

HOWITT - SPECULATION - VIKING AREA

THE

MOUNTAINEER

FEBRUARY

No. 2 1973

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WHO'S WHO

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

Rod Tucker (347 2186 a.h., 340 6688 b.) President. General inquiries, and canoeing.
 Martin Wardrop (347 2877 x7 a.h.) Vice President. Conservation.
 Ros Escott (50 8609 a.h.) Vice President. Orienteering.
 Harry Schaap (80 3581 a.h.) Secretary. Club contact.
 Alison McCready JCH. Assistant Secretary. Caving & membership list.
 Geoff Lay (69 3824 a.h.) Treasurer.
 Tony Kerr (329 8040 a.h.) Editor. Orienteering, general inquiries.
 Dave Crewther (347 5465 a.h., 340 5465 b.) Trips Secretary.
 Robyn Fraser (85 1261 a.h.) General Committee Member.
 Robyn Flint (83 1602 a.h., 347 2573 b.) General Committee Member.
 Tim Hancock Aikmans Rd., lunchtimes. Climbing Convenor.
 Garry Whipp (340 5654 b.) Canoeing Convenor.
 Bob Cannon (340 6408) General inquiries, Editor of Guidebook.
 Max Corry (338 2306 a.h.) Search and Rescue.
 Rudi Frank (729 0421 a.h.) Caving Convenor.
 Sue White (30 4152) Convenor, equipment testing sub-committee, Editor of 'Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering'.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING . . . March 23 7:30 pm
 (See page 10)

Speaker: Mr Stuart Calder

from the Recreation branch of
 the Forests Commission will speak on the useages
 of State Forest for Recreation.

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The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club

No.1, February 1973 Price: 10c

Correspondence: The Editor, C/- MUMC,
Sports Union, University of Melbourne,
Parkville, Vic., 3052

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No 24 Hour Walk in 1973 ?

Too many MUMC members are treating the club purely as a service organisation. There is much to be done to keep MUMC active and recently this has been done by too few. The 'service' members are not doing anything in return. Reactions to this situation are beginning to mount. This could include cancellation of this years 24 hour walk because of the lack of organisers; closing the store and equipment hire services due to lack of maintenance; introduction of more membership requirements in an attempt to attract only members who are willing to be part of MUMC in a true 'social' sense.

Thank you

As this is my last Mountaineer, I would like to thank all who have contributed in the way of articles, cartoons and sources of rumours. In particular, Andrew Thomson deserves much credit for the variety of covers he has produced this year.

Tony Kerr

* * * * *

* In Memorium: *

* * * Dave Troedel - 'Turtle' * * *

* A keen mountaineer - known by many who have walked, *

* canoed, twenty four hour walked and generally *

* 'mountaineered' with him over the past decade in *

* MUMC - lost in South West Tasmania late December *

* 1972/early January 1973. *

* R.I.P. *

* * * * *

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INSTRUCTIONAL COURSES

Throughout each year MUMC runs instructional courses in each of the various activities it caters for. These courses are quite social events in the club's calendar where the newer members, for whom the courses are designed, come into contact with the club 'heavies'. Each consists of an evening discussion in a lecture theatre or other meeting room followed by one or more weekends on trips.

The bushwalking course is basic to all others being the only one to cover general camping equipment, techniques, clothes, food etc. If any of the activities below excite your interest, try to go on the instructional course even if you are relatively experienced as this is the best way to meet the 'mountaineers' active in that field. Many trips later in the year will be open only to those with some measure of experience that can be gained on the instructional courses.

The meeting on March 13 will provide a general introduction to MUMC with slides and a talk on all MUMC activities.

Courses (more details in the Trips Program)

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Evening</u>	<u>Weekends</u>
Bushwalking	Tues 13 March	17/18 March
Rockclimbing	Wed 4 April	(i) 8 April (ii) ** (iii) **
Caving	**	(i) ** (ii) **
Canoeing	Tues 27 March	31 March/1 April
Orienteering	Wed 28 March	1 April

** Dates not set yet.

Snow camping, alpine mountaineering and skitouring courses' details will appear in later Mountaineers.

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TRIPS PROGRAM

Meetings, bushwalking and orienteering trips are planned well ahead whereas the more specialised activities, rock-slimbing, 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).

Note: Details of all functions can change at short notice and will be posted in the Trips book at Aikmans Road.

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).
- (ii) Ringing the trip leader.
- (iii) Ringing the Trips Secretary, Dave Crewther (340-5465 b., 347-1541 a.h.).

TRIPS PROGRAM MARCH '73 - MAY '73Mar 4 Daywalk Federation Day Walk

Sun

Leader: Melb. Amateur Walking & Touring Club

Standard: All standards

Transport: Train - Fare \$2.80

This popular daywalk is an annual function organised by the constituent clubs of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs.

This year's walk will be in State Forest, west of Melbourne near Ballan, and the various walks, from a 4½ mile jaunt to a 14 mile slog include the pleasant surroundings of the Bostock Reservoir and views from Mt Egerton. More details in the trips book.

Mar 8 Social
ThursFilm Evening - 8.00 P.M.

A group booking has been made for 'Cabaret' at the Hoyts Cinema Centre. Tickets at \$2.00 each (normally \$2.50) can be obtained from Tony Kerr (329-8040 a.h.).

Mar 13 Meeting
TuesIntroductory Slide Night & Beginners Walk MeetingVenue: Sisalkraft Theatre (Archi Bldg)
7.30 p.m.

Introduction to all aspects of the Oxo-world: Bushwalking, Rockclimbing, Snow and ice climbing, Canoeing, Caving, Orienteering, Langlaufing.

Supper provided.

Also 'Beginners Bushwalk Talk'. All beginners to bushwalking should attend this evening. This talk will take place after supper.

Mar 17-18 Bushwalk
Sat-SunBeginner's Bushwalk - Wilsons PromontoryLeader: Dave Crewther (Ph. 340-5465 b.h.
347-6501 a.h.)

Standard: Easy-Medium-Hard

Transport: Van - Fare \$4.50 (includes hiking fee)

Map: MUMC Wilson's Prom.

Routes: Sealers - Refuge - Waterloo

Waterloo - Refuge - Sealers

Roaring Meg - Lighthouse

Roaring Meg - Roaring Meg Falls - South Point

Little Waterloo Bay

Oberon Bay - Mt Norgate

Mar 17-18 Bushwalk
Sat-Sun

Cont'd

Preference in booking given to beginners and LEADERS. Booking "strictly" limited to 140.

Note: Club equipment, which is limited, will be made available in order of booking.

Mar 23 Meeting
Fri

Annual General Meeting

Venue: Sisalkraft Theatre (Archi Bldg)
7.30 p.m.

Election of committee, 1973/74; presentation of 1972/73 reports.

Guest Speaker: Stuart Calder, FCV (see p.10)

Mar 25 Daywalk
Sun

President's Opening Day Walk

Leader: The New President
Standard: Easy

Transport: Van - Fare \$1.50 to \$2.00

Venue: Van departs 9.00 a.m. from cnr. Batman Ave and St. Kilda Rd.

This annually occurring daywalk usually proves to be the most popular of the year. Bring lunch, waterbottles, swimming gear, etc. Venue to be chosen - possibly Bushranger's Bay near Cape Shank, or in the western hills near Bullarto Reservoir.

Mar 27 Meeting
Tues

Beginner's Canoeing Instructional Evening

Venue: Sports Union, Activities Room,
7.30 p.m.

Compulsory for those going on beginner's canoeing trip. MUMC owns five two-man Canadian canoes and two single Kayaks together with other relevant gear. There will be frequent trips this year however, for many, some experience will be required. This can be obtained at the Canoeing Course.

Mar/Apr 31-1 Sat-Sun
Canoeing

Beginners Canoeing - Lake Nagambie

Leaders: Rod Tucker (Ph 347-2186 a.h.)
Gary Whipp (Ph 340-5654 b.h.)

