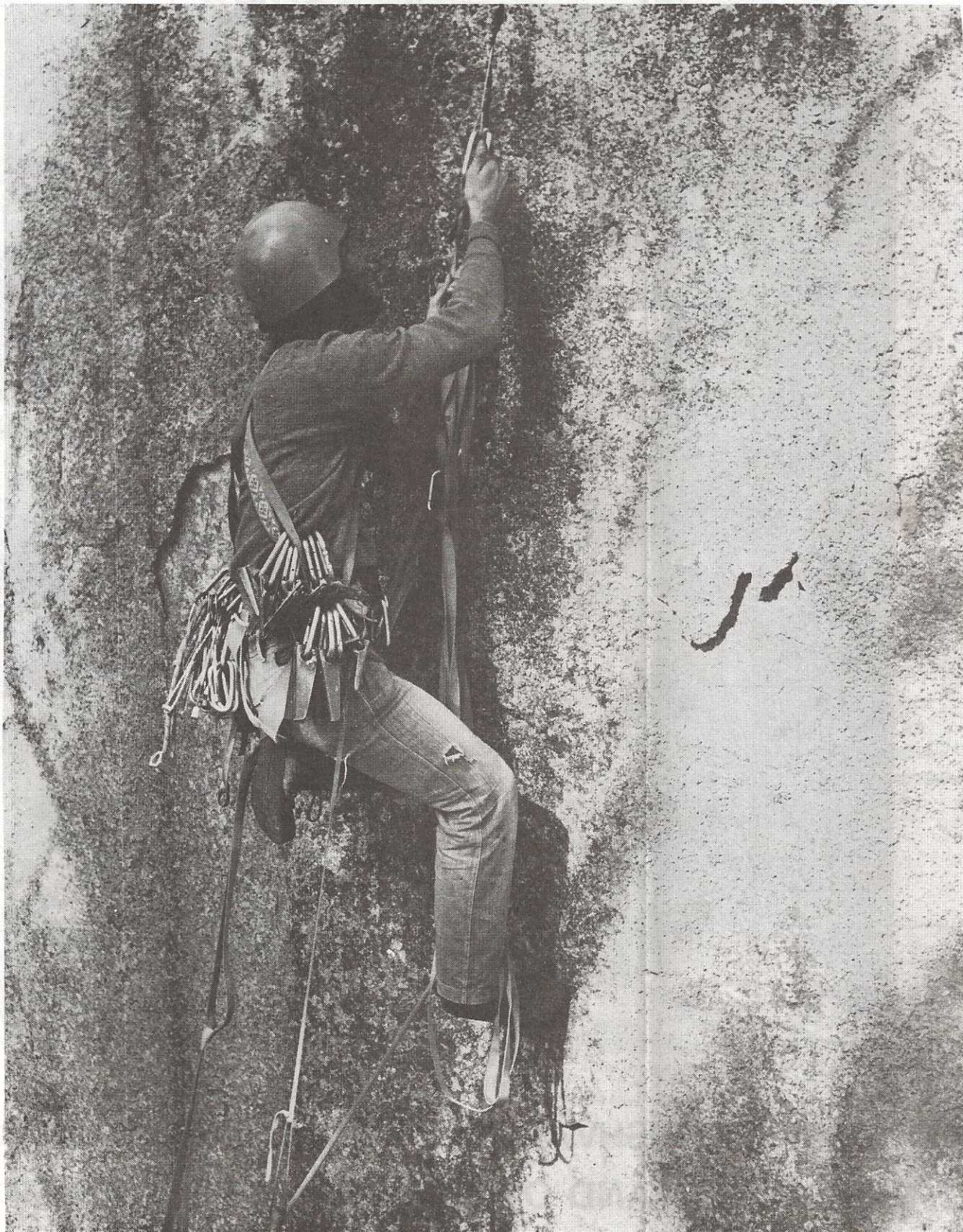


# the **MOUNTAINEER**



"Nutting"

Photo — Nick Reeves

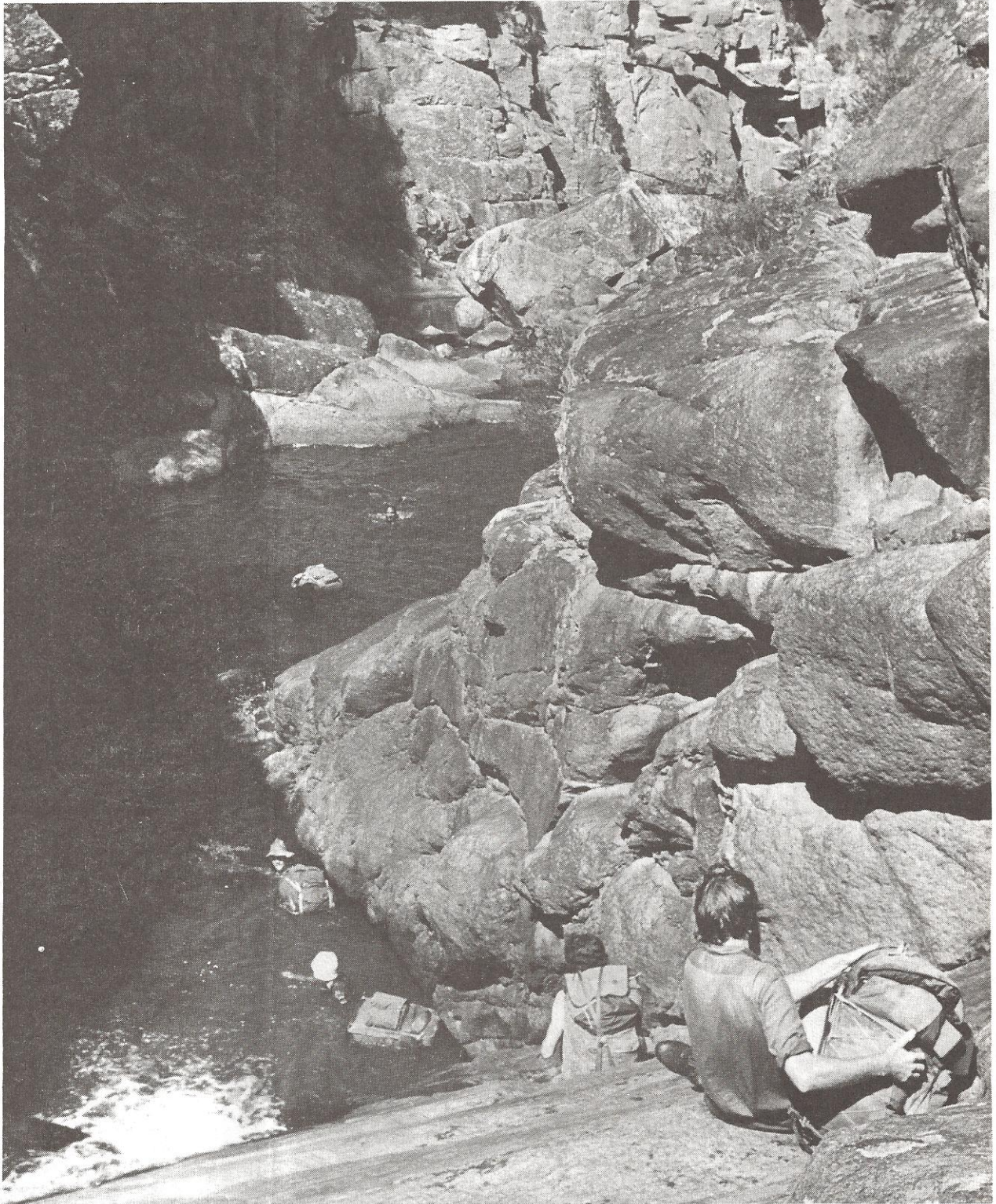
REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. FOR TRANSMISSION  
BY POST AS A PERIODICAL CATEGORY "B"

may 1976

20c



# BUSHGEAR PTY. LTD.



"The Swim" Little River Gorge

Photo — Rob Jung.

**SUPPLIERS OF BUSHWALKING, ROCKCLIMBING, CAVING,  
SKI-TOURING AND OTHER OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT**

**46 HARDWARE ST. MELB. PHONE: 67 3354**



The Magazine of the M.U.M.C.

