

THE

MOUNTAINEER

NOV 1953

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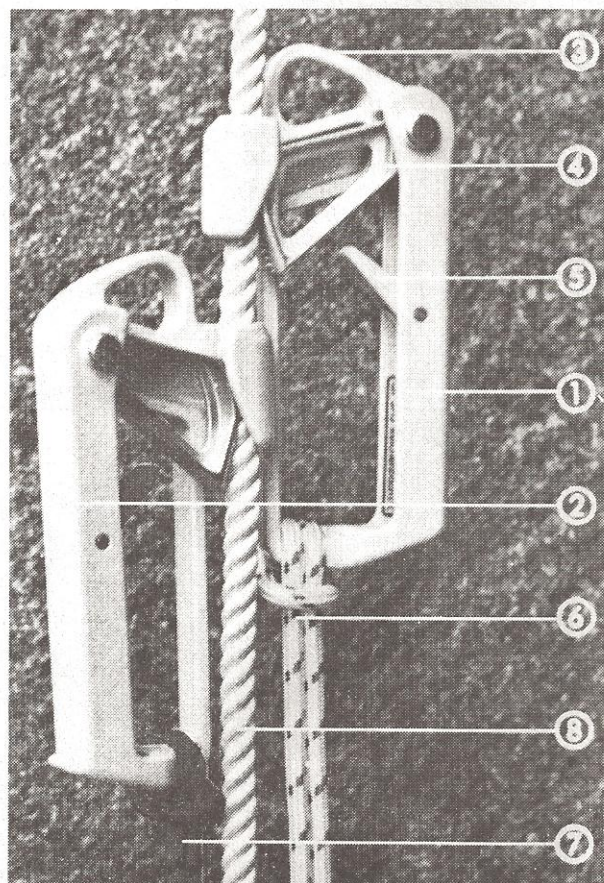
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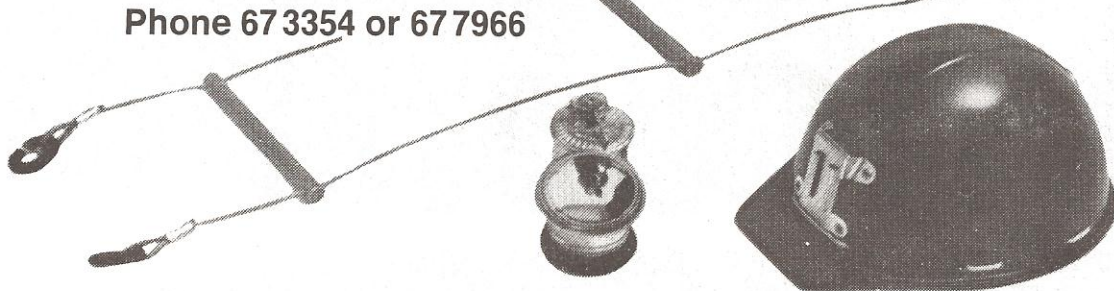
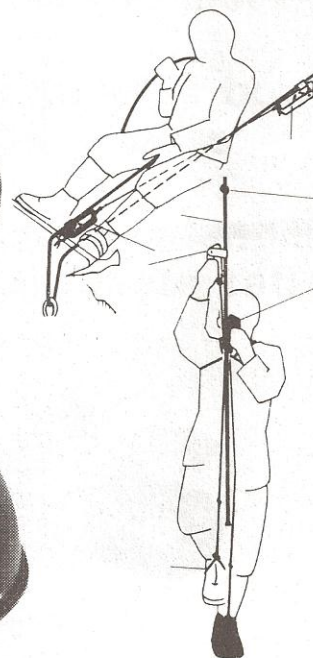
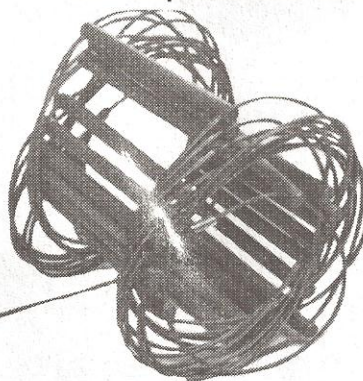


