

the
MOUNTAINEER



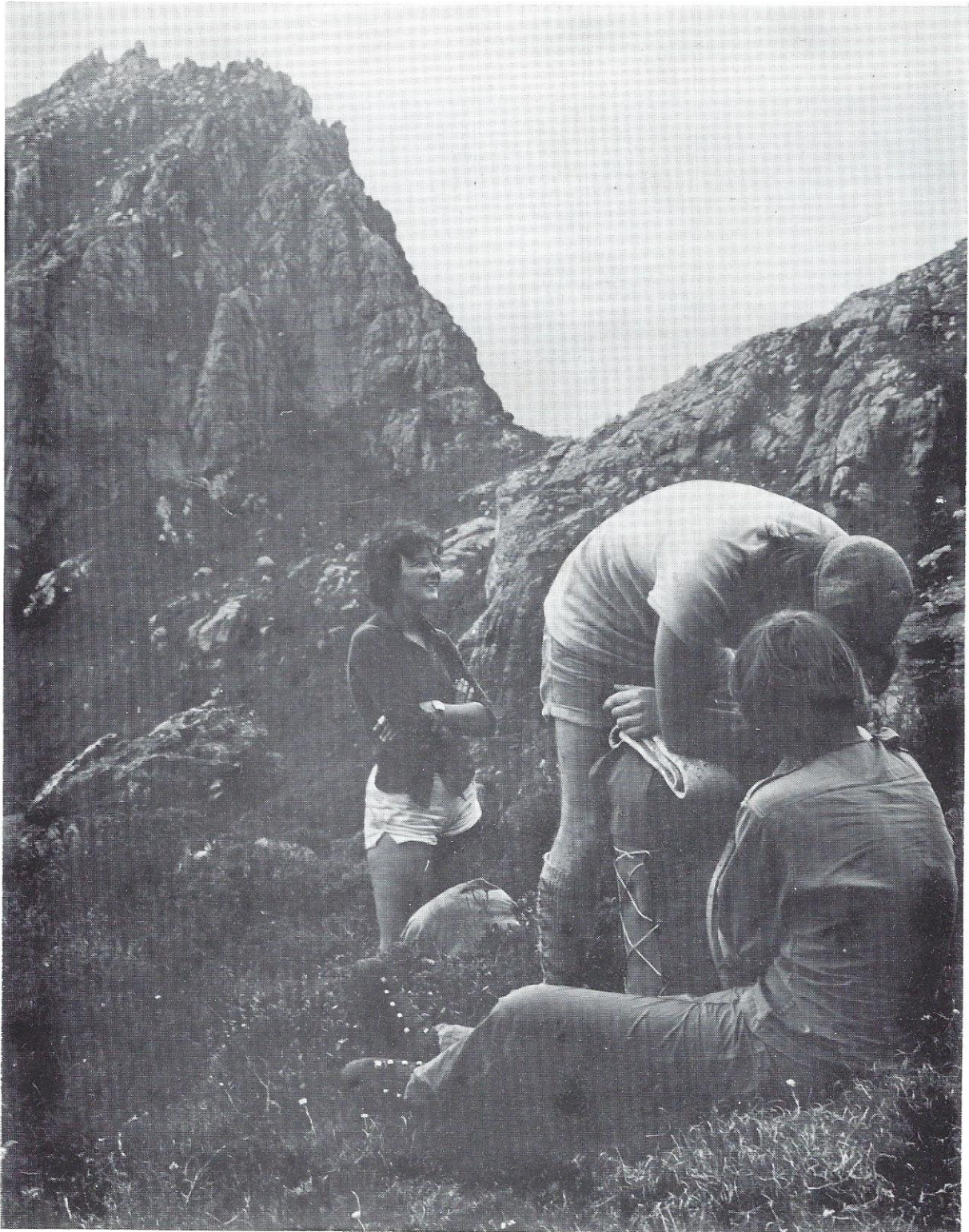
BOGONG FROM MT. NELSE
Photo: Jol Shelton

JUNE 1977

20¢

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

BUSHGEAR PTY. LTD.



THE RUGGED WESTERN ARTHURS
Photo: John Chapman

**NEW STOCKS OF SKI EQUIPMENT INCLUDING
MANY NEW BRANDS OF SKIS AND BOOTS
HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO ARRIVE
46 HARDWARE ST. MELB. PH: 67 3354**

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Mountaineer in the past, and also we hope in the future. A special thanks to Andy Rothfield for his duplicating work and to Sue White and her guides for all the collating of the Mountaineer they have done in the past.

