

the mountaineer

No. 7
december
1973

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



* The Mountaineer

melbourne university mountaineering club

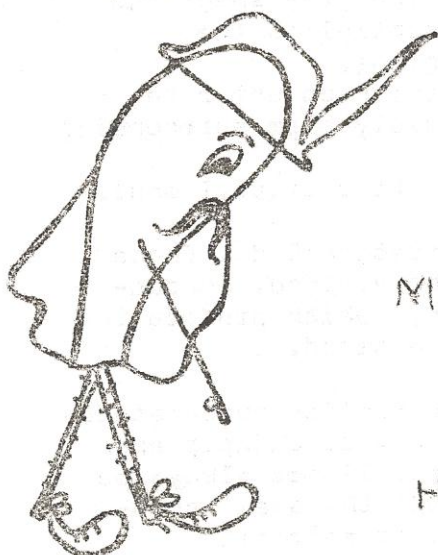


Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
No. 7 December 1973

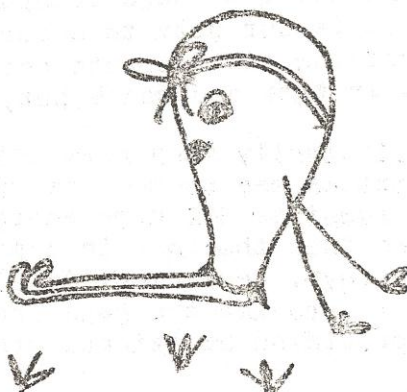
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Correspondence: The Editors, c/- MUMC,
Sports Union, University of Melbourne,
Parkville, Vic. 3052

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We
wish you all
a
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



LETTERS to the EDITORS

Dept. of Forestry
University of B.C.
Vancouver 8. B.C.
Canada

Dear Editors,

It was very pleasing to see the Bushwalking Conservation Code printed in the July issue of the "Mountaineer". Now, if only all bushwalkers and everyone else for that matter, would adhere to it.

I would like to add a few more comments in light of my experiences in North America.

1. Don't cut corners on zig-zagging tracks.
2. Avoid cutting down dead snow gums. The grey snags and twisted trunks of old trees are essential to the aesthetic integrity of treeline regions.
3. Use biodegradable soaps and use washing-up water to douse campfires rather than to possibly harm surrounding vegetation.

Also, with regard to buying foods before and after trips, I would like to make the following points:

1. As stated in the Bushwalking Conservation Code, foods packaged in individual serves, etc., should be avoided. Consequently, supermarkets and drive-in food chains, which promote the use of such unnecessary packaging should be avoided.

Apart from the desirability of shopping at Australian owned stores it should be remembered that although it may now be cheaper and more convenient to shop at supermarkets, this will not always be the case. Once supermarkets have forced out all the small shopkeepers (which is inevitable unless we refuse to patronize supermarkets), as is usually the case in North America, then prices will rise due to lack of competition. In fact, (one supermarket chain) has recently been taken to court in Western North America for violating consumer protection laws and supermarket owners in Canada have been forced by government inquiries to admit that they increased prices simply because there was no competition.

In North America there is now no alternative to huge monopolistic food chains. In Australia there is. It is our duty to ensure that this alternative remains - by avoiding supermarkets and chain food stores. It may cost us more now in time and money but, in the long run, we will benefit.

2. Milk in glass bottles is ecologically much more desirable than milk in paper cartons. Again cartons may be more convenient but we pay for this convenience. It requires 80% more energy to produce 2 litres of milk in a carton than the same in a bottle. (B.M.Hanson. 1972. "Bottles cans energy". Environment 14(2). p.11) We must cut down more of our forests to provide the paper cartons which are to be thrown away (after providing additional profits to

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manufacturers and retailers). Glass bottles can be used and reused and are much less wasteful.

Then, should not MUMC trips patronize those places which sell milk in glass bottles and avoid those which sell it in paper cartons? Also, should not people on trips, or anytime, explain to store - keepers the reasons for their patronage or lack of it?

Unless somebody somewhere takes some positive steps then an Australian dream will become synonymous with the North American nightmare.

Please let's keep Australia beautiful,

Michael Feller.