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NEWS

- (1) The Committee has decided that the stove at present in the Feathertop hut is to be moved down to the basement in the interests of conservation. It was felt that while the stove was not necessary for safety reasons, its presence could only encourage the chopping down of green timber. Parties travelling up Feathertop should take stoves with them as no heating is now available at the hut.
- (2) Since there is no way that it can be left at the hut without it disappearing it has been decided that the double sleeping bag will be available for general hire.
- (3) The club has sent a donation to the Canterbury Mountaineering Club to help with the cost of the work party shortly to be held at the 'Three Johns Hut' in the Mt. Cook National Park. The interest the club has in this hut derives from the fact that it was built as a memorial to three club members who were killed climbing Mt. Cook.
- (4) The Forest Commission has advised the club that two more Alpine Roads have been temporarily closed. These are the section of road leading to Refuge Hut in the Macalister River Watershed, and the road into Tarli Karng from McFarlane saddle. A map showing the closed roads is on display at the club rooms.
- (5) Several club members have written from overseas. They are alive and well and would be delighted to hear from anyone. Rod Tucker has taken up his scholarship in the U.S. - his address is:-

International House,
2299 Piedmont Ave.,
BERKELEY,
CALIFORNIA,
94720, U.S.A.

- (6) Not RIGHT you bloody idiot - I told you LEFT!!!!

That is one of the more subtle track note corrections for "Bushwalking in the Victorian Alps". (Page 93, line 18, if you want to add it to the list of errors that you've found - and most likely not told us about). While it is extremely useful and necessary to receive these corrections, verification of notes, for example, 'S5.5.4 O.K. Dec 1975' are also a great help. Suggestions for new routes or for changes to the present routes are also welcome. And don't forget the guidebook when you are snapping in Black and white.

REPORTS

ROCKCLIMBING REPORT (Algebra!!!)

Climbing has continued throughout the Winter, and is becoming a very popular activity within the club. Consequently, this has placed great demand on the club gear. If the climbers consult each other and take only sufficient equipment for their use and return it promptly there should be adequate gear for all to use. So I urge all climbers over the coming months to record gear taken out and prompt return of it over the summer, otherwise restrictions such as club only trips (hiring fees maybe?) may have to be brought in, to the detriment of all climbers. Also please inform of damaged gear (ropes in particular) for the safety aspects of others.

1. On the climbing scene the usual keen hard core of climbers have climbed throughout the winter. Arapiles has been most popular with its low rainfall. Keith Egerton has climbed consistently with leads of Skink 17 and Necrophylliae 16. However, he also holds this year's fall record of 135' (total). The most recent fall was a spectacular 25' head first dive off Moby Dick. However, Keith somehow hasn't been tagged a 'Yo Yo' yet? Steve Pawley has climbed consistently seconding Keith and leading Aras 15 amongst others.

2. Watchtower Crack 16 has been popular for epics. David Lia set the pace. He climbed up using the famous Watchtower knee jam method. However, one jam was too good and a rescue to pull out his jammed leg followed. Surprisingly he piked from the last pitch? More recently George Kuczera was seconding the last pitch to Watchtower, parted company with the rock and fell 25' !!! (This was due to the belaying of Peter Watson). Also of significance was Andrew Kelso's ascent of Watchtower (admittingly only seconding); however, it was a fine effort. Also, Watchtower had its first midnight ascent, a gripping affair by Chapman and Egerton.

3. Possibly the most significant efforts have been by Peter Watson and John Chapman in climbing some 20's. Watson has led Baw Baw (second ascent) and Little Thor, while Chapman has led Baw Baw (third ascent, made after seconding Watson and a new climb, Frenzy in Organ Pipes Gully. It should also be noted that both the above two climbers have failed on other hard climbs. However, this should give incentive to other climbers to have a go; after all, you can only fall off, in these days of super protection.

4. With the approach of summer and exams, some climbers have begun studying while with the fine weather some of the older climbers are again up on the rock. Day trips have been in vogue for study time, especially Warribee Gorge. There David Lia has led Androcle 16 and Veni Vidi Vici 17; Peter Megans- Androcles; and Keith Egerton - Pet of Dimitrius 17.

Spring has brought more climbers to the Files. Treby came out of retirement to lead Missing Link 17 with Mark Spain seconding. Mike Feller did Eskimo Nell amongst others, and George Kuczera and even Nick 'Dead Bear' Reeves has temporarily lowered himself from the snow and ice to touch rock.

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SKI TOURING REPORT

by Rex Niven

No deaths occurred from Ski Touring in Victoria this year.