All correspondence should be addressed

C/- The Editor

"The Mountaineer"

Melbourne University Mountaineering Club,

C/- Sports Union, Melbourne University,  
Grattan Street, PARKVILLE, 3052

\* \* \* \* \*

CONTENTS -

	Page
Committee	1
Non Committee Positions, Sub Committees	2, 3
Comment	4
Letters to the Editor	4
News	7
Photo Competition	7
Reports - Conservation	8
Climbing	10
Caving	11
Ski Touring	12
Search and Rescue	13
"New Zealand Capers"	14
"Bumbling after Hamish"	16
"Sleeping Bags" .. Rejuvenate Yours!"	18
Trips Program	20

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMITTEE POSITIONS -

President	.. Jolyon Shelton	674845 (w)
Vice President	.. Gretel Lamont	254324 (h)
Secretary	.. Robert Jacobs	3478702
Asst. Secretary	.. Tina Buckland	5704
Treasurer	.. Neil Blundy	4897685
Trips Secretary	.. Ian Moore	7010
Editor	.. Nick Reeves	3416917
Stores Officer	.. Tony Marian	362429
Canoeing Rep.	.. John Templer	4195708
	.. Sue White	332965
	.. Michael Feller	386201
	.. Tony Kerr	5451
	.. Peter Megens	3284154
	.. Andrew Rothfield	202232
		8742726
		8747841
		208500

\*\*\*\*\*

Non Committee Positions

F.V.W.C. Delegate	Gretel Lamont (Vice Pres.)
F.V.W.C. Observer	Ros Wood
F.V.W.C. Tracks & Huts Delegate	John Terrell
F.V.W.C. Search & Rescue Delegate	Nick Dow
F.V.W.C. Search & Rescue Observer	?
F.V.W.C. Search & Rescue Contacts	Rob Jacobs, Dave Caddy
V.O.A. Delegate	Ron Frederick
V.S.A. Delegate	Nicholas White
A.C.F. Delegate	Michael Feller
C.C.V. Delegates	Karl Gordon
	Hedley Thomson
	Nicholas White
V.N.P.A. Delegate	Jim Keary
24 hour Walk Organisers	Steve Glen
	Daren Fawkes
	Steve Roylance
	Karen Roberts
	Tina Buckland
	John Temple
	Andrew Walker
	Jim Keary
	Sue White
	Daren Fawkes
	Dave McFarlane
	Tony Sherwood
	Andrew Rothfield
	?
	Rex Niven
	Liz Brown
	Beth Haigh
	Clare Morton
	Dave McFarlane
	Barbie Whiteley
	Gretel Lamont
	Andrew Walker
	Fiona Milvain
	?
	?
	Rob Cannon
	Rob Jung
	Daren Fawkes
	Peter Griffiths
	Rex Niven

Caterers

Hut Wardens

Librarians

Maps Librarian

Duplicating Officer

Assistants

Publication Sales Officer

First Aid Officer

Assistant Stores Officers

Dinner Dance Organisers

General Catering Officers

Computer Programmer

Opening Clubrooms Tuesday Nights

Club Contact

\*\*\*\*\*



Sub Committees -

Conservation:	Michael Feller Clare Morton Tina Buckland Hedley Thomson Jol Shelton John Terrell	Laurie Patrick Greg Davies Barbie Whiteley Louise Gilfedder Andrew Rothfield Ros Wood
Ski Touring:	Andrew Rothfield Mike Henderson Barbie Whiteley Nick Reeves	Rex Niven Andrew Walker Graeme Oakes Louise Gilfedder
Bushwalking:	Ian Moore Clare Morton Greg Davies Tina Buckland Cathie Seccombe Michael Feller Louise Gilfedder Fiona Milvain Liz Brown Ros Wood	Laurie Patrick Rex Niven Rob Jung Andrew Walker Nick Dow Jol Shelton Rob Jacobs Ross Seedsman John Terrell
Orienteering:	Tony Kerr Pat Thwaites Geoff Lawford and others	Ian Moore Fiona Shaw
Caving:	Sue White	Dave Caddy
Canoeing:	John Templer Ross Seedsman Rob Marshall Peter Cameron Harry Durr Karen Roberts	Beth Haigh Heidi Templer Jol Shelton Rob Jacobs Fiona Milvain
Rock Climbing	Convenor Peter Megens	

\* \* \* \* \*



COMMENT

I am tired of having to fight for acceptance as a serious mountaineer just because I am a woman. Women are viewed by society as husband-hunting fragile objects incapable of doing anything strenuous. However, more and more women are discovering how strong they are and enjoying activities formerly reserved for men. Women, too, respond to the challenge of mountaineering.

Why are women treated differently from the moment they step into Aikman's Road and join M.U.M.C.? It is quite revolting how older club members "check out" female freshers -, and make tenting arrangements according to physical appearance on beginners' bushwalks.

Because rock climbing and canoeing are more physically demanding, women attempting them are treated badly. If a woman shows talent for the activity she is flattered and praised in a way that implies that she has done better than she really has and, at the same time, what she has done is downgraded.

Because of stereotypes inflicted by society on women and men, men are afraid of being thought weak because women are as good as they are. Can they really be so superior if their egos are deflated so easily! Mountaineering would be so much more enjoyable if women and men could break out of roles imposed by society and accept each other as mountaineers.

Gretel Lamont

\* \* \* \* \*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I was particularly gratified to read your editorial comment in the last issue. It is good to see that some bush walkers have a realistic and practical attitude to the concessions that will have to be made to protect the remaining wilderness. Public opinion is the only effective lever we can hope to use on profit and employment conscious politicians.

Alas, I had not even finished reading the remaining Letters to the Editor when I was to be disillusioned. The correspondent was proposing that we should do away with track notes, and he gave two rather tenuous justifications for this. They were:-

- (1) To preserve the spirit of adventure and challenge which track notes take away.
- (2) That by doing away with track notes we will preserve the wilderness.



Letters to the Editor .. (Cont'd)

The answer to the first point is glaringly obvious .... if you really enjoy the challenge of the unknown and the sense of adventure then DON'T READ any track notes! If we pushed the correspondent's logic too far we would come to the conclusion that we should ban trip secretaries in order to protect the challenge of the unknown. If it's this challenge you enjoy then don't try and do away with track notes - just don't read them.

On the second count I rather suspect that what the correspondent was trying to say was:- "Let us preserve the wilderness for the elite few". There are some individuals who genuinely enjoy the beauty of the Australian bush; perhaps they don't use bushwalking as a proving ground for their ego or as a testimony to their adventurous spirit and heroic nature, but they too respect the bush. They too have a right to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness and to help in its protection.

The wilderness will be preserved by curtailing logging and by limiting access roads. This will involve political pressure, and a small elitist bush walking fraternity will never carry the necessary weight.

It is my belief that people who use the guide "Bushwalking in the Victorian Alps" are serious walkers. They are not the half-hearted five hour walkers who don't show respect for the bush. Most of the walks in the guide involve a certain amount of "solid" walking and the people who are prepared to make the effort do so because they appreciate the bush and, hence, they will show respect. It is not the track notes which encourage the "half hearted walkers" but rather access roads which make the routes too easy.

The correspondent further inferred that the guides were unhealthy because they give the timid and faint hearted encouragement. Perhaps we are all timid and faint hearted before we gain experience. The exceptions to this rule being the congenital heroes and those fortunate enough to belong to a good walking club.

It is easy for us to become selfish in our attitudes, but we must remember that there are many people who would really like to experience the beauty of the "wilderness" - and that they have just as great an ability to respect it. (Surely fresher numbers in the club illustrate this.) We should foster and encourage these individuals because it is with their help and numbers that public opinion can be swayed.

John Benson.



Letters to the Editor .. (Cont'd)

Dear Sir,

I must first admit to being one of the 'infamous' apathetic members who prefers to do his hiking and canoeing outside of the club. However, the letter from Jol Shelton (March) has prompted me to take pen in hand and express an opinion.

I have held, for some time now, the opinion that the club's concern for the preservation of wilderness areas is somewhat thwarted by its own publication "Bushwalking in the Victorian Alps". This guide has many beneficial aspects, such as its safety and survival articles, and the sections on climatology, ecology, geology, and history of the Alps. Its sketch maps and brief preface notes at the beginning of each chapter are of great value in introducing the uninitiated to each particular region, and it has been the book which first cultivated the interest of many young walkers (such as myself) to start hiking in the Alps.

Unfortunately, the Guide goes much further than I think it should, in that it has "opened up" our wilderness area, or rather it has thrown it open. Although it is a definite advantage to have track notes for some routes, and especially for the use of novices. I believe it of dubious merit to have all regions covered with such detailed track notes, as these (I quote J.S.) "destroy wilderness values!" It seems to me that if a person cannot find their own way in the Alps with map, compass, and common sense, then they should not attempt such trips until they have gained more experience.

