

G. Hurme

the mountaineer

FINISH 24
HOUR



no. 4
july 72

WHO'S WHO

If you have any queries, then the following list may help.

Rod Tucker (3472186 a/h, 3406688 b) President. General inquiries, and canoeing.
 Martin Wardrop (3472877x7 a/h) Vice President. Conservation.
 Ros Escott (508609 a/h) Vice President. Orienteering.
 Harry Schaap (803581 a/h) Secretary. Club contact.
 Alison McCready JCH. Assistant Secretary. Caving & membership list.
 Geoff Lay (693824 a/h) Treasurer.
 Tony Kerr (3298040 a/h) Editor. Orienteering, general inquiries.
 Dave Crewther (835301 a/h, 3405465 b) Trips secretary.
 Tim Pateick (3297738 a/h) Stores Officer. Equipment Hire.
 Robyn Fraser (851261 a/h) General Committee member.
 Robyn Flint (831602 a/h, 3472573 b) General Committee member.
 Tim Hancock Aikmans Rd. lunchtimes. Climbing convenor.
 Garry Whipp (3405643 b) 234 Errol St. Nth Melb. Canoeing convenor.
 Nick White (304154 a/h, 386997) Conservation sub-committee convenor.
 Bob Cannon (3406406) General inquiries
 Max Corry (3382306 a/h) Search and Rescue.
 Rudi Frank (7290421 a/h) Caving convenor.
 Sue White (304152) Convenor, equipment testing sub-committee

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'WE CAN STILL SAVE THE EARTH - if we hurry!

Errata: Page 13 'Rover Scouts', Don Allison, John Zmood
 (there will be many other typing, spelling and sundry
 other errors in this issue Ed.)



The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club

No. 4, July 1972

Price : 10c

Correspondence: The Editor, c/- MUMC,

Sports Union, University of Melbourne,
Parkville, VIC., 3052

-oXo-

Apology

I wish to apologise to all avid Mountaineer Readers who will by now be thinking that they have missed an issue. The lateness of this issue results from the poor organisation on the Editors part.

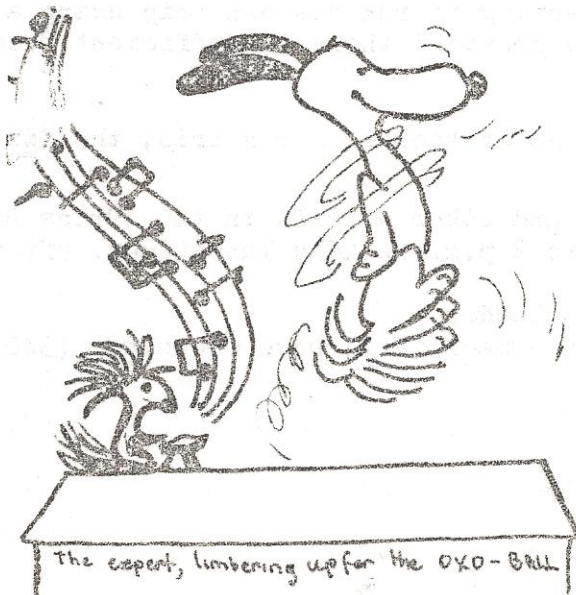
The 'Year of the Lemming'

If you have tried to book for a trip recently, you would have found the trip full unless you were booking about four weeks prior to the trip departure. This situation arises from a much greater interest in trips this year and implies that insufficient trips are being organised. You can help relieve this situation by planning a trip and forwarding the suggestion and name of the proposed leader to Dave Crewther.

Enjoy yourselves at the Annual supper-dance, OXO ball come stirr-a-thon

Tony Kerr

-oXo-



TRIPS PROGRAM

Meetings, bushwalking and orienteering trips are planned well ahead whereas the more specialised activities, rock-climbing, caving canoeing etc. which generally cater for smaller groups, are subject to variations with trips being organised (or sometimes cancelled) at short notice. Those interested in these activities should keep in regular contact with the appropriate club members (as listed on the front page).

Standards of Trips

Bushwalking trips are classified according to the following:

- EASY considered easy for those who are moderately fit but not necessarily experienced.
- MEDIUM fair for fit people. Some previous hiking experience is desirable. Hard for the unfit or inexperienced.
- HARD difficult for fit experienced walkers. Impossible for others.

Transport

Transport to and from venues of club trips is by picnic van or private car. For van trips, it is essential to know numbers as early as possible. The van for day trips departs from Batman Ave. near Swanston Street between 9 and 9.30 a.m., and normally returns by 6.00 p.m. For longer trips, the van leaves the car park immediately north of the Union Building at 6.30 p.m. on the night before the first listed day of the trip (i.e. normally on Friday night). The van normally returns to the Union before 10.00 p.m. on the last day of the trip.

Any club member wanting to run his own trip using a club organised van may do so provided there is sufficient room on the van.

Bookings

There are three ways of booking for a trip, the first being the most preferable.

- (i) Place your name and other details in the 'Trips Book' at Aikmans Rd. (1 to 2 p.m. weekday lunchtimes, after 7.30 p.m. Tuesdays)
- (ii) Ringing the trip leader
- (iii) Ringing the Trip's Secretary, Dave Crewther (340 5465 Bus, 83 5301 a/h).

TRIPS PROGRAM JULY - OCTOBER

- July 15-16 S&R Pract Search and Rescue Winter Search Practice
All relevant members will be notified. The weekend is mainly for those members proficient in ski-touring. All enquiries with Max Corry.
- July 18 Monthly Graduate Lounge
Tues meeting Informal social evening. Bring your slides of recent trips. Our caterers will provide a magnificent supper of coffee and biscuits. Come and share Glay's harem. Begins at 7:30 pm.
- July 20 Meeting Skitouring Instructional Evening
Thurs Venue to be advertised at Aikman's Rd.
7:30pm start. Compulsory for all going on beginner's weekend. Skis will be tarred and waxed.
- July 20 Work-party Canoeing work party
Thurs Compulsory for all those wishing to go on the next canoeing trip. Venue, rear of 59 Chapman St., Nth Melb, 7:30pm. Supper afterwards.
- July 22-23 Ski-touring Beginner's Skitouring, Baw Baw or Buller Stirling
Sat-Sun Leaders: Pat & Carla V. Miller, Tom Kneen, Uncle Tom Cobbly et al.
Standard: for beginners
Transport: Private
- July 22-23 Canoeing Tangil River, from the Junction of East and West
Sat-Sun Tanjil to Willow Grove.
Leader: Garry Whipp
Standard: some experience preferred.
Transport and other arrangements will be made at the preceeding work party.
- July 22-23 24 Hr Walk Monash University Bushwalking Club 24
Entry forms are available from Aikmans Rd. The format of the work is similar to our 24.
- July 28 OXO-BALL The Event of the Year (next to the 24 that is!)
Fri Come and see if Rowan Webb can retain his title of scungiest beard of the year. Who will get the piker of the year award? Who will get the cuddliest couple award; the 'Frozen Gnome' award and a host of others. Can you self arrest on a slippery floor during a Virginia Reel? NOTE. It is a SUPPER dance. See page 8.

- July 30 Daywalk Cement Creek, Donna Buang, Boobyalla
 Sun
 Leader: Dave Crewther
 Standard: Pleasant
 Transport: depends on numbers, possibly van.
 An enjoyable sojourn into the hills east of Melbourne.
 Aim is to walk of any effects haning over from the
 Friday night. Warm clothing necessary.
- August 2 Meeting 'Alpine Instruction Course' Talk
 Wed
 This talk is compulsory for all those going on the
 Feathertop Alpine Instruction Course. It will be
 given by John Retchford who was a member of the
 Australian Andean Expedition.
 Venue: Sports Union Activities Room, 7:30pm.
 Supper provided.
- August 5-7 Alpine Inst. Annual Snow and Ice (?) Instruction Course
 Sat-Mon Course
 Leader: John Retchford
 Standard: Medium to hard
 Transport: private car.
 The course will be based at the MUMC Mt. Feathertop
 Memorial Hut. Participants shoild have basic snow
 camping experience. Although the course is to be run
 over three days, there will probably be a few cars
 going for the weekend only.
- August 5-12 Rock climb. Blue Mountains, N.S.W.
 Sat- Sun.
 Leader: ~~Tim Hancock~~ *Not on*
 Transport: ~~private car or train.~~
 Only leaders or competent climbers will be accepted
 on the trip.
- August 9 Canoe Wkpty Canoeing Work Party
 Thurs
 Venue: rear 59 Chapman St., Nth Melb. 7:30pm.
 Compulsory for those going on next canoeing trip.
 Supper.
- August 12-13 Canoe trip Weekend Canoeing Trip
 Sat-Sun
 Leader: Garry Whipp
 Standard: some experience preferred
 Transport: private car
- August 12-13 B'walk Non Snow Walk: Mt Samaria - Blue Range, near Lake
 Sat-Sun Nilahcoutie
 Leader:
 Standard: medium
 Transport: depends upon numbers.
 The area ia in a little visited area of Victoria
 with good lake and Mountain scenery. A pleasant
 respite from the white cold stuff.

August 16 Meeting
Wed

Monthly Meeting.

Sports Union Activities Room, 7:30pm.
Bring your slides and any gossip about recent Club trips. Our merry band of caterers may supply a superb supper of coffee and biscuits. There may be some movies or a guest speaker for part of the evening.

August 18-19 I/V 24hr.
Fri-Sat

Intervarsity 24 Hour Orienteering

This year the host club is the University of New England Mountaineering (?) Club. The contest is a score type contest where the respective teams have to visit as many check points as possible, in any order with a higher points score being given to those that are harder to find. M.U.M.C. will be fielding a male and female team of four members each. Apply to the committee as soon as possible if you would like to represent MUMC. Sports Union and MUMC will subsidise your costs. This coincides with term vac.

August 19-20 Snow and
Sat-Sun ice (?)

Winter ascent of the Bluff

Leader:
Standard: medium hard. Attendance at an Alpine instruction course is an essential prerequisite.
Transport: private car.

August 24-27 Skitrng

Bogong or Dargo High Plains

Leader: Dave Crewther
Standard: medium-hard (snow camping experience essential)
Transport: private car

* August 25-27 Snow wlk
Fri-Sun

Annual Ascent of Mt. Bogong

Leader: Robyn Fraser or Martin Wardrop
Standard: medium-hard
Transport: private car.
The trip will probably go up the Quartz Knob and down the Staircase.

Sept 10 Day walk
Sun

Not The Normal Sort of Daywalk

Leader: Arnold Wheeler
Standard: medium-hard
Transport: depends on numbers
Strath Creek gorges. Waterfalls plus thousands of feet of climbing.

Sept 12 Slide Compet.

Submit your slides for the competition by Friday Sept 1.
Categories: personalities, landscapes, club activities, scenery.
The submitted slides will be judged on this night.

July 1972

Slide Competit. contd.

Venue: Sports Union Activities Room, 7:30pm.