The Journal of M.U.M.C.

Correspondence: The Editor, "Mountaineer",
c/o Sports Union,
Melbourne University,
Grattan Street,
PARKVILLE. 3052.

This Mountaineer edited by Julie West and Cathie Seccombe.

Copy deadline next issue: Friday, August 5th.

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SNAP - PIE - SNAP - PIE - SNAP - PIE - SNAP - PIE - SNAP -

PHOTO COMPETITION AND PIE NIGHT

Monday, July 11th at 6.30 pm. in Sports Pavilion (near the oval)

Entries

- Categories: Coloured slides: (1) Scenery
(2) Action Shot (or shot of specialized activity)
(3) Personality Shot
- Black & White prints: (4) Scenery
(5) Action Shot
(6) Personality Shot
- Coloured prints: One general category unless there are sufficient entries to warrant breakdown into categories, as for other mediums.

Limits: Each entrant can enter up to 3 coloured slides, 4 black and white prints and 4 coloured prints.

Conditions: No one dimension of a photo is to be larger than 10" i.e. no photo is to be larger than 10" x 10". All slides and photos are to be taken by the entrant. All black and white prints can be used for publication in the "Mountaineer".

Entries should be given to Prue Dobbin or put in her envelope in Aikman's Rd., by Thursday, July 7th. Judging will take place before the actual night.

Judges: Will be Don Weston and Bill Bewsher (he has been given a map to the sports pavilion). All presents for the judges are to be put in the vice-president's envelope.

Prizes: Worth \$50 will be given (with weighting towards black & white prints).

The night of the slide and photo viewing will also be a "pie night". When those of you with insatiable minds are still hungry for quality after looking at the photos we are providing lots of yummy pies and pasties.

FLASH - SAUCE - FLASH - SAUCE - FLASH - SAUCE - FLASH - SAUCE -

EDITORIAL

Well folkth, here we are with another exthiting ithue of the Mountaineer. Thith ithue contains an interething winter thegment with lots of handy hinth on how to thurvive and enjoy the winter.

One matter of great importance ith the threatened extenthion of Fallth Creek Thki Village into the Bogong High Plainth. A car park at Rocky Valley Dam ith dangerouth, conthidering weather conditionth around the dam and the pothibility of falling in the dam. In addition, thuch a development would give greater acceth to what ith at prethent a winter wilderneth area. We urge you all to write to the S.E.C. and voice your oppothition to thith plan.

Another thpecial feature of thith exthiting ithue of the Mountaineer ith on cooking. Thith time we thow you how to cook a thnake. Thith ith a necethity for every mountaineer who enyoth a tathty meal.

Pleathe everyone take thothe ball-gownth and bow-tieth out of the moth-ballth and come along to the thocial event of the year (where anyone who ith anyone will be). And what ith thith great thocial event you athk? Why the Great Oxo Ball of courth. Thee you there!

And tho Mountaineerth, enjoy reading the Mountaineer and try not to dothe off while reading thome of our longer articles!!!

thinged

The Editorth

P.th. Thorry about the thortness of thith editorial but the editorth wanted to go thking!

COMMITTEE

President:	Nick Reeves	403 Fitzroy St., Fitzroy	
Vice-President:	Prue Dobbin	Ormond College	347 2077
Secretary:	Daren Fawkes	225 Moore St., Fitzroy	62 0291
			Ex. 2117(W)
Assist. Sec.:	Ross Seedsman	39 Yerrin St., Balwyn	83 4497
Treasurer:	Neil Blundy	19 Pitt St. Carlton	347 7905
Stores Officer:	Tony Marian	11 Waller Crt., Ascot Vale	33 2965
Editor:	Cathie Seccombe	14 Uvadale Gve., Kew	80 3814
Conservation:	Mike Feller	34 Mercer Rd., Armadale	20 2232
Bushwalking:	Dave Caddy	2 Devon St., Caulfield	528 3840
Climbing:	Hugh Foxcroft	6 Baxter St., Toorak	24 2084
Canoeing:	Karen Roberts	16/205 Flemington Rd., Nth. Melb.	329 6216
Skiing:	Andrew Rothfield	19 Devorgilla Ave., Toorak	20 8500
Caving:	Ann Donnelly	30 Tulip St., Black Rock	598 7103
Orienteering:	Tony Kerr	5 Beleura Ave., Vermont.	874 2726