No news is good news? Well, maybe the Victorian Ski Association is disappointed. Earlier this year it attempted to form a Nordic skiing body as part of the V.S.A. to press for more pole lines, tracks, huts and maps - in short, everything for more safety. At a public meeting, the chairman, Jack Osborn, faced a seething mass of bush-walkers turned ski tourers which rather shocked him. We now have a body with Osborn as president and Graeme Young, of the Winter Group, as secretary. A steering committee of 30 (!) has been formed with several subcommittees on various aspects. MUMC member, Peter Treby, has been working on the constitution subcommittee. Their present thoughts are that an independent club would be best with links with both the V.S.A. and the Federation of Walking Clubs.

I feel that a separate body is needed, partly to ensure that any government money offered is not snaffled by the V.S.A. and spent on developing the high plains into those glorious four lane ski ways with neon-lit ledges at regular intervals that the Jack Osborns (and many more) think they would like! The steering committee feel that some closed areas near resorts like Falls Creek could be developed along these lines to cater for those of such mind but that some "wilderness areas" should be defined - however, unfortunately the Bogong High Plains is not one of these!

Peter is pushing the idea that short circular tracks near the villages, and possibly a single pole line down the plains as a safety measure are permissible, but that there are already too many huts and, in general, no more development is desirable. No development would increase safety by not luring the ill equipped into an area of small collapsing huts and incomplete pole lines. Certainly, if we are to have huts and pole lines in specific areas, they should be bloody good ones which can be relied upon to cater for the navigationally non-equipped. In defining limits on the size of such areas, perhaps we must balance the desires of all, but should we save them from themselves? Have we wilderness freaks a "right to rule"?

Things are still in flux, and Peter would appreciate any views from other members of the club.

.. Rex Niven

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CONSERVATION REPORT .. (Continued)

non-ruined bushland. We have had no replies to our Tasmanian letter as yet, but replies to the other two were completely non-committal, as expected from politicians and public servants.

Copies of our submissions and letters (and replies) are available from Michael Feller and are usually placed on the notice board in the clubrooms under the "Conservation" sign, prior to sending them off. If you wish to add your comments or even to send off your own letters or submissions, please do so. Conservation is politics and to achieve any changes anywhere, politicians must be convinced that large numbers of people want the changes. Therefore, the more letters and submissions sent off, the greater will be the chance of bringing about change. For any further information about conservation activities see Michael Feller at the clubrooms or phone 20 2232.

... Mike Feller

RESULTS OF BUSHWALKING QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of replies - 134 representing 20.3% of club members. Of these 134 members, 82 were male, 52 female. Most respondents were in the Science Faculty (34), followed by Arts (14), Medicine (11), then Engineering, Education and Therapy (8 each).

Ages and length of membership

Age groups were fairly evenly distributed except for a rather large number of replies from 3rd year students. Numbers replying were:-

1st year	27
2nd year	18
3rd year	34
4th year	9
post grads	12
grads	27

Many of the respondents had only been members of MUMC for 1 year and about 70% had been members for 3 years or less. Numbers were:-

members for 1 year	49
" " 2 years	19
" " 3 "	24
" " 4 "	9
" " 5 "	11
" " 6-10 "	13
" " more than 10 "	4

Joining next year

The great majority of respondents intend to rejoin MUMC next year (105). Only 10 did not intend to rejoin.

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RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE .. (Continued)

walking activities (58 vs 55). The most outstanding criticisms of the "Mountaineer" were "it comes too late for some of the advertised trips" (34 people), "not enough details about specific trips - e.g. routes" (12), "too infrequent" (10), "not enough bushwalking trips reports" (8).

Other comments included "written only for the in-group", "not enough news of other clubs", "not enough news of conservation activities", "not enough trips are advertised", "have a monthly newsletter", "membership list was out too late", "bushwalkers don't write", "the editor encourages only climbers and canoeists to write", "minutes of committee meetings are required".

Van vs private transport

Most people preferred van transport over private transport (47 vs 24). 30 people were not fussy. Of the 47 who preferred vans 22 had been on van trips this year and 19 were in their first year in the club. The chief advantages of vans were atmosphere (17), easier to meet and get to know people (17), saves wear on cars and drivers (10), easier to organise (8), have no car (7), cheaper (4), less impact on the environment (3), more reliable, eliminates car shuffles, easier to avoid personality clashes, and more relaxing. One person suggested that the bushwalking sub-committee should ensure that on certain weekends no private trips go, causing greater numbers to go on a van trip.