Sept 14 Wk pty
ThursCanoeing Work PartyRear of 59 Chapman St., Nth. Melb. 7:30pm
Supper.Sept 16-17 Canoeing
Sat-SunThomson RiverLeader: Rod Tucker
Standard: good white water experience is essential
Transport: private car

Sept 23-24 Snow walk

Ghostly Snow Walk: Bogong Jack Saddle Ghosting WalkThe only full moon to fall on a Saturday night.
For information, contact Ros Escott.Sept 26 Meeting
TuesMonthly Meeting: OXO - OXIONVenue: Raymond Priestly Room, Union, 7:30pm
There are only a few yeti traps left and they are
going at ridiculous prices. Oxioneers required.

August ? Snow walk

Mt Timbertop to Mt BullerA late entry to the trips program. To be led
by Nick White, the trip will be of medium -
hard standard. See the trips book for more
details. Transport could be van if sufficient
people are interested.

-oXo-

The above are the minimum number of trips that will be going during the next few months. Many trips are organised at short notice amongst those present at Aikman's Rd. Keep in contact to be abreast of what is happening. Particularly ski touring trips will be organised with little notice. The Club is purchasing 4 sets of skitouring equipment for hire to Club members. The booking arrangements will be advertised at Aikmans.

If you can't make Aikmans during lunchtime, come on Tuesday evenings between 7:30 and 8:00 pm.

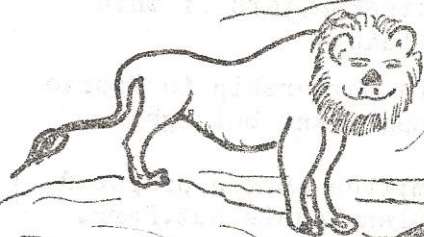
If you would like to organise a trip please contact Dave Crewther. If you are running a private trip, it will be covered by the Sports Union insurance scheme if it is listed in the trips book.

-oXo-

OXO - GARF IS CLIMBING IN THE TRANS-YOGISTANIAN MOUNTAINS

OXO
GARF

↑
TO WATTLE PARK



RAIN, HAIL, SNOW,
'BLOODY JAPANESE ICE-
AXES' AND MOUNTAIN
LIONS AREN'T STOPPING
OXOGARF FROM ATTENDING
THE OXO-BALL ON FRIDAY
28th JULY AT
WATTLE PARK CHALET

I'M NOT
ONE OF
YOUR
JELLY
BABIES



JOIN GARF AT
THE OXO-BALL

\$4 a TICKET

FROM AIKMANS

(or Robyn Fraser)
851261 a/h

POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20th APRIL

The committee was largely occupied with routine matters of this committee meeting, but some of the highlights include -

1. MUMC has recommended to Sports Union that life membership to Sports Union should be approved by a club to which the applicant belongs.
2. Martin has informed the Conservation Sub-Committee on the proposed dam at the Mitchell River and its effect on the Glensladale Hut.Park.
3. A meeting of Song Book editors has been convened, and the editors are now looking into all aspects of the Song book, which is hoped to be published later this year.
4. The club will start its financial 'year' (for book keeping purposes) in the first day of Orientation week and end on the day prior to the next 'Orientation week'.
5. A letter was sent to the Forest Commission protesting about the Alpine Trail being destroyed by F. .C. jeep tracks in the Terrible Hollow Region. We stressed in this letter the importance of Wilderness areas, and the rapid disappearance of these areas in Vic.
6. We saw a Mountain Lion.
7. There will now be a booking fee, equal to the cancellation fee for the 14th walk.
8. The President will write to the Minister of Defence and Interior on the proposed OMEGA navigation base.
9. MUMC has asked the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs asking them to approach the responsible authorities to have a bushwalking delegate on each of the management committees for Baw Baw, Hotham, and Falls Creek.
10. MUMC will participate in Inter-Varsity Canoeing.

Harry.

-oXo-

MONTAINEERING MELODRAMA

Act 1

Villian (Big bold bad black-bearded beast) : "Into the bush! "

Heroine : " No, No, I'm only thirteen. "

Villian : " This is no time to be superstitious."

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 11th MAY, & THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
29th MAY

The Committee appears to be finally warming up, and this was certainly the liveliest meeting this year so far. After the usual endless string of random business, the committee settled down to a debate on the Club's Conservation Attitudes, somehow always revolving around article 37 of the constitution, which states

"The Club shall under no circumstances offer comment on or take part in any controversy, activity or other matter affecting politics or religion unless the club as a body shall be directly concerned and in such case a special general meeting shall be called in order to determine the relevant policy."

As common sense, either way, did not prevail, the chairman, with his usual impeccable impartiality offered the following innuendo to placate the hawks - "to hold a special general meeting at the earliest possible convenience and to prepare a motion that the Committee be allowed to use its discretion in writing letters to do with conservation."

And so it came to pass, with only 33 members present, that the following motion was carried:-

"That this Special General Meeting empower the committee to enter into what action and/or correspondence it sees fit, in its endeavour to protect and conserve mountaineering areas, notwithstanding that any such action may involve issues which directly or indirectly affect politics."

Two other motions were passed directing MUMC to give high priority to requests for submissions on conservation action from the FVWC and on the proposals for action concerning the Catherine Pass road, currently under construction.

Harry.

-oXo-

"Today, much of what goes by the name of pleasure is simply an effort to destroy consciousness, but to explore the river, creeks and bush . . . invites a rediscovering of the beauties of water, rocks, trees and other natural things."

Jim Darrington
(on Chakala Wildlife Refuge in N.S.W.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on your editorial in the "Mountaineer" for April, 1972, which arrived among the bills, bringing some gladness into the heart of a member of MUMC, Canberra Branch.

Firstly, the question of the Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut causing "visual" pollution was raised before and during the construction of the hut by several people including myself; however this is only being fussy.

Secondly, I do not consider it a relevant argument to suggest that we will not know how long paint will last if applied to the hut, if it only lasts over the summer it is doing its job as it is during this season that it is offensive. Is it too big a price to pay \$20 a year in order to prevent the implied criticism that we see in Handley's document. If MUMCisto say anything worthwhile about the preservation/conservation of Feathertop we are going to have to prevent any suspicion of holier-than-thou type attitudes which are evident among many outdoor organisations. The public at large can easily gain the impression that these organisations want the area set aside for themselves only. This may or may not be a sensible conservatory attitude but we want everybody on our side. It is no use apologising, we are now in the same position as the tanker captain who washes out his tanker in Port Phillip Bay and the chap who wants to dig quarries in the Dandenongs. This is the same sort of comment as Marg James raises in the April issue; we must have either cold, clear presentation of the facts or we must be able to provide some answer or compromise which helps solve a problem. In the case of the Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut we have four choices: 1) paint the hut (yearly?), cover it with camouflage netting, 3) remove it to another location by helicopter or 4) protest about development and watch the credibility gap widen.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew P. Spate.

Dear Editor,

I fell compelled to repty to an item in the last Mountaineer entitled 'What Did Happen at Last Year's I/V 24 Hour Walk.' I am quite sure despite the cerebral fatigue we suffered that the Melbourne Girl's team did not even see the Melbourne Men's team during the event, nor did we creoss any rivers. So it is up to the Men's team to explain who, if anyone, they ferried across the flooded river.

Brenda Kaye

The Editor,

I must thank you for your informative, witty and well put together journal. I does you credit sir!

Here in the depths of the darkest jungles of New Guinea I may say that it is only the thought of the next issue of your masterpiece that keeps me from going around the twist. (And of course, from the brilliance of my writing it is obvious that I haven't, have I or have I, I hope I haven't). The knowledge that beyond this vista of trees, rocks, slime etc. there is a world of trees, rocks and slime waiting to be hiked through is bliss.

Even the knowledge that when Hughie is sending his nightly inch or two or three etc. he still has time to spare for the poor slobs in Victoria is heartening.

However, the real reason for writing is to assure all that I am still alive and hiking; am I ever hiking - seven days a week - four weeks a month. However I have one major advantage. I do not have to carry my own load so I can have two packs full carried by my sturdy porters. I think I will import a few for my ordinary hiking as I will soon be so used to it that I will not be able to change back.

And a happy OXO to all good
Oxomen and women
Paul Callander

(No, I won't print the P.S. Paul, Ed.)

The Editor,

It hs come to my attention that certain MUMC Committee members are expressing strong anti-orienteeing views and are particularly critical of the Victorian Orienteering Association (V.O.A.).

This is most disappointing as MUMC, and in particular Dave Hogg, was one of the driving forces behind the introduction of orienteeing into Australia and the formation of the V.O.A.

Orienteering is just as much a part of mountaineering as canoeing, caving etc. and has the great advantage that it teaches participants to read a map, estimate distance, general navigation skills, and gives them confidence to move through unknown country. It also provides healthy exercise and takes participants away from the polluted cities.

At times it is difficult to find persons prepared to lead club trips and the skills learnt from orienteeing would certainly increase the panel from whom leaders may be chosen.

The V.O.A. has increased its membership from a mere handful only two years ago to around 300 individuals at present. Many hundreds more have participated and are taking the sport back to their

schools, youth groups, etc. The V.O.A. provides lectures with films, maps etc for such organisations.

Recently the V.O.A. has organised two charity 'score contests' and both raised over \$1,000 for the respective charities involved. Another is planned for the Yooralla Hospital Appeal and will be held in Wattle Park in the near future.

Criticisms of orienteering which I have noticed are that:-

1. It is competitive - this is only as true as the participants want to make it. An orienteer can enter any one of the four graded classes with the intention of winning or beating a rival or alternatively he or she can simply enter with the intention of wandering around the course, enjoying the country, while improving navigational skill and fitness at the same time. The V.O.A. has never discouraged any participant who preferred the non-competitive approach. For instance a programme to encourage family group participation is presently being undertaken.
2. Another criticism is that the sport is commercialised. It is true that the V.O.A. has had financial support from big business. However, the companies involved have simply wanted their product name prominently displayed and this is a small price to pay for such support which has enabled the introduction of the sport into New South Wales, the purchase of a large auto tent, compasses, material necessary to set up two permanent courses (which will be used for instructional purposes), and much other necessary back-up equipment to enable an event to be run smoothly.

I am sure that the M.U.M.C. - V.O.A. delegate, Tony Kerr, would be pleased to receive constructive criticism and preferably positive suggestions for making orienteering more attractive to M.U.M.C. members and so help the sport to move people from in front of their T.V.'s and out of their cars!

Ron Frederick

-oXo-

A letter from Mike Feller states that he still has 2 years to go on his Ph D in Vancouver. 'Despite the weather and the lousy snow conditions, I (Mike) am still out climbing every weekend (Do we have any keen mountaineers ? .. Ed.) and trying to organise the mountaineering club here to become active on conservation issues.' Mike goes on to state he has 'had the President and all of the top brass of one large U.S. owned logging company upset over some bad publicity....'. Mike's letter accompanied an article about a recent trip of his to Mexico. It will appear in the next issue.

A post card from the Fagan is reproduced in 'A Place in the Mountaineer'.

SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

by MUMC delegate to
S & R, Max Corry.

1. The conditions of entry now are the same as for women as have existed for men in past. The most important facet of this is that women can join without first attending a S&R practise. This is not to be taken as any lowering of the standards.

