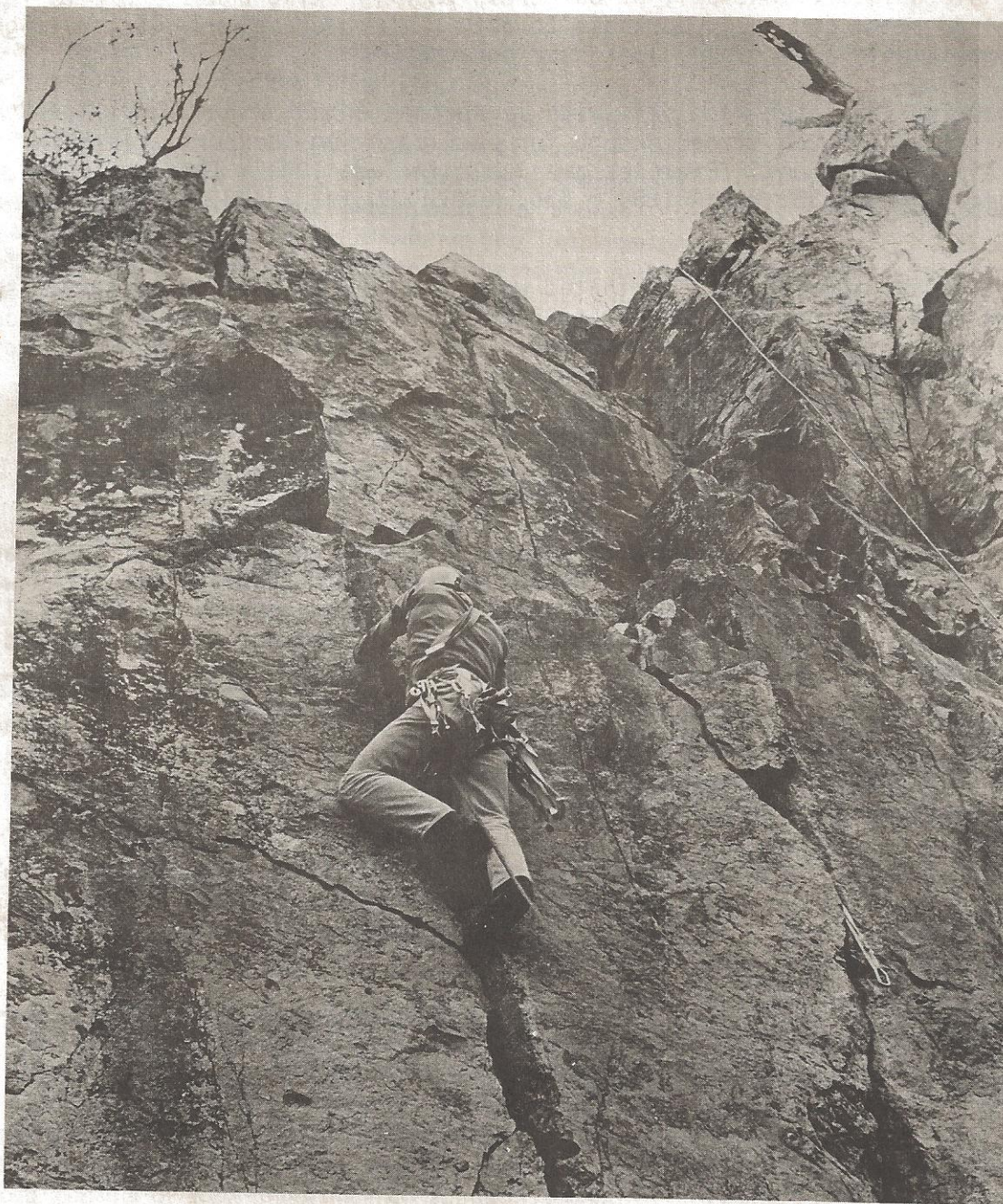


the

# MOUNTAINEER



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

june - july 1974

20c



We now have a lot, if not all, of our cross-country skis, boots and bits for this season. We recommend early purchase to obtain the best selection. You might even find some skiable snow if you look hard enough.

Light touring laminated wood skis with lignostone edges, width about 50.52 mm - this type of ski has proven strong enough for pack carrying inexperienced skiers in normal Australian conditions. Examples available include TOPPEN Tur-lett @ \$36, SPLITKEIN Special @ \$38.50, BONNA 1800 @ \$36, KONGSBERG 107 @ \$35. Toe bindings are recommended.

Medium to heavy touring skis laminated wood width about 55 - 60 mm for pessimists or heavy hard skiers going into rougher tougher conditions. BONNA 2400 lignostone edges \$37.90, same with steel edges inserted along mid-section \$44.20; BONNA Fjellski with full steel edges \$44.20; SKILOM lignostone edges \$36; SPLITKEIN Tur with Lignostone \$37.75, without \$29.50; TOPPEN Mountain ski \$39.00; KONGSBERG 300 Lignostone edges \$35. Toe or cable bindings are suitable.

Fibreglass skis - SPLITKEIN incorporate lignostone edges which is a new development for fibreglass skis. The touring model @ \$49.50 has a P.Tex sole; the X light touring @ \$46 has the synthetic Splitkana sole used on a number of good racing skis. These 2 skis need no tarring but are waxed as usual. There is also the waxless @ \$44.20 which has mohair strips set into a P.Tex sole and needs no waxing at all. It has a fibreglass top but not lignostone edging. Toe bindings are recommended for all this group. All are 50 mm wide.

We also have a selection of ultra light touring and racing skis which are not recommended for pack carrying - SPLITKEIN Blue Sprint 47 mm and \$46 with Splitkana sole and lignostone edges, TOPPEN Balsa Lett 47 mm, \$37.80 and Lignostone 48 mm \$38.00. Toe bindings are essential with this group.

We have a variety of toe and cable binding, including robust adjustable cable types suited to use with tramping and mountaineering boots. Prices range \$5.50 - \$9.20. We have some stocks @ \$6.25 with plain leather strap or \$8.00 with adjustable leather strap and leather handle.

In boots we have a few of the Stovler all rubber boots over from last year @ \$19.00; Nordingra light boots @ \$17.90; Suveren double-tongue boots @ \$25.50; Alfa boots @ \$22.50 or double-tongue @ \$23.00.

We have Swix, Ostbye and Bratlie waxes and the usual accessories. We have spare tips @ \$2.90.

If you find that snow, tell me - Cheers Loch

P.S. We have a few Mammoth kernmantels and some Cassin krabs, a few BBs soon.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 The Mountaineer is the official journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club. Send contributions to:

The Editors of The Mountaineer,  
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 "Men travel to gaze upon mountain heights and the waves of the sea,  
 broad-flowing rivers and the expanse of the ocean, and pass by them-  
 selves, the crowning wonder."

St. Augustine Confessions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 COVER: Neil Wellington finally succeeds on Conscientious Pontius 17,  
 Werribee Gorge.

Erratum: Last month's cover photo was taken from Mt Scorpio, not West  
 Portal, by John Terrell.

This month's photo by John Chapman.  
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THE JUNTA

President	Peter Kissane	49-1862
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Treasurer	George Kuczera	
Trips Secretary	Rex Niven	347-3244
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	Peter Treby	329-8769
General Committee Members	Steve Bennett	82-6065
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Climbing Convenor	Nicholas Reeves	82-6211

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EDITORIAL

Given that mountaineering is basically an individual and anarchic activity, only the minimum of bureaucratic organisation is desirable in our Club. However, the committee which has run the Club hitherto has become large, unwieldy, and somewhat inefficient. It has been proposed that some re-organisation take place to allow more participation by those directly concerned.

The committee at present consists of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, Two Editors, a Stores Officer, a Climbing Convenor, and two General members. This is a monstrous total of thirteen, and, although committee meetings aren't 100% attended, the range of matters which the committee has to consider, and its size, turn committee meetings into drawn out endurance tests for those involved. (In fact the President left the last meeting before it finished!)

