snow and sleet. After a couple of hours we reached the Federation Hut in the worst weather conditions any of us had ever seen. Expecting to find Oakes and Co. there, we discovered from the log-book that they had PIKED, and gone down Bungalow Spur.



We debated whether (a) to pike, and join Graeme, George, Arnold and Dusty in the Harrierville pub;

Hut; (b) to continue immediately to Blair's Hut; or (c) to wait till tomorrow and decide what to do then.

The main argument against (a), (apart from Marty's reluctance to pike) was our inability to decide between a bottle of Captain Morgan rum and Vermouth at the bottom. So we chose to wait until the next day in the hope that the weather would improve.

Tuesday morning came, and we were faced with the same three choices. Deciding to go on to Blair's Hut for lunch and Dibbin's Hut that night, we left early (once again at 11 a.m.) in bright sunshine (or snowshine?), but with visibility decreased to about 10-20 yards. After finding the Memorial Cross with a sharp piece of navigation, we followed the Razorback for a while, then turned down the Diamantina Spur. In contrast to the hard icy, windblown surface of the Razorback, the snow here was soft powder, into which we sank to our knees.

A short distance later, Martin decided "this bump on the map here should be just in front of us". For the first time in three days, the cloud parted momentarily, revealing (wonder of wonders) the bump just ahead. Flushed with our success at navigating in whiteout conditions, we then proceeded to veer to the right too soon, and ended up on the wrong spur. By the time we realised our mistake, we were well into the scrub and slush. After hours of scrub-bashing and contouring, we reached the bottom of Diamantina Spur - the hard way. (Moral: Make sure you go down the right spur when descending Diamantina). We found a deserted FCV camp instead of Blair's Hut, and stayed there that night. The easy half day had taken two days, one of them hard. As someone said: "after two and a half days, we're two days behind".

By now, we had decided to skip Fainter, the Nigger-heads and Jim, and to climb Swindler's Spur, via Dibbin's Hut, snow camp near Derrick Col and reach Hotham via Loch on Thursday morning. So once again we left early (11.30 this time). The walk to Dibbin's was pleasant and in bright sunshine, since the clouds had at last gone, although the ground was still snow-covered. After lunch at Dibbin's, an interesting log-cabin-cum-corrugated-iron style cattleman's hut with earthen floor and flow-through ventilation, we started up Swindler's Spur. Halfway up however, the fog rolled in again and the wind became bitterly cold.

A mile before Derrick Col, on top of the spur, we pitched tents. Once inside our tents we discovered landscaping problems, i.e. our groundsheets tended to gravitate towards the centre and slide out the front door. Other problems were ones of overcrowding - three in a four-man tent makes for awkward cooking - also the comment from one person, whilst in his sleeping bag: "I haven't got room to set my watch". Also the condensation froze on the tent wall,



and with every gust of wind (and there were many ) it'snowed' inside. After the usual four-hour meal, we went to sleep and awoke next morning (Thursday), surprised to find the tent still in situ but surrounded by a foot or so of new-blown snow.

One member of the party was ill with the dreaded Lurgi (otherwise known as 'gastro'), so after leaving even earlier than the previous day(11.15) and in lousy weather, we staggered into the Charles Derrick Memorial Shelter with frozen feet and hands, and feeling somewhat chunderous. This new hut, built by the Wangaratta Ski Club, was marked on our map only by an unlabelled black square, so we didn't know it was there. It is not intended for overnight staying, but due to our unhealthy state and the severe weather conditions we thought it best to stay. So thanks, Wang! After lighting the hut stove and chipping some water from the tank (ice-axes are useful afterall) we retired early, intending to get up at 6.00 next morning. With this in mind, we woke at 7.30 to find the water in the billy on the stove, the tents, puttees, boots and socks all frozen, not to mention Duncan's toothbrush.

However, a pleasant surprise was in store for us. Blue sky was visible!! From outside the hut, we saw the Bogong High Plains for the first time. In fact, after leaving at 10 a.m. (still earlier than usual) we had good views of the High Plains, Mt.Loch, Hotham and later the Barrys, the Razor-back and Feathertop (still cloud-covered), until the fog closed in again.

The last section was a half-mile, half-hour road bash into Hotham Heights, behind the C.R.B. snow plough attempting to open the road, cutting through 8-10 foot snow-drifts and spraying us with shredded snow.

So we arrived at the end, two days late, and thinking that snow was not so much fun after all, just bloody cold. As we strolled (?) into the village we asked the ranger about our chances of getting a lift out and were told:- "You must be the lost hikers!" And as we entered the tourist shelter to dry off, Duncan declared:- "That....was an epic!"