2. The new field organisers list for 1972-3 is

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Ian Bisset | VMTC |
| 2. Peter Bunbar | MAWTC |
| 3. Max Corry | MUMC |
| 4. John Steel | River Scouts |
| 5. Brad Sinclair | CWC |
| 6. Robert Steel | MBW |
| 7. Robin Hunt | RMIT |
| 8. Stewart Brooles | VMTC |
| 9. Don | MUMC |
| 10. Peter Sirshik | VMTC |

3. MUMC representation at the last S&R practice held in April was very disappointing compared to previous years and also to other clubs. The practice appeared to be one of the most successful in recent years with a good deal of emphasis being place on co-operation with the land rover club.

4. In trying to get better communications particularly for the question of recall, investigation of reception of commercial radio station in areas has been planned. Parties going into any area and who are prepared to co-operate on this matter by carrying a small transistor radio are asked to note the following:

- (a) Area of reception
- (b) Radio station heard
- (c) Quality of the signal
- (d) Weather conditions at the time / ie. amount of cloud, rainy, sunny, wind etc.)
- (e) Type of receiver ie. 6 transistor, 12 transistor etc.

These details should be sent to: John
1 Wrixon Street,
East Brighton.

5. Bob Cannon, Anton Cook, Tom Knean, Greg Martin, Pat Miller and John Zmood have been added to the leaders list with a B status initially.

6. A special S&R practice under winter conditions will be held during 15-16th July in conjunction with the Handrover club. This will be for a limited number of members only being restricted to those with snow experience and equipment. If you possess cross-country skis bring them, as one of the aims of the practice is to test the use of skis for winter searching. Further details will be sent to all S&R members registered with snow experience.

-oXo-

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION NEWS

By club delegate
to VNPA,
Graeme Warboys.

Objects of the Association

- To strive for the preservation of National Parks
- To foster public interest in National Parks
- To form a link between the public and the National Parks Service.
- To work for further reservation of National Parks
- To co-operate with others having similar objects

Therefore, this Association is of interest to all Mountaineers

In a letter written by Mr J. Ros Garnet, secretary of the VNPA, notice was given of the annual elections of the VNPA council, where several offices and 12 seats on the council are to be filled.

The elections are to be held at the Annual General Meeting in late September, and nominations are to be in by July 31st. If any MUMC member is interested in being nominated to the council, could you please see me (I am available at Aikman's Rd. every Monday lunchtime).

For further information about the Association - "its objects and policies", reference is given to the latest Victoria's Resources (March-May, 1972) an article by J. Ros Garnet.

-oXo-

LAKE PEDDER BOOKLET

The main activity of the Victorian Branch of the Lake Pedder Action Committee recently has been the production of a readable factual book on Lake Pedder. It includes information written by experts on the economics and engineering of the Flood Lake Pedder Scheme, the campaign to Save Pedder, history of Pedder, and pages and pages of photos.

Available from Aikman's for \$1-20ea.

LAKE PEDDER CAN STILL BE SAVED

Do your bit!

AGNES PLACE

By L.H.S.O.
Tim patrick

FOR THOSE AS WOT AVE FORGOTTEN
WHERE WE IS WE IS NEXT DOOR TO
AIKMAN'S ROAD

And PLEASE come and collect your lost belongings as wot you left on a van sometime this year or last.

The Club auction is coming soon - bring along your old, outmoded, worn-out dilapidated gear and be prepared to pay the most outrageous prices for all our left over lost property - watch the trips program for date/time/place.

For the rest of you cold hungry mountaineers we are now able to sell you pure wool (Australian) shirts for only \$7 (see the store's officer to place your order) and that high energy, heat giving food, JAM (6 different flavours) in convenient 1 oz tubes (yes tubes) at only 9c a tube (or 17c for two) (15c a tube elsewhere). And in case you are thirsty, we hope to have Refresh soon in bulk quantities or if you don't like that, we still have limited supplies of Happy-ade - now only 15c a packet. And of course we still stock a large range of fruit, vegs, Ready Dishes (Vesta to the uninformed) and chocolate.

Wishing that you come soon and relieve me of my goodies,

L.H.S.O.

-oXo-

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT AIKMANS

Are you aware that your home away from home, Aikmans, is opened each and every (well, most) Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Come and browse through Cathy's library. Come and try the evening traverse of the brick wall.

-oXo-

'HEYBOB'

Produced by the University of Queensland Bushwalking Club, Heybob is written specifically for bushwalkers and is composed of trips reports, and articles of general interest and is illustrated with maps and photographs. This publication is a valuable source of information on SE Queensland. The booklet includes a guide section to a specific area - in this issue, the coastal areas north of Brisbane including Fraser Island, Cooloola and Moreton Island - with both specialised articles, eg. wildlife, conservation etc., and guides written to be used by walkers.

MUMC will have a limited supply for sale. Other copies, at \$1 each can be obtained from A. Todd, 17 Wright St., MILTON, Qld., 4064.

A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINEERRumour?

From usually reliable sources it is rumoured that John Bennett and Ellen Davies are getting married come September. Ellen will, it is further rumoured, move to Adelaide, although the snow and canoeable in Victoria are sure to bring about their return some time in the future.

Engagement and Marriage

Another of the hardy bachelours fall. Bob Mcnaught has announced his engagement to ICL receptionist Judy Sinclair. Their marriage is set for July 8th.

Mt. Hagen to the Sepi

Paul Callander, one of our Club geologists, has been moved from his New Guinea base camp at Mt. Hagen to the Sepi River area. News filtering back tells of rivers rising 7 feet overnight, and of the much awaited weekly helicopter drops of food. Paul recently had an argument with some wasps which he lost 9 to 0.

Sue(san) Marie Hogg

A potential Mountaineer and Orienteer, Sue is a bit over one month of age. Congratulations to Sandra and David.

The Alpine Walking Track

Its change of name from the Alpine Track, is an attempt to define its use and specifically debar trailbikes and such like. Extending from Mt. Erica on the Southern end of the Baw Baw Plateau, to Tom Groggin on the Victorian New South Wales border, it is envisaged as forming the backbone of Victorian Walking. Many sections are complete and the Tourist Commission recently allocated five thousand dollars for the Mt Wills, Mt. Gibbo, Tom Groggin section. The track's route is being determined by a committee of representatives from the FVWC, the Forests Commission and the Ministry of Tourism. The track marking and clearing is being co-ordinated by the F.C.V. .

A New Mt. Bogong Summit Hut

The Mt. Bogong Club has been given approval to build a new summit hut further up the mountain than the existing decrepit structure. It is understood that the Ministry of Tourism has offered a grant of up to \$10,000 for the Hut which would be a simple refuge hut prefabricated in Melbourne and airlifted to the site.

A Conservation Paradox?

It appears that to conserve areas of natural beauty and wilderness (viz, Lake Pedder), an essential step is the informing of the general public who, so enlightened, visit the area of concern, despoiling much of its value.

Conservation Paradox (contd)

The inaugural issue of 'Mountain Life' (published by the British Mountaineering Council - available from MUMC's library) comments in an article on access routes in England,

"Though the dedicated mountaineer or Rambler who seeks only solitude may regret this, the fact is that the more who use the paths, the better our chance of keeping them alive."

In another article, 'Mountain Life' reports that 'a proposal for the Scottish Mountaineering Club suggests that no further information about climbing in the northern highlands be published either by the Club in its journal or by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust as guide-books.' The main reason for the proposal is said to be an attempt to conserve the area in question as a wilderness region in which climbers of a future generation would be free to pursue a more genuine form of exploration.

Tent Care

Tents are expensive and properly looked after can give many years of good service. Some 'Paddy Pallin' tent-care tips are:-

- (a) Pressurised insect sprays and detergents damage the proofing.
- (b) In wet weather do not touch the walls of the tent.
- (c) If the tent leaks, run your finger from the drip to the bottom of the tent.
- (d) If the tent is wet, see that it is uniformly wet, inside and out. This can be achieved by wiping down with a towel. If there are wet and dry patches on the tent, it will leak in rain.
- (e) Do not roll pegs up with the tent. Rust spots rot the tent.
- (f) Do not leave guys knotted when you pack the tent away.
- (g) Learn to tie adjustable knots in the guys so that you can easily adjust your tent. Learn a rolling hitch.

LOOK AFTER CLUB TENTS. Dry it out before returning it.

Do Not Pick Alpine Flowers!

'Swiss Mountain accidents claimed the lives of 160 people last year, among them 47 skiers and 20 people who fell while walking on narrow paths or picking Alpine Flowers.' - AAP Berne

Camp Junket

Something you don't often think of but delicious and sustaining. Use rich powered milk - full cream and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times normal strength; honey for sweetening and double the quantity of tablets. Make it in the usual way and then sprinkle coconut liberally on top to set with the junket.

A Post Card to the Mountaineer

' OXO Geoff is alive and thriving somewhere in France, probably lost, but doggedly heading uphill in search of the famous Alps. The brief three weeks of Englan were enough to convince me that the only good things about the place are (in order); the beer; the incredible population density meaning no food or water need be carried; the flesh pots of London; the crags of Capel Curig, Llanbeins and the Ogwen valley of North Wales, and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Straford-on-Avon.

My plans are non existent because the locals that I meet always know more than the various guide books and they are incredibly helpful and hospitable to an Oz'ie with shorts, a big smile and a huge battered pack.

Cheers from Geof Fagan'

Ice Axes

'Thrutch' No 55 (in the library at Aikmans) reprints an informative article on 'New Ice Climbing Equipment' that originally appeared in 'Mountain'. You would be well advised to read this prior to your trip to New Zealand.

New Catalogues

Recent additions to the club's library include two new catalogues from 'Blacks of Greenock'.

Know Your Weather

In conjunction with the meteorological Bureau, Dunlop has produced a most informative and well illustrated booklet on 'Clouds Wind and the Weather'. MUMC has a number of these available free to those who contact secretary Harry. Incidentally, one of the photos in the booklet shows Sue Eager waiting for her next task, beside the Met Bureau's computer.

Equipment Testing Sub-committee

Would anyone interested in working on equipment testing and equipment wear and tear assessment please contact Sue White, convenor of said sub-committee, at 123 Manningham St., Parkville 3052, ph. 304152.

Engagement

Congratulations to Josette Docherty and Trevor Brown on the announcement of their engagement recentlt.

Overheard

from the far side of a sump on the beginner's caving course as two intrepid males prepare to submerge: "All the girls have gone through - now I suppose that we have to!" followed by "You're not joking; this water's freezing!" "I'll never forget this!" "Alison, I'll get you for this!"

It Would be Nice to Have a Song Book But:

In the last Mountaineer, the Songbook editors asked for suggestions to be placed in the envelope in Aikman's Rd and Agnes' Place. So far three people have obliged. So come on Mountaineers, its your songbook too!

Accident

The Club's commiserations are extended to prominent club spelio John Taylor who is currently recovering from a car accident in which he apparently suffered some back injuries.

-oXo-

MOUNTAIN LIONS IN OUR FORESTS?

