

the

MOUNTAINEER



REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. FOR TRANSMISSION
BY POST AS A PERIODICAL CATEGORY "B"

may 1974

20c

So what is new in packs? We have recently obtained several overseas packs of interesting design. There is the Jensen Pack from Rivendell Mountain Works in America. At \$40 this is not cheap for a frameless pack, but it is solidly made from good materials and shaped to fit the back comfortably. We reprint the manufacturers notes as follows:

"The pack is divided into two compartments. The upper carries the bulk of the weight and forms two vertical columns which transfer their weight to the lower compartment, a horizontal tube which wraps partially around the wearer's hips. When fully packed a slim profile is presented and the pack fits the wearer's back very snugly with much of the weight transferred to the wearer's hips.

Very careful attention is spent on the construction of this pack. All seams of stress are double-stitched with dacron thread. Points of stress are backed by leather reinforcement. Light pieces of fabric are hot cut for a sealed edge. Sturdy leather patches are provided for carrying skis, crampons, ice axe, rope, foam mat, etc. Zippers are covered with a generous weather flap to keep out rain, and to prevent freezing and abrasion. Unwaled corduroy is added where the pack touches the wearer's back to make a more comfortable fit in warm weather.

The Jensen Pack is now being constructed of Cordura, an 11 oz. nylon fabric with three times the abrasion resistance of cotton canvas. It is coated with urethane for weather resistance.

The zip closures are heavy nylon coil type with two slides for easier access.

Naturally a frameless pack requires careful packing. Care must be taken that hard or sharp objects will not be against the wearer's back. A sleeping bag ideally fits in the lower tube. A bag may also be stuffed in an inverted "U" shape into both upper tubes at once. Additional gear may then be stuffed in with the sleeping bag. If the amount of gear carried leaves no room for the bag inside, it may be strapped on in a number of places. The arrangements are limited only to the packer's imagination and needs, if the pack is not to be full, the lower tube should be filled first for maximum comfort. Four nylon accessory straps are included for attachment of gear on the outside."

The K-2 range of packs come from New Zealand but are of American design. They have a contoured high-load heavy gauge alloy frame. The pack bag fabric is heavy-duty nylon (weight 330gm/m²) waterproof and extremely puncture and abrasion resistant. The shoulder straps are sponge rubber padded and arranged to follow the contour of the shoulders down the back. Instead of back webbing a sheet of open mesh terylene fabric is used to provide comfortable contact on the back. A padded waist belt takes a fair proportion of the weight. Models available at present are the 'Standard' in medium or large sizes for loads to 80 lbs. at \$68.85, and the 'Special' in the same sizes for loads to 100 lbs. at \$73.30. The Special has an additional bar across the top for the greater strength but omits the back-stay used in the Standard to give shape to the bag opening. The medium size is suited to people to 6 ft. The large size is recommended for persons over 6 ft or of heavy build or if you insist in carrying huge amounts of gear.

- Cheers, Loch -

INDEX

Index	Page 1
Club Heavies	1
Editorial	3
Letters to the Editors	4
News, Gossip and Trivia	4
Bushwalking	6
Traversing the Western Arthurs Federation Peak	7
Rockclimbing	9
Chunder Corner	11
Orienteering	13
Alpine Poem	13
West Ridge of Malte Brun	16
Book Reviews	17
Club Contact System	18
Trips Programme	21
	22

COVER: Jol Shelton on West Portal, S.W. Tasmania, looking towards Federation Peak.

THROCKMORTON'S LAW

"90% of everything is bullshit, including Throckmorton's Law!"

CLUB HEAVIES 1974Committee:

President	Peter Kissane	49-1862
Vice-Presidents	Laurie Patrick	
	Mark Spain	850-3175
Secretary	Gillian Hume	38-5987
Treasurer	George Kuczera	
Trips Secretary	Rex Niven	
Stores Officer	Ian Moore	82-6029 (Home)
		341-6798 (Int.)
Assistant Secretary	Greg Davies	99-3338
Editors	Marcia McDonald	
	Peter Treby	
General Committee Members	Steve Bennett	82-6065
	Bruce Rigby	836-1029
Climbing Convenor	Nicholas Reeves	82-6211

Non Committee Positions:

Convenors - Canoeing Sub-committee	D. Iser	
F.V.W.C. Delegate	T. Sutherland	
F.V.W.C. Observer	Harry Schaap	80-3581
F.V.W.C. S & R Delegate	Rod Tucker	
F.V.W.C. S & R Observer	Dave Caddy	53-9840
V.N.P.A. Delegate	Ian East	
A.C.F. Delegate	Rob Jung	
C.C.V. Delegates	Michael Henderson	51-7447
	Graeme Oakes	347-2917
	John Terrell	
V.O.A. Delegate	Don Fell	398-3376
Librarian	Ros Wood	
Assistant Librarian	Nick Reeves	82-6211
Map Librarian	Tony Sherwood	
Hut Wardens	Robyn Fraser	
	Adrian Davey	30-1962?
	Ian Devlin	846-1718
First Aid Officer	Elizabeth Brown	489-7685
Publication Sales Officer	Rex Niven	
Ski-Touring Equipment Officers	Greg Davies	99-3338
	Bruce Rigby	836-1029
Duplicating Officers	Tina Buckland	43-1269
	Barbie Whiteley	723-1948
	Ros Wood	
24 Hour Walk Organiser	Adrian Davey	30-1962?
Dinner Dance Organisers	Barbie Whiteley	723-1948
	Robyn McKearnan	85-5315
	Moirra Cathcart	58-3833
Assistant Stores Officers	Laurie Patrick	
	Lainie Murray	347-6386
	Linda Huzzey	
	David Caddy	53-9840
	Bob Jacobs	
	Michael Henderson	51-7447
	Graeme Oakes	347-2917
	Arnold Wheeler	
	Robyn McKearnan	85-5315
	Mark Spain	
	Tony Kerr	850-3175
Publicity Officers	Harry Schaap	80-3581
	Harry Schaap	"
Open Day Organiser	Stephen Glen	25-1821
30th Anniversary Dinner Organisers	Ruth McKenzie	85-2883
Club Contact	Iris Jahnke	
Farrago Liason Officer	Bob Cannon	340-6408 (Int.)
Catering Officers		741-1020 (Home)
Computer Programmer		

EDITORIAL

The editors this month wish to initiate some discussion amongst M.U.M.C. members on the subject of non-student members of the club, and more generally, on the various types of membership which are available.