I do not believe that the Guide should be banned, but the track notes should be pruned. One or two hikes in each region could be left with detailed notes, but the rest included only as suggested routes with brief notes on points of interest or danger, and maps required.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Simpson

\* \* \* \* \*



NEWS

(1) A public meeting will be held in the Rivett Lecture Theatre, Redmond Barry Building, Melbourne University, on Thursday, 3rd June, 1976, at 7.15 PM, to form a body to represent the interests of ski tourers. This meeting follows on from the public meeting held in May, 1975, at which a steering committee was elected. A draft constitution has been prepared and it will be presented to the public meeting. If this is adopted the Ski Touring Association of Victoria will be established and an inaugural committee elected. All people concerned with touring are urged to attend.

(2) There is a need for a new edition of the club's guide book "Bushwalking in the Victorian Alps", as current stocks are beginning to be depleted. Interested in helping edit the new guide? Then why not contact the Secretary!

(3) There was a \$200 loss on the last Easter van trips. Although some van trips have made small profits the club has lost about \$900 on such trips in the last 14 months. This is a huge sum and surely the role and future of van trips in the club activities merits serious discussion.

(4) Ex-treasurer and ex-non-member George Kuczera leaves Australia in June to study for a PhD at Harvard University, USA, over the next five years. He will be missed.

(5) No one has yet volunteered to act as general catering officer for club functions. Not an onerous job, it involves seeing that coffee and biscuits are provided for slide nights, annual meetings, etc. Anyone interested in helping out contact the Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

PHOTO COMPETITION

Many people take photographs on trips but usually few people see them. To enable you to see such photos and to display your own there will be held a photo competition at the beginning of 2nd term. There will be prizes worth \$50 split among three categories

- A) Action photos
- B) Scenes
- C) Personality

with both Black and White, and Colour sections (including slides). Black and white photos must be approximately 10" x 8" and must be available for use in the "Mountaineer".

Judges, and exact dates, have not been decided yet. It is proposed to display the photos and slides during a bar-b-cue. Meanwhile, start sorting through your photos!

Gretel Lamont

\* \* \* \* \*



CONSERVATION REPORT

.. Mike Feller

The Conservation subcommittee, with greatly expanded attendance at meetings, has continued its high level of activity, meeting about once a fortnight. Two major submissions to the Land Conservation Council have been prepared, one concerning the proposed recommendations for the Northeastern Study Area, Districts 3, 4 and 5 in which the expansion of Mt. Buffalo national park was supported, and further clearing of native forest for pines was opposed. The second concerned the proposed recommendations for the East Gippsland Study Area, in which the creation of a wilderness area was supported, and the allocation of most of East Gippsland to hardwood production (i.e., woodchipping) was strongly opposed.

The club recently received a letter (now on the notice board at the clubrooms) from the MacDonnell Ranges Committee which has been recently formed in Canberra. The committee advocate "the establishment of a major national park to adequately embrace the most valuable parts of the Western MacDonnell Ranges system". This is the area west of Alice Springs between Alice Springs and Redbank Gorge. The area is steadily deteriorating through cattle grazing and may be threatened by mining. It is certainly of national significance, containing places such as Ormiston Gorge and Standley Chasm, and the beauty of its scenery probably makes it of international significance. The MacDonnell Ranges Committee is inviting your support, both moral and financial. For further details they Committee can be contacted at P.O. Box 487, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601.

Michael Feller

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DARTMOUTH-MT. BEAUTY POWERLINE and  
Government irresponsibility and evasiveness

An issue of great concern to all bushwalkers is the route to be followed by the new Dartmouth-Mt. Beauty powerline. A Government Public Works Committee recommended that it be routed across the flanks of Mt. Bogong, but the Premier, Mr. Hamer, in response to protests from walkers and conservationists, wisely decided that the route should be reconsidered. The S.E.C. had put forward three alternative routes, the least acceptable of which (to bushwalkers) was the route across the flanks of Mt. Bogong. Following Mr. Hamer's action, instead of considering one of the other two alternative routes, the S.E.C. came up with a slightly modified route around Mt. Bogong, involving a traverse across the southern slopes of Mt. Emu which would be easily visible from the popular northern approaches to Bogong and would certainly destroy its aesthetic integrity. This route has also been opposed, the coalition of bushwalkers and conservationists refusing to accept any route which lies south of Mt. Emu. There the matter has rested since February with little action from either side.



The Dartmouth-Mt. Beauty Powerline .. (Cont'd)

In the meantime, the L.C.C. released its recommendations for the Northeastern Study Area, Districts 3, 4 and 5, which include part of the route to be followed by any Dartmouth-Mt. Beauty powerline. In these recommendations the L.C.C. stated that any plans for powerline routes should be submitted to them for approval. Consequently, the Conservation Subcommittee sent a letter to Mr. Borthwick, the Victorian Minister for Conservation, asking him two specific questions. Firstly, was the L.C.C. involved in the early stages of planning the powerline route and, secondly, if the L.C.C. is going to decide on the final route now that specific proposals have been put forward. In reply to this letter, Mr. Borthwick wrote back in an extremely evasive fashion, failing to answer either of the questions asked. We print below both the letter sent by M.U.M.C. and the reply from Mr. Borthwick to illustrate his lack of openness and high degree of evasiveness in this matter. We believe the L.C.C. deserves our support and it must be given the power to adjudicate all land-use conflicts. It must not be restricted for political reasons.

Letter to

The Honourable W. Borthwick, Minister for Conservation.

Dear Sir,

In the proposed Recommendations for the Northeast Study Area, Districts 3, 4 and 5, the Land Conservation Council stated "The Council believes that government agencies concerned with provision and installation of communication equipment, transmission lines, ... should submit to the Council, during the early planning stages, any major proposals that would involve occupation agreements or the setting aside of sites on public land." With regard to this statement, we would be grateful if you could let us know if the L.C.C. was involved with the S.E.C. or the government Public Works Committee in determining the final route of the Dartmouth-Mt. Beauty powerline and, if not, why not?

Now that the government has wisely decided to reconsider the routing of the powerline and, in view of the statement- "No allocation of public land in the study districts for these powerlines (this includes the Dartmouth-Mt. Beauty line) can be made until the proposals are more specific. When such plans are complete, the Council will review the use of the land affected" (p.52 of the proposed Recommendations for the Northeast Study Area, Districts 3, 4, and 5) - we would be grateful if you could tell us if the L.C.C. will be reviewing the use of the land affected.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,  
M. Feller



The Dartmouth-Mt. Beauty Powerline .. (Cont'd)

Dear Mr. Feller,

I acknowledge your letter of 11th March, 1976 regarding the proposed Dartmouth - Mt. Beauty power line and the Land Conservation Council.

You will no doubt recall that you have asked me several questions about the power line with particular reference to the Proposed Recommendations of the Land Conservation Council for the North-Eastern Study Area, Districts 3, 4 and 5.

While I understand that it is correct that the Council has published its proposals for this Study Area for comment by interested organisations and members of the public, I would point out that no recommendations have yet been submitted to the Government by the Council in respect of the future use of the public land in this area.

It would, therefore, be improper for me to anticipate what the Council may intend to take into account in determining its Final Recommendations.

However, perhaps I could take this opportunity to say that the Premier has made it quite clear that while the Government normally accepts recommendations from all party committees such as the Parliamentary Public Works Committee, it is prepared to re-examine the Committees recommendations in favour of route C to ensure that the final route of the power line has the minimum effect on the environment.

Yours sincerely,  
W.A. BORTHWICK,  
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION

\* \* \* \* \*

CLIMBING REPORT

Peter Megans

Climbing has continued as a popular activity with more new people coming on club trips. The beginners course was a great success, and many thanks to all those who helped out and to the Ross Stephens, Neil Blundy, George Kuczera "floor show" one Saturday night. It was good to see that many beginners have continued to climb. Greg Davies, in particular, has climbed on, recently climbing Ben Hur (13) and the Ampitheatre, amongst other climbs.

Buffalo has seen activity before winter makes climbing there a cold, wet prospect. Neil Blundy climbed Morpheus (15), and Roger Barson, George Kuczera and Nick Reeves climbed the North Wall route "Lord of the Flies" M4. Loud was the swearing on the Sabbath and eloquent were the descriptions of each other clearly heard from the other side of the gorge. V.G.C. "epic" heavy, Nic Taylor, completed a fine new route, ably assisted by an M.U.M.C. party.