Don Fell, one of the organisers of the MUMC orienteering contest held near Korweinguboorra on April 9th reported the sighting of a large cat-like animal: -

"While out collecting the buckets used in that days orienteering competition I was running along the ... track when I saw a movement on the right side of the track about 40 yards ahead. I had seen several wallabies earlier that day and assumed that one was about to break across the track, however when the animal appeared I saw that it was indeed a large grey cat-like creature. It would have stood about two feet high to the shoulders with a body about three feet long. Its tail appeared to be of even thickness (say 2" dia.) and about 2ft in length, and flowed behind with a slight bend as the animal loped across the track. The fore and hind legs were approximately the same length with the hind legs more heavily built, though the animal appeared to be lighter in build than would be a scaled up domestic cat. Unfortunately I was alone at this stage - and my reaction was to continue running and hope for the best....."

Don forwarded copies of his report to the Forests Commission and the Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. MUMC wrote asking a series of questions - summarised

- (1) Does Don's report tally with descriptions of 'Mountain Lions' 'seen' in the Grampians?
- (2) Are the authorities aware of the damage such predators could do to our mainly defenceless wildlife population?
- (3) Are there any proposals to exterminate them (if they exist)?
- (4) Do the 'authorities' regard them as a hazard to various forms of recreation in the bush?

The reply from F.R. Moulds, Chairman of the Forests Commission, said - that Don's description 'appears to be appropriate for a fleeting glimpse of a 'mountain lion'
- the FCV is doing nothing on the assumption that they do not exist.

- Mountain Lions are quite shy and 'would not represent a hazard to bushwalkers.'

R.M. Warneke, OIC General Wildlife Studies, replying for the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, does not believe that they exist, and will not do so 'until someone drops a specimen on the laboratory bench', the main reason being that years of poison bait control of wild dogs and dingoes have not captured any 'lions'. He obviously has not considered the possibility that the lions, if they exist, may only eat game they have killed.

He states that if they do exist, they could be 'potentially dangerous to man.' He continues, 'that an element of danger does enhance many forms of outdoor recreation.'

Both replies acknowledge that such animals could reek havoc amongst our wildlife but, although there are many reports of sightings, their existence is doubted and hence there is no research or investigation being currently carried out.

In the Sun on Tues June 6th there was a reported sighting of an 'animal like a leopard ... 2' 6" tall, tail 3' long, dark, loping across the road... 100 yds in front of a car, at 10:30am, in the Grampians.'

In the 'Weekly Times', June 14, there was another report of a 'weird bush animal' near Daylesford (in the same forest as Korweinguboorra) which was 'taller than an Alsatian, sable and black long smooth tail with pom-pom on the end. Body, sable and covered with short smooth hair, galloping very fast.'

The editor (me) would be pleased to receive any further reports of 'mountain lions'.

-oXo-

ORIENTEERING NEWS

Orienteering is snowballing with over 200 entrants turning up for the now fortnightly held contests. Bob Cannon is organising the National Championships to be held on Sun 1st of October. Orienteering Clubs are being formed by interested groups; Tom Andrews has formed the 'Red Kangaroos' and Rod Harris and a group from Monash have formed the 'Super Turtles'. On Sat 22 July there is a work party to instal the first 'permanent course' at the You Yangs. Coming events are on July 23, August 6, 20, September 3, 17. Further information is available at Aikman's Rd.

-oXo-

THE LIBRARY

Do you know that MUMC has a library of mountaineering books, free for you to borrow. Do you also know that we have a very pleasant librarian, Cathy Brumley, who maintains the library for your use?

Annapurna South Face

By Chris Bonnington

Ten thousand feet of snow, ice and rock, thought by many to be the most formidable mountain face in the world. This was the challenge that Bonnington accepted and which he has recreated so vividly in this volume.

For once, a mountaineer cum writer has managed to interweave the technical and physical activity of the ascent with the personal and emotional interaction of the climber with the mountain. Supported with magnificent photographs, the book contains detailed appendices on all aspects of equipment from sophisticated climbing equipment to medical and photographic supplies.

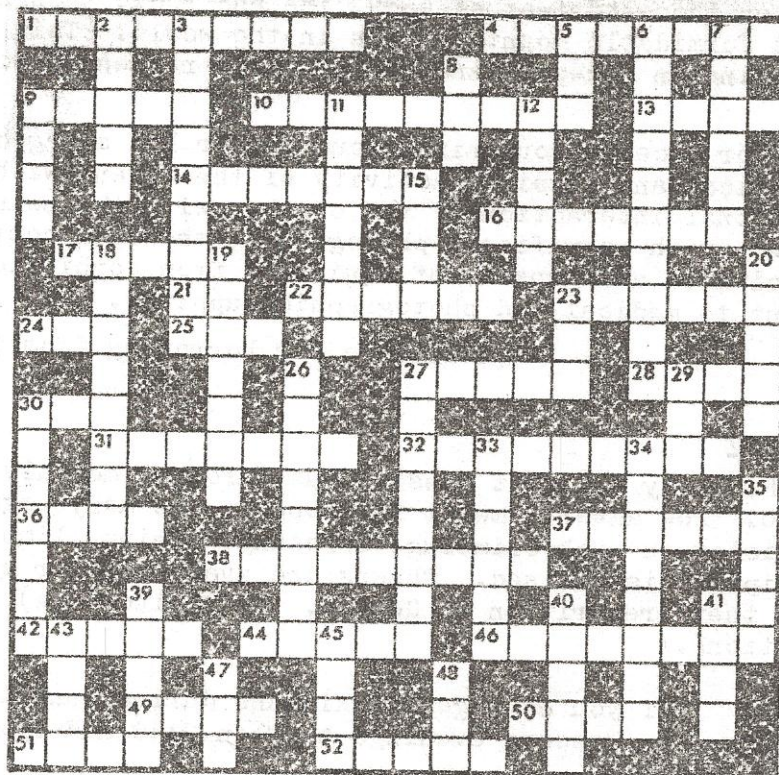
(Available for borrowing from the Club Library)

Alpinismus

Possibly the most prestigious European monthly mountaineering magazine. Few advertisements intersperse the many magnificent photographs and articles on rock climbing, canoeing, alpine climbing, skiing etc.. New equipment is revised. Theses are available for borrowing. One snag - they are written in German. The editor (me) would welcome translations.

If you cant get to Aikmans during lunchtime, come on Tuesday evenings between 7:30 and 8pm.



ALISON'S CROSSWORDAcross

- 1) ----- Spur (on 6 down)
- 4) Shellite Store
- 9) The You --- are a 2 down off Corio Bay
- 10) Australia's highest peak
- 13) Chimney = caving term
- 14) --- Rock is a popular climbing area
- 15) --- Cove is a good campsite on the Prom
- 17) --- basking can be very tiring
- 21) Sports Union
- 22) Famous Tasmanian lake
- 23) Lake on Mt. Buffalo
- 24) Some trips end in the ---!

Down

- 2) Great Dividing ----
- 3) Welcome sight on the 24!
- 5) MUMC Call-sign
- 6) MUMC has a 8 down here
- 7) Hades; also peak in Antarctica
- 8) Better than a tent (?)
- 9) Stock ---- Creek
- 11) Nick White is one!
- 12) Tom --- is a member of KHA
- 15) --- is found at Kalgoorlie
- 18) Twin peaks in NE Victoria
- 19) Go to ---- (mountain)
- 20) Martin ---- Wardrop
- 23) Frenchman's --- = peak in SW Tasmania
- 26) Two-man canoe

Across (cont.)Down (cont.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 25) ---- powder is sold in 42 :
across | 27) --- Gorge will be found this
year - perhaps |
| 27) Trips Secretary 71/72 | 29) --- lamps are not recommended
in tents |
| 28) Scott reached the South ---- | |
| 30) An ice ---- is needed for
snow climbing | 30) --- Road |
| 31) --- Meg Creek | 33) Gorge visited at Easter |
| 32) Peak in Antarctica | 34) Popular canoeing river |
| 36) --- and fog can make
orienteering difficult | |
| 37) ---caves are an important
conservation issue | |
| 38) A third edition is being
prepared | |

-oXo-

I. V. SLALOM CANOEING (13-15 MAY)

by Rod Tucker

It would seem that navigational expertise is not essential to the canoeist, but a lack of this ability almost cost MUMC a place in the first intervarsity slalom canoeing contest. The team (John Bennett, Gary Whipp and Rod Tucker along with cook and first aid officer Vicki Martin) were heading for the slalom light at Wyangala Reservoir in N.S.W. via Albury when they found themselves on the Calder Highway driving in the direction of Bendigo. A quick U turn remedied the situation but despair soon fell upon our representatives when the car, pulling a trailer loaded with canoes, found itself lost in the back streets of Essendon. After driving around in circles for some time, the Tullamarine freeway was found and north was located. At this stage, a determined effort resulted in a successful attempt at driving to Tullamarine. Concentration lapsed at this point, however, and direction was lost for a while but Kilmore was eventually reached after three stops to adjust the position of the canoes on the trailer. A quick calculation showed that based on progress to date, the team would arrive at the slalom light in 4 days time, one day after completion of the contest.

Fortunately the road to Cowra and Wyangala Reservoir is well sign-posted and the destination was reached by 10 p.m. that night. The Wyangala Reservoir is a flood mitigation scheme and is fitted with gates that may be adjusted to give a fixed flow of water in the river below the dam. The water level of the rapids on which the slalom contest was held could thus be set at a suitable level.

A slalom course consists of a number of pairs of poles (or gates) suspended above the water and spaced about 4 feet apart. The idea is to negotiate a set course through the gates in minimum time. Points are added to this time score if contact is made with the gates. The competitor with the lowest score wins. Five events were run: there being mens K1, teams K1, open C2, mixed C2 and womens K1. MUMC entered only in the first three of these as a female team member could not be found. A down river race was also held, but this was not officially counted as part of the I.V. results.

On the first morning of the contest an early rise was made for the launching of the clubs two new kiaks build by a band of canoeists during the previous two weeks. Both boats were declared seaworthy. These boats spent a full half hour in the water before entering in their first and their drivers' second slalom contest. The course, set by Macquarie University Mountaineering Club, proved challenging with more than one MUMC team member capsizing at some stage. The competition proceeded for two days.

Overall impression gained was one of great keenness. 10 Universities and approximately 50 people took part in the competition. Indications are that slalom canoeing will become increasingly popular as an I.V. sport. MUMC's results were as follows:

The overall impression gained was one of great keenness. 10 Universities and approximately 50 people took part in the competition. Indications are that slalom canoeing will become increasingly popular as an I.V. sport. MUMC's results were as follows:

Men's K1: 4th place (Gary, John & Rod)
Teams K1: 2nd place (Gary, John & Rod)
Open C2: 3rd place (John and Rod)

The overall placings were:

1st Macquarie
2nd A.N.U.
3rd Melbourne and N.S.W. (equal)

Congratulations go to Macquarie for a very well run and most enjoyable weekend.

-oXo-

RESULTS OF THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR WALK

This year's 24 Hour Walk was held in the Yarra Glen - Kinglake area. It invited 170 entries comprising 25 male, 26 mixed and 5 female teams. The weather was kind to competitors - a clear night followed by a cool but sunny day. Routes between hashhouses were shorter than usual allowing all but about 25 competitors to make their way to hashhouse three. A close tussle in the finishing stages between a female team, a male team and a mixed team was narrowly won by the mixed team after a few hours of road bashing back towards the Melbourne GPO. 1953 was the last year that a mixed team has won. Hashhouse food was again of a high quality cheerfully served around the clock to weary travellers.