Dear Editors,

A great victory has been won, but the war is not yet over. The Australian Government has agreed to fund the Lake Pedder Moratorium; the Tasmanian Government has yet to be converted. Through your much read journal (I, for one, do read editorials) I would like to thank an MUMC member who has devoted nearly two years to the Pedder Campaign . Les Southwell has been, and still is, a Pedder champion, and deserves much praise for his efforts. While the Pedder ideals are probably those of thousands, it was only through the perserverance of a handful of people, Les included, that this victory has been won. Perhaps we can all now do our bit in this most important conservation issue.

Oxo,

Tont Kerr.

COMMITTEE MEETING 20th November

Proposed Sports Union estimates for 1974 were presented and discussed. The Sports Union Estimates meeting is to be held November 28.

Peter griffithe (Hut Warden) outlined plans for the forthcoming Hut workparties.

The Songbook is to be completed by the end of the month

HUT WORK PARTY REPORT

The Stretcher has finally reached the Hut. The floors of both the big and little Feathertop Huts were stained and the window and door frames painted. Briquettes and a new broom were also carried up. Some track clearing and wood collecting was carried out.

OxOxOxO

TRIPS PROGRAMME

Meetings, bushwalking and orienteering trips are planned well ahead whereas the more specialised activities, rockclimbing, caving, canoeing, etc., which generally cater for smaller groups, are subject to variations with the trips being organised (or sometimes cancelled) at short notice. Those interested in these activities should keep in contact with appropriate club members and check the trips book. Details of all functions can change at short notice and will be posted in the trips book at Aikman's Road.

NOTE: The trips leader may organise a meeting before the trip, in which case attendance is compulsory; if it is absolutely impossible to attend the meeting, the leader must be contacted before the date of the meeting. If no meeting has been planned, it is the responsibility of everyone intending to go on the trip to contact the leader at least 4 days before the trip leaves, to arrange transport and equipment. Anyone failing to do this will not be allowed to go on the trip.

Standards of Trips

Bushwalking trips are classified as follows.

- Easy - considered 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 the 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 St between 9 and 9.30am., and normally returns by 6.00pm. For longer trips, the van leaves the car park immediately north of the Union building at 6.30pm on the night before the first listed day of the trips (normally on Friday night). The van normally returns before 10.00pm on the last day of the trip.

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

Bookings.

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

1. Place your name and other details in the trips book at Aikman's Road (1.00 to 2.00pm, weekday lunchtimes or 7.30 to 8.30pm, on Tuesdays).
2. Ring the trip leader.
3. Ring John Yuill 379 8826 A.H.

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December 27-
January 5

1st five days: Rocky Range Wildlife Reserve -
Little River Gorge area of NE Victoria.
(see Walk 1973 pp. 60-2)
2nd five days: Maim Range of Snowy Mountains.

Leaders: Paul Hobson and Ron Frederick.
They are open to suggestions as to the
exact nature of the trip and route.
Standard: Medium - Hard

December 29 -
January 1st
(Sat. - Tues.)

Howqua Rvr. - Bluff - Howitt - Howqua Rvr.
Leader: Roy Snoekstra
Standard: Medium
Transport: Private

December 29 -
January 1
(Sat. - Tues.)

Jump Up - Pinnacles - Billy Goat Bluff -
Mt. Kent - Moroka Gorge.
Standard: Medium - Hard
Transport: Private

January 12-13
(Sat. - Sun.)

Glenaladale National Park
Leader: Ian Moore
Transport: Private
Standard: Medium

January 19-20
(Sat. - Sun.)

Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut Work Party
Leaders: The Hut Wardens
Transport: Private
Many jobs need to be done to ensure that our
hut is in good condition for the winter
season. Come and give a hand - it's a
superb place to spend a weekend.

January 26-28
(Sat. - Mon.)

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND WALK
Leader: Rex Niven
Standard: Medium) Hard
Transport: Private
Venue: Glen Wills - Bogong - Glen Wills
OR Mt. Darling - Bryces Gorge

February 1974

David Caddy will be bushwalking in Tasmania
during February. Areas of interest are
Precipitous Bluff, Cradle Mountain Reserve
(especially Pine Valley) Dates and routes are
flexible.
Standard: Medium - Hard
If you are interested contact David Caddy as
soon as possible. Ph. 53 9840 (home)