So what can be done? Rely on the 24-hour walk organisers to produce such an impossible course that most of the Club is lost and the committee (if there is one left), has minimal responsibilities?

One proposal is to have a small executive committee and divide most of the day to day work of the Club amongst several working committees - one composed of MUMC delegates to other organisations, one for considering Club trips, and one concerned with the Club's financial solvency.

This idea, if implemented, may lead to greater participation in decision making by more interested members, though it should be noted



that anyone in the Club can attend committee meetings at present, and enter discussions, but not vote. (See Gill Hume for the time and venue of the next meeting). However this proposal also multiplies the number of Club bureaucrats (trainee public servants?), and may merely produce a confusing maze of committees and sub-committees. Efficient communication between the various organisations would be essential, and perhaps difficult to ensure.

But does anyone read this Editorial anyway? If you do, write in your ideas, attend committee meetings, and keep track of Laurie's committee on the subject.

The Editors personally feel that the Club may well be disbanded and its assets realized to set up a fund for a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise on Mt Feathertop!

P.S. The next Editorial is to be a review on the relevance of "Deep Throat" and "Inside Linda Lovelace" to mountaineering.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following is an extract from a letter regarding the role of the Caving Sub-committee:

"....the Caving Sub-committee's role should be one of arranging beginners' trips, control of equipment, and liaison with the VSA. I do not view it as necessary to try to sustain an active MUMC caving as it is a specialist activity, not in the mainstream of mountaineering. This comment applies equally well to canoeing, orienteering, and ski-touring. These activities should not necessarily be looked on as an asset to MUMC, but I will not elaborate on this point except to say that they all have their ups and downs depending on personalities. These peripheral activities will remain an administrative and bureaucratic drag on the prime aims of MUMC (cf Constitution) which do not, and should not, embrace all outdoor activities."

Nicholas White

Nick invites comment from all interested.

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#### NEWS GOSSIP AND TRIVIA

##### 1. Committee Meeting Report 8/5/74

(i) Adrian Davey, the 24-hour walk Organiser, has chosen a suitable area for the Epic-Event-of-the-Year. Arrangements are proceeding apace, with up to six van loads of entrants being contemplated. Adrian considers that the need to have the "24" fairly close to Melbourne, keeping down the entrance fee, and to avoid cultivated land as far as possible, will mean that future events may be held at places which have been used previously. This means that competitors should



take pains not to abuse the privilege of having access to private land or we may destroy our welcome.

Helpers are needed for the catering; if you are good at dispensing raspberry cordial and meat pies, then offer your services.

(ii) It was decided that the commission formerly taken by the MUMC when selling Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) memberships would henceforth be returned to them as a gesture of support for their activities.

(iii) The committee relented and donated \$20.00 to the Port Davey Hut Fund after a letter from the Hobart Walking Club. This is not to be used for the building of extra huts on the South Coast Track.

(iv). The FVWC has requested us to supply a delegate to the Tracks and Huts Committee. The delegate would represent MUMC on the committee which has the important job of maintaining tracks and huts in serviceable condition for bushwalkers. If you are interested, contact your local committee member.

(v) Mike Henderson, Rob Jacobs, and Roger Barson were accepted as Search and Rescue volunteers.

(vi) BUY YOUR SONG BOOK NOW!!! \$1.25 from the clubrooms (And if you don't, I'll rip your bloody arms off.....and he will too!!)

2. "I am at present writing an article for The Mountaineer which is so philosophical and introspective that it does not even mention the words 'mountain', 'climbing', or 'Nick Reeves', once!"

Nick Reeves

3. Is John Chapman really unfit or was Mardie Plunkett the attraction at the end of the procession up the Staircase Spur?

4. Martin Wardrop has returned after 9 weeks overseas including a walk to the Everest Base Camp in Nepal. What were the hash-cakes of the Khyber Pass like Martin?

#### Monthly Meeting Slide Night Report

We had this real beaut meeting the other night. Martin Wardrop came over from Nepal to show us his slides. He had lots of pictures of temples and statues and walking along the dusty road and little villages with funny little huts and smiling kids and people shitting in the streets and lovely mountains and rhododendrons and burning trees falling on them and alpine passes and snow and all. It was real good.

Anon.



5. Alpine Guides (Mt Cook) Ltd. is now offering ski-touring courses in the Mt Cook National Park N.Z. from July to October. These would be well worth while for any experienced skiers. Anyone interested please read the notice placed on one of the boards in the Clubrooms.

6. A post card was received from Ron and Judy Frederick who are at present on the Isle of Skye. They seem to be enjoying their taste of walking, mountain climbing, and orienteering in Britain.

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#### BUSHWALKING

##### 1. Bogong is a Blast! . . . . . Peter Treby

Ten hopeful snow-seekers went for a stroll up the Staircase Spout on Bogong on the 25th of May. The unanimous verdict is that this winter will be a frozen solid ripper!

Conditions on the top between the Summit Hut and Cleve Cole Hut were beyond the pale of a shivering joke. Six inches of wind blown ice were pleasantly supplemented by 60 to 70 mph winds, which literally blew us off our feet when returning on Sunday morning. Hell Gap and the upper sections of the Eskdale Spur were particularly exposed in the roaring East-South-easter.

McCloskey, Pawley and Treby were reduced to crawling on all fours at one stage. Kuczera, Walker and Voigt spent a cold worrying Saturday night wondering if Summit Hut was going to collapse, while Brooks, Plunkett, Chapman and Caprice wallowed in luxury at the Michel Refuge Hut. The Bogong Club maintains this and the other huts in the area. Membership is worth considering - to be able to use food stocks, gas stoves and other amenities at Cleve Cole, in return for a couple of weekends on work parties, would be a real boon.

##### 2. Mt Feathertop and Work Parties Ad Nauseum

Since a broken window was found at the hut and brought down for repair in January, the combined torpor, and fear of Murray Valley Encephalitis, among the Hut Wardens has confirmed their impression that little work was required on the hut. However, duty finally called a small group together in a large auto-tent, the best base camp yet, late one evening in early May.

The next morning was spent in carrying one large, and one presumes fragile, window in relays up the Bungalow Spur. During the afternoon various bodies amused themselves replacing the window, cleaning the plumbing yet again, collecting water, learning how to use kerosene pressure lamps and watching a terrifying population explosion.(!? Eds)

Painting and cleaning tasks were done on Sunday while an ex-Hut Warden, becoming more "ex" by the minute, fled weakly down Bungalow, past several groups of Sunday strollers.



The hut appears in good condition for winter, and filters have now been installed in the water inlet pipes. These, and the water tanks, must be checked for cleanliness whenever the hut is visited. It is hoped in view of the relative shortage of firewood that future Hut Wardens will not neglect the honoured practice of briquette carrying.

The log book in both huts indicate extremely heavy usage of the whole Feathertop area during all the non-snow months with a very rapid increase in the number of visitors over the past few years. The conservation cause and the preservation of the area for its enjoyment by the wide range of visitors, as distinct from its exploitation by crass commercial elements, is thus of the highest priority.

Peter Griffiths

### 3. The Joys of a Medium-Hard Escapade - A Southern Snowy Mountains Walk

Once upon a time, there were nine mountaineers who decided to waste a week wandering aimlessly along, roadbashing, in the Victorian Alps. Eight left Melbourne one early Monday morning (9.30 am).

The nine of us had rendezvoused in time to devour a fine smorgasboard at Maffra pub. Having dragged Arnold from the eager clutches of the Buchan policeman, who wanted to trim his locks, we proceeded to Wulgulmerang Junction where, at the Seldom Seen Service Station we attempted, unsuccessfully, to run over our intrepid leader Dave Caddy.