The ordinary student member pays \$1.00 per annum, and gets in return, six to eight issues of the "Mountaineer", is covered by Sports Union Insurance whilst on official club trips, and can stand and vote for Committee positions. In the 'ordinary' member category, also come old students (of any University) and present or past Academic Staff members (though we know of none of these). One may wonder whether these last two groups are covered by the insurance, as they would not be paying Sports Union fees. These last two groups pay a membership fee of \$1.50.

Clause 7 of our Constitution allows the Committee to create Honorary Life members - persons who are distinguished mountaineers, or who would benefit the Club, or on whom the Club wishes to "bestow a mark of its' appreciation". These people don't pay anything, perhaps aren't covered by insurance, but can vote at A.G.M.'s and receive copies of "The Mountaineer". Keep on truckin' and you may one day be distinguished enough to gain free membership!

If one merely wishes to receive "The Mountaineer", which after all is the greatest benefit which membership confers, one can pay \$1.00 per year and become a "Mailing List Member". Such persons of course, have none of the other rights at all.

Finally, and this is the category into which non-students and other ineligible may fit, one may become what is known as a "Donor Member". These people pay \$1.50 per year and receive "The Mountaineer". They cannot vote for or stand for the Committee, and it is doubtful if insurance would cover them. In fact, the tangible advantages seem to be no greater than those of the mailing list members. The extra subscription seems merely to dub the person with the title "Donor Member". Possibly the advantage would accrue in the preference being shown to members on trips on which both members and non-members are going-so too, 'donors' would be allowed on van trips.

The Committee, when it formulated this category of membership, obviously envisaged that the applicant would be active in club activities -the Policy Book states this, and a person wishing to become one must be proposed and seconded by two financial club members, and this be accepted by the Committee.

The Club then can accomodate those who wish to participate in its activities, and use its' gear, who would otherwise be ineligible. If you know of any, encourage them to try and join - the Club can only benefit by having more active, enthusiastic people in its midst.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

I of the Morals Committee deplore the activity of certain committee members. For example, a certain couple of the committee, holding responsible positions, went away for a weekend by themselves, rather than go on the President's Day Walk.

Another Committee member, in fact the Club President, was heard to ask if any sleeping bags with full length compatible zips were available for the Beginners' trip ... it is left to the imagination as to what he wanted it for!

Yours sincerely,

The Morals Committee.

(Rumor has it that the president - and sole member - of the Morals Committee now has a sleeping bag with a compatible zip, and combination lock! Whether this is to keep persons out, or in, is left to the imagination.

Eds.)

NEWS, GOSSIP, AND TRIVIA1. Salient Points of the Committee Meeting (10/4/74)

The first meeting of the new committee was characterised by excessive verbal exchange, however a few items of general interest: Cycling - although we think that this is a pleasurable activity which should be encouraged, it is generally thought that it should not be a future official Club activity. Duplicator - the dilemma of what to do as regards the future of the duplicator and "The Mountaineer" was not completely resolved, but several alternatives are being investigated:-

i) offset cover for "The Mountaineer", with other pages duplicated since the cost of completely offset magazine was thought to be excessive. (This is still being investigated.)

ii) diagnosis, with a prognosis, of the old duplicator will be done by a competent mechanic before further decision is made as to obtaining a new one.

Gill Hume (Secretary).

Further to the 'Great Pushbike Debate' ... those interested in cycle trips should note that a Cycling Club has this year been established at Melbourne University. Nevertheless it is true that M.U.M.C.'s activities do, at present, span a wide spectrum, and some are more than a little removed from the classic conception of mountaineering - eg. orienteering, and perhaps canoeing. So, should we also include

cycling trips to bush areas as an official Club activity? The editors invite your comment.

The Committee also accepted three more nominations for Search and Rescue. M.U.M.C. has, in its membership, been under-represented in S&R. S&R's purpose "...is the humanitarian one of assisting where a person may be lost, injured, or distressed", and experienced bushwalkers with adequate navigational skills and equipment are encouraged to apply. The duties of volunteers are to be ready on call with equipment, be prepared to be taken to search areas, and to spend several days locating a stray walker or tourist. Its importance cannot be over-estimated... apply now!

2. Help Wanted

- i) Students wanted to help at St. Albans High, Activities Programme: 13th to 17th May. Experience or interest in any of the following would be helpful - hiking, orienteering, campcrafts...etc
contact Jan Uniacke Ph. 396255 A.H. 251370.
- ii) A teacher who has a small Alpine Club based in Wagga has written to ask for help in training the younger members of the group in winter touring above the snow line. (This could be a good chance to practice your own style!)
If you are interested please see or ring Gill Hume as soon as possible (Ph. 385986).
- iii) "The Mountaineer" needs someone with a car, persuasive tongue, and business sense, to collect advertising for our motley bi-monthly.
See either of the editors.

3. Happy-couple-of-the-month

Dave Crowther and fiancée Shiela, are shortly to be married. Congratulations! (Both are at present studying in California).

4. Library Additions

The Librarian will soon have the pleasure of spending this year's allocation for books. If you have any suggestions, write them into the notebook in the library, located in the dingy far reaches of the "Aikman's Road Cavern".

(If you have read any mountaineering book recently, be sure to write a concise review of it, of between 500 and 800 words, and forward it to the editors. We are currently scrounging for reviews of "The Ulysses Factor", "The Alps and Alpinism", and "A Land Apart", all of which are in the library.

BUSHWALKING

1. 1974 Beginners Bushwalk Trip Report

The 1974 Beginners bushwalk highlighted the fact that M.U.M.C. can no longer send great hordes (150+) to Wilson's Promontory National

Park during the warmer months of the year. There are too many other visitors during this period to permit such mass invasions.

In order to try to cope with the demand the Rangers have now:

- a) Limited the places where people overnight (excluding Tidal River) to seven locations; Oberon Bay (Frasers Creek), Half Way Hut (who would want to camp there?); Roaring Meg Creek; Lt. Waterloo Bay; Refuge Cove; Sealers Cove (Sth. End) and Five Mile Beach.
- b) Limited the size of any group camping at each site to a maximum of twenty.
- c) Restricted stays at each campsite to one night only (ie. no base camps)

These restrictions are, as far as is possible, being enforced and may well be only the beginning of more severe controls.

For this reason, some time on the Saturday morning was spent shuffling people around so that no campsite would be overwhelmed with OXO-men. Unfortunately this meant conscripting some people to camp at places other than where they desired as first preference. (eg. Oberon Bay instead of Waterloo Bay).

The situation of the campsight highlighted the reasoning behind the regulations; the Roaring Meg campsite was very crowded and probably several hundred were camped at Lt. Waterloo Bay; Refuge and Sealers' Cove were not too bad, and the Oberon Bay Campsite had only one group (cf M.U.M.C.) people in it.