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

F.V.W.C. observer:	Debbie Tyler
Search and Rescue delegate:	Nick Dow
V.O.A. delegate:	Ron Fredrick
V.S.A. delegate (caving):	Nick White
A.C.F. delegate:	Louise Gilfedder
C.C.V. delegates:	Karl Gordon, Chips O'Berne
Vic. Nat. Parks Assoc.	Jim Keany
24 Hr. Walk organisers:	Graeme Oakes, Ross Stephens, John Chapman, Steve Roylance
" " caterers:	Lyndee Beattie, Iris Janke.
IV 24 hr. Walk organisers:	Daren Fawkes, John Stone
Hut Wardens:	Andrew Walker, Tony Kerr.
Librarian:	Peter Megens
Maps Librarian:	David Lia
Publications Officer:	Ross Stephens
Dinner Dance Organiser:	Prue Dobbin
Catering Officers:	Iris Janke, Debbie Tyler, Jane Landeman, Fiona Richards
Computer Programmer:	Tim Patrick
Assistant Stores officers:	Ross Stephens, Jane Landman, De Debbie Tyle, Fiona Richards, John Stone
Duplicating Officer:	Andrew Rothfield
Tuesday night roster (to open up club):	Hugh Foxcroft, Prue Dobbin

LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

In reference to your page of fourteen, two by two and a quarter, glossy black and white photographs of our new 1977 committee, printed in the last edition of the Mountaineer, I am beginning to have my doubts about the potential expertise of these members.

I, along with 80 other members, voted these people into office. Have we chosen wisely?

Take for example, the photo of Karen Roberts. This photo is blurred; does this reflect her present state of mind?

Ross Seedsman has that gaze of angelic innocence, a front to his true personality, I'm assured, but how will that go down with the club beginners. (Groan, I hate that word.)

Does Prue Dobbin always go around cheerful and smiling? (even at exam time, I don't believe it!) And does Neil Blundy always look like someone's stolen his favorite money box? (The one in the shape of a Chris Bonington). Dave Caddy's saying, "You shouldn't be seeing this." (Is he always doing things we shouldn't be seeing.)

Cathie Seccombe has been sprung again, "Watch out for the next exciting, but soggy, edition of the Mountaineer!"

And we have Tony Marian in close up, (Oh that's nice) and Hugh staring in amazement as someone proceeds to eat a beetroot and ice-cream jaffle.

Sue White and Nick Reeves are eating - probably munch bars from the store. (Yes, Tony is smiling, they have paid and recorded the buy).

Mike Fellar is a bit sceptical about the whole deal, is it that he doesn't like his photo being taken, or that you have to be a hard man to be a conversationalist. Daren Fawkes is still asking questions, "What am I doing here?" Andrew Rothfield just gazes out in assurance, a political outlook from his scientific mind.

Last but no least, is Tony Kerr, but seeing that I don't know him, all that I can ask is, "Does he look orienteered?"

These are our committee, do you trust them? Would you buy them a used cherry strength bar? And will they be there next year?

I have my doubts, but good-luck to them all, and congratulations on getting there in the first place.

Jenny van Staveren.

* * * * *

Dear Editor, I would like to provoke some comments on the idea of restricting voting rights at the AGM to active members. The idea would be that a member could only vote if he/she had been on, say 2 club trips since the last AGM. This would ensure that votes would not be cast by inactive people who do not know the candidates for the committee and cannot know if they would make good committee members.

The proposal could be easily implemented by having the old trips lists at the AGM - each member would point out 2 trips and receive a ballot paper.

A good effect of the reform might be to ensure a higher proportion of newer members on the committee - thus helping to break down the "clique" image of M.U.M.C.

Yours,

Nick Dow.

"QUOTABLE QUOTES"

While we all argued fiercely against the "new" Lake Pedder, Nick Reeves was heard to mutter "the old Lake Pedder, why it was a heap of shit!" A few minutes later, to emphasise his point, Nick elaborated "Oh, it was only a swamp with a puddle in the middle of it".

* * * * *

The new and improved? climbing store carries a picture of your charming stores officer in bow-tie and clutching a can of Fosters. The accompanying description is an indication of his sweet nature to patrons of "his" store: "I am sick and tired of being nice to people! Stores assistants are there to help people to help themselves. If people do not know what is going on they will be helped. But don't regard me as your boy! If you think I have been abrasive in the past, wait, you shall know when I'm abrasive We owe you nothing I shall bitch, but shit don't you deserve it."