Standard: Easy

Transport: Private

Note: Meeting on 27th compulsory.

Lake Nagambie is situated on the Goulburn River beyond Seymour.

Mar 28 Meeting
Wed

Orienteering Instructional Evening

Organisers: Ron and Judy Frederick
Venue: Sports Union, Activities Room,
7.30 p.m.

Orienteering - a relatively new MUMC (and Australian) activity involves finding your way around a course set in virgin bush country. This is a pleasant way to spend Sundays (events are held each fortnight). This evening's meeting will describe and instruct in some aspects necessary to become a proficient Orienteer.

April

Climbing Course

Leader: Climbing Convenor

The climbing course will consist of an evening talk followed by a day trip to Hanging Rock near Woodend. There will then be one or two trips to the mighty cliffs of Mt Arapilies. Dates are not yet finalised but will appear in the next Mountaineer and will be posted in the trip book at Aikmans Road.

Apl 1 Orien-
Sun teering

Orienteering

Organiser: Don Fell (et al.)

Standard: All standards catered for

Transport: Private

Detailed instruction on how to get to the Venue will be posted at Aikmans Road and will be given at the meeting on Wed 28 March.

Apl 4 Meeting
Wed

Beginners Rockclimbing Meeting

Venue: Sports Union, Activities Room,
7.30 p.m.

Apl 4 Meeting
Wed

Annual General Meeting - Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs

Venue: 14 Hosier Lane, Melbourne, 6.00 p.m.

Apl 11 Slide
Wed Meeting

Super Tucker N.Z. Slide Show - Co-star Callander

Venue: Sports Union, Activities Room,
7.30 p.m.

Anyone who has N.Z. slides is welcome to bringing them along.

Apl 14 Canoeing
Sat

Yarra River - Day Canoe Trip

Transport: Private

BEGINNERS ROCKCLIMBING COURSE 1973

The beginners rockclimbing course this year will consist of the following:

- Apl. 4 Meeting Beginners Rockclimbing Instructional Talk
Wed. Venue: Sports Union Activities Room 7.30 pm.
At this meeting techniques & safety procedures used in rockclimbing will be explained. Attendance compulsory for beginners.
- Apl. 8 Rockclb. Beginners Rockclimbing Course Part 1.
Sun. Venue: Hanging Rock 10.00 am.
Transport: Private
Previous attendance at Instructional Talk compulsory for beginners.
- Apl. 14-15 Beginners Rockclimbing Course Part 2.
Sat.-Sun. Venue: Mt. Arapiles (near Horsham)
Transport: Private
Leader: Peter Kissane (tel. 49 1862 a.h.)
Attendance at Part 1. compulsory for beginners.
Anyone who has ever been rockclimbing before is most welcome.
- May 5-6. Rockclimbing
Sat-Sun. Venue: Grampians
Standard: Medium.
Transport: Private.
Introduction to Mt. Rosea & Eastern Wall
Beginners should have been on at least one previous rockclimbing trip.

Rockclimbing trips are often arranged at short notice. Watch the trips book at Aikmans Road for details.

If anyone has any queries about rockclimbing ring Peter Kissane (tel. 49 1862) or Nick Reeves (tel. 82 6211)

Apl 14-15 Bushwalk
Sat-Sun

Bushwalk

Standard: Medium or Medium-Easy
Qualifying walk for new members. See
trips book for further details.

Apl 20-22 Easter
Fri-Sun bushwalks

3-Day Easter Trips

Transport: Van - Fare Approx. \$6.00
Venue: North Court, 6.30 p.m., 19 March
(a) Standard Medium -
Harrietville-Bon Accord Spur-Hotham-
Feathertop-N.W. Spur.

(b) Standard Hard -
Bogong Village-Fainter-Weston's Hut -
West Kiewa River-Feathertop-N.W. Spur.

Note: MUMC equipment will be made avail-
able in order of booking.

Apl 20-24 Bushwalk
Fri-Tues

5-Day Bushwalks

Transport: Van - Fare \$6.00

(a) Standard Medium -
Bogong Village-Fainter-Cope?-Dibbins-
Hotham-Feathertop

(b) Standard Hard -
Staircase Spur-Cleve Cole Hut-Johnson's
Hut-Dibbins Hut-Feathertop (Knock off
Victoria's top three.)

Apl 28-29 Bushwalk
Sat-Sun

Bushwalk

Standard: Medium
Another medium standard qualifying walk
for beginners.

May 5-6 Bushwalk
Sat-Sun

Medium Bushwalk

Leader: Don Fell
Transport: Private
Area to be advised, probably near
WOOP-WOOP.

May

Caving Instructional Course

An instructional evening followed by two
weekends at the Buchan Caves. The dates
are not yet finalised.

May 5-6 S & R
Sat-Sun

FVWC Search and Rescue Practice

Transport: Private
All who are on the club's Search and
Rescue list, and anyone who would like
to join this group, are advised to attend
this practice. More details will appear
in the following Mountaineer.

May 12- Bushwalk Vacation Trips Bushwalk

At present May vac. trips are undecided. There have been four extended trips suggested: (1) Blue Mountains, N.S.W.
(2) Flinders Ranges, S.A.
(3) Cobberas, Vic.
(4) Budawang Range, N.S.W.

If anyone feels like leading one of these or is interested in going, he/she should see the Trips Secretary at Aikmans Rd.

Orienteering

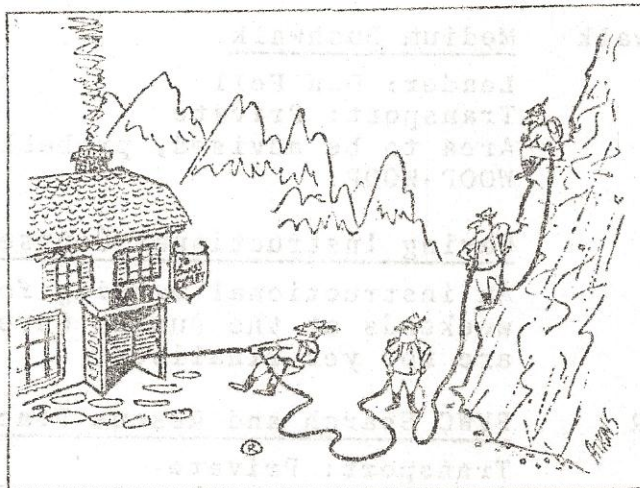
Popularity of orienteering is on the up and up and with it many problems are becoming visible. Starting venues now have to be chosen on their ability to accommodate cars and organisers are faced with time-consuming rubbish clear ups at the end of contests.

With the visit of Roland Offrel from Sweden, the various clubs constituting the VOA now have the knowledge to produce their own four colour, 5 metre contour maps. The first such map is to be used in March.

Contests are now at two-weekly intervals. Coming events are March 4,18; April 1,15,29; May 13,27. Details will be posted at Aikmans Road.

Come to the MUMC contest on April 1st.

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Bruno is back

29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 23rd March, 7.30 PM
Sisalkraft Theatre,
Archi Building.

The AGM will, as is usual, begin at 7.30 pm (promptly) with the presentation of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports followed by the election of the 1973/74 committee.

Guest Speaker: Mr Stuart Calder

from the
Recreation branch of the Forests Commission
will speak on the useages of State Forest for
Recreation.

* * * Supper will be provided * * *

Nominations

Nominations for the following Club Officers are now called for and the nominations, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder should be in the hands of the Returning Officer (c/- MUMC, Sports Union, Univ of Melb) by 7.30 pm Friday 16th March. Don't wait to be nominated, but ask someone to nominate YOU! Take an interest in helping to run your club.