In the following result list, the placings 11 to 16 were determined from the arrival times at the first and second checkpoints ~~out of hashhouse three.~~

Thanks to all who helped make it a success.

Overall placing	male	mixed	female	group
1		1		Leigh Sutherland, Graeme Oakes, Dave Crewther
2			1	Anne Irwin, Karen Alexander
3	1			Alex Tarr, Harry Summers
4		2		Robyn Fraser, Martin Wardrop
5	2			Rod Harris, Julian Higgs
6		3		Peta Whitford, Ian Whitford
7	3			Sture Lantz, Peter Whitmore
8			2	Brenda Kaye, Kathy Kelaher, Marg McKinney
9		4		Barbie Whitely, Ruth McKenzie, John Yuill, Stephen Rosenthal
10		5		Elizabeth Brown, Rob Jacobs, Barry Parsons, Geof Willing
11			3	Fiona Shaw, Alison McCready, Elaine Murray
12	4			Peter and Barry Moore, Colin Leitch
13	5			Jolyon Shelton, Greg Craven, Dave Vince
14		6		Sue Beatty, Ceridyn Law, Peter Le Rossignol
15		7		Daren Fawkes, Boris Pogos, R. Hook, Rowan Webb
16		8		Geof Cope, Sue West

SECOND WORLD INSTANT PUDDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by the host of the
'Bludge Weekend',
Ros Escott.

Held at Upper Beaconsfield on Saturday May under the watchful eye of our noble President, Mr. Rodney Tucker, who acted as referee and judge.

All Twelve competitors provided their own containers and personal mixing implement, and each was issued with 2 oz. milk powder, 15 oz. of water and an I.P. of random brand and flavour. At the word 'Go' a silence fell over the crowd and the air was filled with rip; glup; clatter; whisk; clunk; damn; squelch; slurp; as each competitor mixed his pudding according to the time honoured tradition of his clan.

We interrupt this bulletin to cross to our fashion consultants, "Axotrends", who have been observing Fashions in the Field. They tell us that black parkas are definately In this year, and note also the increasing number of bared chests amongst the male entrants. We wonder whether this is the beginnings of a new permissiveness creeping into the club since the resignation of our former P.P. President.

Meanwhile back at the Championships the first puddings are undergoing the inversion test for five seconds and the crowd gasps with horror (or was it mirth?) as the very real dangers of the situation are brought home on Dave Crewther's head in the form of a sudden green slurp. The remaining leading competitors now jostle for positions around the judge who holds the single light source, and hurriedly ingest the gelatinous mass that does not seem so ready to stay in their stomachs as it did in their containers less than a minute ago.

Results:	1. Roger Barson	4 min. 10 sec.	Betty Sydney Chocolate
	2. John	4 min. 55 sec.	White Wings Chocolate
	3. Greg Davies	4 min. 56 sec.	White Wings Strawberry

Scientific Conclusions:

Perfectly Performing Puddings are:-

- 1) Stirred not shaken
- 2) Made in metal rather than plastic containers
- 3) White Wings are fairly reliable invertors
Betty Sydney are inconsistent (especially lime!)
Cottees perform generally very poorly, and although 1 cent cheaper are not recommended.

BEGINNERS CAVING COURSE 1972

Lead by Rudi Frank, caving convenor, and report written by Alison Mc Cready.

Saturday morning at Buchan and the V.S.A. hut again fills with the hissing of choofers, clattering of billies and the occasional curse of burnt fingers. Breakfast consumed, the beginners gather round the carbide pit and are initiated into the mystery of the carbide lamps. Destination and ETR are chalked on the board and we depart for various caving areas.

Outside the caves, lamps are lit, and torches, candles and matches are checked, and trog suits and helmets put on. The caves visited included dry passages, wet passages, chimneys, traverses, squeezes, crawls, sumps (wet and dry), climbing, rockfalls and chambers large and small. One experienced caver infuriated but educated his group by leading them down through a small opening into a large anticline chamber, then inviting them to show him the way out - an important lesson in route finding underground where you should always look behind you to see what it will look like on the return.

Some ladder pitches were also rigged, and it was shown that ladder climbing although not as hard as it looks, can become quite interesting. One demonstrator ripped the knee out of a trog suit while demonstrating how to climb properly!

An attempt was also made to siphon some of the water out of a sump which had been passed a week previously. Although the pipe was set up successfully - it was possible to drink sump water through a 60' "straw" - we could not get the outer end low enough to maintain the flow.

Saturday night brought the exploration of an "unknown" cave in the Buchan Caves Reserve. This was subsequently found to be Root Cave which had been lost some 30 years previously.

The second weekend brought a fresh group of beginners, and the hut was again so full that double bunking and camping on the verandah were necessary. In all about 30 beginners attended the course. Much the same caving programme was followed on this 2nd trip, but those who had been before visited harder caves.

One 'discovery' on the 2nd weekend in Honeycomb cave was a wall of stalactites, stalagmites and helictites, nearly 6' wide and almost as high, complete with a small pool of water. Further on was a dried up pool with a beautiful crystal floor fringed with dogtooth spar so sharp it cut the hand. These are only examples of the many kinds of decoration seen on the weekends.

Saturday night brought a social evening with the Beunagvi (?) Spelio Society for some, while one determined group sat around the fire and chanted TV commercials - until 2am!

As always, the success of the course was partly due to the help received from V.S.A. members. Thanks are due to Digger Kahrau. D Daryl Carr, Elbut Bassham, David Lesser and Bruce Harper for their help on both weekends, and also to the experienced MUMC cavers Nick White, Rudi Frank, Ron Jelleff and Miles and Rhonwan Pierce.

-oXo-

EYEBALLS IN THE SKY, 1972

About 60 people rolled up to Hanging Rock on 16 April for the first session of the 1972 climbing course. Needless to say, it was only by virtue of the hard work put in by the leaders who came that so much climbing and abseiling was done. Thanks to those people who did give up their Sunday to help out.

The following weekend at Arapiles saw the numbers thin to about 20, and some climbing of good standard was done with the aid of several VCC members who took 3 of the more competent beginners in hand. Among the routes completed were 'Bard' (12), 'Arachus' (10), and 'Siren' (10). Prize of the weekend must go to Phil Hay for his monumental 'bomb' off 'Toccata' (14). He was closely followed minutes later when your trusty convenor fell off head first a few feet higher up while trying to show everyone how to do it! He eventually led it, and was competently followed by Jolyon Shelton. Jol also led 'Trapeze' (11) with much heckling from the peanut gallery.

The first weekend in May saw 6 OXO climbers heading to the Grampians in a van borrowed from VCC Chris Dewhurst. John Cayley turned up in the morning from Hamilton and three ropes went up to Mt. Rosea. Chris Hume and John Shelton led the way up 'Flypaper Wall' (8), closely followed by another rope of three. John and Goakes tackled 'Tourist Direct' (7). Later in the day Jol and Scris did 'Big Chimney' (9) in good style, despite much heckling from the ground. Next morning the van trundled around to Bundaleer where 'Acarab' (12) was led very well indeed by Goakes, Jol, and finally, with much trepidation, by your Convenor. Prize for the most improved climber must go to Marcia Mc Donald for her lead of the nerve wracking second pitch of 'Acarab' - her first lead ever!

Several trips were organised over the May Vacation, among them a trip to Arapileas on which Chris Hume fell off 'Trapeze' (11) - twice!

Future climbing trips to look forward to include the Queen's Birthday Weekend at Arapiles, Arapiles in July and the Blue Mountains in August.

-oXo-

"THAT WAS A TRIP, THAT WAS!"

A report of a trip through
a 'wilderness' that was,
by Arnold Wheeler.

Saturday morning. Nick and Theo frozen solid in sleeping bags. Thanks to the friendly shooters camping nearby, their fire thawed us out.

One hell of a drive up to Cobbler Lake. Not recommended for cars in any condition. Rocks bash in the bottom of our car. Tyres cut about. Coming out was worse.

Start walking. Five minutes later. Lost! Taken the wrong track. Logging tracks everywhere. Anne suffering from the dreaded lurgi. Find proper jeep track and head south.

Suddenly, super-highway. Four letter words pour forth. Last time I came through here there was just a rickety, rustic, overgrown jeep track all the way to Speculation. Quite pleasant then. So, this is the foul and evil work of the Forests Commission. We feel like turning back. Curse the chap, no names mentioned, who said we couldn't get across Woolly-Butt Saddle. "You might get snowed in", he said. No snow anywhere. We could have driven right up to Speculation and saved a days walking along this stupid highway. We decide to go on. Four miles of highway slogging. Curse. Swear.

Have lunch on the side of Mt. Koonika. Wide spaces to Buller. A green carpet. We reach Speculation and decide to push on. Thick scrub and a steep drop to Catherine Pass.

Oh, my dear Forests Commission. I thank you so much for what you have left us. Bulldozed eternity. Smashed trees, burnt scrub, rubbish heaps. Our Alpine track ravished. Here they are pushing their machine of destruction into Terrible Hollow, our last potential wilderness area. Another superb bushwalking area destroyed. Why must it go on. Surely, as bushwalkers, we have just as much right to "do our own thing?" What should I do? Thoughts of direct action. Sugar in their petrol tanks. Other pernicious acts of vandalism haunt the mind.

The sun's setting. No campsite, no water. We park on the ridge leading to Mt. Despair. Oh, despair! Nick and myself head off into the scrub in search of water. Anne and Theo set up camp. We find water. Hurrah! No clouds in sky, a cutting wind, afrozen night.

Up at 6 o'clock. Over Mt. Despair and down into a saddle. The fun starts. Rocky outcrops, slopping slabs and thick scrub to be negotiated. Slow progress. Superb spacial views to Mt. Buffalo. Like flying a plane over a rolling sea of feathery green carpet. A maze of creeks and rivers below. Towering rock buttresses, cliffs and a jagged ridge leads out to the Ruzar.

The Razor reached. Magnificent. We sit, soak up the atmosphere. It seeps right through to the soil. You reflect on the beauty around you. The lingering idea of a creeping, hideous, destroying Forests Commission lurks in the back of your mind. How can they do what they do. Surely, had any of their top men sat upon the throne of the Razor they would see the light. But no, the machine creeps uncontrollably on.

So we creep on, slowly, reaching Viking Saddle. A towering cliff above, golden radiant in the afternoon sun. A long steep scramble leads to the Vikings summit. The ragged Razor with its long sloping slabs thrusts its mighty bulk skywards. Crystal clear. Gentle feelings of isolation, wilderness surrounding. Surprise! What is this? A packet of lime happy ade in the Viking log book. Left by Graeme Oakes and party in December 1970 for the fabled Glay's Viking trip scheduled for the following month. Geoff's trip was washed away by flash floods and the packet of happy ade was not collected. Here it had sat for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. Untouched and in perfect condition, it was. The delectable flavour soothed our parched lips that night. Sorry, Geoff. It's 6 o'clock before we find a campsite and once again Nick and myself descend into the valley below to find water while Anne and Theo set up camp.