Despite the numbers, a good time was had by all - especially Dave Caddy, John Chapman, and their harem of about eight women, who all slept out on the beach at Waterloo.

Mt. Wilson was successfully climbed by a team lead by Dave Bayliss, in what must be near record time. (They reached the Waterloo Bay campsite before 7pm) Obviously Dave and Iain East found the going easier than P.B!

Various other groups knocked off Mt. Ramsay (Mark Spain et al) and Mt. Oberon (lots of tourists including Rex Niven, Steve Bennett, Geoff Fagan, and Rob Jung) The trip to South Pt. (Ian Moore etc), in keeping with Club tradition, piked when nearly there!

Van travel followed similar trends to previous years - going down all the heavies were concentrated on two vans, leaving the other two vans filled mainly with beginners. Five-hundred seems to have replaced singing as a major social activity, so songbook sales were small.

Rob Jung (ex Trips Secretary).

Where are the rousing choruses known from mountaineers in days gone by? Their passing is sadly mourned - five-hundred, a game involving six people at most, is hardly what we would call a social activity!

Eds.

2. Traversing the Western Arthurs - Report of a trip by Jolyon Shelton and John Terrell (Feb-March 74)

To those unfamiliar with this infamous range, the Western Arthurs are situated in the heart of South-West Tasmania. In little more than twelve miles over thirty lakes lie hidden in a maze of intersecting quartzite ridges. The range presents the finest example of glaciation to be found in Australia.

With more than forty peaks, the intricate skyline route of the traverse, first done in December 1960, presents a vertical world with patches of seemingly impenetrable scrub. Fortunately, due to the passage of many feet over the last decade, the navigational problems are not as difficult as they once were. However the atrocious weather for which the South-West is famous, can still make navigation impossible.

On our approach from Scotts Peak, the Western Arthurs looked dry, craggy and exciting. The weather was ideal - not a cloud to be seen and the air so clear that peaks thirty miles distant seemed close at hand. The next morning, the higher peaks, 3000' above the plains, were shrouded in mist, but by noon the sun had broken through and we made our way up the crest to Moraine A towards Mt Hesperus, at the Western edge of the range. Perched on its summit we marvelled at the razor sharp ridges and peaks sweeping back and forth in great cirques. It was to take us eight days to reach Lake Rosanne at the eastern edge of the range. (Two of those days were spent lying in our tent, the mountains being obscured by mist all day.)

A short rocky descent from Hesperus and a traverse 1000' above Lake Fortuna brought us to a steep, slippery pineapple-grass gully leading down to Lake Cygnus, the campsite for the night. The squelchy ground provided numerous unpromising tent-sites, but eventually we found a dry site that had recently been cut out of the scoparia at the side of the lake. The lake, as are most in the range, is velvet black with a small pink, quartzite sand beach. The shallows, reddish brown in colour from dissolved tannin, is a home for many tadpoles and tiny crustaceans.

A steep climb up the north-east edge of the lake brought us back on to the crags of the main ridge. A short descent, followed by a traverse, then a climb requiring delicate balance and footwork in the steep parts and the scrub bashing ability of an elephant, and we found ourselves on top of Mt Haynes. After two hours of exploring hair raising routes down steep, improbable gullies, and precipitous knife-blade ridges, we finally found our way around the Gendarmes and down to Square Lake.

Hidden from view until almost upon it, Square Lake is incredibly beautiful - 500' steel grey cliffs plunge vertically into its dark waters and a dense forest of Pandanus and King Billy trees almost completely encircles the lake. A sheltered site on the southern edge of the lake protected us that night from the strong winds and swirling mists which did not abate until 2.00 pm the following day. This only allowed us to climb the next ridge and ascend the peaks of Sirius and Orion before descending again to Lake Oberon for another camp.

The most intimidating part of the traverse was the descent of Mt Capricorn. Although the route is easy enough to see, following it required the utmost in concentration. The descent ridge was "incredibly steep yet fern-covered", as the route guide had warned us. Incredibly steep meant almost vertical for 700' and fern-covered meant there were loose ferns for handholds on either side of the footholds (often a mudslide), which have been cut into the peaty soil clinging to the crage! We eventually reached the bottom and after a side trip to Dorado Peak ascended the ridge to High Moor.

High Moor, perched between the twin peaks of Mt Columba, became home for a day as the most failed to life until 4.00 pm. When we moved on again the weather was unusual to say the least. To the south-west of the ridge the sky was clear and the bush was bathed in sunshine. On the other side of the ridge (N.E.), the sky was cloudy and overcast. As the clouds were blown over the range they dissolved in the warmer air. Since the bad weather in this region comes from the west and southwest this situation was indeed strange. However no ill came of it and a long days journey was possible.

The route from High Moor to Haven Lake once afforded a severe test of navigational skills, but a well marked track now makes it easy in this regard, although it still severely tests balance, endurance, and stamina. The track sidles around crags on near vertical slopes, descends steeply through rocky chasms, and traverses prickly scoparia patches beneath huge overhangs.

A brief rest, and inspection of sites at Haven Lake convinced us of the sanity of heading toward Promontory Lake via the spectacular peak of Mt Scorpio. A steep, rapid descend off Scorpio brought us to Lake Juno, the second of two lakes connected by a sparkling waterfall making its way over pink tinted quartzite. The soft, dry and springy ground was irresistible and camp was made.

The next day the going was open but not always easy. At times the track along Centaurus Ridge disappeared amongst the boulders and scrub. Finding the way along was easy, but climbing loose boulders with heavy packs was somewhat disconcerting. West Portal, the highest peak in the range (3,850') marked the end of Centaurus Ridge. From its summit could be seen the grey tooth of Federation Peak and beyond it, on the horizon, Precipitous Bluff.

The Crag of Andromeda, a mole long series of peaks with long sharp buttresses and scree slopes, was the last of the high ridges which make up the traverse. A slow descent and scrub bash on the side of Lucifer Ridge and we were at Lake Rosanne, the last of the lakes that lie hidden by the craggy wilderness. The next day a rapid descent down a moraine brought us to the Arthur Plains and the track to Cracroft Crossing - the infamous Yo-Yo track and its bumps were negotiated the following day.

The Western Arthurs traverse is still a real challenge for all who appreciate the untouched wilderness. The ugly scar of the Scotts Peak dam

detracts somewhat from the value of the traverse, but the beauty of the range itself and the unspoilt views to the south and west made the traverse a truly aesthetic experience.