In spite of the very harsh weather conditions (the worst likely to be experienced in Australia) and the illness suffered by some of us, we all enjoyed the trip (for some unknown reason), and our thanks are due to ex-piker Martin for his navigation and leading of a most interesting trip.

John Terrell

OXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO...

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MOUNTAINEER!

Friday October 8th.





OUTDOOR COLOUR SLIDES

The following notes have been taken from "New Adventures in Outdoor Colour Slides"; a Kodak Photo Information Booklet, available for \$1.23. This is an excellent publication, and is adequately illustrated. Another first-rate little book for \$1.25 is "Guide to taking better pictures", by Jacob Deschin. It is packed full with stimulating black and white and coloured photographs, and would provide many new ideas for anyone interested in photography. Recently, "Life" put out a special double issue devoted to a photography contest - this contains some unusual and fascinating shots by both amateurs and professionals, and is worth getting hold of. (Issue date is Dec. 21, 1970 ).

-----  
What makes a slide good?

Good slides do something to the viewer. They have impact. Impact results when the subject itself is of popular interest, when it is presented from a novel or especially revealing viewpoint, when you catch the significant instant in a bit of action, or when you select a viewpoint that achieves strong masses and lines and a tasteful or dramatic bit of colour. In addition, the picture must be of top-notch technical quality.

General Hints.

- Pictures specifically of people should usually be close-ups to show details of expression.
  - Keep people busy or preoccupied- they look more relaxed when they are doing something.
  - Confusing or jumbled backgrounds can ruin a picture.
- By controlling the depth of field you can emphasize or play down any part of the picture, eg. you can place greater emphasis on foreground subjects by using a large lens opening to throw the background out of focus. (eg. f1.7).
- Include some foreground in scenic shots. This will give your pictures a feeling of depth and dimension. Make sure that the foreground is in sharp focus. For both foreground and background to be in sharp focus, use a small lens opening for great depth of field. (eg. f16.)

Skylight Filter.

This helps to eliminate bluishness and gives a more natural appearance to the scene. No increase in exposure is required.

Exposure Meter.

This is an indispensable piece of equipment for even a moderately keen photographer. Generally speaking, the eye is not a reliable exposure guide. Many modern cameras have built-in exposure meters.



You always need to use your own common sense as well as the meter, because in some situations, you may not be able to take the meter reading at face value. eg: any meter will give a too-high reading if the sky is allowed to influence it on an overcast day. You need to be particularly cautious whenever you are photographing a light subject in dark surroundings or a dark subject in light surroundings. In such cases, you can get a more reliable exposure reading by moving up close to the main subject to take the meter reading. The effect of the surroundings will then be greatly reduced. With an automatic camera, you can often hold the shutter half-way down to activate the light meter while close to the subject, then move back to take the picture.

### Bright Sunlight.

Most colour slides made are taken on clear, bright days. Sunny-day snapping has many advantages: colours are brilliant, exposure is simplified for most subjects, and you can use smaller lens openings or higher shutter speeds than on other days. At the same time, a brilliant sun produces problems such as harsh, black shadows and contrasty lighting. This is a difficulty, especially in pictures of people. One way of reducing the lighting contrast is to use fill-in flash, where the flash should help to lighten the shadows, but not eliminate them. Fill-in flash tables are available for flash-bulbs or electronic flash.

Another way of reducing the lighting contrast is by using reflectors, which help to bounce the sunlight into the shadows, eg. sand, snow, water, light-coloured buildings are natural reflectors.

### Sidelighting and Backlighting.

When there is good colour separation between the subject and its background, frontlighting can be very effective. (ie. sun behind the photographer). And yet, for striking and dramatic shots, side or backlighting is often very appropriate. It can produce strong separation between the subject and background, or reveal the delicate texture in translucent subjects like leaves and flowers. Remember to shield your lens from the sun's direct rays by using a lenshood, or just your hand.

### Overcast Days.

A slightly hazy or overcast day is ideal for taking pictures of people. Light coming from the sky is diffused, soft and even. Because the sky is a uniformly bright light source, it will appear overexposed if it appears in the picture, so it is a good idea not to include much sky area.

### Mist and Fog.

Generally, pictures of mountains are very disappointing on very overcast and misty days. However, pictures which include a sharp and colourful foreground against a misty



or foggy background can be dramatic.

#### Rainy Days.

Some of the best "mood" pictures are made on rainy or overcast days. Try shooting after a rainstorm to capture a fresh, different effect. Any unusual weather conditions make good picture opportunities.