Nex day we drop into Terrible Hollow, cross the Wonongatta River and climb the Devils Staircase; a steep 3000ft. through scrub; to Macalister Springs; very glad to spend a night in the hut. A storm is brewing.

I awake next morning and peer outside. White-out, a gale blows and a fresh blanket of powdery snow covers everything. No-one is anxious to go outside and breakfast is drawn out. Eventually, nature calls and we all have been forced to expose ourselves to the elements. Should we go on. The Crosscut Saw will be hell in weather like this. Nick rigs up a kilt from an old plastic garbage bag; not having any overpants. We all laugh.

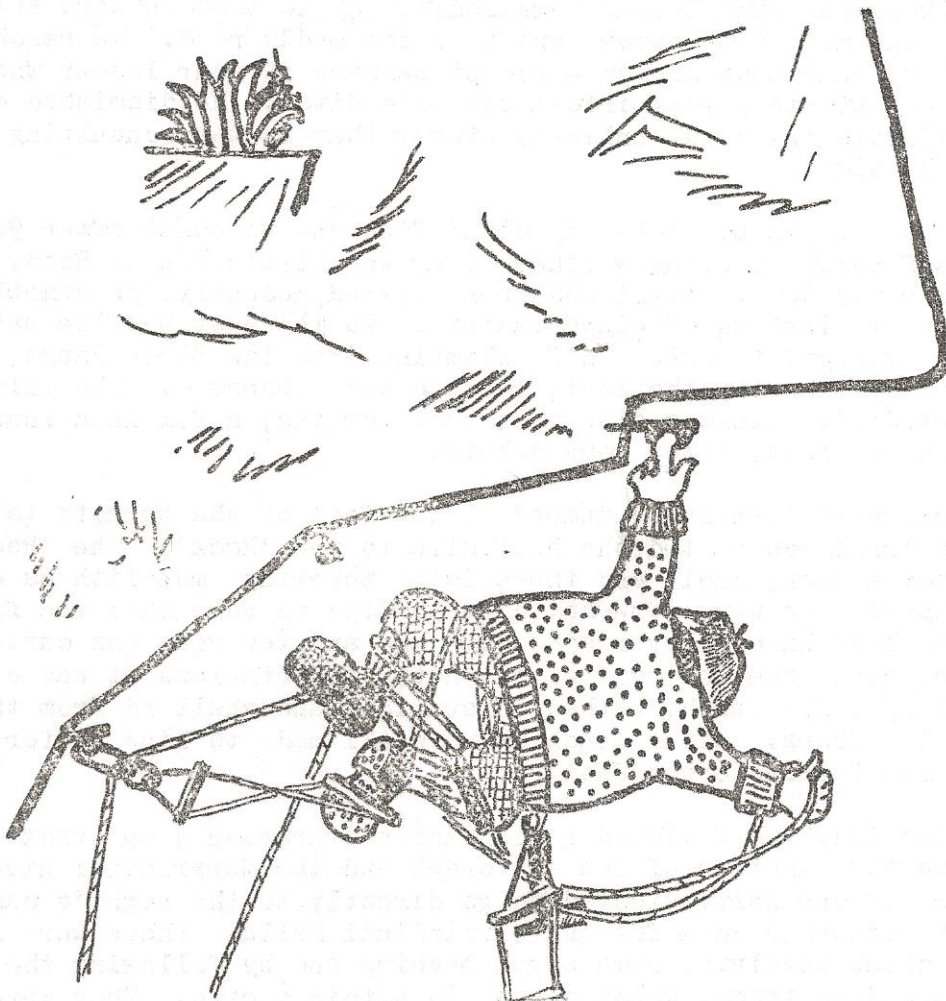
Out into the storm. Onto the Crosscut. The wind bites. Fortunately, it is not snowing. A complete white-out, however, and navigation is tricky. The snow slippery and near vertical drops into the clouds below don't give the perfect feeling of security.

Rugged rocky outcrops traversed. Massive towering walls loom through mist. Mount Buggery reached and the snow floats down. A quick dash over Mt. Speculation and we are back on the Forests Commission's super highway. Six more arduous miles, dripping wet, to Cobbler Lake and our cars.

But the trip is not over yet. We still have to get our car down the jeep track to Bennies, 13 miles away, and with all the rain the track's condition certainly has not improved. 2 hours it takes. Sheer hell, nerve racking tension, sliding down greasy mountain roads, brakes wet, ploughing through feet deep puddles and boy holes, bouncing on rocks and soaking wet and shivery all the way.

How we made it, I don't know, but somehow, "That was a real trip, that was!"

-oXo-



MURRINDINDI RIVER AREA TRIP

Report of a Club trip
lead and written by
Rob Jung

It was a bleak Friday evening that 12 of us faced, having just left the warm comfort of the Melbourne to Mansfield bus, outside the "Cupboard Restaurant" at St. Fillians - an almost nonexistent sized town on the Maroondah Highway.

The tops of packs were immediately rummaged through for items like torches and parkas, for we had some two miles to walk to our campsite in fine drizzling rain. It was not until the proprietors had switched out the outside floodlight of the Restaurant (about halfway through our unpacking!) that we realised how dark it was, on this dismal moonless night.

Nevertheless by some fluke we soon found ourselves on the right road which headed west towards Narbethon Plantation. After some time walking our eyes became "agloomitised" so that we were able to avoid the more treacherous spots on the muddy road. We reached Stony Ck without much mishap - except perhaps for our leader who at one stage went staggering into a roadside ditch. He dismissed claims of intoxication with the unlikely storey that he was consulting his map at the time.

To our amagement, Saturday dawnd fine and somewhat after 9am we set off north in sunny weather along the Little Wonder Road. Much of the country to our right had been cleared recently, presumably for farms or planting of pinus radiata. To the west was the natural mountain eucalypt forest. While climbing into the Black Range, the first, and pleasantly the last, leeches were observed. The only other 'wildlife' seen was also seen that morning; a fox in a snare, which was released, after some debate.

Packs were thankfully dumped at the foot of the turnoff to Yea Rock and lunch was carted the half mile to the 'Rock'. The 'Rock' is in fact a rocky knoll and there is no towering monolith as one might expect. We were somewhat disappointed to note that the fire tower had been knocked over some time ago and the view was curtailed by trees, even from the roof of the hut. Nevertheless it was a very pleasant spot for lunch, bathed in sunlight and shelterd from the wind by the trees. After lunch we were all made to line up for the usual "Don Collins Group Photo".

After lunch we followed a pleasantly overgrown jeep track down a spur to the junction of the 'S' creek and the Murrindindi River. Here some of our party elected to go directly to the night's campsite, while the others headed for the Murrindindi Falls. These were found after a climb involving some scrub bashing and by following the inevitable jeep track, which passes to within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. They were a refreshing reward for our efforts having a vertical drop of about 20'. Some of us discovered that the rocks below were quite slippery!

The night's camp was made alongside the Murrindindi River about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the Wilhelmina Falls. Unfortunately previous people (probably car based tourists) had left the area in somewhat of a mess, there being a fair size pile of empties adjacent to the fire place. The campsite at the bottom of the Wilhelmina falls track, visited the next day, appeared to be better.

Saturday night we had a heavy frost (with ice forming on our tents) and most of us were envying Jean (and George) with her "Bogong" bag.

On the Sunday Wilhelmina falls were reached by following a foot track from the Murrindindi Road. These form a spectacular "rock slide" with water running down a 45° slope for 153' vertical drop.

We picked up packs again at the road and set off up the spur immediately opposite the falls track to climb Mt. Despair. The scrub on the spur was fairly light (bracken) and once we had reached the main north-south spur the going was made easier by the appearance of a jeep track (I hope you're not in favour of such tracks Rob Ed.). We reckoned the mountain to be adequately named though, after our 1900' climb!

The 76.5' high fire tower, which in this case was standing, afforded a superb view of the surrounding countryside including views of Wilhelmina falls to the east.

Rumblings of mutiny could be felt as our leader informed the group that the party would have to follow that jeep track (with packs) back down again. However, with about 9 miles to cover and three hours of daylight left we were not left much choice.

Our destination, Devlins Bridge, on the Yea to Melbourne Rd. was finally reached after sundown but . . . it was not long before we had a fire roaring, and we stood around in the crisp clear night air, heating soup and relaxing after our long afternoon.

It was a somewhat relieved leader who flagged down the Mansfield-Melbourne bus at 8pm, rumours being rife of a lynching if it did not arrive.

(The party : Colin Barry, Pat Carey, Don Collins, Linda Huzzey, Robert Jung (leader), George Kawakzuk, Jean Muir, Tony Masters, Liz Morrissey, Geraldine O'Conner, Robin Nagel, Andrew Van de Wet)

FRENCHMAN'S CAP

A climbing trip report by
Tim Hancock.

The huge white cliffs of Frenchman's Cap are seen rearing up to the south of the Lyell Highway on the way to Queenstown soon after you leave Derwent Bridge. The Cap offers Australia's finest rock-climbing, and in the last 8 years, has seen climbing parties heading south, mainly from Victoria, to tackle its unique quartzite.

A trip to Frenchman's is usually a masive undertaking for a climber. It necessitates the preparation of air drops months before hand, and then a twenty mile walk in from the Lyell Highway with packs usually well in excess of 80lbs. - usually constituted of about 20lb. of personal gear, and 40lb. or more climbing equipment. As climbers are notoriously lazy - unless you can drive to the foot of a cliff it is not worth climbing on - the Frenchman's trip is looked at with mounting horror and apprehension as the time arrives for the trip to depart.

This year, no less than 4 parties undertook the death-march from the Lvell Highway over Mt. Mullers, across the sodden Loddell Plains, to Lake Vera, over Barron Pass to the Lake Tahune hut, and some great climbs were repeated. The prize of the season went to Chris Dewhurst's V.C.C. party who took the first ascent of the 250 east face over $1\frac{1}{2}$ days. Also on the scene were another large V.C.C. party, a Tasmanian party, and the mighty 1972 2 man Inter-state Frenchman's Expedition, consisting of the MUMC honorable climbing convenor, and his counterpart from the University of N.S.W. My mate Mike Swain, and I have been on some pretty funny trips but this one took the cake. Arranged on about a week's notice, preparation done the night before leaving, no air-drops, it looked like the craziest ever trip to go south to the Cap. "They're mad!" several expedition-worn V.C.C. members are reported to have said.

Mike dropped what he was doing and arrived on 23 February. While I sat an exam afternoon, he went out and bought some food. We packed that night in about 2 hours, and by 11.00am. the next morning we were on the road from Devonport. That evening we were eating blackberries and ice-cream by the river at New Norfolk. 2.00 in the afternoon of the next day (Friday 25th), and the long haul began in blisteringly hot and humid weather. First there was the cage across the Franklin River, and then everything merged into a haze of sweat, with occasional glimpses of the great rocky peaks apparently retreating as fast as we advanced - Lake Tahune was a very welcome sight at 3.00 in the afternoon the next day.

Sunday morning, and we were off up to the North Col to sample the rock. After a long easy route we were much impressed sound, solid, compact quartzite, blinding in its whiteness. But we still had not tasted the real quality of Frenchmans, for we were on the N.W. side of the great dome, and it is its 1500' S.E. and E. faces which offer the finest, most serious climbing. Imagine Arapiles piled on top of itself 5 times; imagine a grade 15 or 16 climb at Arapiles extended over 1500'; the beauty of the line not one whit diminished, and you will have some idea of the magnitude and quality of the greatest climbs at Frenchmans.