Jolyon Shelton

3. Federation Peak

Although we had just completed a fourteen day walk over Precipitous Bluff, Tim Secomb, Tony Sherwood, and myself had still not suffered enough, and were still determined to conquer Federation Peak. After an overnight trip back to Hobart for repairs to my knee (infected) and boots (decomposed), we met at Geeveston on the Saturday morning. Tim had already collected the food from its prearranged "dump", and residents of Geeveston were soon treated to the sight of irresponsible mountaineers dealing out food packages in the main street (two for you, one for me). Two locals offered to take us the sixteen miles to the Huon River for \$8.00. To everyone's surprise we arrived in one piece, and as the weather was still fine and clear we walked in to Blakes Hut that evening.

The Huon Track is the remains of a four wheel drive track reportedly cut for H.E.C. surveyors, and follows the path of the Huon River to the Cracroft River. It provides fairly easy walking, but crosses successively higher spurs to a peak of 1,115'. Vegetation varies through button-grass, tee-tree, Sassafras, native pear, and myrtle. Blakes Hut is a rough three sided "bush shelter", which proved to be very comfortable.

Sunday morning we continued along the track to Cracroft Crossing. Debate over the actual route (i.e. do we really have to climb that spur) livened up the walk, while the heat, the quartzite track surface, and the never-ending hills were dampening our enthusiasm for bushwalking. Having crossed the suspension bridge over the Cracroft, we wandered around the swamp following wombat pad-markers to the hut, a three sided prefab shelter. Previous parties of walkers had left the hut very untidy so we spent some time cleaning up. We were rewarded for our good work by finding eight health bars, a tin of plumpudding, and some custard powder discarded by some weary hiker. Fifteen minutes after reaching the shelter it started raining, but we were able to cook dinner and finish our meal before the storm itself started.

Tony's "good-weather" gifts (rub his tummy three times) worked, and the rain was reduced to a drizzle by the next morning. We awoke early, thanks to the hut's resident wallaby attending to the dishwashing. Across the Razorback and button-grass plains to Luckmans Lead, then up into the Eastern Arthurs. The open moranial ridge gave way to rocky outcrops, then a forest belt steepening to near vertical walls with the scrub and scoparia. By the time we reached Stuart's Saddle, the weather was so poor it was decided to make camp. The ground was wet, campsite poor, usable water scarce, and the weather lousy, but we were soon lying in our sleeping bags in the tent cooking a four course meal.

The next day was misty and rainy, and with little encouragement we stayed in bed till 10.00 am. As Tony was convinced the weather was improving we dressed in our wet clothes, packed up and headed for Goon Moor. After lunch, we crossed to the western side of the Four Peaks, spent some time looking for the route, and by trial and error navigated to Thwaites Plateau. From here the going was easier, up the plateau and across to Hanging Lake. Mumbling that the lake was fictitious, Tony tried wading across it in the mist. Dinner was cooked on a very unco-operative fire and camp set up in an attractive but exposed site. Warnings about the scarcity of firewood are not exaggerated, and parties might be advised to plan for stove cooking in the area.

Wednesday morning the weather had improved, and soon we were treated to some magnificent views. After a two hour battle with the fire trying to cook breakfast, we left to attempt the Direct Ascent of the peak. By this stage our appetites had increased so much that we were in danger of running out of food by the end of the trip. We followed the well-cairned Southern Traverse to the signpost (!) then up on exposed rock to the summit. The weather was now perfect and the views superb. 153 panoramic shots later, we retraced our steps to camp for a late lunch, at 4 pm. The Southern Traverse and Direct Ascent routes are both rather exposed, but not technically difficult.

Having reached our objective, we headed for civilization. Following the Southern Traverse again to Bechervaise Plateau, we descended Moss Ridge, a big-dipper with jungle route requiring Tarzan-like talents. Some very steep sections were overcome by the slide-and-pray method. The actual ridge descent to Cutting Camp took 4½ hours, and would be a long trying day in the opposite direction.

As Friday was planned to be an easy day, we did not start until 11.30 pm. However the dead trees scattered throughout the valley, and dense patches of forest slowed progress. Sometimes we found ourselves in very thick baeura and tee-tree, taking much time and energy to escape. Several hours later we located the junction of the West Cracroft and Cracroft rivers, and after some searching found Cracroft Junction camp. The button-grass area around the camp has been burnt, and now is a desolate, black, unpleasant site.

The longest day of the trip was ahead of us, and an early start was made. Following the button-grass leads uphill, we encountered more patches of impenetrable baeura. We scrub-bashed through a section of forest to more open rocky ground, scrambling to the top of the Bluff. Then followed a very cold walk along ridge tops to South Picton Peak, and down to a low saddle with a small stand of living pines, and a possible campsite. More open ridge tops, then scrub-bashing toward North Lake. At 7.30 pm, we decided to pitch camp by a small creek. Once in dry clothes and warm sleeping bags, calculations showed that we were in fact camped at the site recommended in the track notes - more outstanding navigation! Tony came close to being ejected from our tent for his annoying habit of eating scroggin; Tim and I had run out.

We reached North Lake twenty minutes after leaving campe next day, but the call of civilization persuaded us to forego the ascent of Mt Picton. The vegetation here was a total contrast to the rest of the trip; open eucalypt forest, and we literally ran down the 3,000' slopes in 1½ hours. Tim was unlucky enough to be in front of a tree that collapsed when I leant against it, but fortunately it struck head, and he was not injured. After lunch at Blakes Hut, a brisk walk along the track brought us back to Arve Rd., to be greeted by the sight of family Sunday picnics at the picnic area. By a stroke of luck, a car had just disgorged three walkers and their 70 lb. packs, about to follow the same route as us. As they would not be dissuaded, we accepted the offer of a lift back to Hobart. The descent of three smelly, starved mountaineers was almost indecent - 2 lb. of bread, a pound of cheese, a jar of marmalade, two pies, a pastie, fish and chips, a quart of milk and a bottle of soft drink! After a restful night in Hobart (hotels were shut), Tony and I flew back to Melbourne, while Tim went to stay with relatives.

Roger Barson.

ROCKCLIMBING

Climbing Gear for the Beginner

Hopefully the beginners course this year has impressed some people enough to get into rockclimbing more deeply. Accordingly, I felt a few notes on begging, borrowing and buying gear might be appropriate.

In the early days of rockclimbing in Britain, the pioneers had only poor quality natural fibre ropes available to them, did not use running belays (nor even anchors sometimes), and clattered their way up cliffs in cumbersome nailed boots. Nowadays the situation is the reverse; instead of an inadequate minimum, climbers adorn themselves with vast collections of expensive imported garbage. The more oppulent lash themselves into elaborate harnesses, draped with a nylon hula-skirt of short nut-slugs. Complete with helmet, the effect is not unlike a hybrid of a cosmonaut and a bird-of-paradise. Despite the gains in safety which the equipment revolution has brought, there is a tendency for some to lose sight of climbing objectives, and to collect the latest range of Chouinards nuts merely for the sake of collecting.