The positions to be filled at the election are:

President	Trips Secretary
1 or 2 Vice Presidents	Stores Officer
Treasurer	Editor of the Mountaineer
Secretary	2 General Committee members
Assistant Secretary	

Don't hesitate to pester the current committee to find the duties associated with each position.

Ancillary Positions

In addition to the above elected positions, many other people are needed to look after the Club's interests. In order to ensure continuity it is necessary that the following positions be filled at the first meeting of the new committee. If you would like to help by filling one or more of the following positions listed below, please apply in writing to the current Secretary and your application will be passed on to the next committee. There will be facilities for applying for these positions at the AGM.

Constitutional Changes

An amendment to the Constitution is to be proposed that will require all new members of MUMC to have been on at least two MUMC trips, also an amendment to allow for two Editors.

Delegates and Observers are required to pass any relevant information between MUMC and the following organisations. In the main, this involves attending up to 10 meetings throughout the year. In some instances there are no meetings to attend.

Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs,	delegate and observer
F.V.W.C. Tracks and Huts sub committee,	delegate
" Mapping sub committee	delegate
" Search and Rescue Section	delegate and observer
Victorian National Parks Association	delegate
Australian Conservation Foundation	delegate
Conservation Council of Victoria	delegate
Victorian Speliological Association	delegate
Melb. Uni Sports Union	3 delegates

The following positions are internal to MUMC

Map Librarian	purchase new maps as they become available.
Librarian	keep library in order and spend the annual library grant.
Hut Warden	arrange maintenance work parties on the club's Mt Feathertop Memorial Hut.
Publication Sales Officer	look after mail orders for club publications.
Duplication Officer	help in duplicating the Mountaineer and other small jobs.
Catering Officer	arrange coffee and biscuits for meetings.
First Aid Officer	keep the club's medical kits fully stocked.
Stores Officers (4)	look after the club's equipment hire and food sales section at lunchtimes, on a rotation basis.
Poster Writers (4)	advertise club functions throughout the Uni.

DO YOUR BIT TO KEEP YOUR CLUB ACTIVE

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Unfortunately its here again. Subscriptions fall due on the day after the Annual General Meeting. This is the last Mountaineer you will receive unless your sub is forthcoming. If you are a Sports Union Member, non S.U. member or constitute a married couple, your annual sub is \$1.00, \$1.50 or \$2.00 respectively. Please forward it to the Assistant Secretary, C/- MUMC, Sports Union, Uni of Melb., Parkville, 3052.

POINTS OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGSMembership Cards

Renewal of subscriptions due on the first day of Orientation week, and from now on all members will be issued with membership cards which must be produced when borrowing equipment from the store. (This will cut down on the loss of equipment hopefully.) The Committee, subject to Sports Union approval, is trying to restrict membership by making it compulsory that new members attend two club trips before being eligible to join. This will require a Constitutional amendment (listed elsewhere in The Mountaineer). In this manner, we hope to build up an enthusiastic membership and not just serve as an equipment hire emporium.

The Hut

The Club has undertaken to paint its Feathertop hut, and the hut wardens have purchased the necessary materials - the hut will be painted with special epoxy resin paint, straw-green in colour, and this will reduce the so-called source of visual pollution on Mt Feathertop. There will be quite a number of pre-winter work parties and we should all try to attend at least one or two of them.

Finance

The publication fund has about \$3,000, which represents the profit on the last set of publications. The general fund has about \$2,000, but all this money will be needed to finance future publications. The new song book will be available in March; preliminary work has started on 'Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering' (with Sue White as editor), and the third edition of the completely revised and re-formatted 'Guide to the Victorian Alps', edited by Bob Cannon, Dave Hogg and Pat Miller will be available in August.

Growing Pains

After nearly thirty years, M.U.M.C. is still suffering from growing pains. Typical symptoms are a huge membership with few people willing to organise and conduct club trips, an over-worked administration and a sprouting number of cliques not willing to deliberately accept new members. The vicious circle syndrome is demonstrated by no people willing to lead vacation trips, hence fewer trips, hence less interest in M.U.M.C. etc. As has been mentioned in the editorial, even our beloved 24 hour walk will be cancelled if we don't find some willing organisers soon. Please help!

Harry Schaap,
Secretary.

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"A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINEER"Lake Pedder

During January, as an aid to the Save Lake Pedder campaign, the following telegram was sent on behalf of MUMC to Dr Moss Cass and Gough Whitlam -

"We, members of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, strongly urge you and cabinet to proceed with a committee of inquiry to report on alternative schemes to the flooding of Lake Pedder."

Harry Schaap, Secretary

Song Book

The new edition of the Song Book will be available early in first term at a give away price of 75c. Song books should be included in your 'must take' list for all van trips.

24 Hour Walk Organisers Urgently Required

If you would like to help in organising this years 24 hour walk, please contact Harry Schaap or Dave Crewther. You can offer your services in a variety of fields - overall course or catering organiser, course layers or catering helpers. Previous experience in 24 organising is not necessary - there are a variety of reports available and last year's organisers are only too willing to pass on any useful hints.

Canoe Storage

Mr Tickner, Secretary of the Sports Union, has made the old weight lifting room, in the pavillion north of the University Oval, available to MUMC for canoe storage. It is a large room and will be the venue for all future canoeing work parties.

Pre-christmas Party - or Veterans Reunion

From all corners of the globe Mountaineers came to attend the Pre-christmas Party at the Sports Union. Was it the return of Fearless Geoff or the free supper that was the attraction. There was Bruno, returned from the wilds of air conditioned high mountain huts in Switzerland, Penguin Pete Griffiths from Germany, Geoff Fagan sporting the shorts and grin that provided free meals throughout Europe and Paul Callander from the wilds of New Guinea. The evening was enjoyable, the supper was free; and Paul showed a good selection of his New Guinea slides.

At Long Last!

Having received the 'Cuddly Couple' Award at the dinner dance in 1971, Robyn Flint and LHSO Tim Patrick announted their engagement on the evening of Robyn's 21st party. Tim is now working with the computer firm ICL in Adelaide.

Aikmans Road - New Entrance

The rear lane entrances to Aikmans Road have been blocked to prevent itinerant drunks from using the "Sentry Boxes" as free accommodation. One particular drunk must have had a couple of months free accommodation. Not quite up to a five star rating, his sleeping position necessitated feet and legs protruding out onto the footpath, with his head by the bowl.

The new entrance is by the side gate at the front of 27 Royal Parade.

First Aid Kits Receive First Aid

We now have a full complement of well stocked first aid kits thanks to Fiona Shaw's effort.

Climbing Convenor of the Deep End

Congratulations to Tim Hancock on his engagement to Royby Oswald-Jacobs. They plan to get married prior to Easter this year. Tim will be a 'part-timer' this year.

Now There are Three!

Congratulations to Sue and 'Grandfather' Nick White on the birth of Stephen Daniel on December 27th.

'By the time your children are old enough to do easy climbs, you will be too old to do anything else.'

For Sale - Boots

One pair of Swiss made insulated Vibram Commando Sole mountaineering boots. Size 87/44 (approximately 9). Hardly worn. \$20 or near offer. Contact Michael Ridd, 26-6911 (Bus) or 69-1222 (A.H.).

Walt Disney Enterprises - another H.E.C.?

In the heart of California's magnificent sequoia forests, in a lonely valley called Mineral King, Walt Disney Enterprises wants to build a \$35 million resort, complete with ski lifts, swimming pools and housing to handle crowds of 14,000 tourists per day. In 1969 the corporation got a permit from the U.S. Forest Service to start work on the resort.

To the wilderness enthusiasts of the Sierra Club, the Disney plan was an outrage. They filed suit to stop it and carried their fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court - only to be faced with a blunt legal question: What right did the club have to sue?