#### Snow Pictures.

Except for close-up portraits, front-lighting in the snow gives a disappointing flat quality to the picture. Side and backlighting give excellent results, for the snow will acquire attractive scintillating effects and shadows will be light and transparent. Except for portraits, pictures taken in dull weather are not very rewarding. A few bright colours introduced into a snow-scene can increase the feeling of warmth and depth. At sunset and sunrise, snow-scenes take on a "fairy-land" quality.

#### "After-Hours" Colour.

For many subjects, the warm reddish-orange colour of the rising or setting sun can be used with great effectiveness. Buildings, water, mountains - all are strikingly beautiful when bathed in the warm light of the late sun.

#### Sunsets.

Fortunately, sunrise and sunset shots are not difficult to take, because the exposure is not so critical. An exposure meter reading should be based on the brightness of the sky and clouds. Any foreground objects such as trees, people etc. will be silhouetted against the sky to form a dramatic framing effect.

#### Pictures at Night.

Colour shooting at night is not difficult, and can produce spectacular results. Scenic shots at twilight can produce pictorial "mood" effects, and possible subjects at night include campfires, carnivals, fireworks, fountains and floodlit buildings. Most night-time pictures require reasonably long shutter speeds, and a tripod is the ideal way to minimize camera movement. Alternatively, clamping devices can be used. Using a cable release with this equipment also reduces camera movement.

#### Action Pictures.

The best way to "stop" action is to use a high shutter speed. Exactly how high depends on how far you are from the action, and in what direction the movement is travelling with reference to the camera. Generally speaking, use the fastest shutter speed that the lighting conditions will allow. The technique known as panning can often be used to good advantage to give the impression of great speed. It consists in swinging the camera as though it were a gun pointed at the subject while you make the exposure. The finished picture will show the moving subject "stopped" while the background







Dear Helpless,

You poor, unfortunate young man. I do feel so sorry for you and realize what a terrible dilemma you are faced with.

I can only suggest that you donate your sleeping bag to your grandfather, and try to find other means of keeping warm at night while on trips. Here are some possible methods you may like to try:-

- (1.) Pitch your tent on a  $45^{\circ}$  slope, and the oscillatory motion of alternately sliding out of the tent and pulling yourself back in would keep you warm in temperatures as low as  $15.3^{\circ}$ .
- (2.) For a Turkish bath effect, light 17 choofers inside the tent and keep a billy of Happy-Ade boiling rapidly on each one. Make sure you do not leave the tent.
- (3.) Hire a yeti at \$34 an hour for the cuddle of a lifetime.
- (4.) Wear a maxi-length parker, and proceed to unzip and zip it up  $153 \times 10^6$  times each night.

If all these and other methods should fail, you have only one choice - carry your own bed on trips and pitch your tent on top of it. (After all, there's nothing quite as comfortable as your own bed).

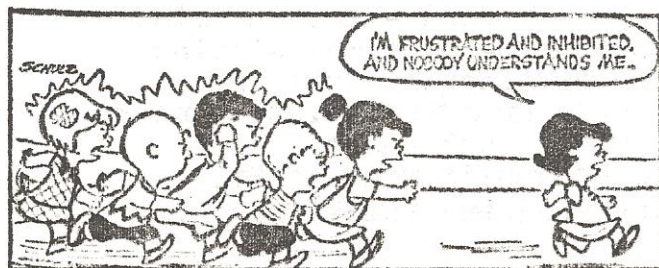
Do let me know how you get on,  
Lucy.

Dear Lucy,

On a recent snow trip, a certain member whose identity cannot be revealed, took unfair advantage of his male peers. At all snow-ball fights he was seen wearing a tie, tattered though it was. We, the undersigned, feel that formal wear should only be worn if the trip is classified as "formal dress" in the trips book. Otherwise, many males will feel embarrassed if they are not dressed for the occasion.

As you belong to the fair sex, do you believe our social fears are warranted? If so, should the committee examine this major problem that could force some sanity into its members? We would go so far as to call for an Oxo Commission whose findings should alleviate our anxieties.

Signed,  
The self-conscious snow-ball campaigners.



Dear Self-conscious snow-ball Campaigners,

You did not mention where this person was wearing his tie, what it was tying, and most important of all, whether it was an old school tie.

Without calling an Oxo Commission, there are two possible solutions to your very serious problem.



The standard cure for embarrassment (which of course we all know) is to make up a mixture of epsom salts, Happy-Ade and prunes, and gargle 153 times before swallowing. This is guaranteed to keep you so busy for a full 24 hours that you won't have time to be embarrassed.