February 23

for about ten days
Alpine track walk
Standard: Medium - Hard
Leader: John Yuill

February 10 MUMC organised Orienteering.
(Sunday) Northern Brisbane Ranges. SW of Bacchus Marsh.
Organisers: Ron and Judy Frederick
Helpers required on the day. If we have enough
people to help all will be able to participate
in the event.
Ph. 419 1073 (home)
874 8111 (work)

February 16-17
(sat.- Sun.) Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut Work Party
Transport: Private
Leaders: The Hut Wardens

February 23 Daywalk: Cape Schank Region
(Sat.) Leaders: Robyn Fraser, Rob Jung
Standard: Medium - Easy
Bring your swimming gear

March 3 FVWC Moomba Day Walk
(Sunday) (see Trips Book for details)

March 4-8 Orientation Week
(Mon.-Fri) Please help man our stand. Details will appear
later at Aikman's Road.

Cycling: Anyone interested in going cycle-touring during the
vac. , day trips, weekends or even longer, please
contact Karl Gordon, Ph. 815986.

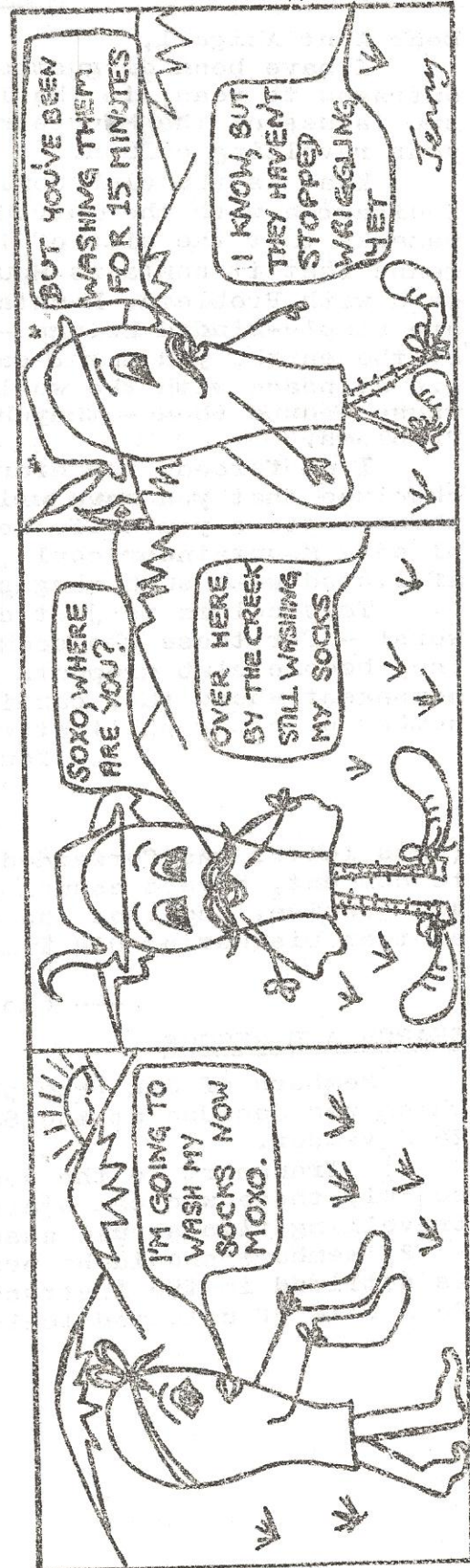
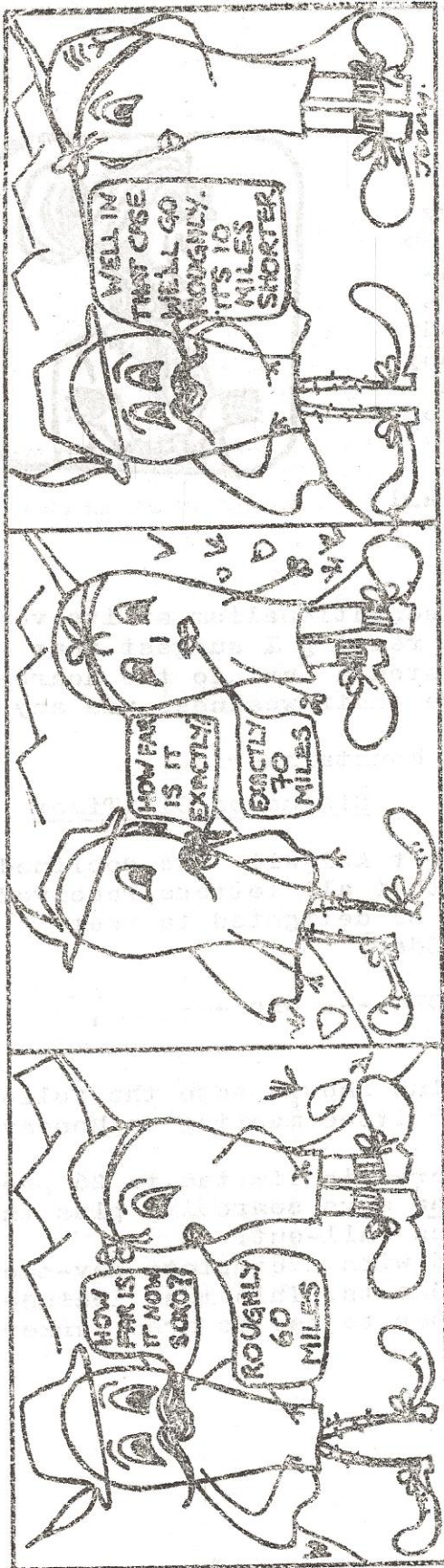
In addition to the many private bushwalking trips over the
vacation there will also be rockclimbing, canoeing and caving
trips.