The next morning at Suggan Buggan, a friendly wild stallion (!) attempted to eat everything in sight - including the rubbish and the dust on the cars. Another early start, this time 9.45, from Monaro Gap. The climb in earnest began; 300m up to the Ingeegoodbee Track. Then more up, and up, and up to Mount Menask, and down an 87 degree gradient for lunch at the flooded Ingeegoodbee River. Drama and intrigue begins at this point - how to cross a raging torrent. Daring John Chapman found the only way across a wet, slippery, slimy, filthy, knobbly, blackberry-covered log - side saddling with our feet dangling in the water. More up and up until 6.30, when exhausted, we finally made camp. John went in search of water, 100 yards away, and was not to be seen again (nor for a long time anyway!!)

After two more dramatic river crossings we proceeded across the McFarlane Flat(!) Track and arrived at Quambat Flats at 3.30. A thrilling leap of at least five feet across the mighty swollen Murray River and we entered the Kosciusko National Park. From the Fruit Fly Check Point, where we dutifully deposited all our fresh fruit we could see the snow covered Pilot, wild brumbies, kangaroos, flocks of rosellas and parrots, and the ruins of an old homestead. Back to Victoria, where we made camp in daylight (a unique experience) next to the remains of a smashed plane.

Following sub-zero temperature during the night, we awoke bright and early (6.45) to sunrise on a frost-covered world. Billies and waterbuckets were frozen solid, and had to be thawed on choofers in order to use them. Sue and Louise commenced early to climb the anthill (as Kevin described it) on the way to the Cobberas. Forty-five minutes later the boys left, and soon caught up with them. On viewing more kangaroos, Bill Harkin was heard to make the classic statement: "If people would only get out of their cars and walk a few yards, they would see wild life." - and there we were, the point farthest from civilization in Victoria!

At this point Sue was unloaded, as we feared we wouldn't get to the first summit before dark, let alone across four more peaks and down to the Playgrounds. After the usual luncheon shower, we climbed Cobberas No.1, signed the log book with frozen, shaky writing, and amidst the swirling clouds of fog and snow, and gathering darkness we searched for a quick descent which did not involve a long jump over the cliffs. The day concluded with a moonlight stroll down a small steep creek, and a pleasant compass trek involving scrubbashing, to the Playgrounds where camp was made at 7.30. We finally retired at 11.30, after barbequed sweet and sour dehyd., and John's cordon-bleu cheese-cake, and custard with "logs".

By this stage Arnold had wrecked one leg, so he left an hour earlier than the rest of the party (10.00 am) but Sue, Louise and Kevin soon caught up, and all being daring and adventurous souls decided to take a short cut 280m up over the Ram's Horn. Soon more members of the party, thinking they were on the right track, followed the first group up. Thus Dave Caddy our leader, and Bill, were the only ones to



continue on the correct route. "Did we tell you about the fantastic view Dave, - the best on the whole trip. And it was in the guide book too!"

After meeting the rest of the party, we continued highway bashing for 13 miles and pitched tent at Emu Plains No.1. Some smart members of the group started early after lunch, while the others had to split the cripple's pack between them to alleviate his suffering.

Four healthy members of the party - Dave Hall, Kevin, Bill, and Jim - set off at 8.00 am the next morning, without packs, to collect the cars at Suggan Buggan; the remaining five slept in, then washed everyones dishes and packed all the packs (which involved the girls making many interesting discoveries of what the boys carried - hm!) Four strenuous walkers, with two packs each (John, Dave Caddy, and even the two girls, Sue and Louise!!) strolled the next two miles, while the cripple with his own pack, hobbled on in agony about a mile behind. While the boys prettied themselves, the girls trudged back to Arnold to cheer him up and relieve him of his pack.

After a large gluttinous lunch, eight intrepid walkers all returned to Melbourne (who's worked out what happened to number nine yet!) And once recovered we all lived happily ever after.

Louise Gilfedder (Author)  
Bill Harkin  
Jim Harvey  
Kevin Hunt

Dave Caddy (Leader)  
John Chapman  
Sue Debney  
Dave Hall  
Arnold Wheeler (last again!)

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## ROCKCLIMBING

### 1. \*Machismo on the Mountains . . . . . Terry Brooks

I have been involved in the climbing scene for about 3 years and in that time have mixed, and read widely within the mountaineering world of Australia. And what is it that constantly surfaces? ---- subtle hypocrisy.

As one, climbers claim to reject competition and instead pursue a satisfaction personal and unique; unique because somehow they, or should I say we, intone that the rewards of climbing are almost spiritual. However, in practice every climber indulges in some amount of oneupmanship. This varies from an understandable brag about a hard climb to inexcusable condemnation of others, by word of mouth and letters.

Now at this point I wish to make it clear that I accept there are those who feel the need to communicate a good climbing experience to others; furthermore their existence can be, in my opinion, beneficial to climbing as a whole by attracting others to the sport, spreading ideas



etc. What I object to is the condemnation of one's rivals or competition, usually done to support one's ego.

The grounds used are many although the most common is ethics. Recently bolts have become the big bone of contention. But to face the facts, criticism of another's ethics is nearly always a put-down of that person, and without being specific, usually indulged in by those who regard themselves as God's answer to Nature's rock problems.

This image building is sometimes more subtle, or is it? In Tasmania there exists (believe it or not, in an apple orchard) a certain Richard Bennett, member of the Australian Andean Expedition of a few years passed. The hard men of the Tasmanian Climbing Club have never once seen Mr Bennett on any rock face in Tassie, or heard of any activity by "Tasmania's foremost mountaineer", (to quote local press). Yet at a Lake Peddar Protest meeting Richard turns up attired in immaculately pressed breeches, red socks, and mint condition R.D. friction boots.

In "Mountain" 31 there is a review of a book "D'haulagirideon" by Michael Charles Tobias. This piece of literature attempts to communicate not so much the enjoyment of climbing but the claimed intellectual achievement of the author as a mystical marvel of modern mountaineering. But, no I can't criticise, for I have fallen in with those I criticise, but I declare now that this is the first article I have ever written on the subject, and I hope the last, lest I too become a hypocrite.

\*Machismo (Spanish): a typical quality of Latin males which is similar to the Oriental trait of "saving-face". Typified by aggressive, boisterous, egocentric behaviour. One who is machistic is a "macho". And how many of the MUMC rockclimbers are driven to climb for machistic reasons?

Eds.

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Dismayed Young Man: "Never again will I go out with a girl who works for the United Nations. I like a girl who says Yes or No; this one just abstains!"

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## 2. The Fool on the Hill

Our climbing convenor, Nicholas Reeves, reports on current climbing activities.....

(i) The Beginners' course was wet, over-crowded, and considering the number of people who are now keen climbers, a great success. Both days were extremely well attended, and despite the poor weather, a fair amount of climbing was done. Amongst others, Mike Langford, Keith Egerton, and John Chapman showed good form. The most popular climbs at Arapiles on the weekend trip seemed to be 'Arachnus' grade 8, Diapason 5, and Bard 12.

Climbing courses are a bugger to organise, and they require the help of active climbers to instruct if the course is to be a success. Many thanks to all those climbers that gave their time and effort.

(ii) The club now possesses 9 new 11 mm kernmantle ropes, and these are available for use. Considering the state of the old nylon ropes, these new ones have long been needed. They should be treated in a proper manner; climbing ropes are a cheap form of insurance and they need to be looked after. If, having borrowed one of these ropes you have a fall, or badly scuff it, could you please let me know, in case that rope has been wrecked for future climbing.

(iii) Both Nick Reeves and George Kuczera have been in the climbing horrors lately. They seldom approach a cliff these days, and on trips they find a quiet corner to discuss past Alpine glories, and those to come. Nick, when he does climb, usually ends up





stretching ropes and it is not just a rumour that the club has 9 new kernmantle ropes for him to practice on. Ah! the woes that inflict club bureaucrats. Will the big two come back? Is Nick Reeves to go the way of the last convenor....? (We bloody well hope so! Eds.)