Traditionally, a lawsuit claims damage or injury to the plaintiff. In rejecting the Sierra Club's action last week,

Justice Potter Stewart, writing for the 4-to-3 majority, observed that the group had failed to argue that it or any of its members would be "significantly affected." Instead, they had tried to do "no more than vindicate their own value preferences."

Stewart did find, however, that "aesthetic and environmental well-being, like economic well-being, are important ingredients of the quality of life" and are "deserving of legal protection." For environmentalists, that was an important victory. Stewart went on to drop a footnote broadly hinting that if the Sierra Club amended its complaint, it might well succeed. Stewart even seemed to suggest that it need claim no more than that its campers regularly use and enjoy the area.

The dissenting Justices, Blackmun, Brennan and Douglas, were even more sympathetic to the conservationists; so Sierra Club lawyers were only briefly dismayed by their technical defeat. The problem now is time, and the attorneys have already begun planning strategy to reactivate the case before any Disney workmen start digging in.

'Time', 1/5/72

Parasites - Long Distance Walkers

Long-distance walkers are actually tramps and idlers of kind. People and organisations should check and admonish them instead of providing them with all sorts of facilities, publicity rewards and gifts in kind. One man who called himself 'the king of walkers' had neither passport (internal identity card) nor any steady employment, but possessed a criminal record, and in spite of his title used all possible means of transport on the cheap. In Novosibirsk he was made to sign a pledge that he would procure a passport within 72 hours and stop earning his livelihood by easy work. The second long-distance walker was a pensioner earning some addition to his pension in gifts, paid lectures and articles.

'Pravda', 19/10/67

Climbers May Carry Compost

'Tourists climbing and travelling on Snowdon may soon be asked to take a bag of compost with them when they visit the summit to combat erosion on the peak and allow sub-Artic plants there to establish themselves.'

Daily Telegraph, London, 4/9/72

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Change of Address

Bob and Yvonne Chappell (Ph. 23-0521, x232 b.
10 Liverpool Crescent, West Hobart. 34-2078, a.h.)

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCIES

by Robyn Fraser

I was recently a member of a walking party threatened by a bushfire. In retrospect, it became obvious that there was a paucity of knowledge with regard to self-preservation methods within the group. I thus decided to ask the Country Fire Authority for advice. This article is the result of such discussions.

I shall assume that despite the ordinary precautions (viz. checking fire locations with the authorities before entering an area, watching for fires from any summits reached, etc.) a party is, nevertheless, confronted by a bushfire.

This being so, the party must endeavour not to do the easiest and most natural thing - PANIC! Some discipline is required in normal walking. Should a bushfire be imminent, the leader should ensure that the party remains disciplined and should REMAIN TOGETHER. The more experienced walkers can be a great help to the leader in this regard (conversely, if the experienced walkers panic, the party is greatly endangered).

When confronted by a bushfire the party must assess all relevant factors likely to effect or influence their actions. These include: prevailing weather conditions, size of fire, terrain in which the party is situated and amount of fuel. ONE SHOULD NEVER TRY TO OUTFIRE!! In a severe fire, the radiated heat thrown out in front of the fire will quickly cause heat exhaustion, dehydration, consequent collapse and often death. However, being caught in a bushfire situation need not be the desperate and hopeless situation many people make it out to be.

It is possible to walk away from a fire, by walking cross-wind; this is only possible while the fire is still far enough away for the radiated heat not to be a problem. However, the decision to do so must be made early in the emergency and carried out without delay. Frequent rests must be made according to the physical condition of the party - FATIGUE IS A CATALYST TO PANIC!

Keep to jeep tracks where possible - the going is likely to be easier, and such tracks are often used for access by firefighters. Don't take "short cuts" - often they're not! A fire travels fastest uphill (it is constantly moving to a new oxygen supply), so select escape routes accordingly.

Should it become apparent that you cannot escape the fire, select the best place to make a stand. A deep overhanging vegetationless gorge with a wide deep stream offers the best protection. A fire will not normally enter a narrow clear gorge, and there is little danger from radiated heat. Also,

the fire will not rob the gorge of oxygen to the extent where people are endangered.

A wide stream, pond or river can also offer sanctuary. Clear as much vegetation and debris as possible from the bank nearest the fire (moving it to the other side) and get as low in the water as possible to the bank NEAREST the fire (thereby protecting yourself from radiated heat). Cover your head with a wet, (woollen if possible) garment, to keep out the smoke and fumes and endeavour to breath slowly. AVOID WATER WHICH IS NOT RUNNING (e.g. tanks above the ground, etc.).

If all else fails, one must fight the fire on land. Choose a suitable clear spot, with rocks, trees or ditches, behind which to hide. RADIATED HEAT IS THE DANGER. This will kill you long before the fire reaches you. In the notorious Lara fires of 1969, most fatalities were attributed to radiated heat - few to actual burning. RADIATED HEAT TRAVELS IN A STRAIGHT LINE, it will not under normal circumstances, follow the contours of objects, ditches and similar means of protection.

Clear the ground of as much low vegetation and inflammable debris as possible, and place this on the opposite side of your patch of ground to the fire. Trample the grass and hide behind any large solid object, e.g. large rocks, logs or trees. Although its foliage may burn, a tree itself will not ignite quickly. Keep as close to the ground as possible (dig ditches if you can) to avoid radiated heat and remember that a fire pushes pockets of fresh air out in front of itself at ground level. Huddle together if cover permits.

Cover yourself fully (head, body, extremities), and where possible with wool. Cover your face with a wet garment to keep smoke and fumes from the breathing passages. Discipline yourself to breath slowly.

After the fire is past, it is possible to walk onto the burnt area - the ground is generally not prohibitively hot.

In the event of no bare ground being available, it may be necessary, as a very last resort, to burn a fire break. (In extreme cases this could be done to calm a panicking party, as it enables them to do something positive.) Light any dry material available, and let the wind take your fire AWAY from you. You will probably be unable to control your fire, so ensure that the terrain and wind conditions do not trap you in your own fire (e.g. if there is no wind). Having burnt your break, follow the procedure above - walk onto it, clear it of debris, and arrange shelter.

Generally (depending, however, on relative wind strengths), the fire in the trees will arrive before the fire on the ground. Therefore, if you are hiding behind a tree, wait until

the ground fire has passed (which it will do relatively quickly) and then walk onto the burnt areas for safety.

Victoria's driest wood is the ti-tree, which will burst readily into flame. Grass planes also burn rapidly - even green grass burns well in dry conditions. Foilage on trees will burn well, but it takes some time before the limbs and trunks will catch alight. (Thus trees provide useful shields from radiated heat).

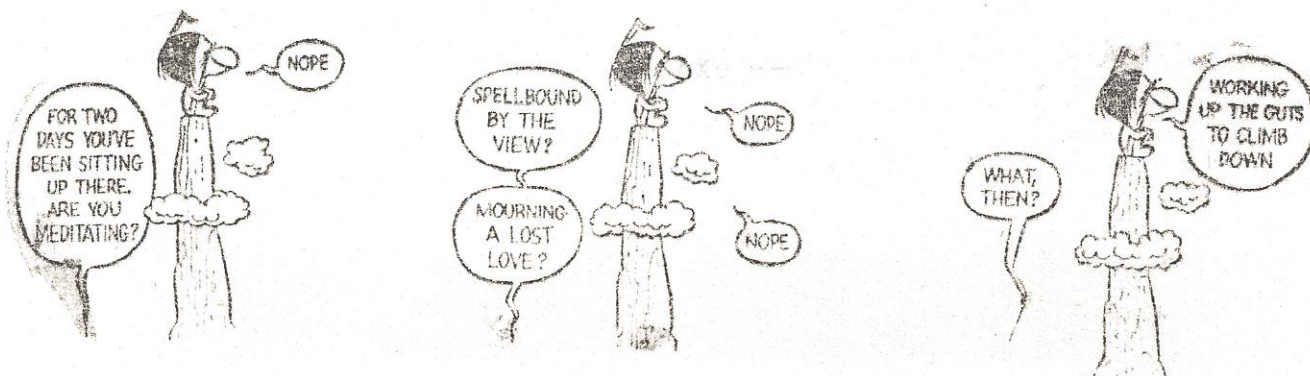
Don't forget!! - THE GREATEST DANGER COMES FROM RADIATED HEAT. Furthermore, the bushwalker can be his own greatest ally (if he uses common sense), or his greatest enemy (if he panics). Leaders should do everything possible to quell panic in a party and to keep the party together. All members of the party should be thoroughly familiar with the procedure to be adopted in case of a fire - you'll get only one chance to try it out!