CLIMBING REPORT .. (Cont'd)

Easter saw a large group of climbers at Arapiles. John Chapman and Peter Watson were climbing well, both of them leading on Quo Vadis (20) and bombing up other hard classics too numerous to mention. Peter soloed the Rack (18) confirming suspicions. Gretel Lamont led Panzar (12), climbed Spellbinder (15) and along with Peter Megens was introduced to the horrors of the Driftwood Chimney (14), an experience compounded by Nick Reeves singing Leonard Cohen, accompanied by John Chapman extolling the virtues of the top roof of Oedipus Rex (17), and explaining why he was in some slight bother. Toccata (14) was climbed by Jos Verbaken and Phil Jones, while Nick Reeves and Peter Megens climbed Fang (17). At Rosea, the fantastic Tourist Buttress was climbed by Hugh Foxcraft, mostly free at 19 M2.

Werribbee Gorge has seen a revival of the day picnics. A "mere canoeist" Peter Cameron led off Dimitrius (17) while Karen Roberts followed, even if in a rather unorthodox style. Many new climbers, such as Jim Keary, Robin Storer, and Barbie Whiteley climbed such routes as Persecution (12) and SPQR (11) and discovered the intricacies of the hand jamb. Climbs like Androcles (16) and Veni Vidi Vinci were done by all and sundry. Conscientious Pontius (17) had its image when, for a bet, Nick Reeves chinned on the crux jambs three times, John Chapman climbed it in thongs, and Peter Megens led it.!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

CAVING REPORT .. IMPRESSIONS

Sue White

Caving! Speleology! Everyone immediately thinks of dark, camp caverns. A few people think of the multicoloured lights illuminating formations in tourist caves and cave guides talking about fairies and other improbable shapes. But to most of the cavers in Victoria these things are unreal. One remembers crawling along a low ceilinged passage that seems to extend horizontally as far as your torch light can reach, pushing through a narrow section which had to be cleared of dirt to enable everyone to get through and coming upon some fine calcite straws inches or feet long, single and clustered with water still glistening on them. The photographers take their time and everyone else lies around waiting and looking. Then back the way we came, remembering to close the squeeze with the dirt dug out.

Other memories are less pleasant - wading chest deep in filthy guano loaded water taking geology measurements while thousands of bats above one keep shitting; stiff stomach muscles from crawling on one's stomach in "flatteners" at Narracoorte; and the intense humidity of a three mile walk with packs over rubble and rock fall in Mullamullang Cave on the Nullabor. These memories fade, however, beside the excitement of finding new caves or new passages; looking at calcite formation of straws, shawls and other spelleothems; lying on your stomach gazing at unusually shaped salt formation on the Nullabor or the satisfaction of a successfully completed survey of a new section of cave.



CAVING REPORT .. (Cont'd)

Caving is seen as a very complex and varied experience. Some caves are very wet, some are very dry; some are decorated, others not. Even the type of activity varies from sporting ladder or single rope techniques to crawling or relatively easy walking and scrambling. One may go caving to explore a wellknown cave for oneself, to find new passages; to collect biological specimens; to band bats; to survey and map caves or take scientific readings. Very few cavers merely go for 'sport' or to put their abilities against the environment. Most go on many trips of different types - a sporting diving trip to M4 or Scrubby Creek may be followed in a few weeks by a survey trip.

As the experiences are many and varied it is difficult to describe what it is like to go caving. Everyone has a variety of memories both pleasant and unpleasant. Why not try it sometime?

Sue White.

P.S. Those people interested contact Sue or Nicholas White (3284154) and keep a look out in the trips' book for notices.

\*\*\*\*\*

SKI TOURING REPORT

Andrew Rothfield

SKI TOURING EQUIPMENT HIRING POLICY FOR 1976

- (1) Only MUMC members can use hire equipment.
- (2) Only those members going on trips listed in the trips book with a leader approved as competent by the ski-touring subcommittee are eligible to book skis (up to 14 days in advance).
- (3) Other members may use ski on a first come first served basis up to 2 days before the equipment is taken (e.g. for a weekend trip, any unbooked ski may be taken on the Thursday or Friday of that week.
- (4) The ski-touring subcommittee may, at its discretion, refuse to hire equipment to any member.

Sub Committee meeting - a meeting was held on April 13th.

A more restrictive policy was introduced this year to prevent club trips from being poorly equipped. Currently the Ski-Hire has 9 pairs of ski and 16 pairs of boots in variable condition. No new purchases are planned this season. Andrew Rothfield was elected convenor.

\*\*\*\*\*



SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

Dave Caddy

Because frequent searches occur for lost people in the bush it is impossible for the Victoria Police to maintain sufficient experienced manpower to conduct such searches whenever required. In some instances, local people such as farmers, foresters, etc., can provide the numbers required for searches, and their knowledge of the country, roads, tracks, and weather is invaluable. However, many searches, particularly those for bushwalkers, are in areas not used for farming, without tracks and with extremely bad weather conditions. In these circumstances, the police must be sure that their searchers are not also going to become lost or exposed, and they are capable of camping in any terrain or weather. To meet these requirements for 'specialist' searchers, the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs has a search and rescue section - volunteers who can be called on relatively short notice to participate in searches for up to three days. The Federation members on searches work in co-operation with the Police. F.V.W.C. members provide manpower, the police provide 4 W.D. vehicles, portable radios and communications. Other organisations such as Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance Volunteer Emergency Reserve, etc., may also be involved.

At present the F.V.W.C. Search and Rescue Section has about 180 people on its call up list, nearly 50 of these being MUMC members. However, very few of these are students and many have responsibilities which limit their availability for searches.

The minimum requirements for search and rescue membership are that you:-

- (1) have spent 16 nights on walking trips, at least 4 of these on one trip, and with at least one trip in bad weather.
- (2) that you are able to navigate using contoured or uncontoured maps and compass.
- (3) possess a complete set of walking equipment (with possible exception of a tent).
- (4) are able to camp out and cook your own food for up to three days.
- (5) are reasonably fit, but this definitely does not imply that you must be able to walk fast.
- (6) can take time off from work or studies on short notice (usually overnight).

If you think you meet these requirements and would like to join Search and Rescue, please see the new S & R delegate, Nick Dow, or David Caddy, for information and application forms. Unless we increase the younger S & R membership now, we may be in a position in five years where we have no suitably experienced people to take the places of those older ones who can no longer go on searches.

\* \* \* \* \*



NEW ZEALAND CAPERS

.. Neil Blundy

The Land Rover lurches drunkenly as it winds up the rough road of the Matukituki River valley. Up ahead the peaks of Aspiring and Avalanche tower upwards, impressive citadels of ice and rock. The climbers chatter excitedly about such high peaks while David and I absorb the sun drenched scenery. The Rover driver is farewelled at Raspberry Hut, and with heavy packs we set out on foot. The walk up the grassy flats of the valley is delightful in the extreme. Lunchtime is spent basking in the sun on the river bank. The river is the grey-blue colour so peculiar to New Zealand rivers. Its bed is littered with schist boulders. Boots are turned to silver as they become encrusted with shiny mica from the schist.

Cascade Hut is reached in the early afternoon, but we continue a short way to camp by a small creek. Laden with gear the climbers continue up the valley; Mt. Aspiring itself their ultimate goal. The remainder of the day is whittled away relaxing in this most beautiful of valleys. Some grazing cattle wander our way and somehow seem to complement the setting instead of intruding. The accompanying chill of the gathering gloom is kept at bay by the warm glow of the camp fire along with a few nips of whisky.

It is eleven o'clock, and a clear morning, and we are off on the track over Cascade saddle. We climb steeply through forest on the western flank of the valley for three hours before stopping for lunch. Soon afterward the forest abruptly gives way to grassland and we are treated to glorious views of the Matukituki far below with the beautiful Mt. Aspiring rising to the north. This stirring scene acts as a constant backdrop as we toil upwards under the hot sun for the rest of the afternoon. The route is marked with orange stakes and each one becomes a goal in itself as unfit bodies struggle on, under overloaded packs. Our water supply is soon all but eliminated, then a deep cleft of snow from the previous winter is found. The icy water flowing from its snout is delicious. The grade steepens and we are scrambling on rock. I feel unstable with my heavy pack and imagine myself slipping and falling down the many feet to the treeline far below. We are unsure how far it is to the top. Nervous eyes rake the sky for signs of approaching cloud, this place would be treacherous when wet. I am, as the rock climbers say, a bit gripped.

Dave mutters some choice phrases about my selection of beginners' walks. Thighs aching and quivering we plod on chasing the eternal orange stakes. The angle eases slightly.

"Is that the top?"