* * * * *

Reprinted from the Latrobe Valley Express.

"Getting Bushed is no sport"

Sir,

I would like to have my opinion printed about the so-called "sport" of bushwalking.

Recently my second son came home and asked to join a Bushwalking Club. He'd evidently been sucked in by a salesman at a Bushwalking Shop who had an axe to grind. My lad is only 15 and is a good student and footballer, and I have no intention of letting him go out and get lost like so many other people you read about in the papers.

The community organizes plenty of sporting activities to keep young people busy and it's only student "long hairs" and "eco-nuts" that go out in the bush getting lost and lighting fires that burn off our valuable timber.

If they like the bush that much they can still be useful to society and volunteer to help out on our hard-pressed dairy farms on week-ends. The farmers at least put the bush to good use.

"Mother of 4 boys", Morwell.

* * * * *

WANTED TO BUY, SELL OR RENT

SELL: One year old Antartic Products (NZ) K2 frameless pack. Suitable for weekend and ski trips. Good condition \$30 or best offer. Contact Mike Feller 341 7170(W) or 20 2230(H) for further details.

SELL: At discount prices: Everest Backpackers - Exodus, Special and Feather-weight. Also Kimptons and Purax sleeping bags. Ph. 341 6907 or room 308 Earth Sciences Building (Ian).

* * * * *

NEWS AND OTHER ODDS AND ENDS

1. Congratulations to Sue White, Mike Feller and Tony Kerr, all of whom have been made life members of M.U.M.C. for their contributions to the club.
2. The Recreation Division of the Education Department, Hobart have produced a waterproof pocket-size pamphlet "Safety in the Bush". The pamphlet is available free of charge from:

Division of Recreation,
Education Department, Hobart,
1st Floor, Kirksway House,
Battery Point. 7000.
3. Kosciusko Management Plan: The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW) is to publish a comprehensive plan of management for the Kosciusko National Park. The plan (by Fowell, Mansfield, Jarvis and Macluran Pty. Ltd., a firm of architects, town planners and landscape architects) is aimed at providing "a basis of policy and practice so that the development of these areas may best serve the legitimate interests visitors". From the first draft of the report have come recommendations on administration at various resorts, on road access, car parking and expansion of lift and public facilities.
4. Skitouring: At the first skitouring sub-committee meeting it was decided to buy 4 new pairs of skis and boots. These have now been purchased. The hire is open and people who wish to borrow skis should have attended the work party held on June 7th. Hire charges have not changed from last year. The rates are: \$1 for first 2 days and 50¢ for every following day. There is a deposit of \$10.
5. Threat to the Bogong High Plains: Plans have been made to extend the Falls Creek Ski Village and car park to the Rocky Valley Dam area. A car park for 300 cars, and extendable to 600, plus a number of new tows have been proposed..
6. Rockclimbing: A new guide book to the East Gippsland area - "The 70 Best Climbs in the Rest of Victoria" - has just come out. Edited by Ian Sedgeman and priced at \$1, it will soon be available in the shops. A Grampians supplement is on the way and will probably cost 50¢.
7. Authentic Membership cards: Are now available at the club for all those who at present have the temporary paper cards.
8. Developments at Arapiles: It has been proposed to build a motel, restaurant, and camping ground complex in sight of Mt. Arapiles on the Goroke - Natimuk Road. The proposed development has been lodged with the shire office at Natimuk and the official period for lodgement of objections is over. BUT: The Council has still to consider final details and it is possible for people to send in letters of objections. The more letters the Council receives the more they will take notice of them. (I have copies of the sketch map and further information for anyone interested - Editor).
9. F.V.W.C. Appeal for Secretary: The position of secretary (other than minutes secretary) in the F.V.W.C. is vacant. Unless this position is filled the Federation is in danger of closing down. All clubs have been notified, are there any volunteers?
10. The Alpine Study Area report is due out in 2 months. Any submissions are welcome, particularly as the Forestry Commission have already indicated strongly how they would like to see the land used. An alternative suggestion to the Forestry Commission is to make the area into one large alpine park.

M.U.M.C. ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Wednesday, August 10th

Vintage Room, Tower Hotel, Camberwell.

7 pm.



Tickets at a price reduced specially for you:

\$ 7.00 single

\$13.50 double

to be available soon from the club.

Drinks must be bought at lounge room prices.

Watch punctilious (I bet you don't have to look that up in the dictionary) "heavies" topple from their towers!