One may summarize then:

1. Don't panic.
2. Don't try to outrun a fire. Keep together.
3. Choose the best spot to sit out a fire if alternate escapes are not available.
4. Shield yourself from radiated heat and smoke.
5. Always carry matches.
6. Don't panic.

A further short reference on fire drill may be found in the Hobart Walking Club's "Safety in the Bush".

— oXo —



THE LAST NEW YEARS EVE OR HOW TO GET ON WITH
FORTY-EIGHT OTHER DRUNKS

1967/68 New Years eve was a very pleasant one - just me and a few friends from way back, having a peaceful evening in the Feathertop hut - drinking, singing, laughing and above all, looking at the stars. The five of us talked quietly about politics, the birds, the wild flowers and the serenity of our magnificent mountain. We were alone then, just us and Feathertop.

.....

1971/72 New Years eve was still a very pleasant one - just me and perhaps a few more friends, about fifteen in number this time, having a delightful evening in Feathertop hut - drinking, singing, laughing, but now, not looking at the stars, because a foul blizzard was blowing outside. Still, we talked about politics and sex, and the birds and the wild flowers and the sheer loneliness of our magnificent mountain. Somehow, with the wind and the cold, we were still alone, just us and Feathertop.

.....

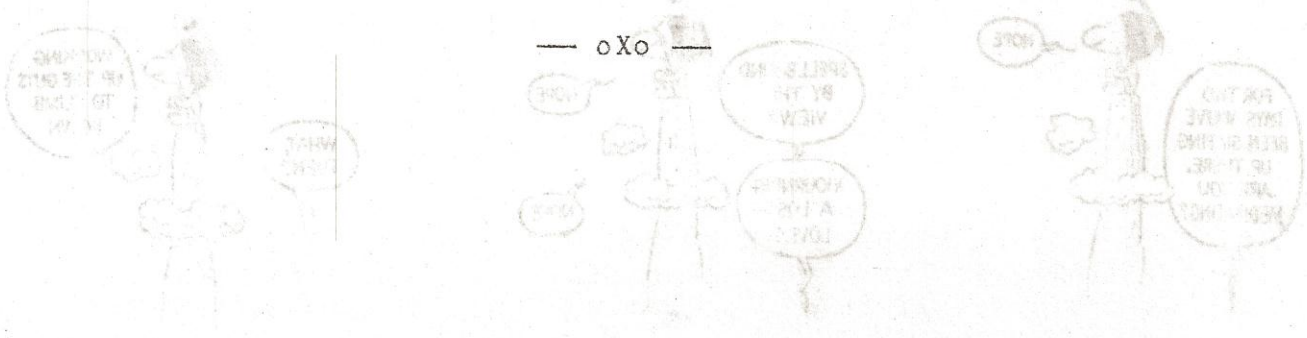
1972/73 New Years eve was not a pleasant one - not just me and a few friends, but a bloody lot of them, about forty-eight in number. We had to fight for a place to cook, a place to sleep and above all queue at the little house which was now quite full. There were stars, but we did not look at them, we did not talk, but somehow shouted about sex and sex, and no politics and no birds and no wild flowers; and the mountain, that shere serene mountain was totally ignored.

.....

1973/74 New Years eve will be a pleasant one, just me on the summit of No.2 Cobbera, and no-one will be invited.

by your New Years host,
Harry Schaap

— oXo —



GIBBO - PINNIBAR

May 1972.

Lead by - Bob Cannon

Reporter - Harry Burr

For Tony, Darren and myself the challenges of the trip began early : Tony's car had obviously decided that it had no intention whatsoever of being driven to some out of the way place with a name like Benambra.

This decision first manifested itself in Dandenong - having taken an hour to do barely a dozen miles the car annoyed us even more by going left instead of keeping to the highway. Tony however was quite equal to the situation and, with supreme confidence, pulled the wheel round and accelerated back to the highway, (against a keep left sign)..

Such quick thinking must have surprised the car for it settled down to a smooth run for a couple of hours, until we reached Traralgon. Here it decided to have a flat battery, and I have to admit we were worried for a bit, then "Albie" (a local garage owner) frustrated the car completely by putting a new battery in. From there it was easy going to our overnight camp on the Tambo crossing at Ensay South.

Next morning however, the fiendish Volkswagen struck back - it took us for 8 or 9 miles up the wrong road. This made Tony see red and he made the car do between 70 and 80 mph along the winding road back to the turn off; which the car didn't like at all so it made Darren car sick and we had to stop for 10 minutes while Darren contemplated the cows in a paddock.

Eventually we arrived at the appointed meeting place, only 10 minutes late and not last; a lesson to all cars that man is master of his machine (most of the time anyway).

'Bob --- did a few roo hops'

For a pre-hike warm up Bob, our fearless leader, did a few 'roo hops up and down a large mound of earth next to the road, then we all loaded up and were off.

The first day was a limb-loosener, and our highly esteemed leader carefully avoided mutiny by not getting us lost, climbing only gentle inclines, and even at the relatively low altitude, treating us to some sugar-terrific previews of the surrounding country, to be seen later from Gibbo and Pinnibar.

Saturday evening found us pitching camp in the middle of the 4 x 4 track along which we had been walking. Having given due consideration to the phantom landrover Ros and Craig decided to camp off the track however (no sense of adventure).

After a quiet tea we all sat around the campfire singing some of the more bawdy songs - couldn't remember the words to any others - while Jerry accompanied on his French horn mouth-piece.

'The steepest b'—y Mt in Vic.'

Sunday morning we were up at 7.00 "to leave at 8.00" according to Bob. Apart from Darren trying to fry us all by pouring shellite ("I thought it was water") on the fire, nothing happened to hold us up and we left at 9.30.

It was hard hiking immediately as we climbed, so my diary informs me, "the steepest b'—y Mt in Vic". But once on the ridge it was fairly easy going to the Mt Gibbo road junction where we downed packs and set off for the summit.

From the top of Gibbo the view was magnificent; a clear blue sky and roll upon roll of mountains. Having listened to Bob airing his knowledge of the area by naming many of the peaks, (none of us knew whether he was right or wrong), we headed back to the packs and then upward ever upward to lunch and later to Mt Pinnibar. From Pinnibar yet another heart-stopping sight, as the sun nestled down between the western hills casting long shadows to the east.

After Pinnibar we walked about 4 miles and lost (my diary says) 10,000 feet. I am however prepared to accept the possibility of exaggeration on my diaries part - it may have only been 9,000 feet.

At the campsite Bob and I collected the water bottles and set off to replenish the aqua fuel supply, and the small creek we found was an answer to any bushwalkers prayer for water. A fast flowing, deep (10" to 1") creek of the clearest natural water I have yet to see.

Back at camp we discussed the attitudes of such eminent people as "Garna Ted" and the Rev. Alex Kenworthy, and Craig announced that he had a hole in the seat of his jeans and the breeze was blowing through, to which Bob asked "Which way?"

'Black b—d pancakes'

On Monday we were up at 7.00 again but this time Bob would not commit himself to a departure time, "That way I can't be wrong."