"Stuffed if I know!"

"I bet it is."

"Yeh, and Bob's your uncle!"



"NEW ZEALAND CAPERS" .. (Cont'd)

We move on a bit and an orange marker comes into view.

"Hey, I think it is!"

"You ripper!"

Lunacy takes hold and we run the last thirty yards to the marker, only to collapse completely shattered on reaching it!

We soon recover and realise the impressive sight confronting us now that we have attained the ridge. The Matukituki is at our backs as ever. We can now stare down into the immense rock basin of Cascade Burn, Mt. Anstead at its head. The walls of the basin are split by ribbons of water plunging to the valley floor. Further westward a ring of mountains form a classic amphitheatre that gathers snow to create the Dart glacier. It is getting late so we descend to Cascade Burn to camp.

Evening settles, still, serene. I feel the soothing of the soul that only places and times like this provide. A short walk by Cascade Burn and the solitude of these magnificent mountains encloses, embraces, until it presses, overpowering. Some chamois play high on the crags, silhouetted against the darkening sky.

Another beautiful morning. Casting a last lingering glance to the Matukituki from Cascade Saddle we set off down the Dart valley. A traverse on a huge expanse of rock shingle high above the Dart Glacier takes us past the level of the ice and we drop to the valley floor. Conditions are made unpleasant by a strong wind whipping up dust from the glacier rubble, and we hurry to get below the moraines. The sky begins to cloud over as the Dart River is followed to Dart Hut. The log book is read with interest as the exploits of many OXO men appear in its well worn pages.

A wet night gives way to an equally wet morning. The next two days are spent completing the walk down the Dart to Lake Wakaputu, in constant rain. Unlike the placid Matukituki, the Dart is an angry river, heavily laden with sediment, cement grey, it flows rapidly on its way to Lake Wakatipu. The lower Dart is also a haven of the accursed sand fly. Not deterred by rain these intolerant beasties attack any exposed skin in swarms. Insect repellent proves an ineffective weapon against this onslaught.

The next day sees a twelve mile road bash to Glenorchy. The mist is reluctantly lifting from the ranges, and freshly saturated with water they appear like fine lacework with the myriad of waterfalls gushing down their slopes. Temporarily we are tempted to return up the valley, but our own tired feet and empty stomachs prove dominant.

The Glenorchy pub is approached in voracious anticipation of a good counter lunch. However, much to our dismay the sadistic barman announces a complete sell-out of counter meals, the excuse



NEW ZEALAND CAPERS" .. (Cont'd)

being an unexpected rush when five hungry bushies appeared from the wilds and ate two lunches each. Thus we must content ourselves with the Australian gourmets' delight of a hot pie and sauce. At least there is beer, even if only the local brew. If five people can eat them out of food what's the chances of two drinking them out of beer? Well, it certainly won't be for want of trying..??

Summary. A description of a crossing of Cascade Saddle, and a walk down the Dart Valley, New Zealand.

Neil Blundy

\* \* \* \* \*

"BUMBLING AFTER HAMISH"

.. Nick Reeves

Again and again I called out George's name. No answer, and I called him all sorts of things, accused him of doing unspeakable acts with his mother, and then eased my tired arms into a more uncomfortable position. Where was the silly fucker! Here I was, halfway up a loose, overhanging chimney of shit rock and neither able to move up, nor down. My limbs ached, and when I tried to move - the rock disintegrated. I was terrified and took it all out upon bloody deaf George. Again that inconsiderate bastard failed to heed my cries for help. Then, in the midst of my ravings about the abomination of his ancestry a grinning face appeared at the head of the chimney. He verbalised aloud his conclusion that I seemed to be in some kind of bother. The rope was in my pack and of little use. With calculated slowness a rope of slings came down towards me. Safe now from falling, I grabbed the slings and cursed him for dropping stones down on me. He laughed, as I blustered my way out of the chimney. Once safe, I thanked him, both of us fully aware of how scared I had been.

We, or at least I, were bumbling our way up the lower section of the MacInnes route on Nazomi. This is a long rock ridge, and although seldom climbed it is one of the nicer rock buttresses around Mt. Cook. It had been a hot afternoon and the trudge up from the village had been tedious. As we intended to bivvy in comfort our packs were not light. We sweated and grunted our separate ways up the lower ridge, avoiding each other's rocks, having epics in chimneys, and wondering when the good climbing would come. We felt at that stage of giving it up for beer and ice cream.

The crud finished and the ridge suddenly looked worthwhile. Above us it soared skywards, good red rock rising in a series of steep slabby steps, with sharp connecting arêtes. There was even a nice small snow field to cross, obviously placed there to remind climbers of the real mountains they were climbing.



"BUMBLING AFTER HAMISH" .. (Cont'd)

We had some mighty climbing that evening. Before us the ridge became a three hundred foot rock buttress. This contained three pitches led us to the best. This was fine climbing up slabs and walls with well spaced holds. One steep little wall had its moments before an exposed traverse under a roof provided a way to easier ground. Good moments, perhaps spoilt by the blisters I developed when we had to sackhaul a chimney pitch.

We topped the buttress late that evening, looking for a bivvy site. Towards nine, we came to the next step in the ridge. Just before the difficulties was a small flat rock right on the crest. Nearby was some snow to melt.

"It is a good bivvy site", I remarked, quickly grabbing the only really flat space.

"Just like a table! You ought to be quite comfortable, George, wedged on with the climbing rope."

\* \* \*

Dawn came with clear skies and a cold breeze. We had set the alarm so it buzzed forth at four. Always conscientious and perhaps uncomfortable George nudged me with his knee. Being next to the stove meant that I was to brave the cold and cook. I soon discovered that it was far warmer inside my bag than out, so I went back to sleep. The nudging soon ceased. The charade was repeated at five. This time George only managed to mumble something about good weather, south ridge, no wind, before he recommenced his snores. It was much warmer by six thirty, and we awoke, breakfasted, and commenced to climb. Bivvies seem to avoid those dreaded early starts.

With cold hands we climbed, aiming for the sunlit rocks far above. Easy moves felt hard with numb fingers. Loose rock became especially awkward. We arrived at a gendarme, unsure of which way to proceed. A long traverse right only brought us to an overhang. After a few tentative attempts I moved up and over to alarming jugs. As my only runner popped out, I bridged desperately. Above this pitch the climbing eased. To the top of the pinnacle it was exposed, spectacular, but easy scrambling.

The MacInnes buttress ends about two thirds of the way up Nazomi with a distinct pinnacle. Two thousand feet of mixed climbing led to the summit. The final ridge goes on for ever. We climbed every rock tower only to find yet another. When we finally reached the top it was an easy decision not to climb the south ridge of Cook. The wind was freshening and we were tired. The climb completed had been long and the ridge to come had none of those nice red slabs. With no conscience we turned down towards Gardiner Hut.

Summary : An account of an ascent of the MacInnes Ridge of Nazomi.

George Kuczera. Nick Reeves.

\* \* \* \* \*



SLEEPING BAGS .. How to rejuvenate yours .. Rob Jacobs

Sleeping bags are hand made from light japara and/or non proofed nylon sewn into a series of adjacent non connecting compartments. Approximately 2-lb. to 2½-lb. of down is distributed more or less evenly by hand into these compartments and then the final seam is stitched. This filling of the compartments is done in a closed area so that the down floating around is of no consequence.

With use and with time (especially if it is stored squashed in its bag instead of loose) a down sleeping bag will lose some of its insulating properties and become 'flat'. Such a bag can be rejuvenated by the addition of ½-lb. or so of extra down which will cost \$5 to \$10. The process takes about 2 to 3 hours and requires two people in the latter stages.