(iv) Neil Wellington has been firing lately and he is progressively cleaning out Werribee Gorge. So far his best efforts have been to lead Conscientious Pontius 17, and Veri Vidi Vinci another grade 17. Still a growing lad however (and an Engineering student to boot) he would be well advised to heed the advice of a very old, experienced, and dead climber, George Abrahams: "The writer holds strong views that climbing is only suitable for those who have reached an age of discretion. Boys may be taken out by their experienced elders but before the age of 21 serious work should not be undertaken. The question of overstraining the bodily powers, though this may prove serious, is not in mind here, but rather the youthful lack of responsibility."

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### ORIENTEERING

1. Ground survey work is almost completed on the first Brisbane Ranges map. A black and white map was prepared and used most successfully at the MUMC State Orienteering Event on April 28th. At last there is a map of the Brisbane Ranges produced with walkers in mind - scale 1:15000, and 5 m contours. The event attracted 32 MUMC entries plus those who willingly sacrificed their time to help on the day, to whom the organisers extend their thanks.

An orienteering submission has been prepared for presentation to the Land Conservation Council for its study of the Melbourne area.

MUMC will be represented at the Australian Championships in Canberra, Queen's Birthday weekend, by Tony, Cath and Tania Kerr. The next MUMC orienteering event will be held on Sunday July 21st ----- organiser Ian Moore. Helpers will be needed on the day and all are welcome except those on trail bikes, mini-bikes, etc. which are officially banned.

Don Fell.

2. I Survived the "Karrimor" Mountain Marathon . . . Peta Whitford

This was the sixth annual promotion by Karrimor Mountain Equipment manufacturers, of an event catering for those who seek challenging competition in the hills and mountains of Britain.

It was a two-day event designed to test map-reading, route-planning, and navigational skills across difficult country whilst including other mountaineering skills such as safe traverse of hazardous ground. The distance, coupled with the ascent and descent involved, demanded a high level of fitness and endurance, because all competitors



were required to carry the necessary food and equipment for the entire time, including a two-man tent, sleeping bags, and store for the enforced night's camp.

There were two classes of competition : the elite, catering for the most competent and experienced, and covering 50 miles; and the standard (our class), as demanding and hazardous but the overall distance was only 35 miles.

Eight-thirty a.m. was the kick-off time. The day before we had driven up to North Wales and into the Snowdonia National Park, so as to be on time at 7.00 am at the Plas Gwynant Centre to collect maps, inform the station and to have our rucksacks and their contents checked.

It was a chilly, cloudy day when all four hundred of us lined up for the start. What a mixed bunch! The athletes stood out kitted in shorts, singlets and track shoes. The mountaineers looked more like a team ready for the ascent of Everest in boots, breeches and wool shirts; while the orienteers wore their traditional O-suits and O-shoes.

A chaotic start! We all tried to move into and along a four foot wide path. Then we left the trees and paths for the mountains. From our back position the line of competitors crawled like ants up and over the mountain; a colourful sight with the red and blue packs dominating.

Our day had begun; for the first three checkpoints there was very little route choice, but as the day wore on it became more like a true orienteering event with plenty of choice and the field of competitors spread out over the countryside. Only eight women had entered. Ian and I were well up in the mixed couples section, but I soon began to tire, the boggy ground was taking its toll on my legs. I longed for cool, clear water, only to find muddy streams, and the 6500' that we climbed became progressively arduous. I felt awful and kept thinking "I wouldn't do it again - no never. Perhaps I could drop out overnight. I just can't go on pushing myself so much." My pack weighed only 15lb yet my shoulders ached. Why was I doing it? Would I survive? Poor Ian, he really did have to drag me up the mountains. We'd been on the move eight and three-quarter hours when we reached the campsite. Our information sheet had told us this would be at a maximum of 1800'. No kidding! The light flimsy tent strained in the gale, the sleet tore at our cold faces. It was good to get into my '20-Below Fairy Down Bag' and begin to thaw out. This was my limit; I ached all over. Once our dehydrated meal was inside us we tossed and turned through the cold night. Low mist, rain and wind prevailed. Could Day-2 clear and be bright? We awoke to an abysmal weather scene and moved to the start. Yes, I had for some unknown reason, other than the sheer determination not to be defeated, taken the plunge to continue.

Although I limped and hobbled, our pace and navigational skill enabled us to keep well up in the field, leaving the athletes to freeze in the mist. The area was chiefly disused slate-mines, boggy plateaus, and grassy hills. Route choices were either up and over or contouring



around with direct bearings and pacing playing a large part. Once again I depended on Ian to drag me up the mountains while I continually ate sultanas, frozen mars bars and glucose tablets to help restore my energy.

Up and down, through more bogs, over more crags, through thick mists we continued. Only three miles to go. It was lunchtime but we dare not stop for fear that our limbs would seize up and that we would be overtaken.

We could see many pairs in front of us and the routes were becoming well worn paths by now. But we still had people behind us. I think that this and the fact that two 60 year-old men were still in the race enabled me to overcome my despair.

We staggered in a tired, weary but satisfied pair at 3 pm, having taken seven and three-quarter hours to cover 17 miles with 3000' of ascent. The incredible Norwegian pair had completed the Elite class in 10.13.36 while the winners of our class totalled 10.11.37. We finished 68th out of 219 pairs and 5th in the mixed couples.

Would I do it again? Well in retrospect, the feeling of satisfaction provides a mental boost and the mind plays the cunning trick of partially obliterating the moments of pain and despair. Yes, I would!

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#### CONSERVATION

1. The Lake Peddar Action Committee's newsheet for May 1974 reports the following:

The Tasmanian Government has refused the Federal Government's offer to pay the costs of a Lake Peddar Moratorium and modifications to the Gordon power scheme, which would restore the Lake. The L.P.A.C. has thus adopted the following policies -

1. The Australian Government to refuse further grants and loan funds to Tasmania.
2. The public to boycott trade with Tasmania.
3. The private sector to refrain from further investment in Tasmania.
4. Consulates in Melbourne and Hobart to request their respective Governments that no further investments and trade with Tasmania should occur.



## 2. Land Use Allocation On Public Land In Victoria

In recent years, concern for environmental aspects of land use decision-making has brought about a number of changes in the organisation of government agencies responsible for planning and management of public land in Victoria.

One product of these changes has been the emergence of the Land Conservation Council as the body responsible for determining land use and management for public lands throughout the State. This article sets out the organisation and function of the Land Conservation Council and explains its role in land use decision-making in Victoria.

The legislation setting up the Land Conservation Council arose out of the Little Desert issue of the late sixties. The government recognised that there was a need for more National Parks and reserves in Victoria, and that there needed to be public participation in the decision-making process.

The Council consists of a full-time Chairman, and the following departmental heads: Soil Conservation Authority, Agriculture, Forests Commission, Lands, State Rivers, Mines, Fisheries and Wildlife and National Parks. There are also three independent members, one a person experienced in primary production appointed by the Government, and two appointed by the Government on the nomination of the Conservation Council of Victoria.

The functions of the Council are threefold:

- (1) To carry out investigations and make recommendations to the Minister (Conservation) with respect to the use of the public land in order to provide for the balanced use of land in Victoria.
- (2) To recommend to the Government on the constitution and definition of water supply catchment areas.
- (3) To advise the Soil Conservation Authority on the use of land in Water Supply Catchment areas.

The first of these has so far been given greatest emphasis. "Public Land" is defined as all Crown Lands, including land vested in public Authorities and the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, except land within a city, town or borough, or vested in a sewerage authority. The exemption of urban areas from the provisions of the act reflects the fact that the Land Conservation Council was intended to resolve the conflicts in rural and bushland areas, rather than get involved in the complex detail of urban areas.

The process of investigation and recommendations under the Land Conservation Act is one which allows a great deal of public participation. The State has been divided into a number of study areas, generally using Shire boundaries for ease of legal definition. Before commencing an investigation in one of these areas the Council is obliged



to publish its intent in the Government Gazette, and in a State and Local newspaper.