The trips book should be consulted for details of these
other activities which will not appear in the trips programme.

** ***** ** *****

Climbing partners: Evelyn Smith is going to New Zealand to do an
Intermediate Climbing Course commencing Jan. 2. She would
be interested in finding someone to climb and walk some
of the Southern Tracks with. i.e. Route-burn after the
course finishes (Jan 8) for 2-3 weeks..
Her address is

c/- Mrs. Morrison
Mt. Helen
Ballarat. 3350
Ph. 301694



AUNT ABIGAIL

Dear Aunt Abigail,

I have been disgusted and outraged to read, in the last two issues of the Mountaineer, your revolting column.

What is the club coming to? I disagree with the introductory remarks that the size of the club means that it contains Mountaineers with Problems. Mountaineers are simple-minded beings - children of the earth, you might say. They are at peace with the world and those around them - they have no Problems.

I am forced, therefore, to conclude that you have written all those letters yourself. No true-blooded Mountaineer could be afflicted with such hangups.

This column is just cheap sensationalism at its very worst - for those who seek such reading I suggest that they become club dropouts and catch a taxi to the nearest newsagent where they can indulge their weakness via any number of other publications.

Yours in Mountaineering,

Disgusted Old Timer

(This letter was forwarded to Aunt Abigail, who declined to comment, beyond assuring us that all letters received are genuine, and that she would be delighted to meet another Disgusting Old Timer - Eds.)



--- oxo --- OXO --- oxo ---

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Members of S&R from this club should note the following, which was decided at the S&R committee meeting on Monday 26 November.

- 1) Transport to the search area is limited to 26 people, so only those who can spare three days searching plus the travelling time should answer the call-out.
- 2) Members should be prepared with a complete day-pack as outlined in the Instruction Sheets. This must include a full roll of coloured toilet paper to use as area markers.

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3) Members should check the current computer listing or accuracy of 'phone numbers, etc.

The 1974 practice weekend will be on May 4 - 5, at the St Johns Training Camp, Yarra Junction. Both current and prospective members should attend. Guidelines for entry standards for S&R will be advertised at Aikman's Road for people interested in joining.

Duncan Stevenson.

A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINEER

Congratulations to Dave and Sandra Hogg on the birth of their son Andrew (23/10/73).

Tony, Cath and Tanya Kerr have now moved to 5 Beleara Ave, Vermont. Visitors welcome, particularly those willing to spend a few hours creatively turning clay into lawn.

Flatmates wanted - Rhonda Jones is looking for some people to share a flat or house from February; preferably close to Richmond or South Yarra railway station (i.e. easy access to Monash). Enquiries c/o Graeme Oakes (347 2917).

The Harrietville developers have advised the Mt Hotham Management committee that rumours of plans by them, to promote skiing on Mt Feathertop itself, rather than the Bungalow Spur, which is quite another matter, are untrue. It seems that there is more than one development company vying for rights in this area.