Materials required :

Super down (½ lb.-1 lb.) from feather mills  
tired sleeping bag  
"quick unpick" or scissors  
spring clothes pegs  
vacuum cleaner, hose and pipes  
large 3' long clear plastic bag, garbage bag, and small (fist size) plastic bag  
masking tape and elastic or rubber bands  
sewing machine or friend with same

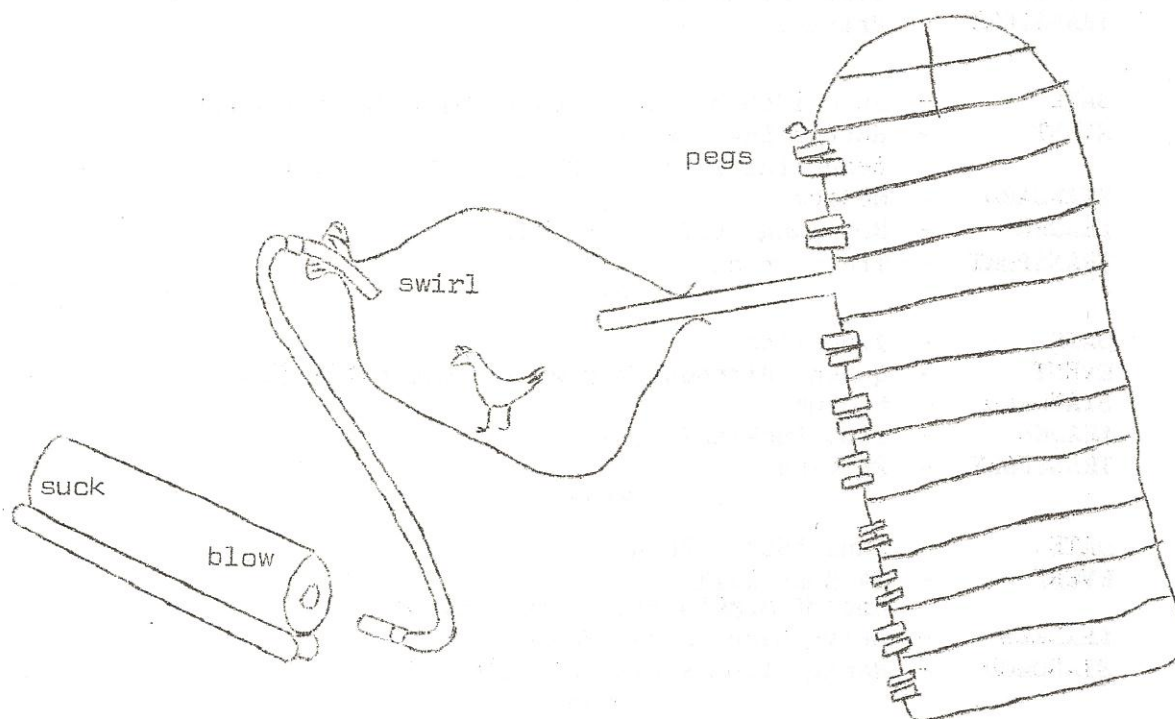
Basically the aim is to blow a measured amount of down into each compartment of the bag with the minimum amount of mess.

Recipe

1. Find the seam on your bag (perpendicular to the long axis of the compartments and not a zippered edge) which was obviously the last to be sewn.
2. Unpick the stitching over an interval of 2" to 3" (at least half the circumference of your vacuum cleaner pipe) at each compartment. There is no need to undo the whole seam.
3. Fold the unpicked areas over and close with spring clothes pegs so that down can't escape.
4. Take the vacuum cleaner outside, plug the hose into the outlet and operate the cleaner whilst shaking the hose so that all the dust and fluff is blown out (a brown tornado). Repeat with the pipes attached.
5. Choose a non carpeted room in case of accidents.
6. Place the paper package of down (usually 1-lb.) in the garbage bag and put an elastic band around the top.
7. Tape one length of vacuum cleaner pipe, as an outlet, to a small hole cut in the bottom of the large clear plastic bag so that a quarter of the pipe is inside the bag. Place rubber bands around the other end of this bag.
8. Fill your small (fist size) plastic bag with down, working inside the garbage bag through its rubber band closed top.



9. Shake the measured amount of down loosely into the large clear plastic bag, again working through the rubber band seal. Insert the flexible cleaner hose into this end and hold firmly.
10. Have your friend hold the vacuum cleaner pipe in the sleeping bag compartment to be filled but DON'T turn on the vacuum cleaner until you have read 11. Start with the top compartment so that if you run out of down it doesn't matter much.
11. Remove the vacuum cleaner hose from the cleaner outlet before turning the cleaner on. The set up should appear as in the diagram.
12. Now wave the hose cautiously in the path of the air emerging from the cleaner so that the plastic bag is inflated, the down begins to swirl and be blown into the compartment. N.B. too much pressure or too little swirling can cause globs of down to get stuck in the outlet pipe of your apparatus. The sudden rise in pressure causes the plastic bag to rupture and creates instant down filled kitchens. (experience)
13. Repeat for each compartment using a coloured peg to indicate which compartment has been done.
14. Resew the seam and your summer bag is now a winter bag.





TRIPS PROGRAM

BUSHWALKING

DATE - May 13th - 14th  
EVENT - Inter-varsity 24 Hour Walk in South Australia.  
Can the men finally win the coveted "Golden Boot"?  
Will the women maintain their stranglehold on the  
"Silver Boot"? .... Don't miss the next newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - May 22nd - 28th  
EVENT - Cobberas area walk.  
Eight days in some of Victoria's most  
beautiful country.  
STANDARD - Medium  
LEADER - Mike Feller (20-2232 AH)  
TRANSPORT - Private

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - May 29th - 30th  
EVENT - Murrindindi River region walk.  
Features the Wilhelmina and Murrindindi Falls and  
the views from Yea Rock and Mt. Despair.  
STANDARD - Medium  
LEADER - Still required  
TRANSPORT - Private

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - June 5th - 6th  
EVENT - Grampians walk  
STANDARD - Medium  
LEADER - Still required  
TRANSPORT - Private

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - June 12th - 14th (Queens Birthday Weekend)  
EVENT - Hattah Lakes Walk.  
Beautiful lakes by the Murray with lots of wildlife.  
STANDARD - Medium  
LEADER - Rob Jung (379 8948 AH)  
TRANSPORT - Train or car

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - June 14th  
EVENT - Queens Birthday Day walk - Cathedral Range  
STANDARD - Medium  
LEADER - Tina Buckland (?)  
TRANSPORT - Private

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - June 19th - 20th  
EVENT - 24 Hour Walk  
One of MUMC's finest traditions  
LEADERS - Steve Glen, Daren Fawkes  
STANDARD - Ranges from social to suicidal

\*\*\*\*\*



TRIPS PROGRAMME .. (Cont'd)BUSHWALKING

DATE - July 3rd and 4th  
EVENT - Crinoline walk. Probably a snow trip  
LEADER - Your fearless Trips Secretary!!!  
STANDARD - Medium  
TRANSPORT - Private

\*\*\*\*\*

ROCKCLIMBING

Note that most climbing trips are organized at short notice.  
Hence any budding climbers should contact Peter Megans (874 7841 AH)

DATE - May 8th - 16th  
VENUE - Wolgan Valley  
LEADER - Neil Blundy

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE - June 13th  
VENUE - ?  
LEADER - Dave Lia (47 1374 AH)

\*\*\*\*\*

CONSERVATION

DATE - May 1st - 2nd  
EVENT - Examination of logging in the Jamieson and Macalister Valleys. The aim of this weekend is to uncover the discrepancies between where the F.C.V. says it is logging and where it actually is logging. Mike needs help - 4 WD's would be most useful, too.  
LEADER - Mike Feller (202232 AH)

\*\*\*\*\*

ORIENTEERING

Contact Tony Kerr or Ian Moore for more precise details.

DATES - May 2nd at Tynong North  
May 16th at Canadian Forest and at Britannia Creek  
May 23rd at Siaty Creek  
May 30th at White Swan Reservoir

\*\*\*\*\*



TRIPS PROGRAMME .. (Cont'd)

CANOEING

- |         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| DATE    | - May 1st - 2nd and May 8th - 9th   |
| EVENT   | - Training weekends for I.V. Squash |
| CONTACT | - John Templer (38 6201 AH)         |
- 
- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| DATE  | - May 13th - 15th   |
| EVENT | - Inter-Varsity Canoeing on the Mitta Mitta.<br>MUMC is hosting this contest - offers of<br>help, etc., should be directed to John Templer. |

\*\*\*\*

CAVING

Remember that MUMC cavers are also welcome on  
VSA trips - contact Sue White (328 4154)

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| DATE      | - May 1st - 2nd  |
| VENUE     | - Buchan<br>Features caving for the keen and sober, and<br>the opening dinner at the new VSA guest house<br>for all. |
| TRANSPORT | - Private  |
| CONTACT   | - Sue White  |

\*\*\*\*\*



MOVES FOR A SKI TOURING ASSOCIATION IN VICTORIA

.. P. Treby

Over the past twelve months, preparations have been made to form a ski touring association in Victoria. There is an obvious need for such a body. At present ski tourers may come from bushwalking clubs or downhill ski clubs, or may not belong to any organisation. There is no association which can speak on behalf of ski tourers as such, but many threats to the areas in which ski touring is carried on in Victoria, some of which will be mentioned in this article.