The chief advantages of cars were - cheaper (15), faster (10), more comfortable (10), fewer people (7), more flexible (4), get to know people better (4), better for small numbers (3), can go with people one likes, safer, less tiring, warmer, more friendly, vans promote juvenile behaviour.

Specific trips.

The overwhelming majority of people on all trips were happy with the trips they went on. Of the 16 trips listed, 7 were criticised to a slight extent, the criticisms including "the leader didn't mix", "the leader was uncommunicative", "too much organisation", and "the trip was too hard". In general, though, only one or two people out of about 8 to 10 were critical of a trip.

Transport arrangements were satisfactory except for two outstanding cases:-

1. the Easter vans (criticised by 15 out of 18 respondents) where the vans left too late (5), were too slow (4), and were uncomfortable (2) and too expensive (6).
2. the Bluff van where 7 out of 10 respondents considered the cost too high.

Suggestions for walking areas

Grampians (5)

Snowy River (3)

Wilson's Promontory (2)

Budawangs, N.S.W. (2)

Cobberas (3)

Razor-Viking (2)

Big/Little Desert (2)

more day walks (2)

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TRIPS PROGRAM

DECEMBER (to be arranged)

Area .. Vic. Coast - Port Campbell, Port Fairy, etc.
Route .. Negotiable
Leader .. Dave McFarlane
Standard .. Easy
Transport .. Private

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 7

Area .. Victorian Alps
Route .. Licola - Mt. Skene - Mt. Clear - No. 1 Divide -
Eagle's Peak - Governors - Upper Howqua - Bluff -
Mansfield
Leader .. Paul Hobson Home: 347 8101
Work: 602 2100
Standard .. Hard
Transport .. Public

BUSHWALKING IN TASMANIA

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 7

Area .. S.W. Tas.
Route .. Precipitous Bluff - Port Davey - Scotts Peak
Leader .. Jol Shelton (25 4324)
Standard .. Medium - Hard

DECEMBER 29 - JANUARY 7

Area .. Cradle Mt. - Lake St. Clair
Route .. Decided by those going
Leader .. Greg Craven (90 8581)
Standard .. Medium
Transport .. Air
Features .. One of Australia's classic walks - Mt. Olympus -
Narcissus River - The Parthenon - The Acropolis -
Mt. Ossa, Mt. Thetis, and the Minataur.

JANUARY 5 - 14

Area .. Cradle Mt. - Lake St. Clair
Route .. Decided en route
Leaders .. Rex Niven (329 9660)
Laurie Patrick (387 3764)
Standard .. Medium - Medium
Transport .. Plane to Devonport, by hook or by crook to
Waldheim.

JANUARY 10 - 28

Area .. South West
Route .. Eastern & Western Arthurs - Pixton Range
Leader .. Greg Craven (90 8581)
Standard .. Medium Hard
Transport .. Public
Features .. The Arthurs are probably the most rugged
ranges in the Southwest - Really spectacular
walking.

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APRIL 3rd or 4th

EVENT .. President's Day Walk
Area .. To be decided
Leader .. The new president
Transport .. Van
Standard .. Easy
Features .. The new president

APRIL 16 - 20

EVENT .. Easter Walks
Areas .. 5 day - based on Upper Howqua Area
 4 day - based on Dandongadale River
 3 day - Grampians
Leaders .. Volunteers called for
Transport .. Vans (3)
Standard .. Easy, Medium or Hard

APRIL 24 - 25

EVENT .. ANZAC DAY LONG WEEKEND WALK
Area .. Mt. Buffalo
Transport .. Van
Standard .. Medium

CANOEINGDECEMBER 13 - 14

River .. Thomson
Leader .. Jol Shelton (25 4324)

DECEMBER 20 - 22

River .. Jamieson (North Branch)
Route .. Upper Jamieson Hut - Jamieson Gorge -
 Wren's Flat
Leader .. Jol Shelton (25 4324)
Transport .. Private
Standard .. Unknown (might be difficult) - but grade 6
 if water is up!
Transport .. Private
Features .. The Upper Jamieson Gorge (21 drops within
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile - 150' - 200' overhanging cliffs)

JANUARY - Sometime

River .. Lower Goulbourn
Leader .. Ross Seedsman (83 4497)
Standard .. Bludge (Grade 1)
Features .. Waterfalls