Wallace's Hut, a wooden cattlemen's hut built in 1889 on the Bogong High Plains, is to be preserved. The land is owned by the SEC, which will allow the Yarrawonga Scouts to repair and maintain the hut.

Quotes from the Feathertop Hut Work Party:

Adrian: What was I looking for?

Dave: I don't really know.

Adrian: I didn't really expect you to know.

Penguin: Why did you ask then?

Brendan: Oh s---, I'm sleeping next to you!

Dave: Are we all getting cups of tea in bed?

Tony: Yes, poured into the bed!

Quote of the Year - from the Bludge Weekend:
Leader of the easy walk: We can't go yet - I have to buy a map!

--- oxo --- OXO --- oxo ---

SPLASHING THE BOOTS

There's a distinct lack of virgin vertical mineral within a day trip's reach of Melbourne, which tends to make climbing day-trips a drag if you're forced to contemplate your 302nd ascent of the Bridge of Signs. One day excursions to Buffalo or the Grampians have been done, but the petrol bill for such mad escapades is oppressive; and the whole weekend can't be sacrificed to climbing just before the exams. What solutions are offering? One answer is to take your nerves of steel and lifejackets to the sea-cliffs of Cape Woolamai.

Woolamai rock is notoriously the worst in Victoria, crumbling red granite drastically eroded in the salt atmosphere to produce unstable precipices bristling with tottering blocks, laden with loose holds, and split by rapidly decomposing fissures. The cliff Nick and I selected for our Sunday sport was no exception to this rottenness. We scrambled down a steep gully to the boulder-choke which formed the beach, and surveyed the climbing possibilities. Most of the lines seemed either too hard, steep and rotten to contemplate seriously, or they ended in overhangs which would have to be climbed mechanically. For once, Reeves was lacking in spectacular suggestions, and he wandered back up along the cliff gaping speechlessly. I sat on a boulder and studied the thing. The cliff formed the wall of a cove, and ran out to sea forming a peninsular, with at least half of its length rising up from the water. The lines ashore seemed beyond our capabilities, but why not traverse out above the water and then climb up?

I hopped over between the breaking swells to a corner near the water's edge, soloed up fifteen feet and looked across. The traverse seemed feasible. Nick threw me the rope end and I continued diagonally down, easily for about thirty feet. The next twenty feet seemed passable only by climbing with feet virtually at sea level, but with large waves foaming and crashing against the wall regularly, I hesitated at the prospect of a dunking. When I thought the seas had abated for a while, I made an attempt to get across. Halfway I looked up and saw a great wall of water bearing down on me. You've never seen moves reversed so quickly! Two more tries ended similarly, and Nick, watching from dry land, was in hysterics at my predicament. Finally I moved across heedlessly, and when making the last pull up to a belay ledge, was duly drenched up to my knees.

Nick came over getting a little wet in the process, and we considered the way upwards. Looking up from our ledge, six feet above the water, a difficult looking bulge obscured our view of the wall above. Nick went up and took a look, and confirmed the impression that it was going to be troublesome. My turn. A jam-crack ran through the bulge but petered out into nothing above. I got a painful fist-jam in the crystalline granite, chinned up with feet scrabbling and lunged for a pinch-grip hold on a decayed lobe of mineral weetbix. This

sufficed to reach a better flake, and a small ledge. The upward perspective was demoralizing. The route we had hoped to take continued up a vertical corner, composed of glued-up gravel, into a gently overhung, repellant diedre. Nick laughed uproariously when he heard the good news, glad that he hadn't succeeded in climbing up this far to be faced with the same problem. A couple of huge swells came rolling in and quenched his amusement--he was soaked up to his armpits!

A futile attempt at the corner was made, a runner placed, and retreat back to the ledge effected. It wouldn't go.

Thirty feet away to the left, and higher up, a deep flake crack rose from a shallow groove. If I could reach that the route should be solved. Crossing the steep wall between caused a few adrenalin surges but the crack was a good one. I heaved a sigh of relief, and then a few loose blocks. The crack wasn't hard and I went up thirty-five feet and steeped left to find a perfect 18"x3' ledge jutting out above the surf.

Once tied on and with my nervous equilibrium restored, I began a shouting match with Reeves, who couldn't hear me above the roar of the breakers. He finally began seconding, and didn't wait around for the cliff to tumble down around his ears.. He shot up to retrieve my highest runner, reversed quickly, crossed the wall, ascended the flake-crack without a breath, and swung over to the ledge on the anchor sling. No sense in hanging around!