In 1965, a Sydney party spent an epic 3 days fixing a route up the greatest line on the S.E. face. The magnificent "A Toi la Gloire" resulted. 1500' of S.E. route, it has become known to a generation of climbers as the "Sydney Route". It was on this route that we set our sights on our second day at the Cap. After toiling up the screeslope we were roped and climbing by 9.00 in the morning.

The first few pitches were easy scrambling, but soon the climbing appeared in earnest. Mike led a long pitch up to a pillar at base of the line proper with only one runner, and then it was my turn. Up an overhanging chimney and then a rotten overhanging wall to a perch on a tiny ledge. It was a very hairy pitch, and the next one for Mike was no better. The chimney continued, and then another wall, made unreluctantly difficult by the small sloping holds of the quartzite.

Above Mike's belay the line continued as a steep clean crack in a corner. It was climbed by jamming my hands in the crack and bridging with my legs against both walls. Looking down, there was nothing to be seen except the ropes disappearing into the cliff to Mike on his little ridge, and the ground, now 500' below. The verticality was unrelenting.

This pitch was meant to be 100' long, but when I had run out of 100' of rope, and was standing on an impossible wall tied to a very bad peg, and a cracker, it was obvious I had over shot the belay. The route traversed left from that point, so we had to find it before continuing. From my one-foot stance I could now see where we should have gone, so Mike came up, belayed me down from the cracker, and then continued left and upward. The next pitch was meant to be the crux - traverse across a blank wall to a nose from which there was nothing but space to scree 1000' below. We sat and meditated over a block of chocolate, then I knew I had to try it. First up to a rusty peg, and then out across the blackness with the exposure mounting with every move. The holds kept appearing, regularly and solid. A stop for a photograph, then the hard move where Peter McKeand had eliminated the peg for aid on the second ascent 2 years before, and I was standing on the ledge, seemingly supported by nothing. It was a sensational position. Then onward across another wall, and we were in the exit chimnies. Another 40 minutes, saw us on the top in the evening sunlight. It was the greatest climb we had done together; there was no doubt.

Two more days, and we had explored the Cap, and seen enough to want to come back again for a much longer time. We packed our packs, lighter now because we had eaten the food we had hauled in with so much agony. We were out to the Lyell Highway by 9.45 in evening of Wednesday 1 March, after $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours walking, the last miles being covered in the gloom of the fading light, and pain in the shoulders, legs and back. By 6.30 on Thursday we were home. 8 days to the Cap, and back.

-oXo-

THE UPPER MURRAY TRACK

by Tom Kneen

On the Jacobs River 1:100000 map a foot track is shown leading upstream from Tom Groggin along the Victorian bank of the Murray. Ellen Davies, Margaret Hattie and I followed this track last December. It is a little overgrown and we lost it occasionally, especially on the river flats, but we were able to follow it easily enough to Dan Creek. The Murray is quite a big stream even here and the river scenery along the track is very impressive. There seems to be quite a lot of wildlife around; we saw kangaroos, dingoes and a lot of water birds and there are apparently brumbies around. We lost the track soon after Dan Creek (I don't think it crosses the river, but it definitely does not go as far upstream as is marked on the map) and ended up scrubbashing over a high steep spur before rejoining the river and then scrubbashing up into the Cascades.

The track seems to have been built to service gauging stations on the Upper Murray and its tributaries. A Sydney group followed it in the other direction last Easter and two other groups followed our route a few days later. The 'Guide to the Vic. Alps' mentions another overgrown track along the river downstream from Tom Groggin.

If anyone is looking for a different and varied trip in the Snowy Mountains, you could try following the track upstream from Tom Groggin, climbing into the Cascades, going north to the Ramsheads and returning to Tom Groggin by the spur that leads down from the South Ramshead. This spur has been suggested as a route for the Alpine Walking track into N.S.W.

-oXo-

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TASSIE WHIPPED

Assignment: The conquering of the famous Cradle Mountain Lake St. Clair Track and, if still alive an assault on Lake Pedder



Late afternoon on the 29th December 1971 the bus driver, who took us from Devenport airport to Waldheim, left us with insistent drizzle and the cheering words that "the weather should clear up soon - it's been raining for the past three days ..." Thus we dutifully donned our waterproof gear. Not 100 yards from the start of our trek we encountered our first enemy - mud. We conscientiously dodged it in attempts to keep our boots clean (ha! ha!).

However, by the time we reached kitchen hut through ensuring tracks of water, snow and more mud, we had given up even keeping our boots dry. Now the problem was where to pitch tents satisfactorily on wet, sodden peat.

In the morning, at the sensible hour of 10.30 a.m., we heaved on our packs again and walked half a mile to the base of Cradle Mountain. Seven of our nine rock-hopped to the top (Barb and Robyn piked 2/3 of the way up), to be rewarded with more glimpses through the clouds of those renowned panoramas.

Cradle Mountain to Waterfall Valley Hut for lunch was one slog through the mud, with mere patches of sunlight disclosing Barn Bluff over to the West. The stretch to Windemere separated the platoon very quickly according to fitness - Rob J, and Joan G streaking ahead, leaving slow coaches like Robyn (v. unfit) and Rex (who had eyes bigger than his back for his 70lb. pack - but then fresh eggs are heavy!); Lord Whippe remained true to his name and followed in the rear out of kindness to the stragglers.

Camp was struck beside Lake Windemere, wet and leechy. However a fire was lit in the rain, providing us with untold delicacies of smoked chicken supreme etc. Lord Whippe, demonstrating his prowess in Leadership, braved the water in his leopard-skin underwear!

Up the next morning, the platoon paddled across the button grasses of the miserable Pine Forest Moor in the pouring rain. Even our lunch spot was all drips and leeches. We then left the button grass for a more pleasant beech forest. At the turn off to Old PelionHut Rob went on alone to check it out for shelter. It was full of Rangers so we plodded on the next mile to PelionChalet, when unfortunately L.P.'s knee twisted on a log - which caused much concern, but nevertheless only retarded her pace to that of the slow coaches!! (You flatter me Robyn - Laurie).

Alas Pelion was full, which meant another wet night in wet tents; however, there was room for us to cook our New Year's Eve feast of P.P. and cream (i.e. Plum Pudding), and for Rex to dry out his peanuts (!!). Next day was declared Rest Day for the purpose of drying out clothes, hanging up New Year Balloons and sleeping in the warm, comfortable hut (since the occupants had moved out in the morning).

Several more people arrived, and on fear of missing out on dry shelter at Kia Ora Hut the next day, we left at 7.15 a.m. On the way, since the weather was clearing, the boys decided to climb Pelion East, and Ossa for the hell of it, while the girls continued to Kia Ora and spent the afternoon drying tents and hunting for waterfalls. When the boys arrived Hughey really turned on a show for us by lifting the clouds and revealing the summit of Ossa. Our first visible sunset promised a break in the ghastly weather we had passed through.

Kia Ora to Windy Ridge Hut was warm - we actually had to remove our waterproof gear!!! Lunch at Boulder Falls was spectacular - staring at the tons of water hurtling down hundred foot drops. Hartnett Falls were the next stop, where we all braved the icy water to wash and then dried our clothes in the sun.

We had now stamped out our first two enemies (mud and leeches), but the night of January 3 introduced us to our new foes: Tasmanian bities (skeetas etc) and possums which even consumed Barb's toilet paper...

Windy Ridge to Narcissus via Gould was not enough for Robert or John, so next day they ran off to look at Pine Valley Hut as well. For the rest of us it was a beautiful day, though the climb to Gould Plateau was a little more vertical than expected. The plateau's panorama satisfied the girls, but not Gary et al who pushed on to the peak for even more spectacular views.

Narcissus Hut was full of flies and uninvitingly stuffy, so all tents were pitched outside. Our hosts were some furry tiger kittens, not to forget the possums (Rex to R.I.P.? Never!) The stillness of the warm water and the arrival of the Lake St. Clair launch brought home to us the nearness of civilized beings, and we were tempted (momentarily!) to float to Cynthia Bay in comfort. But in the morning, like true Oxos, we packed up and plodded on round the 11 miles to Cynthia Bay. Grubby and thirsty, we arrived at the Ranger's Kiosk there late in the afternoon, feeling oddly out-of-place

After two days of relative civilization we took a bus in to New Norfolk, and then out to Wedge River. Matters were complicated by a flat tyre, and then, alas, the driver spilled our fresh strawberries on to the road. At last at Wedge River, after sorting out our supplies (which smelt inexplicably of mouldy cabana), we settled down to sleep in the picnic pavilion. Then the rattle of our kitchen ware suggested more possum intruders; but after much debate we decided it was a little Tasmanian Devil.

THAT LAKE

January 8th ... Our packs that morning were bigger and heavier from refuelling, and the first mile was a dull road bash. The six mile trek through the ~~glug~~ then proved easy, by reserve standards, thanks to a few days of sunshine. Our fastest time for the distance however was a good four hours, and the tough pull to our first real look at the lake truly tested our determination to see the place. But the view was glorious, and the agony of having to squelch on for another half an hour before being able to splash in that water was a strain both mental and physical.

We lazed all afternoon on the beach and in the water, only roused from our torpor by the need to find a good campsite before they were all taken, and by L. Southweel Esq. who initiated our Pedder Penny searches. Sadly, our new comrade, Liz Barrow, who had not recovered properly from her flu, left us to fly back to Hobart without seeing more of the lake.

Our tent spot was sheltered from the wind which blew up during the afternoon. From the site we had no view of the lake and lots of bites, but we did have a beautiful view of Mt. Anne. After dinner we walked for miles along the beautiful, wide beach taking in the superb red sunset behind the Franklands.

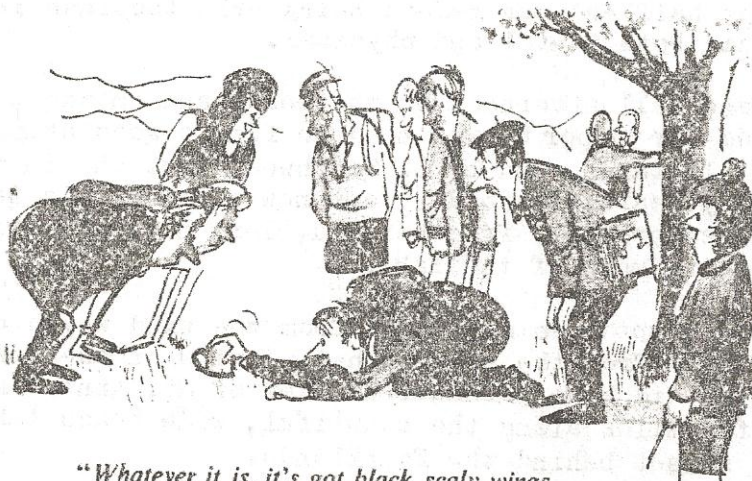
After a sleep interrupted by loud groans of agony from itching sand-fly victims, we awoke to cloudy skies and some drizzle. The mists hung low so any climbing was pointless. We spent the day circumnavigating the lake, wandering over beach and through water collecting pennies and pink sand as we went.