Breakfast became an hilarious affair when Andrew decided to make pancakes, managing with great success to flip one into the fire. Hunger is a strong drive however, and, muttering something about "Black b—d pancakes" he retrieved and ate it.

The first part of the mornings hike brought us out at

"Tom Grogan" and some saw fit to add mushrooms to their diet. Lunch was on the banks at that point, and Bob tried his hand at fishing while we fed a grasshopper to the spider which Ros had collected that morning as camp mascot.

As it turned out our fearless leader should have stuck to muchrooming, so we set off once more under a hot sun, and followed the Murray and Buckwong rivers to our campsite.

Tea was taken to the accompaniment of Andrew swearing at his pancakes, and then Bob decided to try some night photography. Tony Craig and John waved hot coals around in the general shape of the letters O-X-O while Bob tried to hold the camera still for a few seconds.

Tuesday morning it was raining. We took it in turns to try lighting the fire and finally got it going after an hour - by which time most people had already finished breakfast, and we didn't need it anyway.

It was still drizzling as we left camp and began a character building 4,000 feet before lunch climb. A freezing wind was blowing and every now and then fog would blow in reducing visibility to about 10 yards.

'Wet blobs --- poor excuses for emus'

As we came out onto the plateau of Davey's Plains we were surprised to see some large dark grey very wet blobs by the road which, we decided, were poor excuses for emus - the deciding factor being that, unlike the surrounding shrubs, they moved.

Davey's Plain Creek was the lunch stop, and I hereby declare that the coldest flowing water in Australia is to be found in the said Davey's Plain Creek. It was here that I suffered that most abominable of all fates - I ran out of film.

Tuesday afternoon was far and away the most character building part of the trip : the cold wind persisted, it began snowing, and we all became very quiet. By the time we reached "The Cemetery" we were hiking through four inches of snow - and we hiked on without a rest to go down the other side below the snow line to a slightly wind sheltered campsite.

This time it took an hour and a half to get the fire going, but once it was lit and we began to thaw out, the camp became a bit more cheery. Craig provided most entertainment by being caught outside in only his jockettes when the rain started. So while we all laughed and choked on our tea Craig gingerly tip-toed back to his tent muttering sweet nothings to Huey.

'The insignificance of one man --- facing the elements'

Wednesday morning was a lazy one. People appeared from tents between 7.00 and 8.30 and we all stood around the fire

drying clothes or sleeping bags, and joking about Tuesday afternoons hiking - the cold weather had brought to our notice the insignificance of one man on his own facing the elements, we felt a little less cocky about ourselves and a lot more respect for nature.

Having fed a beetle to the spider we finally left at about 10.20, and the weather was perfect all the way back to the cars.

In honour of Andrew's pancakes we named the earth mound next to the road "Mt Black Bastard" and left for Benambra.

We had lunch in Benambra - eleven scruffy smelly bodies all walking slightly bow legged and all feeling the better for five days in the bush; then we went our separate ways - almost.

While travelling into Warragul Tony and Darren and I suddenly realized that it was Andrews "big grey pleasure machine" in front. So down Warragul's main street we drove side by side at 40 mph and shouted obscenities at each other, finishing with an "OXO" which would wake the spirits of all black pancakes; and then home.

High points of the hike (in order)

Mt Murphy (or near enough)
Mt Hope
Mt Gibbo
Mt Pinnibar
Tom Grogan
Davey's Plains
The Cemetery
Dingo Plains
Mt Murphy

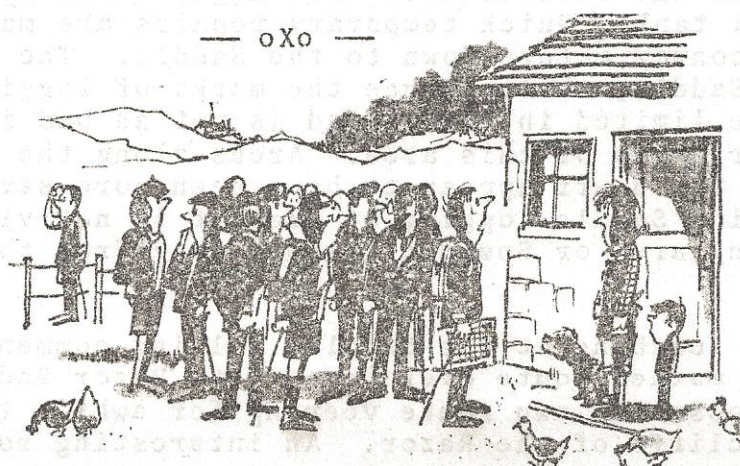
— OXO —

ARRR! ITS NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS"Sherpa"

There are times when I become a little sceptical of our supposed familiarity with the bush. Unfortunately there are very few areas that are free from the blemishes of jeep tracks, huts, bridle paths, etc. and undesirable though they may be, they make navigation infinitely easier. It seems our real abilities as bushies are pretty limited for we have become almost entirely dependent on maps, compasses and guidebooks, even restricting our walking to those areas blighted with jeep tracks and huts (particularly in winter). How confident would you be in leading a trip through un-mapped territory? or participating in an extended snow walk (10+ days)? If we are not careful, we stand to lose the ability to move freely and confidently in our bush, the mark of a true bushy.

It seems also we are becoming too attached to the comforts of modern living for "essential" equipment now covers such luxuries as lilos, foam rubber, dehyd and canned foods, woollen clothing, choofas, the list goes on. Huts remove the need for camping, choofas do away with the need for fires - hence very few people can actually light a good fire - so we begin to reduce walking to our softening standards. The frequency of snow walks is decreasing slightly because of their arduous nature and snow-camping is becoming a lost past-time. People become very uncomfortable when low cloud obscures the scene and they are thrown back on their basic navigational abilities, some even become concerned to the point of (emitting faeces) - themselves.

Are you a real bushy? - test yourself. On your next trip, commit the map to memory, let it self-destruct, then complete the trip with your eyes closed, sustained by fru-nut and using an empty Happy-ade sachet as your tent. Upon completion of this simple test you will be eligible for promotion to the ranks of "super oxo-men".



"We're lost!"

RAZOR-VIKING TRIP

by Robert Jung

The controversial
logging at Catherine
Saddle is visited.

A visit to the Razor-Viking area of the Victorian Alps in which threats to this wilderness environment are observed.

Observations start at the Friday night campsite, Merimbah. According to newspaper reports the Delatite River here is supposed to be highly polluted (especially in spring) from overloaded septic tanks on Mt Buller. None of us take any chances with the water, but the appearance, smell and taste of the water gives no indication of pollution.

A short journey along the Circuit Rd reveals the jarring sight of ski lodges on Mt Buller. A little further, near King Saddle, this is far excelled by the immediate roadside scenery; areas completely eliminated of trees or any other forest cover. Towards the end of the dusty two hour drive to Speculation we hit the "super highway" described previously by Arnold Wheeler. This description is quite adequate, for this section of road presented much better motoring than many parts of the Circuit Rd. How the dusty barren stretch contrasts with the multitude of shrubs, ornamented with golden-orange pea flowers, adjacent to the road!

A quick visit to Mt Speculation is made. With fine weather and superb views it must be one of the most interesting summits in the area. Out with the cameras Peter, Ian, Tony Sherwood, Rex, Roger and Rob! Not to be outdone Tony Bishop starts swishing for butterflies with his collapsable net. Our non-doers (Greg, Marcia, Michelle, Mark and Chris) seem quite content to take in the view.

Back at the cars we note that Roger's has sprung a leak in the fuel tank. Quick temporary repairs are made and the remaining convoy motors down to the Saddle. The logging at Catherine Saddle, while it has the marks of logging anywhere, seems to be limited in extent and is not as bad in appearance as in other parts of this area. Areas along the Circuit Rd and around the Bluff appear to have been more savagely treated. The Catherine Saddle logging at present is not visible from the Razor-Viking area or Speculation but only from the immediate area.