After a rest to enjoy the unieye situation, poised on a tiny ledge between the sea and the sky. Nick led off up the final short corner. Halfway up he baulked, and began chopping rubble out of the crack. Bushels of grass and yards of earth came avalanching down over me. An eternity drifted by while I fidgeted on the belay, gazing out to sea, waving to Neil and Marcia who were watching from the opposite cliff top, and watching the sun sink lower in the sky. At long last Nick cleared the top. Again we couldn't hear each other. When I got going I found his delay to be almost justified, as the last moves were difficult.

We coiled the salt soaked rope and headed back overland to the Woolami surf beach. It was a memorable day's climbing, and the route done was a classic. We dubbed it, suitably, "Splash-the-Boots".

***** Peter Treby.

Another Trip: Dec. 26 10 days

Standard: Medium ~ Hard

Black Mountain - Cobberas - Buchan Pock - Limestone Caves -
Mt. Misery - Buenbar Hut - Mt. Pinnibar - Mt. Gibbo -
Bunroy (Corryong)

Leader: Paul Hobson

67 4214 {wk.}
347 8101 {a.h}

A Bogong High Plains Trip

On Monday night, Don Fell, Fiona Shaw and Jenny McCloskey, pitched their tent from the Bobinawarra and Tarrawingee cross-roads signpost. The sight of two females preparing for bed was too much for the local delivery man, who, after speeding by, did a rapid U turn. Imagine his disappointment, when, upon his return he found that the two ladies had been replaced by Don. (Jenny was hiding in her sleeping bag) Don refused his offer to pull us out of a bog, explaining that we were spending the night there. With that Sir Galahad drove off.

The walk began with us trundling down from Howman's Gap to the Rocky Valley Creek, which we proceeded to cross by various means. Jenny flung off her boots and pack and fell in. After several minutes of playing icebergs and thinking of everyone sweating over exams, she, (in true blue style) guided the rest of the party across.

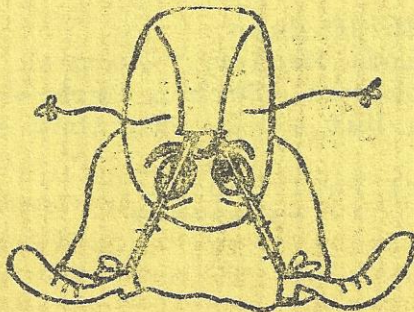
We climbed Little Spion Cope, Spion Cope and traversed across to Johnson's Hut via Mt. Nelse North and Mt. Nelse. Being only a small group we found this hut to be very comfortable.

On Wednesday, Fiona and Jenny bagged the mighty Basalt Hill, then we all climbed Mt. Cope. From there we headed for Mt. Jim whereupon we were confronted by a hairy protoplasmic type creature sitting in a bog singing "God Save America" in a squeaky tenor voice, with a wheelchair parked close by. At first we thought that he was one of our friends, closer inspection showed him not to be a crippled rockclimber but in fact the BOGONG BOGHOPPER BOGGED !!!!!

Seeing us approach he leapt into his wheelchair (singing even more shrillily) and revving it at 153 rpm, showered us in mud and lots of cow dung. He only bogged more.

We snuck up from behind and throttled him. It had no effect. So, with our invisible 153 ft. nylon rope we belayed the Bog Hopper from the nearest snowpole. With a gargle and a chunderous burp he unbogged. He took off toward Mt. Feathertop going boing-splash, boing-splash--- the sound of "God Save America" becoming ever fainter.

We continued on via Mt. Jim and camped that night at Tawonga Huts. The weather broke and so the following day we gave the Niggerheads and Fainter a miss. The visibility being so poor we played "Spot the Snow and SEC poles" as we walked out through the Ruined Castle and down Frying Pan spur back to Howmans.



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The main problem at present is how to get enough of the right gear. We finally got a few Makalu crampons but most were already ordered - might be 1 or 2 pairs still available - if you need them next year let us know now! Current price is \$33.60. A reasonable number of Interalp metalshaft iceaxes have arrived and are \$2 cheaper than last year at \$23.70. We have stray sizes of Eiger Darbellay mountain boots at \$62.80 and a pair of Face Nord double boots at \$81 - size is 10½ which may fit 9 - 9½ Australian feet. A small number of Brixia mountain boots are expected daily and they should include 1 or 2 double boots.