That night Rob and John decided to stay on and wait for more sun, but Gary and Joan G. were due home soon, and the others went with them the next day. In the afternoon the sun came out, but we were already on our way; it didn't dry out the track though, and it had deteriorated to a condition worse than we had yet experienced. Gary and Joan sped on to try and get a lift to Hobart - but when we arrived at Wedge River two hours after them they were still sitting hopefully beside the road!

Eventually, when they had tooted goodbye, we settled down in the pavilion for the night. Our dreams were nostalgically of Pedder, but capped with the vision of the five people we had met at the road, off for 32 days in the south-west. They each carried packs of over 100lb., and one had a big blue plastic rubbish bin on top.

Robyn
and Laurie.

-oXo-



*"Whatever it is, it's got black scaly wings
and lots of legs."*

ARE BUSHWALKERS REALLY CONSERVATIONISTS?

by our Canberra
Correspondent,
David Hogg.

In the rising wave of environmental concern, most bushwalkers probably pride themselves that they are playing their part in helping to meet the environmental crisis. They carry out empty cans that they took in to their campsites, they sign petitions or even write letters protesting against the flooding of Lake Pedder, the use of snowmobiles on the high plains or the slaughter of kangaroos, they avoid breaking green timber for use as tentpoles, and thus they regard themselves as conservationists. But are bushwalkers as a group doing their best to conserve that which forms the basis for their activities - the bushland mountains and wilderness areas where they walk?

Before answering this question it is worth spending a few lines discussing the true nature of conservation. Conservation can be described as the wise management and controlled use of resources to ensure their availability for both the present and the future. Unfortunately a commonly held concept of conservation is that of preservation which is the non-use of resources. In some circumstances preservation and conservation are synonymous but frequently preservation does not represent the wise management of resources. For example, complete protection of kangaroos in some areas may lead to a marked increase in their numbers followed by over grazing of the vegetation, starvation of the kangaroos, impaired reproduction and eventually a decline in population until the numbers are low enough to allow the vegetation to re-establish itself. This is a natural but wasteful ecological phenomenon. It may be a better conservation practice to allow controlled slaughter of kangaroos for pet food so that the number of kangaroos shot is balanced by the reproduction rate, at the same time consideration being given to maintaining the normal age structure throughout the population. The result is a breeding population of kangaroos without the problems of overgrazing or soil erosion. This picture is perhaps a simplification of the real life situation, but it does illustrate that conservation is a complex topic and involves much more than just preservation.

What is the resource that the bushwalker values the most? Broadly speaking it is the bushland and mountains where he walks. It is the place where he can walk along a pleasant track or through virgin bush, admiring the scenery or the native flora and fauna, revelling in the silence of the bush and cooking a meal at that well known campsite over a blazing log fire.

But how often today is the scene one of a walker staggering up an eroded jeep track through the ash forest that has recently been clear-felled and burned by forestry workers, viewing the scar of a tourist road along the spur across the valley, being passed on the track by a land rover or a group of trail-bikes, and finally arriving at the seclusion of his campsite to be faced with an extra quarter-mile trek up the hill to obtain tentpoles and firewood.

He curses the Forests Commission for its seemingly wanton vandalism in destroying the forest. He curses the Country Roads Board and the tourist interests for building that road. He curses the trail-bike riders and the land rover driver for intruding upon his territory. However, he accepts with reluctance the quarter-mile expedition to get burnable wood for his campfire. This, however, was not always the situation. He remembers how ten years ago he could break sticks of dead wood off the tree beside the tent. And ten years ago he was not faced by those ugly six-inch sapling stumps, probably the product of a group of inexperienced walkers who in their desperation cut down the green saplings for tentpoles, rather than climb the hill to find suitable dead sticks.

This picture is becoming increasingly common: Sealer's Cove, Waterloo Bay, Old Feathertop Hut, Macalister Springs, virtually any campsite in the Cradle Mountain Reserve. Probably most walkers regard it as an inevitable fact of life. A conservationist, however, should recognise it as a symptom of the dangerous situation of overuse of the resource.

Overuse of the resource can manifest itself in other ways. When too many people walk along too narrow a track under certain conditions, various things can happen. If the track runs across waterlogged button grass plains, it can turn into a morass up to thigh deep. If it runs up an alpine ridge, the erosion that follows can lead to deep channeling, making the track unusable and beyond hope for future revegetation.

One hopes that Lake Darnag will not reach the stage of overuse where effluent from washing of persons and dishes and seepage from buried sewage will taint the water around the shore. And finally, consider the significance in terms of overuse of the not infrequent occurrence in the Cradle Mountain Reserve when one uses the hut shovel when attending to one's daily hygiene only to find that someone else with the same intention had chosen exactly the same spot not long previously!

What should all this mean to the bushwalker? Basically it indicates that there are certain popular bushwalking areas where the number of visitors is so high that certain features of the area are gradually being degraded.

More important, can anything be done to ease the situation? There are certain piecemeal approaches that could bring partial relief. For example, if more bushwalkers abandoned their puritan principles and took to carrying aluminium tentpoles and shellite stoves, the firewood situation would be eased. Still one can hardly enjoy a sing-song huddled around a barrage of "choofers". Moderation in the size of campfires is an obvious conservative measure, but eventually the number of visitors will reach a stage when even with prudent utilisation, the removal of burnable wood within a reasonable distance of a campsite outstrips the rate at which it is being produced by trees.

However, such steps still do not really attack the crux of the problem which basically is that some areas are being visited by too many bushwalkers for the good of those areas. What then is the real solution?

This is a question that is extremely difficult to answer, but there are several approaches that could be considered. The first is for bushwalkers themselves to make a conscious effort to reduce their activities in overused areas and explore and promote other areas that can better withstand a high level of usage. This approach, however, could be effective to only a limited extent, purely because the majority of bushwalkers that frequent the popular and overused areas such as Wilson's Promontory, the Cradle Mountain Reserve and the more accessible parts of the Victorian Alps are occasional walkers who lack the knowledge and initiative to investigate new areas. Nevertheless this should not discourage the more regular walkers from making moves in this direction.

Another approach is to manage bushwalking areas in such a way as to limit their use to the level which they can safely withstand without damage. The resources of the sporting shooter or angler are maintained by a system of licensing, closed seasons and limits on numbers and sizes of ducks shot or fish caught. Perhaps it may become necessary to totally close off certain areas to bushwalkers for long periods or to limit the number of walkers visiting an area at any one time. Naturally such regulations could apply only in areas where there are the personnel to enforce them such as National Parks. However, it is certain that such measures would meet with a lot of opposition from bushwalkers.

In the long term, the most satisfactory solution is likely to come from a consideration of the proper planning of areas for bushwalking. In the interests of conservation of walking areas it is essential that such planning is based on the capability of such areas to withstand use and not merely on the immediate demand for those walking areas. Planning that is demand - oriented inevitably leads to exploitation and degradation of the area, even when a relatively innocuous activity such as bushwalking is involved.

What sort of measures might be involved in such planning? One approach is to attempt to develop for popular walking those areas that can stand a high level of use. For example, a river valley with numerous campsites along the river banks can stand a greater camping density than a high mountain range where camping is restricted to isolated springs. Regrettably such considerations have been largely ignored in planning the route of the Alpine Track. In coastal areas a campsite located close to the beach is more susceptible to damage from overuse than one on a creek a mile inland. On button grass plains where overuse causes serious track erosion, it may be necessary to plan a series of parallel tracks, say half a mile apart, to spread the load more evenly. New areas could be opened up and promoted in an attempt to reduce the burden on existing areas. Such planning is a complex task and a great deal of prior research is necessary if it is to be done properly.

The responsibility for this planning lies directly with the authorities concerned with the development of areas for walking such as the National Parks Service, the Forests Commission and the Ministry of Tourism, as well as the Land Conservation Council. However, the decisions made by these bodies are often influenced by the opinions of bushwalkers. Hence it is desirable for bushwalkers to be fully aware of the conservation problems involving their pastimes and to realise that they themselves are largely to blame for some of these problems.

-oXo-

THE CATHERINE PASS ROAD

The Conservation Council of Victoria has adopted the following FVWC motion: "That the CCV, in view of the current loss of wilderness potential through the construction of a road into the Catherine Saddle from Mt. Speculation to access high quality timber stands, and the impending complete destruction of the Razor-Viking wilderness through the logical extension of this road in search of further high quality timber, urges the Forests Commission Of Victoria to

- (1) Prevent further extension of the Catherine Saddle Rd. east of Mt. Despair or beyond the immediate headwaters of the Catherine and Wonnangatta Rivers
- (2) Continue its commendable efforts to reclothe the areas logged in appropriate and high quality forest
- (3) Accelerate the rate of cutting in the region to the max. extent compatible with the practice of regeneration management and the logistic capability of the road, so as to terminate logging activities as soon as possible, and then after the logger has withdrawn
- (4) Close off the road to ALL vehicular traffic and take active steps to successfully revegetate the road so that the area may quickly take on the appearance again of the wilderness it once was.

-oXo-

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We have sold a few pairs of Toppen mountain skis and hope to get a few more - but supplies will be limited. These are the widest and heaviest touring skis we have yet seen, and will appeal to those who wish to carry heavy weights with the least trouble.

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We have cane poles at \$4.50. We have various peg (ratrap) bindings - Edsbyn at \$3.50 (very few) Rottefella at \$5.20 (1 pair at moment, more expected) and a number of Troll at \$5.15. In cable bindings we have the new Gresvig Kandahar, which has a front lever and heel spring together with a fixed toe iron, which accepts Scandinavian langlauf boots of most types, but not unfortunately Trampers or other boots with heavy treaded soles. We are working on the problem.

As well we have waxes, goggles, socks gaiters, mitts, balaclavas and almost have Simond axes and crampons. Cheers, Loch.

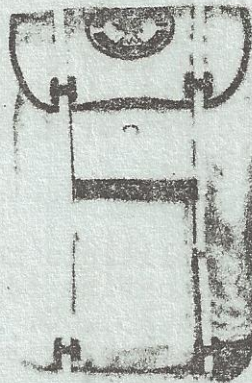
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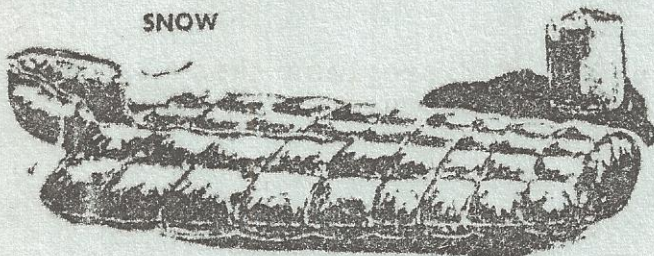
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SNOW



Snow: Tailored hood - 36" nickel chest zipp. 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 eiderdown quilt, or sleeping bag. Simply fold in half and zipp the bottom and side and presto! your quilt becomes a

ARCTIC



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 6'6" 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 41-6073. Sydney 339-1239. Adelaide 67-8524. Brisbane 2-2354.