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A DIFFERENT SORT OF ANZAC

by Laurie Patrick

Think there isn't much West of Melbourne except Mt. Arapiles or the Grampians? Well, you'd be surprised. Follow the Bridgewater Rd. a few miles out of Portland, read for LEGRAPH RD. "Old Telegraph Rd.", and turn right. A little further on into the night (it's 1 a.m.) come to a screeching halt just past an obscure turn-off, reverse, and head into the scrub down an old jeep track in a vaguely easterly direction, for a rollicking ride to a pleasant green camp site just past a Myers' garage, incandescent in the moonlight. Andre Jamet tent palaces to welcome you and, if you're lucky, red embers of a fire. Where are you? Well, you're on the highest piece of land around, believe it or not, and what's of interest, of course, is not what you see but what you're standing on. The place is Bats Ridge, an antediluvian sand dune - and a Flora and Fauna Reserve to boot, managed by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. The reason for being there? Speleology, my friend - a spot of sporting caving, with a bit of pioneering into new depths as yet unexplored.

On the surface (sic), caving is a very relaxed, indeed almost supine, activity. It was April 24 that we drove Portland way for this expedition, and on the Friday morning (Anzac Day, of course) we did not rouse ourselves till a truly respectable 10.30 a.m. There was plenty of time to fry a leisurely breakfast as we waited for "Father" Nick to arrive, and Penguin with his carload.** Eventually, just as we were on to coffee, those contingents appeared, having got out of bed not so long after we had retired. With everybody there, lunchtime was declared - jaffle irons were produced, not to be put away till Sunday afternoon, and a brew of tea boiled ... A good principle with caving is to make sure you eat before you leave, since you never know when your leader will find the surface again.

Finally decked out (trog suits on, lamps filled, matches, candle, headlamp, helmet, etc.), we meandered off to inspect the ruins of an old lime kiln. About half an hour that must have taken, under the pretence of mapping its position. Who wants to go caving? I don't want to go caving. Do you want to go caving?.. Eventually, however, we slithered into the darkness. Not that the hole was expected to lead anywhere much. Bats Ridge is, in fact, a recently rediscovered limestone area full of caves not initially expected to lead anywhere much. Not to be defeated, a little scratching and peering round corners was engaged in, and someone (who shall remain nameless) made the mistake of following an opening up and around and down into another reasonably open area with a few pretties in it, and inviting the others on to see it. Father Nick balked at this point, his small charge not yet being fully equipped or independent enough, but not for a minute did anyone think the cave would continue.

Once into the second cavern, however, away from all traces of daylight, speleos are hard to beat. Every corner was thoroughly investigated. Including a six inch flat gap that, two by two, people's feet started to disappear into. You've got to be kidding!

** ** active cavers for the weekend numbered approx. 8½

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"A DIFFERENT SORT OF ANZAC" .. (Continued)

The next morning was a little painful. The elbows, the knees, the stomach muscles, and a host of unaccountable places groaned for attention. "I feel as though I've been bashed up!" "Suffering from 'flatness', eh?" (the unsympathetic, giggling Sue). Pike. Ouch! Thinks. Surface work to-day! ...

Geoff and Janice were undaunted, and after breakfast were sent down to River Cave, not to emerge till about 4 p.m. But no one else went underground that morning, amusing themselves doing an oddment of things from ground-mapping to reading. And it was a glorious day, too, worthy of being appreciated. A visit was made to Big Cave after lunch (more jaffles); but it was a bit smaller than expected - or so reported Rex, Sue and Laurie, who found an undiscovered exit and bypassed the interesting part without noticing; all comes of following a draught? Then back to camp, admiring a herd of grazing emus and sidestepping the odd cow.

After a leisurely dinner, Sue persuaded a few to accompany her on a nocturnal visit to Chimney Cave - so-called because of the Solution Pipe about 3' by 40' deep dropping into it. (That's not the only entrance, though it's the one snakes tend to use, slithering down it in error, so some vigilance is required underground.) Apart from the Pipe, Chimney Cave has many beautiful formations and a lovely selection of super-long straws towards the exit; it is quite an energetic exercise in general, especially after dinner. Above ground, the less intrepid of the party (or more sensible?) enjoyed a relaxed evening by the fireside in the peace of the bush moonlight. Sunday saw a small car trip to Bat Cave and environs about 4 miles down the road from the reserve, and a ferret around a few holes near the jeep track turn-off (which didn't lead anywhere, this time). There wasn't much time, though, considering the length of the drive home, and the weekend was declared "over" soon after lunch. A good time was had by all, etc? Well, yes, I guess so.