At the end of each investigation, the Council publishes a report on the Study Area. These reports are produced by the Council's Research Staff, in consultation with other Government Departments, Universities, interested groups and individuals. Notification of the publication of each report is given in the media, and the public is then encouraged to use the descriptive report as the basis for submissions to the Council as to how public land in the area may best be used. Sixty days from the date of publication are allowed for the making of submissions.

When submissions have been received, the Council formulates its plans for land use in the area. It then publishes a document detailing the recommendations it proposes to make to the Government. This report, Proposed Recommendations, is sent to all those who initially made submissions to the Council.

A further sixty days is then allowed for second submissions to be made to the Council. These may be in agreement with the Proposed Recommendations, or may be objections to them. The Council then revises its initial recommendations in the light of submissions received, and publishes its Final Recommendations. These are forwarded to the Government and a copy sent to all persons who made submissions. A copy of all submissions is also sent to the Minister along with the Final Recommendations.

It is important to appreciate that the Land Conservation Council only makes recommendations to the Government. It is up to the Government to implement, defer, or reject recommendations.

So far, investigations have been completed in five study areas (South Western District 1, South Gippsland District 1, North Eastern Districts 1 and 2, and Melbourne). Of these, Final Recommendations have been forwarded to the Government for the first three, Final Recommendations are in preparation for North East District 2, and the Melbourne area is in the first phase of submissions. Other study areas currently underway (in approximate order of completion) are Mallee, East Gippsland, North Eastern Districts 3, 4 and 5, Corangamite and Alpine areas.

The success of this system depends on active and interested public involvement, both in the compilation of the reports, and making submissions on recommendations. Those with an understanding of the attributes of remote areas of public land and its value for such things as recreation have a special responsibility to contribute to this decision-making process if balanced use of land in Victoria is to be achieved.

Adrian Davey.

(Adrian is currently employed by the L.C.C. .... Eds.)



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OVERSEAS1. Winter Survival In The Cairngorms . . . Ian Whitford

The notorious Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland are known in Australia. They house the premiere ski resort of the British Isles, but it was in November 1971, when six school children died of exposure, that these foreboding mountains hit the headlines in U.K. and abroad.

I was eager to experience the Cairngorms in winter. I also wanted to attend a course at Glenmore Lodge, the Scottish Sports Council's Mountaineering Centre and one of the foremost centres of technical instruction in the world. The Lodge was purpose-built in 1959 and its facilities are good. Student capacity is 64 with a staff of 15 highly skilled instructors (now classified as civil servants). Living is comfortable and the food and equipment is top class. So it ought to be when the 10 day Winter Survival Course costs \$A68.

The principal, Fred Harper, is a positive, efficient man whose technical capabilities in the field are matched by a sound instructional ability and an impressive public image. His introductory talk intimated that the course was rigorous, with potentially dangerous situations.

There were 34 on the course and I was allocated to an 8 man group under the guidance of John Cunningham, the doyen of Scottish ice-climbers. He quickly checked our gear, and any that was unsuitable could be replaced by hire gear from the store.

Day one was a solid introduction to ice axe work. Firstly step cutting, then the use of the axe to arrest a fall in any conceivable predicament - prone position, on the back, head first, feet first, tumbling.

We graduated to snow belays, inserting and testing the effectiveness of 'deadmen', initially developed to anchor dog teams in the Antarctic. Snow bollards were cut and ice axe belays used. Possibly the highlight of the day was the practice in holding a falling leader. One person hurtled 100' down the snow slope while his belayed partner eventually took the strain and retarded progress. It was a frightening, if exhilarating, experience hurtling head first at increasing speed down a hard bumpy snow slope. What a way to end the day!

While we were lunching in a hut on the next day, the gale force winds smashed a window and sucked out a thermos and two anoraks which disappeared into the never-never. On reaching our destination we found that the slope had avalanched. This probably had nothing to do with the decision to construct emergency snow shelters, but it did warm us up. John Cunningham had spent two seasons in the Antarctic and he had, with Hammish MacInnes, embarked on a two-man expedition up Everest. He was a connoisseur of snow holes and he taught us much. We learnt well for we knew that on our 3-day expedition we would live in snow holes.



Using crampons at first seemed precarious. One must overcome the natural tendency to edge the boots on steep terrain and yet balancing with the soles parallel to the slopes felt quite awkward. The 12 point lobster clawed crampons are virtually the only ones used in mountaineering today. The techniques of front pointing using the front claws of the crampons, a curved or angled short ice axe, an ice hammer, has revolutionized ice climbing. A day was devoted to building snow shelters. We were allowed the luxury of a shovel and a snow saw, and a great variety of edifices resulted, from caves to igloos with various combinations in between. A final test was to construct an individual emergency shelter within 30 minutes. The work was hard and sweaty but at the end of the day (after a good shower) one felt well satisfied with the learning and the accomplishment.

We were programmed for a day at mountain walking, presumably as a conditioner for the 3-day expedition and also to enable us to absorb the aesthetic beauty of the Cairngorm peaks. We began in the valley and once clear of the sheltering ridges, the full fury of the wind was unleashed on us. On numerous occasions the whole party was flattened and when we were forced to negotiate the patches of ice, wildly gyrating bodies slithered uncontrolledly in all directions. Visibility was 50 yards and walking on an accurate compass bearing was just another of the problems endured that day.

Conditions were not conducive to ice climbing so we contented ourselves with the snow gullies. There were adequate rock belays which are always preferred to snow and ice belays. The weather was fine for a wonder and the strange tranquility of the corrie was obvious to all. One revelled in the exhilaration of being in harmony with nature which was the antithesis of the battle against the elements on the previous day. Both experiences were satisfying in their own peculiar way.

Each evening there were two instructional sessions broken by the evening meal. Topics included : weather, exposure and frostbite, avalanche, Himalayan expeditions, climbing in the Alps. These were illustrated with superb colour slides and films. Mountaineering is a way of life with the Glenmore staff. Their six weeks annual leave is often spent climbing in Europe or on some comparable expedition.

We began our three day expedition in reasonable weather with a sedate walk along a valley track. A grinding 1900' climb brought us to a suitable 'place for a village' and shovels were soon being wielded with considerable vigour. My group of three opted for a snow hole because digging was easier than cutting and shifting blocks, and a hole is more sheltered and warmer than an igloo. Two people began tunnelling whilst the third cut blocks to seal the openings. After 2½ hours we had shaped a magnificent abode with sleeping platforms and a 6' ceiling area for comfortable standing. Darkness gently enveloped the hillside as the groups settled comfortably into their snowholes. Small mounds of light glowing in the snow were the only outside signs of human habitation.



Cooking created surprisingly little condensation. Living was remarkably simple: one just scraped some snow from the wall and brewed up. Shelves were conveniently carved into any wall and utensils could be jammed into the snow and effectively utilised as clothes pegs. The highly reflective nature of the snow ensured adequate illumination from a single candle. Insulation was good and we slept well, oblivious of the outside world.

The morning unveiled a return to strong winds and whiteout conditions. We cramponed up a further 900' and then underwent some testing navigation as we orienteered from cairn to cairn on the plateau.

This course can serve as the introductory course for the Winter Mountain Leadership Certificate of which navigation is of paramount importance. The only consolation from the weather was that it provided the ultimate in adverse navigational conditions, which we did not seem to appreciate at the time.

The five Winter Survival Groups were linked by radio contact, but from time to time visual contact was momentarily established as another shadowy group crossed our path and disappeared into the mist.

Eventually it was time to prepare for another night out and we again set about the snow with vengeance as the wind tore into us. The snow was harder than the previous night and the aggravating conditions niggled at the team work as tired bodies struggled to dig out shelters. It was well dark when we placed the final blocks in position and it was some time before order was restored inside and the meal completed.

It continued snowing outside and as safety precaution each snow hole was linked by a rope to facilitate finding people in the morning. Last course one snowhold was found buried under 25' of snow.