After lunching at the Saddle, walking commences and we follow the marked route over Despair to Razor Saddle. After this we choose our own route veering for awhile to the North under the cliffs of the Razor. An interesting route, it seems

less scrubby than to the South of the Razor. Rex finds some cool water under one of the rock slabs - great on the hot day we are experiencing.

After an hour we reach a gap in the cliffs and pass through to the sloping rock face of the South side. Time is pressing on so the party is split - Rob, Peter, Mark, Greg, Roger and Tony S. climbing for the summit and the remainder press on straight for the Viking Saddle campsite. The shadows on the green hills are drawing long, but the former group make the Razor summit, then, weary and dry, they slowly saunter to the packs and carry these to the end of the day's toil.

They arrive to find that The Saddle party has found just sufficient water (a 25 litre soak - 15 minutes east of Vikings Saddle, which was drained and filled up again overnight). We all settle round the fire to enjoy the evening repast.

At a cool 6 a.m. the Viking climbers, Rex, Tony B., Peter, Greg, Mark and Rob set off. The summit is reached in time to note the last traces of cloud still hanging on the Crosscut Saw. As we soak in the superb sunny view, Peter reads the log book and notes numbers who have been here in less pleasant times. After some spectacular catabalistics it is time to return to those tend bound mortals, our sleeping comrades.

Packs up, we are shortly climbing through the woollybutt forest on our way back. At the first stop we sniff the deadly cyanide gas which permeates from Tony B's. opened Butterfly capture jar. (What do you do in wet weather Tony?!) Soon we are on the open (hot?) rock slabs of the Razor which we follow back to Razor-Despair Saddle. Most (Michelle excepted) think the airy skyline walk is great.

We reach our cars and we move rapidly to the King River and a beautiful cool swim. Apart from Rob who strikes trouble with a couple of bloodthirsty leeches we are considerably refreshed, pile back into the cars and proceed down the dusty road and home.

Smoke could be seen in the air. A forty-mile-an-hour wind was blowing up the valley towards us. We prepared for the flames to come to the corner of the valley. It was an excellent spot to be caught in a fire. A very large cleared space with the river nearby. After about half an hour, all traces of smoke had vanished as we set out.

THE TI-TREE RANGE2-7 January

by Paul Hobson

"Everyone should be in the Boy Scouts or conscripted in the Army", said the old codger on the tram up to the Uni. from the Station, "not like these longhairs at the University. They wouldn't go hiking -- they'd get lost in the middle of Bourke Street". I didn't tell him that, despite the trusty Scout hat, I was not a Boy Scout and that we were hiking from Dargo to Hotham rather than Bourke Street.

The party consisted of Ron Frederick (who had left his wife at home), John Tibballs, Jacquie Rand (an attractive young hiker who is not known to many of the more ancient members of the club -- probably because she can walk so much faster than them -- and out of whose pack an incredible number of lightweight home comforts such as those small paper towels soaked with eau-de-cologne, appeared), and myself.

Instead of having to catch "The Gippslander" and the Dargo bus, Mal Owens kindly drove us to the starting point, 10 miles past Dargo. We then walked four miles to Grant where little more than a clearing remains of the gold-mining town.

As soon as the sun set, the bushflies stopped and the mosquitoes started. The next morning the sun rose about 5.30. One moment the air was filled with mosquitoes and there were no flies; ten seconds later, the mosquitoes had vanished and the flies had started. We surprised an emu as we climbed Mt Grant. Out jeep-track followed the route to the gold-fields from Warburton surveyed by Macmillan until we left it to drop down Bulltown Spur to the Crooked River. We frightened an echidna which curled up against a tree with its unprotected snout close to the trunk, and then, with its spines sticking in the air, it began burrowing down into the earth. The weather was hot so we did not mind the frequent river crossings. Passing the sites of Bulltown and Hogtown where some mullock heaps and diggings can be seen among the blackberries, we stopped to splash in the river then to hike further. Lunch was spent beside and in one of the deeper pools. (The club should run more "hard" hikes like this!)

Whilst exploring Talbotville where a wattle-and-daub hut still stands a short distance from the cemetery and the clearing with its many fruit trees, the air suddenly smelt as if there were a campfire nearby. Smoke could be seen in the air. A forty-mile-an-hour wind was blowing up the valley towards us. We prepared for the flames to come around the corner of the valley. It was an excellent spot to be caught in a fire -- a very large cleared space with the river nearby. After about half an hour, all traces of smoke had vanished so we set out

again. We never found any explanation of where the smoke had come from. From the junction of the Crooked and Wongungarra Rivers, we followed the latter several miles upstream before camping.

"Guide to the Victorian Alps" advised that water should be carried along the Ti-Tree Range so we stopped after a few quick miles where the track left the river and filled all our water containers. I carried a 20 lb (2 gallon) one -- water being measured in weight rather than quantity.

The track climbed steeply from the Wongungarra and continued to climb. Ron and Jacquie had both been hiking the previous week and were in excellent form; John had difficulty in keeping up with them; and me -- well I collapsed! At first I had difficulty walking uphill, then I had difficulty going downhill and could only manage walking on the flat. Finally, after starting to zig-zag and stagger on the level, we camped at the top of the climb. It was obvious that the person who wrote the notes in the guide-book for Ti-Tree Range did not walk up it. We failed by four miles to reach Guy's Hut, where there might have been water.

It was pleasant walking in the early morning mist. We reached Mt Sarah, left our packs and took water containers and mugs down to Guy's Hut in the Saddle. A belt of green ti-tree showed the soak and water was flowing slightly. The cattle had found it first and had been everywhere. We filled any empty water containers with a brown fluid which smelt of cow: we would have to drink it if the spring at Mt Selwyn was dry.

Although it was very hot, the slight shade of the trees gave some relief as we undulated along the Range -- climbing High Point, down, then up Beecher Hill, dropping into Galbraith Saddle, lunch, then a steady climb as we neared Mt Selwyn. Now and then we would disturb three or four cattle lying on the track. We reached Selwyn Saddle to find cattle in the water again. Luckily we found a part which was flowing where the cattle hadn't been.

Mt Selwyn has two peaks -- North Selwyn, the higher, is about half a mile magnetically north of South Selwyn. The view from North Selwyn is one of the best in Victoria. Looking north, Feathertop shaped like a volcano is prominent; flat Mt Hotham; the Twins coming down the Divide to Mt Murray in the foreground with the High Plains beyond; the Ti-Tree Range runs into the distance; the haze of late afternoon made it difficult to pick out Mt Kent, Mt Wellington, and Snowy Bluff; the Wonnongatta Valley runs to the Viking and the Razor from where the low Barries wind up to South Selwyn; the Crosscut Saw is obvious and Mt Buggery stands out clearly; Cobbler is a silhouetted purple storybook castle. Behind the ridge from Speculation to Cobbler, we watched a thick band of grey smoke rising -- this was the only bushfire. The Buffalo Plateau, a

rocky mass, is very close in the west. There has been logging close to Selwyn on this side, as well as on the Mt Murray side.

Back at the saddle as we prepared tea, we were inflicted with a swarm of blow flies as well as the usual bush flies. A loud mopoke nearby and several cows crashing about the bush made it hard to sleep.

The next morning on top of Selwyn, the fire near Buller was sending up a bank of dark brown smoke into the upper air where it was blown into long ribbons stretching for about fifty miles. At first, we followed the Divide along an old walking track on the rocky ridge. Then the track joined a jeep track and passed through an area which has been completely logged, and on through more grazing country. We climbed out of a deep saddle before dropping our packs to walk out to Mt Murray, another excellent view. Once back at our packs, it was only a few minutes' walk to Mt Murray Hut, which is almost unusable.