To avoid both dangerous inadequacy and overbuying is quite easy for the M.U.M.C. climber. Nuts, slugs, carabiners, ropes, helmets, pitons, prussikers, hammers, bolt brackets and etriers can be borrowed from the store at the clubrooms behind 27 Royal Pde., providing one has been approved by the leaders as a Competent climber. The rockclimbing gear may be borrowed free of charge, but the borrower must replace any equipment which is lost or damaged.

The beginner is advised to wait until he has had some experience climbing and using various items of equipment before making any extensive purchases. Nevertheless, some basics can be bought cheaply and at the outset of one's climbing career. A seatbelt webbing waistband 2" wide by

20 ft long is almost universally used by Australian climbers; this will only cost a few dollars from Bushgear, Molony's, or Odin Equipment (mail order service, Qld.). Sandshoes, walking boots or desert boots serve until one can afford upwards of \$20 for a special pair for climbing. P.A's., Gollies and E.B's. are popular, but your choice is restricted by erratic availability in Australia.

For mail ordering overseas, see the Club library for catalogues, and consult the club publication "Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering" for detailed advice. Finally, be very wary of borrowing other people's gear - even some climbers of long experience subject their gear to incredibly maltreatment.

Peter Treby.

Dear Mr & Mrs Editor,

As a climbing beginner I would like to point out the disorder of the course (i.e. beginners rockclimbing course, Eds.).

The convenor's obvious lack of respect and personal contact with Huey eventually brought vast volumes of rain; perhaps an attempt to dilute all the verbal garbage associated with the course. The beginner's talk was highlighted by exhibitions of 50 ways to attach to a seat harness, and how to place protection in anybody's conveniently open mouth.

The day trip to Sugarloaf was diverted to 100 miles in the opposite direction - perhaps a masterly move by the convenor to ensure that his predecessor was absent for the day's activities. The Arapiles weekend was a series of hurdles to be overcome; 30 miles of thick fog, then rain was encountered on the way up, blasts of giggling and laughter all that stopped anybody sleeping, finding a leader to take you climbing, beating the blind players at pool in the pub, and finally trying to overcome the rain on Sunday (perhaps it was a day of rest!). Surely future club trips could be organized so as all these difficulties can be overcome and climbing might be an enjoyable past-time.

Yours sincerely,

Beginner

(???????? Eds.)

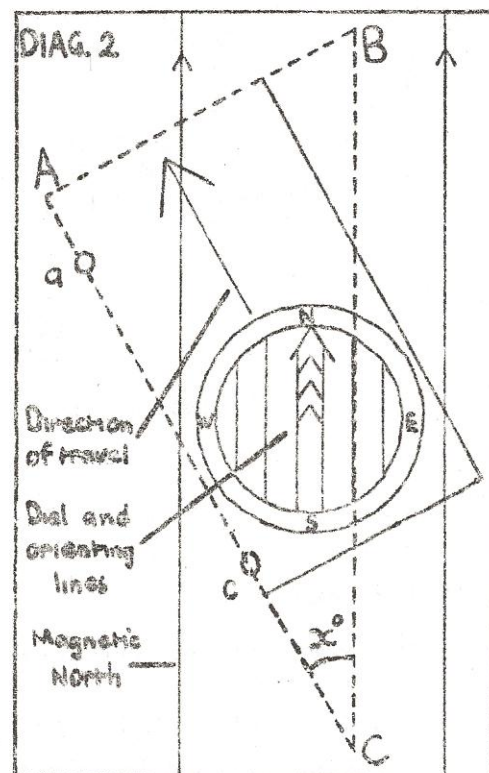
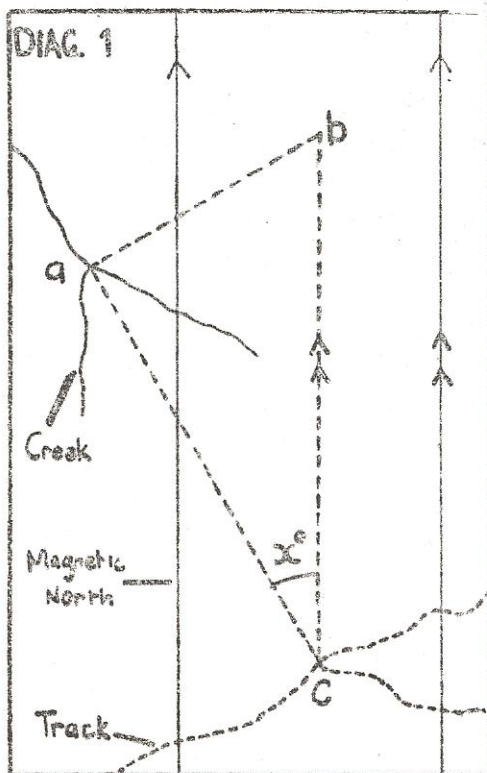
NO NEWS this month from Cavers, Canoers, Conservation Sub-committee, Equipment Sub-committee, etc., etc., etc.,

There usually are, and they will be able to tell you all you need to know. If you can't get in at lunchtime ring Tony Kerr after hours on 874-2726.

That fixes the practice aspect. Now a little theory to get you on your way. It sometimes takes a while to realize exactly how an orienteering compass works. Until this clicks it is practically impossible to navigate successfully. There are two distinct steps to remember; the first is - a measurement of angles on the map surface and the second is a transferring of these angles to the ground.

Step One.

To measure angles one needs a protractor but these need not concern the owner of an orienteering compass since it is a protractor as well as a compass. Consider the following diagrams.



Presume you are standing at the track junction (c), and you want to get to the creek junction (a). Seeing that all your calculations must be tied to magnetic north, along which bc lies, it is obvious that you need to know the angle x. An orienteering compass eliminates the need to know x in degrees since it is a sliding protractor which can be physically set at x from the map. A carpenter's adjustable set square works on much the same principle.

To see how the compass is set imagine diag. 2 super-imposed on diag. 1 with AC on ac. In practice this means that the compass edge is aligned with the two points between which you wish to travel. The dial is turned so the orienteering lines are aligned with magnetic north. This has been done in diagram 2. Notice that even though the new triangle has been made larger for illustration purposes, it is equiangular with abc. x is now set on the compass. It may be easier to think of it as the intersection of one of the dial lines and the direction of travel arrow.

Step Two.