Alternatively, you could wear all your ties (school ones of course) on the next snow trip; this would provide an impenetrable barrier against oncoming snowballs and thus restore your self-confidence. A word of caution though - take great care not to tie yourselves up in knots.

Happy snow-balling,  
Lucy.

Do you have a problem? If you have, do not hesitate to pour out your troubles to Lucy; you will receive sound and sensible advice.

[illegible]

# BEGINNERS' SNOW WALK

The Search and Rescue was out in force - not for a party of bushwalkers - but for a lost van.

Contrary to all predictions, the beginners' snow walk on the virtually featureless Baw Baw Plateau made the whole trip without mishap - more or less.

Tanjil Bren, with adequate but damp campsites was reached at about 11 p.m. Tents were pitched and "Hughie" immediately began to turn yet another snow walk into a rain walk. In true energetic style, having had to pay \$6 to park the van at Neulynes Hill, we walked the couple of miles up to the chairlift to save 50c. and then paid \$1 for a 10 minute ride up in thick mist. Having come this far on our journey a short conference was held, and a unanimous decision that lunch should be had immediately resulted in all 34 of us proceeding to crowd into the public shelter.

We left the ski-village and followed the snow poles to the viewless summit of Mt. Baw Baw where Goh made a half-hearted attempt at breaking his leg by jumping off the summit and only ended up with a sprained ankle.

Numerous stops occurred (yes, they did happen) so that the rest of the party had a chance to repay Glay for his numerous and often well-directed snow balls. (How our P.P. Tony missed such a trip is beyond me)!

With the end of the snow poles at Mt.St.Phillack came our first glimpse into the world beyond - for the mist lifted. With much haste we then set off - at times sinking up to our knees in the snow - down Tillicoutty Gully and camped beside a creek about 400 yards from the Mt.St.Gwinear sign post. The weather was still clear, but about 1 hour after pitching tents our magnificent sunlit view of St. Gwinear and beyond suddenly disappeared and thick grey mist descended and engulfed us.







BEGINNERS' SKI TOURING

Ski touring has rapidly gained popularity in Victoria over the last few years. It provides an easy method of travel over our snow fields and gives access to many areas normally only visited in summer.

This year's beginners' weekend will be organized slightly differently to last year's. The arrangements are as follows:

- 1.) A total of 15 beginners will be taken and equipment can be provided for these. The limit is imposed by the number of available instructors, not by equipment supply.
- 2.) The cost will be \$5 per person. This covers skis, stocks, boots, bindings, waxes and tars. Any beginner who supplies his own equipment is not charged, but must also supply his own waxes. This \$5 is payable on booking and no-one is considered booked until it is paid.
- 3.) There will be a session on Wednesday, September 1 at 7.00 p.m. This is part of the instruction and is compulsory. Any-one who cannot attend all of this session will be <sup>un</sup>able to attend the weekend.
- 4.) The exact location of the weekend will be decided at the Wednesday talk. It will either be in Buller, Baw Baw or Snowy Plains areas, depending on snow conditions.
- 5.) Accommodation will be camping - possibly a snow camp. Those attending must have had some bushwalking experience.

Finally, if you are considering coming, it is important to realize that ski-touring is not like downhill skiing. You must expect to have wet, cold feet. (especially in instruction groups). There will be no facilities for drying clothes, and you will be expected to be present in any weather which your instructor sees fit. (which may be pretty terrible). This last comment comes in the wake of the last Alpine Instruction Course, where people were turned away because the hut was full, but some of those who went spent almost all of their time in the hut.

I will be available at Aikman's Road every lunchtime (except Tuesday) between 1 and 2 p.m., in the Chem. Eng. Dept. (Uni Extension 6632) during the day, and at 538591 in the evenings to answer any questions. Please attempt to contact me in that order. If you wish to do some reading, the following books are recommended:-

"Bushwalking and Camping"-Paddy Pallin.

(Chapter on Ski-touring).

"Nordic Touring and CrossCountry Ski-ing"

-Michael Brady.

Pat Miller.

OXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO

Australian Conservation Foundation: - Public Lecture.

Tuesday Sept 7th, at 8.00 p.m. Prince Philip Theatre, Archi Building. - 'Ecology, Conservation and the Human Environment'.  
-Dr. R.F. DASMANN, (Switzerland).