The wind was still the predominant factor in the morning weather. Looking along the line of snowholes there was no movement but gradually shovels began to penetrate the small white mounds and dark bodies emerged slowly from their comfortable cocoons. We headed down the corrie and soon the remnants of our overnight village were lost in the mists. We descended into the protection of the valley and walked steadily out to the road.

Camping gear was cleaned and returned. The personal gear which one had hired for the week was also returned. The course was virtually over. There was no session before the evening meal that night. It seemed strange having time to spare. I had a chance to think, and it seemed I had arrived.



## 2. A Walk Amongst The Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand

The hill tribes of Northern Thailand are people of Tibeto-Burmese descent, each tribe having its own culture, religion and language. Refugees from Burma are still filtering through the border into Thailand and joining the hill tribe villages, to avoid terrorist activity.

The American protestant missionary whom we met in the Post Office at Chiang Mai gave us the idea of walking through a hill tribe area and from him we learned the names of the relevant villages and a few details about the customs.

Communication problems challenged us on this walk rather than difficult terrain. We did not know the name of the village at which we were to disembark from the river boat down the Namkok River from Tha Thon - only that locals paid a 13 Baht fare - we were compelled to pay a tourist rate of 20 baht. So we estimated the likeliest stepping off place by observing how much local passengers were paying as we progressed. The boatman tried to deposit us on the wrong side of the river, but we persuaded him to take us back to a large village that we had passed.

Confronted on a spit of sand by a bare-breasted woman and a dozen youngsters, what does one say? Well, not to complicate the issue, we simply indicated in our best sign language that we would like a place to sleep. A babble of conversation followed and a lad of about ten collected his scout hat, gym boots and jacket and departed for the house. We took the initiative and followed.

Hymn singing from one of the huts indicated that we were probably in the correct village, a Christian settlement described to us. We came to a large thatched house on stilts and were beckoned in by the lad. But we hesitated, if only to give his elders a chance to have a say in the matter. As a good measure we put down our rucksacks. A middle-aged man appeared at the door and we expressed our desire to spend the night. We were bade in and made to feel most welcome. Adults and children were sitting around a square hearth in the middle of the room, so we joined them and tried to indicate that we would walk to Cha Fang next morning and that we were Australians. Verbal communication was impossible so we entertained ourselves and our hosts in the hours before dark by drawing unusual utensils and learning the local names for each. We sketched and sipped Chinese tea until a meal of rice and vegetables appeared, providing a welcome break. Water was brought for washing our hands. We ate with the fingers of our right hands from bowls on a low circular basketwork table, taking care not to eat too much so as to leave plenty for whoever should follow, and just as well too. About twenty people lived in the house.

Before sleeping we made an ink drawing of the house to give to our hosts. A buffalo was housed underneath, below our sleeping mats, just as one might park a vehicle in a car port.

We breakfasted on heavy sticky flavourless patties of Red Hill rice and those we declined were wrapped in a banana leaf for our journey.



Because of their weight we thought of discarding them along the way, but with vegemite and our improved appetites we enjoyed them. We left 5 Baht, the amount suggested by the missionary; and to reduce our weight, the half kilo of sugar on the table, then made our departure into the morning mist.

On the track to the Chinese village of Cha-Fang we were passed by up to 50 pack ponies in small groups, with their masters. Steps and ruts had been cut to prevent the animals from slipping. The way led through occasional hamlets, encircled with fences where we could enquire the way when the track divided, past plantations of Chinese tea trees (much taller than the Indian variety); and through uncultivated hills with a secondary growth of bamboo. We supplemented our rice diet with peanuts and hard-boiled eggs during the day.

At Cha-Fang we spouted the magic words given us by the missionary, "HWANG TING GWEI SHASIN JA," and we were received by the household of Pastor Hwang Ting, who was away in Bangkok.

Most of the Chinese people in this village had fled from China. There would have been 100 thatched houses nestling on the ground. A second section of the village was THAI and a third occupied the hill tribes. We were puzzled by several large factories with heavy diesel-powered machinery, all of which had been carried in by horseback, piece at a time. Our host explained that these were tea processing plants. The enterprise and industriousness of the Chinese impressed us. A large school, many small shops selling cakes, thongs, salt and assorted necessities; furniture and pressure lamps in the homes; a bamboo shoot pickling small industry, and a power generator and a T.V. at the head man's house, were evidence of the relative sophistication and affluence of the Chinese in this community.

We were able to talk to two lads at the Pastor's house. James, who speaks many of the languages between Assam and Thailand, and excellent English had just returned from driving 5 Germans through the area. Perhaps he saw dollar signs before his eyes when he offered to lead us next day, emphasising the difficulties of communication and route finding, and, in a final effort to persuade us, of robbers and murderers thereabouts. We refused his offer, many times in fact.

We met no murderers next day, but although we seemed to be on the main route, the long climb at dusk to a remote windy village did not correspond with our notes. We had no map, only a compass. Lads returning from work in the gardens, to the music of wooden multi-reed instruments, seemed to agree that this was the way to HUEI KAI, and led us to a large building of bush materials. We were asked if we had any business by one of the three men inside and invited into the cold and drafty interior. In the adjoining kitchen shanty we were given the use of the fire on which to cook our soup and rice, and were offered condensed milk, fish sauce, cake and Mekong whisky. These hospitable men were obviously not villagers. They had a generator, which would not start, radio equipment and Springfield Carbines. There was an



Airsock outside, but no air-strip. To our curious questions they replied that they were police checking on opium smuggling from Burma.

Food supplies came by helicopter, but their toilet was not as sophisticated as a hole in the ground, and may we add how disconcerting it is to have pigs queueing up at a respectable distance, grunting in anticipation, as one completes one's business.

An examination of detailed maps in the morning and a discussion with the police revealed that we were not at HUEI-KAI but at BAN-RI-SO overlooking it. However we could still reach our final goal of MAE-SOI by a different route.

A dozen village girls and men in their colourful elaborate costumes and silver jewellery were with us for part of the way. One girl wore silver chains suspended from both ear-lobes and linked under her chin. All carried woven bags attached to bands across their foreheads. They were lighthearted and friendly people, especially the old gentlemen who taught us bird calls as we walked.

The dry sparsely-wooded ridge which led down to the road reminded us of Victorian bush. We emerged at a quarry and construction camp in a dusty bulldozed area and hitch-hiked into the market town of MAE-SOI.

Robert and Vivienne Vincent.

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CAN YOU SWALLOW THIS? . . . . . by Gordon Bleeheh!

### Tararua Biscuits

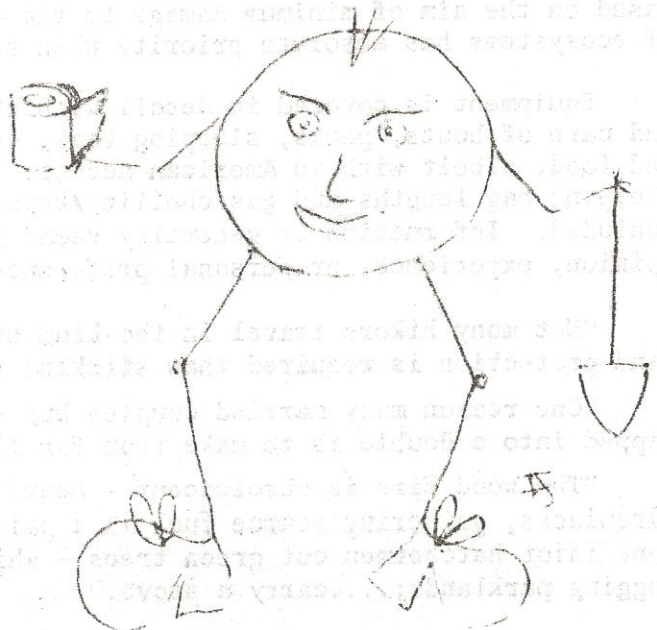
To be made before you go.

### Ingredients

2½ lb oatmeal  
1½ lb flour  
1 lb butter  
1 lb sugar  
1 large teaspoonful salt  
2 heaped teaspoonfuls  
malt extract, treacle,  
honey or golden syrup  
Optional; chopped dates,  
raisins or other  
mixed dried fruits.