Now you get to use the compass needle itself. It is superfluous during Step One and should be completely ignored. The compass has already been set so don't alter the dial, just rotate the whole compass until the arrow on the dial is aligned with the end of the magnetic needle (north). You have now aligned the orienting lines with north on the ground so the direction of travel arrow will be pointing the way you want to go. The imaginary triangle on the map has been transferred to the ground and you will be walking along one of its sides.

This explanation must quickly be followed by a hint : never attempt to walk a straight line between two controls as I have described. It's harder than you think and only experienced people can do it. The idea is to use natural and man-made features as signposts to mark the way. The nearer you get to a control whilst knowing for certain where you are the better. The best way to learn how to do this is to get a seasoned M.U.M.C. orienteer to mark out the route he took over the course, giving his reasons for choice of that route.

To attain any standard of proficiency it is necessary to step-count. Get the aforementioned orienteer to pace out 100 metres for you to walk and run along so you can determine your own pacing. You will have to learn to allow for variations in terrain.

As it is essential to know how far you have come, as well as in what direction, never leave a control without taking a bearing and counting your steps.

Take no notice of anyone else on the course. Nine times out of ten he will be lost as well and will only further confuse you!

Controls are sometimes, though rarely, misplaced. Don't spend all day looking for one. If it turns out that you were wrong then you are so much the wiser next time.

Get someone to go through the map legend with you so you know exactly what you are looking for. Orienteering has its own jargon.

Finally, a word about fitness. As orienteering caters for a wide range of standards there is no necessity to be as fit as a track athlete. If you are not fit, however, you must not try to exceed your limitations. Running up hills puts tremendous strain on the achilles tendon and calf

muscles. Resulting injury could put you out of action for some time, as rest is part of the cure. People with weak ankles should be very careful indeed. If you intend to go into the big time (and there is no doubt about it, orienteering gets you in) the best advice is to take it easy and do plenty of training runs. Ideally, orienteering-type country is best for training but a few miles a day round the the local football oval comes a good second.

If you are unlucky enough to get injured, I would most certainly advise a visit to Sports Union Medicine pre-fab at the north end of the uni oval. Treatment is free to students and they are most helpful. The service should be in operation after Easter and hours will probably appear on the pre-fab window.

Further reading : there are no specifically Australian books. Some are too biased towards their country of origin, but one seems to stand out - "Competitive Orienteering", Hellman, Kaill, Rystedt and Gustavson. (Canadian Orienteering Service 1971. Price \$2.50 late March). "Planning an Orienteering Competition", published by the Orienteering Federation of Australia (reprinted 1973) may also be helpful, as orienteering is often said to be a competition between the runner and the course setter. (Price, 70 cents).

These books, plus a few more should appear shortly in the M.U.M.C. library.

Tony Sherwood.

ALPINE POEM

Bottled up with doubt.
By myself, alone with myself,
Upon the upper bunk.
Below, chattering, all cook tea.
Relaxed anticipating a solution
To the difficulties of the climb.

Sleepless night before the rise.
No snuggled blanket but a
Sweaty, open bag.
Worried, I pre-live the climb
To magnify the difficulty
Into an overhanging hell.

Is it the sweat that beckons?
Those long slogs with blistered feet.
The need to plot on. Up!
Until the point of exhaustion
Driven well home.

Or the fear? That stomach ache of fright.
 Why the cold, stinging
 To leave a warm bed. Sleep disturbed
 For a long hard day.

Climb.
 Affirm by deed.
 Reach that ledge, look around.
 Feel the long way down.
 A dramatic posture. Contrived!
 Half way up a mountain. Absurd!
 To climb is to give a theatrical rejection,
 To thumb at the role.
 Acting a role. Cast as ourselves.

Nicholas Reeves.

(The Editors felt the following quote from Oscar Wilde to be appropriate at this point:

"He leads his readers to the latrine and locks them in."

OXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO

OVERSEAS

The West Ridge of Mt Maltebrun. 10,400'

Starts before dawn are a necessary evil in Alpine Climbing. They exist to be endured. They are there to try your patience, to test your resolution, and to make you a better person for the experience..... I cannot abide them.

Warm sleep is disturbed; in the half light of torches we must dress, eat our cold meusli, and stumble on our way. It is hard to be confident in the cold dark. The climb seems so improbable, and the warm hut so close. But, even though we verbally express our intention of quitting, we keep on. We are each grumpy and insufferable. We feel so sorry for ourselves as the long dull glacier trudge continues..... then comes dawn.

The mountains are very beautiful in the first moments of light. After the dark, in the dawn light they appear magical. They are soft crimson towers, vibrant, full of vague promises.

With the sun rise comes the harsh light of day, and reality. Through snow goggles, in the white glare, the peaks no longer seem so mystical. They are there to be climbed. High up on Maltebrun our bodies begin to warm. Confidence comes as we can see where we are going. Increasing height gives us excitement. We become happy; those first few moments of exhilaration

come, only to be tempered a few minutes later with the realization that we still have far to go.

The dull snow plod ends when we reach the west ridge itself : long, razor sharp much of the way, and tremendously exposed. We look down a thousand feet each side. But the rock is good and the climbing very easy, so we move unbelayed. It is satisfying to move steadily along the ridge, conscious of the vast depth below our feet, and aware that we are climbing so well that we will not fall. We move quickly. It is great climbing and the discomfort of a few hours ago is forgotten.

A short ice ridge and then, the summit..... success! Exultant, we laugh long, great surges of mirth. We act : each of us dramatically crest the top, ice axe poised. We can not help grinning at each other. We are all at once on top of Maltebrun, and upon the summit of any other peak we care to climb. Success generates excessive optimism : over there is Cook - as good as climbed! Tasman, Aspiring....

It is a moment of delightful romancing. Then the wind becomes cold and unpleasant. We descend, but with an occasional chuckle to each other.

Nicholas Reeves.

(Also in the party were George Kuczera and Chris Hume. N.Z. Dec 73-Jan 74).

BOOK REVIEWS

1. Pollution and Conservation in Australia Dr Angus Martin (1971)

Out of the recent years of popularization of the environment have arisen many books and technical papers dealing with various aspects of pollution and conservation. They vary from highly philosophical or technical volumes down through news-agents best sellers to almost propagandist-like childrens' picture books. "Pollution and Conservation in Australia" fits somewhere between the last two categories.

This book by Dr Angus Martin, Lecturer in Zoology at Melbourne Uni is not strikingly impressive, but I think that this is perhaps what he set out to achieve. The book is subtitled "A layman's guide to the causes, effects and controls of pollution", and this is indeed what it is. To those versed in pollution and pollution control, very little is offered, but underlying the superstructure there is a framework of basic commonsense which is fundamental for a level-headed, rational approach to a mammoth problem offering few obvious fingerholds. The main points here are: (i) the basic axiom that pollution (and anti-conservation) is a function of increasing population; (ii) recognition that pollution only becomes pollution when the pollutant in question is in excess - the emphasis being that the environment can safely cope with reasonable amounts of discharge, many of which occur naturally any way; and (iii) the necessary distinction between conservation and preservation.