Even on the outside, Bat Ridge is quite a nice place, really. A bit different from the Grampians perhaps, but you'd be surprised by what's there, underneath it all ...

Members of the party:

Miles, Bronwyn ("Rockie") and Darrell Pierce
Nicholas, Sue and Stephen White
Gray and Helen Wilson
Helen Hoggard
Peter ("Penguin") Griffiths
Geoff Lawford
Janice Neate
Rex Niven
Laurie Patrick (Author)
and others ...

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"THE THOMSON DAM - ITS EFFECT UPON CANOEING"

by Jolyon Shelton

The Thomson River offers unique attractions to canoeists. It is the only river relatively close to Melbourne offering a weekend's canoeing of a high standard. The regularly paddled section, downstream of the proposed dam, flows through natural uninhabited bushland. Four wheel drive tracks exist on the ridges above the river but the steep valley walls have deterred the bulldozer and thus the river still presents an almost wilderness environment.

Whilst the dam will not destroy this asset, the proposed releases will affect its recreational value. The winter flows on the river will be reduced to minimum canoeing levels but summer levels will be significantly increased, thus guaranteeing summer trips without scraping the bottoms off boats. Unfortunately, with no regular floods to replenish the wood supply at campsites or to reform sandbanks and so cleaning the remains of previous camps, the river will lose its touring appeal.

Although the dam will divert much water to Melbourne, its existence will enable the river level to be raised and lowered at will. It should be possible to have higher releases at weekends compensated for by somewhat lower levels during the week without drawing more than the proposed weekly allocations. The maximum possible controlled release corresponds to what is an enjoyable level for experienced paddlers. With a regular program of varied releases it should be possible to satisfy the needs of most canoeists.

However, gone forever will be the high level trips that revive the true white water spirit. The hardest rapids will rarely show their best. The river will be reduced to a tamed stream, no longer the wild raging torrent bringing on the adrenalin but a sequence of emasculated rapids separated by long stretches of flat water.

One can only hope that the next stage of 'development' of the Thomson River - the building of a Lower Thomson Dam, will never proceed. The proposed siting would inundate every rapid, but then this is Victoria where "Hamer Makes it Happen".

... Jolyon Shelton

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SKI-Touring .. (Continued)

9. The most significant accomplishment of the trip was:
- a) An opportunity to chat up a few snow-bunnies.
 - b) An 850 mile drive.
 - c) Nobody learnt anything about ski-touring.

Examiners:

Andrew Rothfield
Marie Francken
Simon Wreford

Louise Gilfedder
Tony Sherwood
John Stone

Mike "Tree" Feller
Peter Cockerill
Michael Joseph

Kimpton SLEEPING BAGS

arctic bag

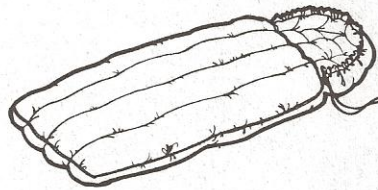
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted 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.

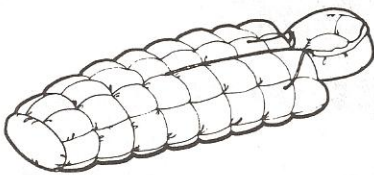
Body of bag cut 6'6" long x 32".
Total weight of bag 5¼ lb.

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



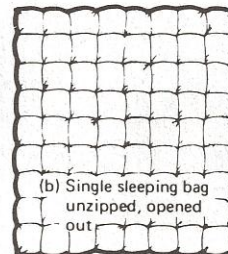
For skiers, bush walkers and sportsmen who want warmth without weight: Fitted with an inside closing zip and adjustable hood. An added feature is the heavily padded, circular foot panel, for protection in cold conditions. Supplied with our special waterproof container bag.

combination sleeping bag

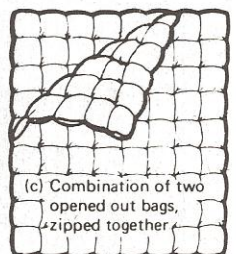
opened out to make a 6' 6" x 5' warm, light eiderdown, equalling the warmth of two pairs of blankets. For caravanning or camping purposes, it is simply zipped together, forming a single sleeping bag, or two bags opened out, can be zipped together, forming a perfect roomy double bag, capable of accommodating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



(a) Single zipped up



(b) Single sleeping bag unzipped, opened out



(c) Combination of two opened out bags, zipped together

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