### Method

Melt butter and rub into flour, oatmeal, sugar and salt (and dried fruits if you are having them).





Method for Tararua Biscuits Cont'd.

Mix in the warmed malt or whatever you're using. Add enough water to make a soft dough. Roll out. Cut out into rounds about 3" in diameter and slightly less than 1/4" thick. Bake in a moderate oven for 30-40 minutes until a pale brown. The above quantities will make about 6 lbs of biscuits. Therefore if you divide the amounts by 3 you will get 2 lbs of biscuits. This is 4 lb less to carry.

To Eat

Soak biscuits in hot coffee for 10 mins, and break into mouth sized pieces with ice-axe, tent-peg or rock.

Iris Jahnke.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Backpacking: One Step At A Time . . . . . by Harvey Manning  
(Available from the Club library)

This is - the book for the modern walker - the friend of the earth rather than its conqueror.

"Woodcraft is dead - dead because modern equipment makes pioneer-style engineering unnecessary, because nature sensitive hikers have deeper, subtler pleasures than slashing and gouging; because there are too many of us and too little undisturbed wildland for every would-be son of the frontier to be allowed full freedom to play with his toys."

The book contains much useful information for beginners and others on such topics as how to walk, carry a pack, and camp overnight, all based on the aim of minimum damage to the environment...."Preservation of ecosystems has absolute priority when setting up camp."

Equipment is covered in detail with chapters on types, selection and care of boots, packs, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, tents, and food, albeit with an American accent. Tables of pack types, sleeping bag lengths and gas/chellite/kero stove efficiencies are included. Information is generally sound although much is a matter of opinion, experience, or personal preferences. For example:

"Not many hikers travel in the kind of weather where any greater hand protection is required than sticking them into pockets."

"One reason many married couples buy sleeping bags that can be zipped into a double is to make room for little kids."

"The wood fire is obsolescent - heavily camped areas become massive fireplaces, gathering scarce fuel is a pain in the neck, where fuel has gone idiot hatchetmen cut green trees - which won't burn anyway - thus logging parklands;....carry a stove."



Safety is perhaps under-emphasized although a table of skin temperatures is included in the hypothermia section. "Backpacking" contains much useful information for the newcomer to bushwalking, complementing more specifically Australian books such as E. for B & M. However its greatest value is its emphasis on a non-destructive philosophy of walking.

"It is not enough to walk the trails lightly. To save the wilderness each hiker must work for zero population growth, minimum energy consumption, complete recycling of resources and follow the old New England adage;

Eat it up,  
Wear it out,  
Make it do,  
Do without.

...no-one has a right to the trails unless he accepts responsibility for their preservation."

John Terrell.

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#### TRIPS PROGRAMME

The main event in this trips programme is the great 24 HOUR WALK. This is one trip you should not miss even if it is the only trip you go on this year. Though the 24 is competitive it isn't designed with only orienteering freaks in mind; there are three grades of difficulty, A, B and C, and raw beginners will be given a preparatory talk on Wednesday, July 3.

Booking will be open by the time you get this Mountaineer, and will close on July 2. The booking fee is \$3, to be paid when you sign up, the probable total cost being \$6.

Hash-house staff are needed still; besides the pleasures of catering, these people will be given a free van trip to their highly secret destination.

#### Trips

June 22-23

Weekend walk. Grampians-Victorian Range.  
Pleasant walking along a remote range -  
interesting rock formations - aboriginal caves.  
Leader: Karl Gordon (St. Hilda's).  
Standard: Medium.

June 22-23

Ski-touring. Mt Baw-Baw.  
Leader: Greg Davies (99-3338).  
Slightly experienced people only - heavies  
especially welcome.



- June 27 (Thursday) Lunchtime slides. South Theatre, Archi building, 1-2.30 pm.  
See Dave Caddy in the cold Snowy Mts., and if you liked Louise Gilfedder, you'll love Gill Hume not at Tarli-Karng, etc.
- June 29-30 Walk. Avenal-Trawool (near Tallarook). Picturesque? Walking along creeks, ridges and back tracks.  
Leader: Greg Davies (again) 99-3338.  
Standard: Medium easy.  
Transport: Train or car.
- June 29-30 Canoeing. See convenors.
- June 29-30 Caving. Naracoorte (S.A.) V.S.A. annual dinner.
- July 2 Pub Night. 8 pm, the "Clyde."
- July 3 24 Hour Precircumlocution, (i.e. preparatory talk). Sisalkraft Theatre, Archi building. 7.30 pm.
- July 3 V.S.A. meeting. St Marks, Fitzroy.
- July 4 Full moon. Good time to brew up a few direction finding potions.
- July 6-7 24 HOUR WALK. Organisers: Adrian Davey (347-5961), Peter Griffiths (347-5513).  
Cost: \$6 (no more we hope), deposit \$3.  
Please book as a team, not singly.  
Feel free to ask anyone what it's about.
- July 6-7 Caving. Buchan Reserve. Rudi Frank (792-3158).
- July 9 (Tuesday) 24 Hour Walk Recovery Party. At Nick and Sue White's. 123 Manningham St., Parkville.  
Take a street directory and a water bucketfull.
- July 11 (Thursday) General Meeting. To discuss the club structure, organisation, bureaucracy and possible changes to the Constitution. Refer to article or see Laurie Patrick, 485 Station St., Carlton.
- July 13-14 Walk. Donna Buang-Acheron Gap-Marysville. Magnificent forests, fern gullies, waterfalls and just a pinch of snow. Quite close to Melbourne too!



- July 15 Snow Walk Talk. All those new to trudging miles in this clinging, freezing, bogging, substance had better attend.  
Given by Tony Kerr (874-2726). 7.30 pm.  
Venue ?
- July 20-21 Snow Walk. Baw-Baw Plateau.  
Leader: Tony Kerr.  
Van Transport.
- July 21 MUMC organised Orienteering Contest.  
Details: Ron Frederick (419-1073).  
Helpers needed.
- July 24 Monthly Meeting (possibly).  
Talk by Charles McCubbin, naturalist and champion Simpson Desert wheelbarrow pusher.  
Sports Union Activities room, 7.30 pm.  
Watch to see if this is cancelled.
- July 27-28 Beginners' Ski-touring. Baw-Baw Plateau.  
Day trips on both days.
- August 1 OXO DINNER DANCE. Danish Rooms, featuring "Limehouse". Cost \$5.
- August 3-4 Ski-touring Trip.  
Leader: Steve Bennet (82-6065 message only).
- August 6 Pub Night. 8 pm. The "Gresham".
- August 10 2nd Term ends. No doubt long vac. trips will be organised - watch the trips book and noticeboard.
- August 10-12 Alpine Instruction Course. 2-3 Days on Mt Feathertop. Course in ice-axe and rope techniques for steep snow/ice conditions.
- August 10-11 Caving. Bat Ridges, Portland.  
Leader: Miles Pierce (89-8319).
- August 23-25 Mt Torbreck Walk (again). Rubicon-Mt Bullfight-Mt Torbreck area. A stimulating walk taking in a 5000' mountain, a small hydroelectric scheme, and river and forest country.  
Leader: Dave Caddy.
- Aug. 31-Sept. 1 Walk. Tanboritha Saddle-Crinoline-Breakfast Creek. Tremendous Alpine walk, showing the steep-sided Crinoline and Long Hill at their best.  
Leader: Andrew Walker (1/43 Derby St. Kew).



- September 2                      3rd Term begins!
- September 7-8                    Otways Walk. South of Lorne.  
Leader: Steve Bennet (82-6065).
- September 28                    First Great Night Walk. Kilcunda area - weather  
permitting. Walk until late into the Friday  
night, no flies, no heat - only the full moon  
and the view! Sleep in late Saturday, walk  
some more, and return Saturday evening, with  
time to work on Sunday.  
Leader: Rex Niven.
- November 3-4                    Post Exam Bludge. Beveridges Station, Buckland  
Valley. Climb Mts. Selwyn and Murray, and  
then sip the dreaded gluhwein. Lilo races,  
marathon "Lloyd George" contest, etc...
- April 4, 1975                   A.G.M.