The third point is interesting as it raises the issue of whether or not it is best to bottle up small sections of the environment right across the country, in the guise of national parks and reserves (Dr Martin doesn't seem to realize that certain companies and authorities don't stop at park boundaries) or more desirable to leave all land open to sensible "exploitation". The former possibility he links with the abolition of pesticides and calls preservation, the latter he calls conservation. While many conservationists would disagree with some of Dr Martin's finer detail regarding this matter, they would perhaps be less hostile if the terms used were "sensible utilization" rather than "exploitation", which in its current usage has rather unpleasant, Pedderistic implications.

Summarizing, Dr Martin gives us a simple view of what can happen when a lot of people, living in a small area, exude a large amount of crap into the environment. Perhaps it is appropriate to finish where he started with a quote from the introduction:

"The problem of pollution will not disappear. What may disappear is the opportunity to find a solution to it that is cheap, rational and humane. If we wait too long, we shall be overtaken by events, for no matter how long it takes there will ultimately be a solution, even if it is the total ravaging of the earth. All the sanguine hopes of the world will not prevent nature from taking its catastrophic revenge on our indecision. There is time - but barely time - to escape that threat'. Doesn't that have a familiar ring about to it? But it is not, as you might imagine, the over-emotional statement of some misguided prophet of doom, or of some headline seeking scientist. The quotation is from Water Pollution in Australia, the report of the Senate Select Committee on Water Pollution published in 1970."

Bruce Rigby.

2. "Don Whillians - Portrait of a Mountaineer" Don Whillians and Alick Omerod, Penguin 1973.

Don Whillians the man stands somewhere between five feet two and five feet three, but he looms head and shoulders above all but the very finest of his mountaineering rivals. His biography, at nearly three hundred pages, comes across as if it has been condensed for Readers' Digest consumption. And it only goes as far as early 1970 at that. Since then he has been to Everest (unsuccessful S-W face attempt), Mt Roraima (in South America), and Paragonia. The reading public would definately be better served if the present volume was extended to two, with provision for more to come. One might have difficulty in persuading Penguin Books to launch such a series, however. Their idea of the reading public would extend to considerably more people than the select group of mountaineers toward whom this book is obviously aimed.

Even though Don Whillians has come increasingly into the limelight I fear his name is about as well known in the community as that of the local M.P.

I doubt whether non-rockclimbers would be able to appreciate Whillians epics enough to make the book really enjoyable. Sloth, a climb on the Roaches is a good example. The crux is a twelve foot overhang some 70 to 80 feet up. A flake, big enough to crawl into, goes out six feet and a jamming crack goes the rest. Whillians makes it sound easy.

"(After working along the flake).... I jammed my way along the crack until only the heel of my foot remained on the flake. I stopped there and had a think. I knew that I hadn't used much strength so far and I also knew I couldn't get back. Right. I reached out over the tip of the overhang for a hold above it and my foot came off the flake. I was hanging free from the tip of the overhang. I quickly pulled up, jammed a foot in the crack, whipped a runner on in case anything unaccountable happened and pulled over the overhang. I was up."

The Black Cleft on Clogwyn d'ur Arddn (Cloggy) would be a climb of more popular appeal. Packed with soggy, slimey vegetation and running with freezing water, Whillians describes how he hung by one hand for an hour whilst digging away at the gunk. "For about a month after that, I could stick a pin into my thumb - it was completely dead."

If ever there was a book to restore an Australian climber's enthusiasm it is this one. Not only do we have a better climate than our British counterparts, but better rock as well. And usually we have the whole lot to ourselves. I hope Whillians' "Portrait" is in your tent next time you retreat at the first sign of moisture. It will serve you right to realize what a useless bludger you are! Thoroughly recommended reading.

Tony Sherwood.

OBITUARY:

Dr. Fritz Loewe. Died March 28, 1974.
Dr. Lowe was an Honorary Life Member of the club, and will be remembered for his many Polar explorations. His death is a deep loss to the mountaineering world.

THE CLUB CONTACT SYSTEM

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND LEAVE THIS INFORMATION WITH THOSE AT HOME OR ANY ONE ELSE WHO IS LIKELY TO WORRY.

It occasionally happens on a Club trip that an unforeseen delay occurs, resulting in the party arriving back to Melbourne much later than anticipated and thus causing some worry to anxious parents. There is also the possibility (although this is fortunately very slight) that a party may not arrive back at all. For these reasons it is the policy of the Club to have a CONTACT SYSTEM, which operates as follows:

Before a trip, the Trips Secretary or the leader gives the contact the details of the trip (i.e. intended route, mode of transport, when expected back, any anticipated difficulties, etc.) together with a list of names and phone numbers (or addresses) of those going on the trip. As soon as the party returns to Melbourne, or in the case of a trip being overdue, as soon as the party reaches civilization, the leader notifies the contact. If the party is long overdue, the contact makes arrangements via the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs' Search and Rescue Organization for a search to be initiated.

This procedure applied primarily to van trips. For trips involving a large number of private cars (e.g. climbing or caving trips) arrangements are made among the party to ensure that every car arrives safely at a main road, and should any mishap occur (e.g. mechanical breakdown) thereby delaying the car to notify the contact who can then notify the parents of all concerned.

ALL ENQUIRIES BY PARENTS AND OTHERS CONCERNING THE SAFE RETURN OF A TRIP SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE CLUB CONTACT, WHO IS THE PERSON MOST LIKELY TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE POLICE BE CONTACTED AS THEY GENERALLY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE TRIP AND SUCH ACTION COULD RESULT IN DAMAGING PUBLICITY.

The Club contacts for M.U.M.C. are:

Harry and Meredith Schaap - Phone 80-3581.

If no answer is obtained at this number, phone Bill Bewsher (25-3667) who is the Club second contact.

N.B. The normal times back to Melbourne are -

For Club day walks about 7.00 pm.

For weekend or longer van trips - 9.30 to 11.00 pm.

For private trips quite frequently up to midnight.