SALE NOTICE

For those who have not yet realised, we now definitely have only one address and phone number - that listed above. We find more and more people are coming to see us at our new spot in the heart of the Melbourne downtown bushwalking district. This has prompted us to consider that in all the five years we have, one way or another, been in this business, we have never had a sale - it never seemed worthwhile with the limited, but very select, clientele who used to find it worth making the journey to deepest Caulfield. We have therefore decided to look out all the odd bits that have accumulated over the years and try to dispose of them during the month of September in return for just about anything (barring Happyade). Come along and see if there is anything useless which might be transferred from our shelf to yours.

We have reprinted our April pricelist, which ran out rapidly, together with over three pages of additions and alterations, which still doesn't bring us quite up to date. We have obtained some small billies, price \$1.50, and even a limited stock of the almost-thought -to-be-extinct Tramper boots. The price has unfortunately risen by a fearsome amount and we haven't plucked up the courage to charge as much for them as we should. They can be yours for \$19.90 while they last. They now have a leather tongue.

Limited numbers of the Bushgear pack have been coming through, but as yet not enough to get ahead of the orders for them we have been getting - price is \$36.80 and an advance order would be a good idea if you really want one. We are still having trouble getting Mules of any description, but if you have been looking for the old standard Mule, come and inspect the Hallmark 'Everest' - seems identical, weight is 7½ pounds, price is \$44.85.

We have obtained from New Zealand one only copy of the "Mountaineering" manual published this year by the National Mountain Safety Council of New Zealand. We are taking steps to obtain copies for sale (price currently unknown) and feel this manual will be most useful to those planning mountaineering trips across the Tasman. If you will require Everest crampons or Galibier mountain boots for this summer early booking is advisable. Demand for these expensive and hard to get items is growing all the time and we have not so far managed to adequately forecast same in advance. The same applies to iceaxes.

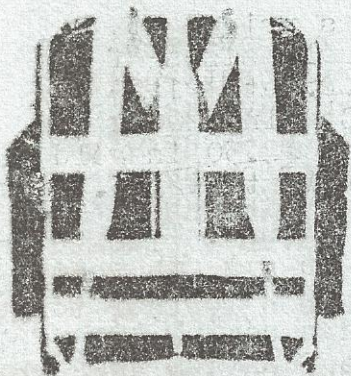
We have a few of the Mammoth kernmantle ropes priced at e.g. \$36.40 for 150 feet of 11 mm. We still have all sizes of P.A. friction boot at \$18.15 and most sizes of R.D. at \$21.20 Alloy krabs are becoming colourful - as well as Cassin 2200 kg with bluegates at \$2.70, we have Simond 2500 kg at \$2.50 in gold blue and red, as well as plain \$2.40 and blue screwgate \$2.55.



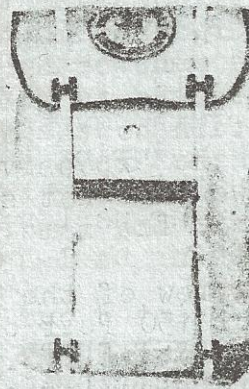
# FEATHERLITE

## KIMPTON'S 'MOUNTAIN MULE' PACK

Weight-Saving Starts  
with the PACK!

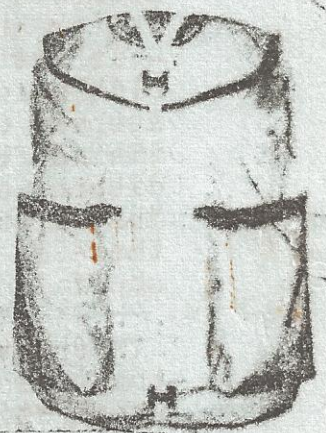


Terylene strapping is used for greater strength, less weight and its non-stretch properties.



Featherlite II has double bag-strap, a one outside pocket, and a waterproof nylon plastic outer double bottom. Map pocket under the flap. Weight approx. 2lb. 4ozs.

Price:



Featherlite I has single bag-strap and two outside pockets and waterproof nylon plastic outer double bottom. Weight approx. 1lb. 14ozs.

Price:

## KIMPTON'S "EIDERLITE" SLEEPING BAGS

SNOW



ARCTIC



**Snow:** Tailored hood - 36" neck chest and circular insert for feet. Cut 6' x 30" plus hood filled with Super down. Feather down.

**Combination quilt - Sleeping bag:** Designed for all the year use as either an under quilt, or sleeping bag. Simply fold in half and zip 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. Super down or Feather down filled.

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

thus a complete cell of super down 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 5'6" x 30" plus hood filled with super down.

Obtainable all good sport stores and scout shops - if not contact -

KIMPTON'S FEATHER MILLS, 11 Budd Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066

PHONE: Melbourne 41-5073, Sydney 389-1239, Adelaide 57-8624, Brisbane 2-2354.