— oXo —

Caving Trips: Contact Nick White (328-4154) or Bruce Harper (25-4876).

Canoeing Trips: Contact Dave Iser or Tim Sutherland, at Ormond College.

Climbing Trips: Contact Nick Reeves (82-6211).

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COPY DEADLINE NEXT MOUNTAINEER : JULY 19

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#### A CALL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Do you think MUMC is being run in the best way possible? Are the trips offered the sort you want? Do you feel you have the amount of say in how the Club is run which you deserve? What do you see as the role of the Committee? How big should it be? Who should be on it? What are your lines of communication like with the people who make the decisions? Do you think the Club caters for too many activities unrelated to one another? Do you think more information should go in the Mountaineer? Do you think the Mountaineer should be produced by a small committee doing everything - how much load should fall on the editor, and how much is it ethical to ask outside bodies to help? Do you think the membership fee is too low (and therefore encouraging non-genuine members)? Have you seen (and read) a copy of the Constitution? Do there seem to be any anomalies in it, especially as to differences between its policy, and practice? Should anything in it be changed?.....



At its last meeting, the Committee decided that a thorough look would be taken into how this Club is run and into the Constitution under which its organisation is set up. With over 600 members we are by far the largest bushwalking type club in Victoria, which, while it might make us well known, lengthens more than somewhat the lines of communication between the people that run it and the people who they run it for. The diversity of activities which go on certainly doesn't help - people who only go canoeing might meet other canoeists, but how many rock-climbers or walkers do they know? and vice-versa. The number of people and activities also makes the administration and co-ordination of things quite a headache. At present it is the Mountaineer which provides the main means of finding out what is going on - but even through it we haven't been finding out what happened at the last C.C.V or A.C.F. meeting to which we sent a delegate. And the job of editing this journal has become as enormous as the Club - perhaps a "Mountaineer" committee should be set up with one editor heading a band of reliable helpers to whom (s)he can farm out jobs...?

Perhaps we should have more than just one general meeting (the AGM) a year - say two or three, like some other clubs? (Would you come along?) or this could be done by having every second committee meeting "open" and widely publicised. Perhaps some of the activities not intimately related to "mountaineering" should be splintered off into groups of their own (e.g. canoeing, orienteering)? Other clubs have "qualifying walks" which prospective members must go on before being able to join; some other Sports Union clubs have subs more around the \$3 mark; other clubs have a "social secretary" to co-ordinate that side of things, rather than a lot of people being allocated jobs and responsible only to the committee as a whole.

Perhaps the President and Secretary ought to have prior Committee experience (the Secretary's preferably having been of the preceding year, so (s)he knows what has been happening)? And so on. Some years ago it was suggested that we have a smaller Committee (or "Executive") - hear, hear! - with non-committee position holders being directly responsible to someone on the Executive, possibly being grouped into "committees" themselves and having organised meetings with that person; (e.g., the Trips Secretary could call a meeting of all Convenors, Hut Wardens, etc. and discuss things with them; the Treasurer could call a meeting of people like the Stores Officer, Publications Sales Officer, EBM/Guide Book editors etc., and get an up-to-date report at one meeting of how things were progressing; delegates to other bodies could be called together to report to the Secretary and/or Editor etc.). As to the size of the Committee, a very concrete suggestion came out of a meeting of the sub-committee set up to investigate all this - that it should be cut to NINE, by adding a "Social Secretary" and cutting out the general committee members and the rockclimbing convenor, and only having one vice-president and one editor.

These are general suggestions for the general re-organisation of the Club. As indicated before, the Constitution itself, beyond clause 10 and others which deal with the committee, requires detailed review. For instance, donor members and mailing list members are not really



allowed for; the time when subscriptions are due is laid down as 1st January, with enrolment not to lapse for six months - but in practice the Mountaineer after the AGM is only sent to people who have paid up (note also that clause 8 says that notice for the payment of subs being due is not necessary); only S.U. members can hire S.U.-ed equipment - how obvious is this in practice?; and so on. In 1971 Harry Schaap wrote a "Policy Information Book" for Committee use which details the duties of many of the people on the Committee and with other positions; this will continue to be a valuable document, but a lot of what it contains should possibly be entrenched in the Constitution.

Changing the structure of this Club, and changing anything in its Constitution, must be done because the people in it want to and must be done in the way they want it done. A lot of thought is required, a lot of discussion, and hopefully there will be some agreement in the end. We would like that "end" to be next year's AGM, if not a Special General Meeting before then. Since suggestions and thoughts in writing are inevitably less easily forgotten by those to whom they are presented, WRITE YOUR IDEAS DOWN, AND SEND THEM IN TO AIKMANS RD. A sort of sub-committee has been set up to badger with your criticisms (constructive ones only are solicited) - comprising Laurie Patrick, Greg Davies, and Mark Spain. Other present Committee members, especially Gill, are naturally involved too, so any Committee member you can corner will pass your comments on. If you would like to come and defend your ideas, or talk about them generally, come to the

GENERAL MEETING on

THURSDAY JULY 11th at 7.30 pm

SISALKRAFT THEATRE, ARCHI. BUILDING

It will probably be in the S.U. Activities Room, but a notice will appear on the door of Aikman's Road with details. Also, a copy of the CONSTITUTION has been put up on the Aikman's Road noticeboard, to refresh your memory - or for you to read if you haven't seen one before. Read it; think about it. And give us your CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISMS.



# Kimpton SLEEPING BAGS

## arctic bag

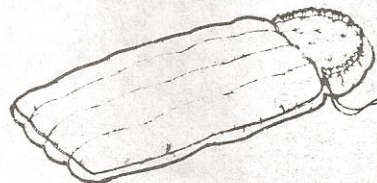
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted with a draw tape and permits almost complete envelopment of the sleeper except for a small breathing aperture. When tied, the end allows no heat loss, however, in hot weather, the down can be compressed to the bottom and the end left open for ventilation, this makes the Arctic a dual purpose bag.



Filled with 2½lb. superdown.

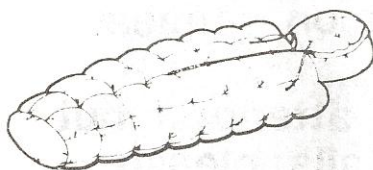
Body of bag cut 6'6" long x 32".  
Total weight of bag 5¼ lb.

## walled, hooded combination bag



Walled construction, the same as our Arctic bag. This hooded bag unzips to open into a blanket. Or, you can zip two bags together to make a double bag. Superdown filled

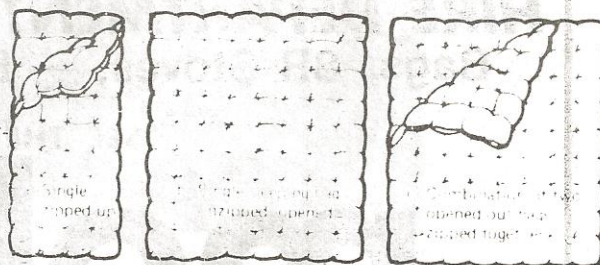
## snow bag



For skiers, bush walkers and sportsmen who want warmth without weight: Fitted with an inside closing zip and adjustable hood. An added feature is the heavily padded, circular foot panel, for protection in cold conditions. Supplied with our special waterproof container bag.

## combination sleeping bag

opened out to make a 6' 6" x 5' warm, light eiderdown, equalling the warmth of two pairs of blankets. For caravanning or camping purposes, it is simply zipped together, forming a single sleeping bag, or two bags opened out, can be zipped together, forming a perfect roomy double bag, capable of accommodating two adults or three children. Needs no bedmaking.



## Economic Down Quilt Co.

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