In May 1975 a public meeting was called by the Nordic Committee of the Victorian Ski Association (the Nordic Committee is concerned with Nordic racing, and the VSA with downhill skiing), to raise support for a federation of clubs having ski touring members. A number of skiers from bushwalking clubs "got wind" of this meeting and attended. The meeting elected Jack Osborn, the main force behind calling the meeting, as chairman, and Graham Young, of the Winter Group, as secretary of a steering committee which was to prepare the ground for a ski touring organisation and report back to another meeting twelve months later. The steering committee was composed of delegates appointed from skiing and walking clubs (including myself for MUMC) and numbered around thirty. Since May '75 it met at monthly intervals, and is now ready to present its proposals to another monthly meeting.

The steering committee organised itself into a number of sub-committees; one to consider a constitution, others for Huts and Pole Lines, Education, Wilderness areas, and for each main ski touring area. As this indicates, the Steering Committee has not confined itself to preparing a draft constitution, but has acted as a fully fledged ski tourers' organisation in the interim, under the name "Ski Touring Association of Victoria". STAV is also the name proposed for the body to be formed.

In this interim capacity, STAV has been concerned with a number of issues, amongst them the following:

1. A safety leaflet has been produced with finance from the F.V.W.C. and distributed to clubs and equipment retailers. This outlines prudent preparation and the right equipment for cross-country.
2. The Wilderness sub-committee presented a policy proposal grading snow areas into five types ranging from total, man-excluded wilderness to highly developed ski schools. The use of such a classification system is to present policies on specific areas, considering such things as should huts be removed or constructed, should further Alpine ski development be allowed, and so on. Some areas of major concern have been tentatively classified.
3. Mr. T. Mitchell, M.P., was contacted over his foolish proposal to instal safety beacons on the Bogong High Plains.



SKITOURING ... (Cont'd)

4. A questionnaire was prepared, distributed and assessed in the 1975 season. This brought in some information as to the types of people currently ski touring, their backgrounds and requirements, although it necessarily had a limited distribution and is possibly not representative.
5. The Secretary for Lands corresponded with, stating STAV's opposition to ski mobiles, skidoos and like vehicles, except for track setting, trail preparation, ski rescue, and limited use within ski villages.
6. The Lands Dept. was also contacted over control of huts above the snow line, the need for accurate information on the position arising due to situations like the Ski Club of East Gippsland controlling Johnson's Hut on the High Plains. The Lands Dept. indicated a willingness to investigate within limits, the legal position regarding huts nominated by STAV.
7. Information of the proposal for Mt. Stirling to be developed as a downhill day-skiing area was gathered by the Mt. Buller sub-committee.
8. The camping bans on Baw Baw Alpine Reserve and the Hotham-Feathertop area have been dismissed.

These points are a sample of STAV's activity and an indication of issues which need the attention of a ski tourers' organisation. Further threats to ski tourers' interests loom in the near future. Downhill skiing interests are looking at Spion Kopje, Bakers Spur, Mt. Nelse, Cobungra Gap and Mt. Skene as possible development sites. The Alpine Resort Development Advisory Committee, which advises the Government on ski development, and on which the VSA is represented, has been allocated over \$13,500 for the replacement of pole lines. The Bogong power line wrangle continues.

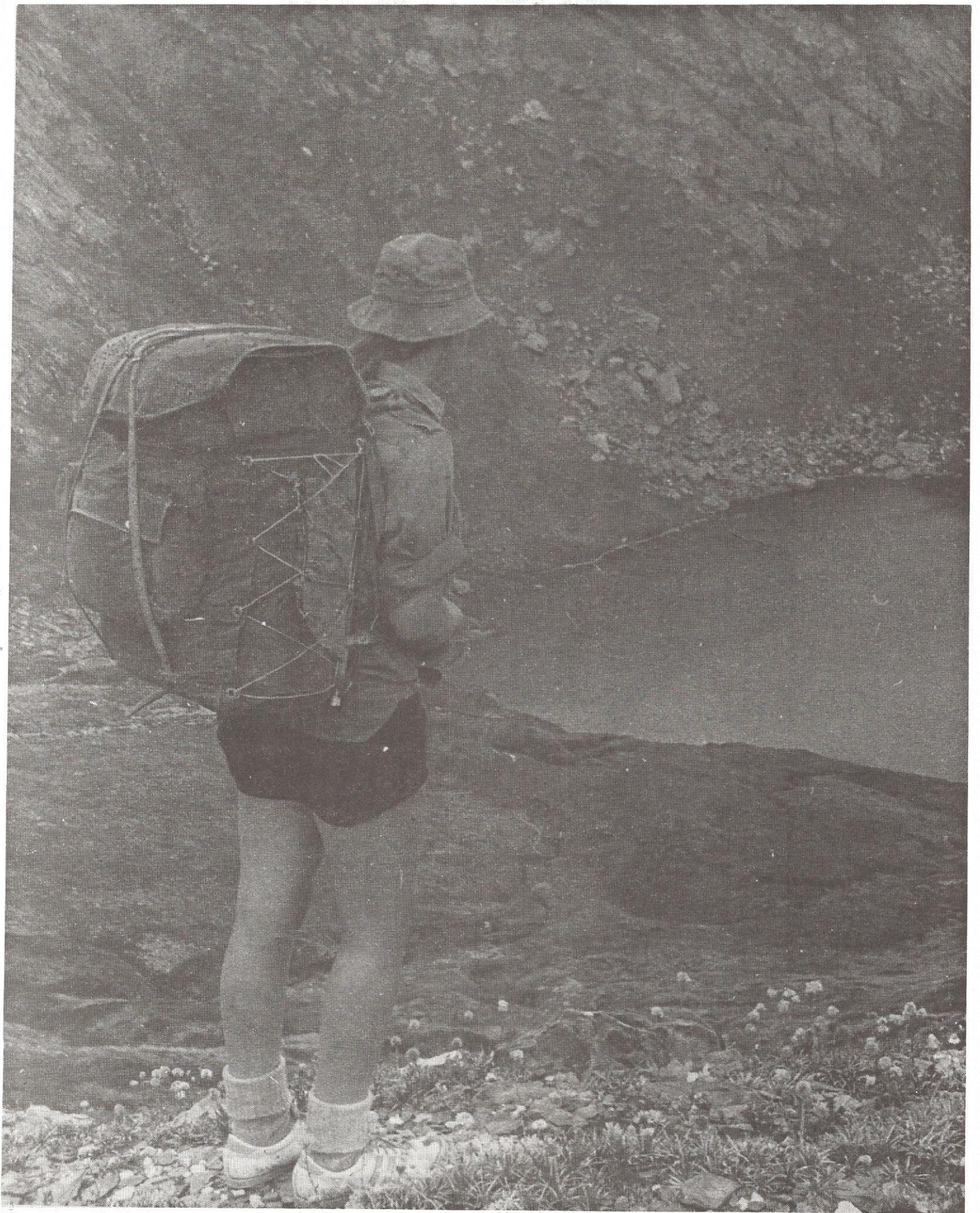
Although the steering committee has adopted a draft constitution to present at a public meeting, this has not had unanimous agreement by its members. The constitution adopted allows for individual members to join and elect a committee annually. Club delegates would also have one vote each in these elections. The inclusion of individual voting power would give recognition to ski tourers who do not belong to any club. A factor of VSA oriented members of the steering committee, of whom Jack Osborn, the Chairman, was the major force, favoured an organization excluding individual members and having only delegates of member organisations voting. This disagreement led to Osborn's resignation from the steering committee in April this year, and his successful request to the VSA to form a Nordic Recreational committee in the mould suggested. This creates a situation in which, after the formation of STAV, there will be two organisations purporting to represent ski tourers.