About a quarter of a mile down the gully from the hut, we disturbed several cattle and found a trickle of water. Forty yards downstream it flowed quickly over a small waterfall into a pool surrounded by ferns. The cattle were where the water first came above the ground, although on one side of the creek bed there was a part which they seemed to have ignored. After collecting water, we took turns to shower in the pool.

That night we slept inside the hut to avoid the mists. It was one of those nights where you had to move someone's elbow to breathe let alone roll over. When John kicked a water container near my pack, I woke convinced that a possum was at my pack. Jacquie was worried about a large spider poised on the roof above her. Ron, on the lilo, slept soundly.

The next day was overcast. From Mt Murray Hut, the jeep track continued until it turned into a walking track running along the Divide. In the Saddle before the Twins, we came across the first Alpine Track marker. After a long climb up the Twins, we stopped for the view and for a mixture of Saline and Refresh which had become the beverage of the trip. Because I had imagined the Alpine Track as something that Blind Harry could follow in a blizzard, I was pleasantly surprised. Apart from some necessary benching of the steep track off the Twin on the St. Bernard side and some slight clearing, the original walking track has not been interfered with.

At one o'clock we reached the road of the famous St. Bernard toilets. For the whole of the hike we had not seen anyone else -- not even another group of hikers.

After lunch we split up -- Ron and I to return to Melbourne, and work; John and Jacquie to Harrietville via Hotham and the Bon Accord.

A report on some gear in use through the Cradle Mt. Lake St. Clair reserve - We both had new unbroken pairs of Trampler with lined heel and greenhide leather; neither suffered from blisters. My Bushgear high load pack with 6oz Kordux bag continued to carry far too much (about 70lbs. to start) as comfortably as possible without falling apart or bending. Problems with frames bending on a later batch are being worked on and our aluminium frames may be unavailable for a time. The bag on my high load is the same as for a normal H-frame so a space is left at the bottom of the frame which I can fill with a canvas day pack containing our sleeping mats.

We took a single-pole Bushgear 'Tawonga' double tent complete with floor and T-zipped mosquito net in the inner tent. The 7' x 4' inner proved very roomy with the 5' headroom and we thought a third person could have fitted in. The porch formed by the 7'6" x 6'3" outer was useful for gear and for sitting in when it rained, which was seldom so we didn't have great opportunities to test the rainproof qualities of the tent. When the rain started we noted leakage through some seams or attachments for about an hour. It then seemed to take up and we found no further puddles the next morning. We now have seam sealant for those who want an absolutely waterproof tent. We are also taping seams which will assist in proofing seams. The first night was very windy and the light pole bent - but did not break as our original light pole did on occasion. I straightened the pole and for the rest of the trip stiffened it with a stick or sections of spare pole. We are working on a larger diameter pole to use in single pole tents - or in ridge tents if you are particularly pessimistic. The 2½oz. nylon floor in the inner tent did not suffer any holes or tears in 11 nights use on a variety of campsites. A 4oz. material is available if desired. At times condensation formed on the inside of the outer tent but never troubled us inside the inner of breathing nylon. Most nights we had the walls of the outer tent rolled up and the doors open - this provided air and sunshine & view but we remained warm even at Lake Windermere when nearby hut occupants complained it was so cold they sat around a great fire for most of the night - so much for the warmth and comfort of huts. (We use Puradown "Polar" sleeping bags and ½" closed cell foam and have always found them adequate in Australia, snow camping included).

We tied the inner to the outer the first night we pitched camp and left it there for the rest of the trip so pitching the single pole setup was very simple. We had no problem finding tent sites large enough - after all it is only the 7' x 4' inner that needs to be on reasonably level ground for sleeping - variations in other levels can be absorbed by the walls. We used Bushgear alloy pegs without bending any unduly. Weight with the spare pole, pegs and carry bag was nearly 7½lbs. - with the larger pole on its own all up weight should be around 7 lbs. - fair enough we think for an outfit which is more than an emergency shelter, particularly as the impermeable outer tends to prevent the tent doubling in weight when it rains. Price without mosquito netting is \$87.50 or \$95.00 with. This is for a complete system rather than a basic tent to which you must add numerous bits and pieces to get an adequate shelter; which may leave you just about as much out of pocket without providing an integrated design tested as a whole. All in all we found this tent very livable for 10 days or so.

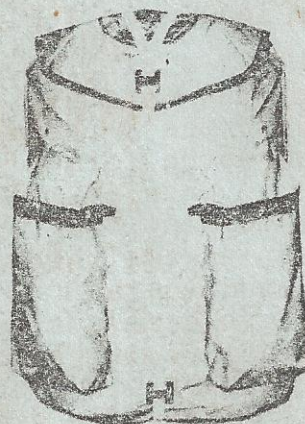
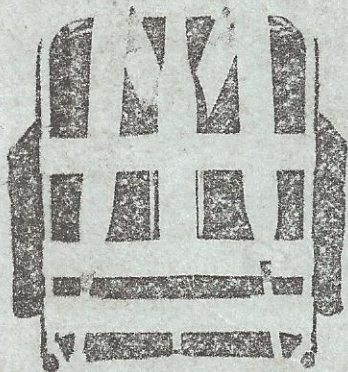
Come along and look at everything else in the place - Flinders packs, Fairy & Kimpton bags, a variety of tents, boots, socks, parkas, stoves, etc. etc.

And of course we have a large, everchanging and expanding collection of good climbing gear - for rock, ice and snow - ask for Peter for expert advice.

----- Cheers, Loch -----

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THE FULLY IMPORTED

FEATHERLITE 'MOUNTAIN MULE' PACK



FEATHERLITE No. 1 has single bag strapping and two outside pockets. Post Free.

Double waterproof bottom. Weight 2lb 14oz.

FEATHERLITE No. 2 has double bag strapping, larger capacity bag, camera pocket and map pocket on top flap. Double waterproof bottom. Weight 3 1/4 lbs. Post Free.

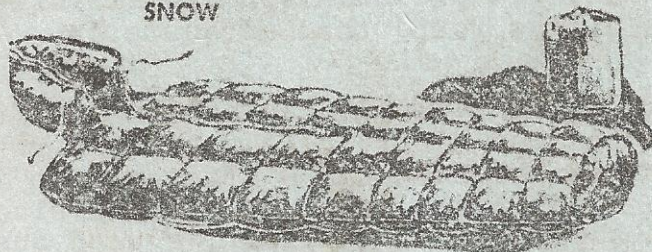
KIMPTON'S are Australian Agents & Distributors for the famous range of Tents & Sleeping Bags by 'BLACKS of GREENOCK'.



KIMPTON'S also stock the lightweight N.Z. WINTEST Tents in Nylon or Japara.

KIMPTON'S "EIDERLITE" SLEEPING BAGS ARE MADE IN 3 POPULAR MODELS

SNOW



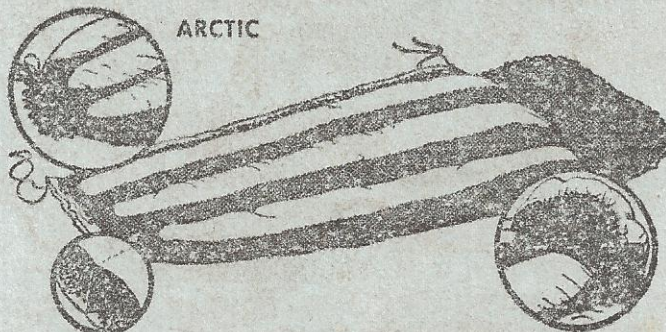
Snow: Tailored hood — 36" nickel chest zipp. Circular insert for feet. Cut 6' x 30" plus hood filled with Super down, Feather down.

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

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,

ARCTIC



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 41-5073, Sydney 389-1239, Adelaide 57-8824, Brisbane 2-2354.

All sleeping bags are obtainable in Aquascade, the new waterproof terylene material that breaths. \$3 extra