We have a few 'Gollies' friction boots in at \$18 - not much sign of others yet but we live in hope. Jams, krabs and pitons come and go but we usually have something. Kernmantel rope is completely out of stock at present but we should have some either just on Christmas or soon after.

If you are looking for the best in warm but light sleeping bags we suggest you look at the Swiss Egge (Erve) bags we have in at the moment or the English Mountain Equipment and Blacks bags we hope to have before too long. Prices are in the \$50 - \$100 bracket. We have good stocks of many models of Fairy Down bags although we are still waiting for some of the more popular long-zip bags. Fairy Down bags are always consistently good quality and will stand up to long term use in a variety of conditions and provide good value for money. We are doing our best to keep up the supply of local bags which still provide the warmth of superdown and walled construction at the lowest prices - the Puradown Polar is now \$50.40, the Kimptons Arctic \$55.20. These bags are warm enough for most Australian conditions for most people although they are heavier and do not offer the same standards of finish as the imported bags. We also have a selection of unwalled bags in various grades of synthetic and down, and various coverings and at various prices.

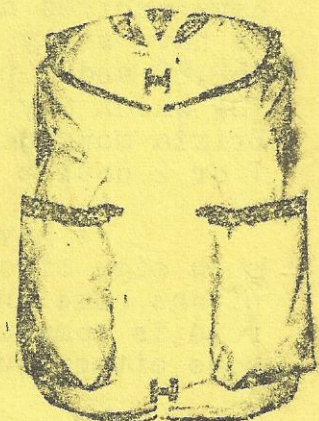
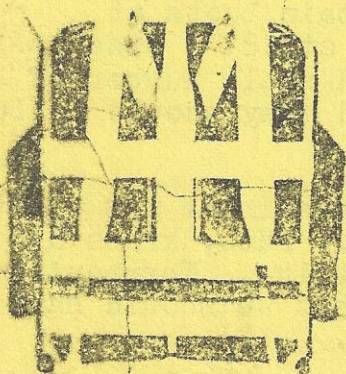
The Sigg bottles are proving popular - they are light aluminium with a hard plastic screw top which provides a good seal for fuel or water. Sizes available are 600ml. (over a pint) at \$1.80 and 1 litre (under a quart) at \$2.00. The large size is also available anodised inside and are thereby more suited to carrying fruit juice than the plain variety. Their price is \$3.20. We also have a few of their aluminium plates, and steel frypans (\$3.20) and also the pot grippers (.70c) and 'scout kettles' (billy with plate lid and wide handle which stands upright as required and is cooler to handle).

Our map collection continues to grow and we now have a lot more N.S.W. maps for those going further afield - covering parts of Budawangs, Shoalhaven, and Blue Mountain's areas, hopefully Warrumbungles, soon. Anyway enjoy yourselves S.W., N.Z., or where ever you are headed. Cheers & Merry Christmas. Loch

THE FULLY IMPORTED

THE FULLY IMPORTED

'MOUNTAIN MULL' PACK



FEATHERLITE No. 1 has single bag strapping and two outside pockets. Post Free. Double waterproof bottom. Weight 2lb 14oz.

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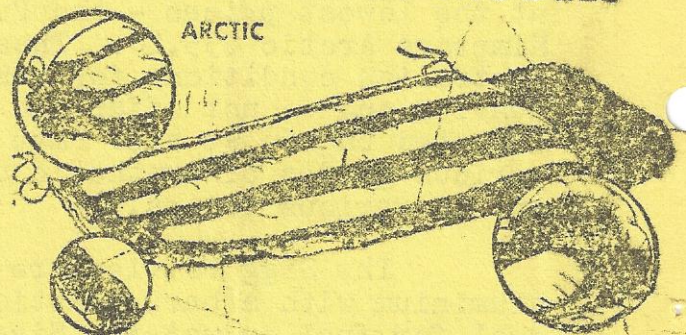


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SNOW



ARCTIC



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,

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.

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KIMPTON'S FEATHER MILLS, 11 Budd Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066
PHONE: Melbourne 41-5073, Sydney 399-1239, Adelaide 57-8634, Brisbane 2-2354.

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