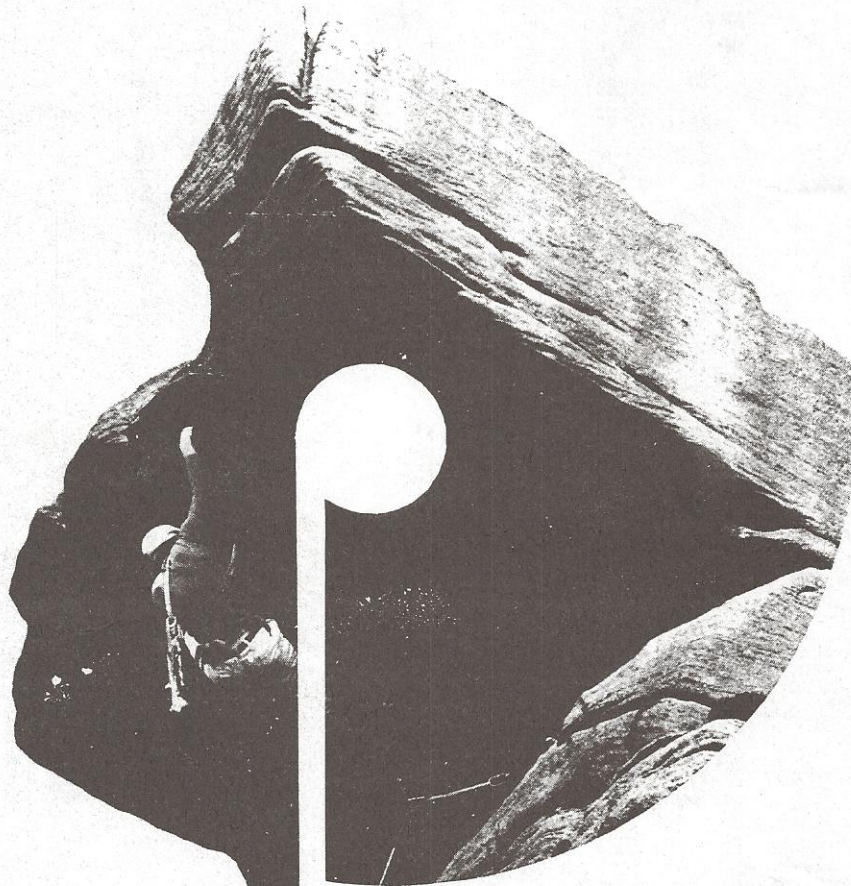
Blue Lake — Kosciuskuo

Photo — Rex Niven.



# NOW OPEN

55 HARDWARE STREET  
MELBOURNE



## Paddy's help eliminate 'that' risk

Climbing a mountain involves a number of calculated risks. So does canyoning, canoeing and ski-touring. The ultimate confrontation, you and the wilderness of your choosing, mountains, rivers, snow or ice.

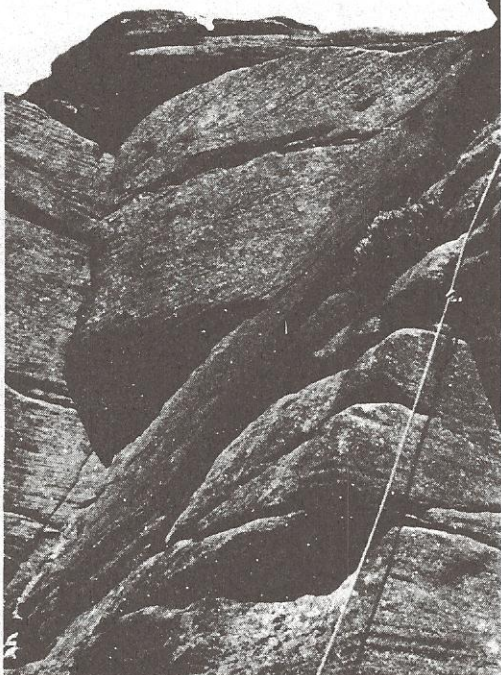
All we can do is to eliminate the risk of poor quality gear. After that it's a matter of "survival of the fittest". For gear you can depend on. Paddy's : Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

*Paddy Pallin*

69 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000 26 2685-6  
50 yards George Street and Kent Street carpark

46 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra ACT 2601 47 8940

55 Hardware Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

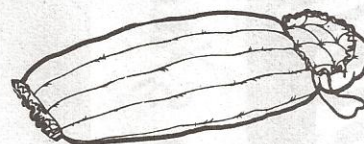




# Kimpton SLEEPING BAGS

## arctic bag

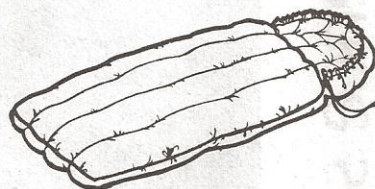
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted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

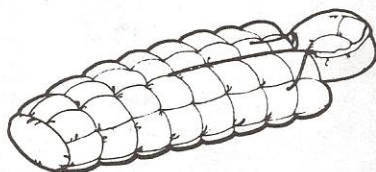
Body of bag cut 6'6" long x 32".  
Total weight of bag 5½ lb.

## 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

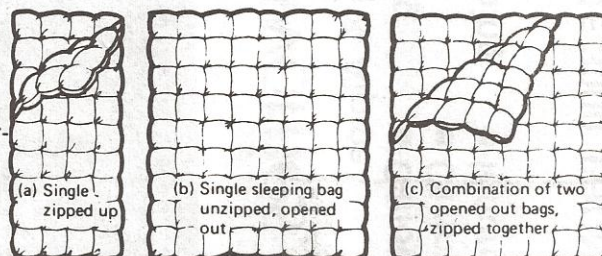
## snow bag



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.



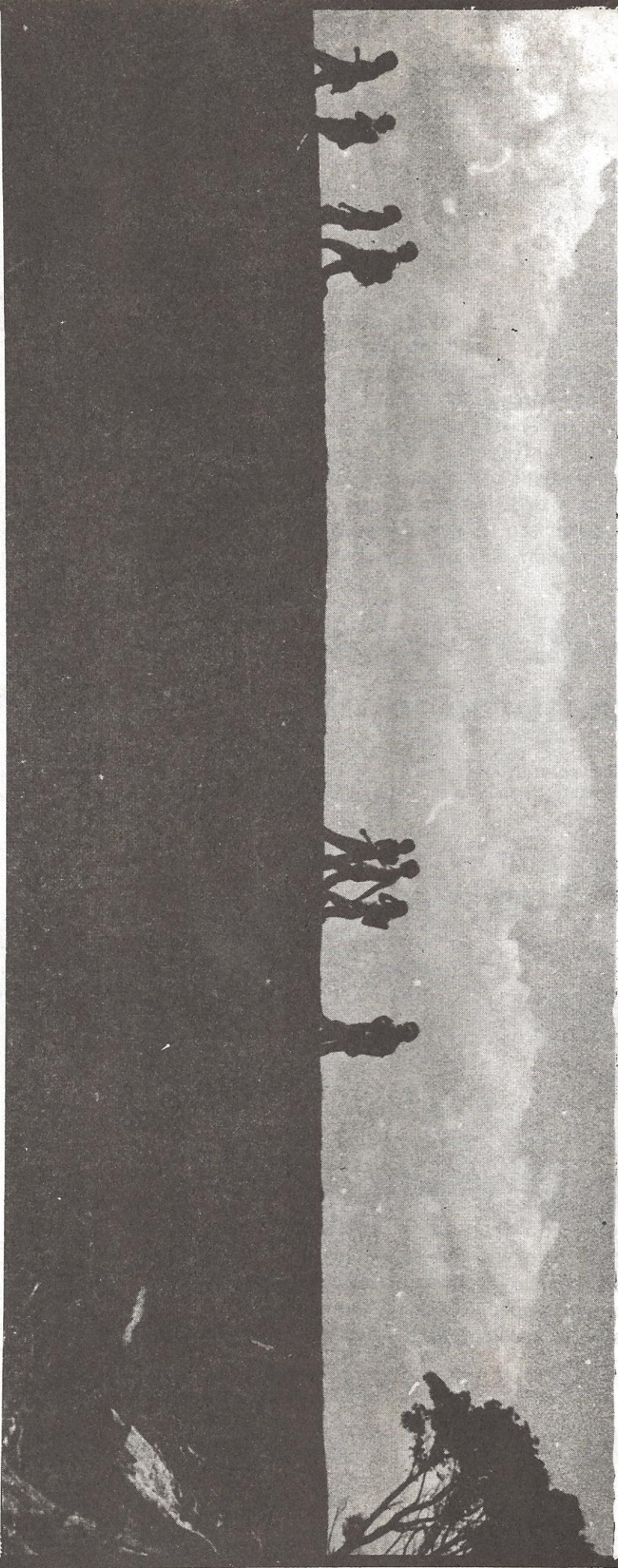
## Economic Down Quilt Co.

39 Sackville Street, Collingwood, 3066.

Phone: 41 4878



When success is dependent upon survival . . .



Let Molony's experience solve your gear worries.

***Molony's***

Excellent stocks of  
equipment for:

- Ski Touring & Alpine
- Bushwalking
- Camping
- Rock Climbing
- Canoeing
- Caving
- Mountaineering

J. MOLONY PTY. LTD.  
197 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE 3000 PHONE 67 8428-9