TRIPS PROGRAMME

- May 4-5 Search and Rescue Practice Weekend.
Venue: Gembrook, Neerim 1:50,000.
All S & R members should go. Interested others will find
experience of great value. Bring food, compass, full
winter gear, maps, day pack, \$2.00.
- May 8 (Wed.) Lunch-time slides. Easter trips etc. First floor, South
theatre, Architecture.
- May 11-12 Feathertop Hut Party.
Leaders: The Hut Wardens.
Come and get the hut ready for winter.
- May 17 First Term ends.
- May 18-20 I.V. Canoeing.
Leaders: The Canoeing Convenors, (if any).
Venue: Grafton (N.S.W.)
- May 18-19 Weekend Walk.
Mt Torbeck - Mt Terrible area, near Eildon.
Standard: Medium.
Transport: Private.
- May 21 Monthly Meeting - slide evening.
Venue: Sports Union Activities Room - 7.30 pm.
Will Martin Wardrop show Nepal slides?
Will any non-student member turn up?
This your last chance you A.G.M. stirrers!
- May 27-31 Science Exams. In case you forgot.
- May 27-June 2 Week Walk.
Licola - Tarli Karng - Ben Cruschan.
Leader: Gill Hume.
Transport: Private.
- Other first-term trips: Dave Caddy, 5-day Southern Snowy Mountains.
Bruce Rigby, Grampians. Anyone interested in going to the Cradle Mt -
Lake St. Clair Reserve should see the Trips Secretary.
- June 15-17 Queen's Birthday. Walk.
Venue: Wyperfeld National Park.
Leader Gill Hume.

- June 22-23 Weekend Walk.
Mountaineer Ck. - Bogong - Cleve Cole - Mt Beauty.
Standard: Hard. Full winter gear required.
Transport: Private.
- July 3 24 Hour Walk. Preparatory talk.
Sisalcraft Theatre - 7.30 pm.
- July 6-7 24 Hour Walk.
Venue: Heh-heh-heh!!
- July 9 Recovery Party.
Venue: Nick and Sue White's. 123 Manningham St.,
Parkville. (Take a street directory).
- July 15 Snow Walk Talk. Compulsory for those going on snow
walk.
- July 20-21 Snow Walk.
Venue: Baw-Baw.
Leader: Tony Kerr.
- July 21 Orienteering, M.U.M.C. Contest.
Leader: Ron Frederick.
- July 27-28 Ski-Touring Beginner's Course(s).
Day-trips.
- August 2 End of Second Term.
- August 2-4 Alpine Instruction Course.
- August 3 End of Creation! Leaders?

Caving: Anyone interested in trips should contact Nick White (30-4154),
or Rudi Frank (729-3158), who will inform them of coming trips.

Rockclimbing: Trips are frequent but are organized at short notice.
Contact the Climbing Convenor.

Bookings: Either (i) Enter your name and other details in the Trips
Book at the Club room, behind 27 Royal Pde.
or (ii) Ring the Trip leader,
or (iii) Ring the Trips Secretary.

Note: The two guidebook meetings scheduled for May and June
have been cancelled. --- Bob Cannon.

COPY DEADLINE NEXT MOUNTAINEER MAY 31.

Ski
The Nordic
Way



**Australia's Largest Range
of Cross-Country Gear**

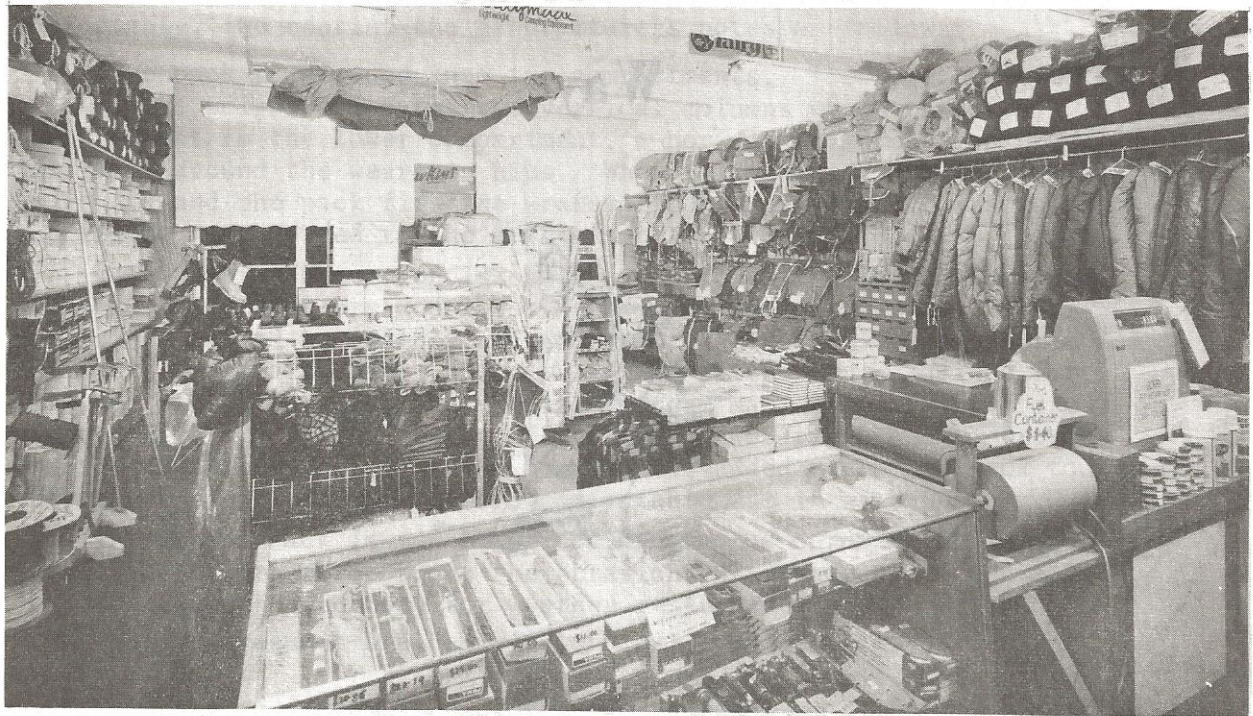
NORDIC SKI PRODUCTS

**77 MURRUMBEENA ROAD,
MURRUMBEENA, 3163**

phone: 569 8368

NEW STOCKS ARE
ARRIVING NOW!

NEW DESIGNS — NEW MATERIALS — NEW PRODUCTS



— OUR 2ND FLOOR SHOWROOM —

SALES:— Catalogues and pamphlets on request

MAIL ORDER SERVICE:— Prompt attention but
full details please

HIRE DEPARTMENT:— Tents, Rucksacks, Sleeping
Bags, 8R Stoves, — Excellent gear at moderate rates.

"SEE THE PEOPLE WHO CARE"

molony's

197 ELIZABETH STREET MELBOURNE

OPPOSITE G.P.O. PHONE: 67-8428