CANOEING REPORTInterVarsity Canoeing - 1977 -

Scale Street rapid, Mitta Mitta River, Dartmouth.

For Melbourne to compete with other universities with any hope of doing well at slalom canoeing we would need to either shift our emphasis from touring to slalom or paddle a lot of high water trips before I.V. As it stands, I.V. canoeing is held in May. For the past three years the dry season in Victoria has not yet broken by that time.

We have always considered slalom as a supplement to touring to improve our skill. This gives us the confidence to tackle harder rivers. When slalom is taken seriously it is a purely competitive sport. In my opinion this does not fit in with the ideals of the Mountaineering Club where the activities involve some appreciation of the surrounding landscape. Orienteering, which is also competitive involves an appreciation of the bush more so than slalom canoeing.

While InterVarsity remains a very friendly occasion we will continue to support it. We look forward to the yearly reunion with canoeists we have met from all over Australia. M.U.M.C. had a large contingent of paddlers who dominated the social activities. Only one person wrote himself off when we played Zoom at the Dartmouth pavilion after a beautiful chicken dinner turned on by Monash.

Despite continual rain everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. It is fun to paddle and really something to watch Australian champions paddle. The standard of I.V. has risen greatly over its six year life. Many clubs now are exclusively for slalom and have separate touring clubs.

On the third day the course was completely washed out. Eddies had completely disappeared. The big stopper had moved downstream about ten feet and was very much bigger.

The event warranted the following additional awards:

Most popular food - jaffles as usual
Most vocal - Dianne as usual
Most enthusiastic - Prue (and Bill for his practice run)
Most popular drinks - BEER and Refresh
Pet adversity - mud in the carpark
Motto - We shall not be moved!

Karen Roberts

* * * * *

I.V. Canoeing Results - 1977Slalom:Mens' K1 (37 competitors)

Neil McGilp	19th
Bill Cruickshank	23rd
Craig Price	24th
Rob Jacobs	33rd
George Raitt	36th

Ladies' K1 (20 competitors)

Anna Lottkowitz	2nd
Karen Roberts	3rd
Prue Dobbin	8th
Sue Parkinson	12th
Dianne Coon	13th

Cont...

I.V. Canoeing Results - 1977 (Cont.)Slalom (Cont.)Open C2 (20 competitors)

Steve Lottkowitz & Neil McGilp	8th
Ross Seedsman & Bill Cruickshank	13th
Rob Jacobs & Leo Cussen	17th

Mixed C2 (21 competitors)

Sue Parkinson & Ross Seedsman	12th
Neil McGilp & Prue Dobbin	13th
Dianne Coon and Rob Jacobs	17th

Open C1 (20 competitors)

Craig Price	12th
Leo Cussen	18th
Steve Lottkowitz	19th

Mens' K1 Teams (8 competitors)

Steve Lottkowitz, Ross Seedsman & Craig Price	6th
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Ladies' K1 Teams (3 competitors)

Anna Lottkowitz, Karen Roberts, & Prue Dobbin	3rd
--	-----

Down River RaceMens K1 (25 competitors)

Bill Cruickshank	9th
Jim Bland	20th
Leo Cussen	23rd
Simon Reilly	24th

- Overall 7th out of 7 universities

Down River Race (Cont.)Ladies K1 (14 competitors)

Anna Lottkowitz	3rd
Prue Dobbin	4th
Karen Roberts	6th
Dianne Coon	7th

- Overall 1st out of 4

Open C2 (10 competitors)

Rob Jacobs & Steve Lottkowitz	10th
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- Overall 6th out of 6

Mixed C2 (13 competitors)

Ross Seedsman & Sue Parkinson	3rd
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- Overall 3rd out of 7

Final Result

Melbourne came 6th out of 8
universities in the slalom

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NEWS1. L.C.C. Northeastern Study Area, Districts 3, 4, and 5

(i.e. the area between Wodonga and the Ovens valley, including Mt. Buffalo and Mt. Typo).

The L.C.C. brought out their Final Recommendations for land use in this area towards the end of April. As seems to be usually the case there were no major differences between the Final and the Preliminary Recommendations. One change for the better was that the area proposed for pine plantations was decreased by about one third. It is not completely clear why this area was decreased. Perhaps the Forests Commission have finally realized that future demand for softwood is not going to be as great as the timber industry had previously predicted, their estimates being based on many false assumptions such as high population estimates, grossly inflated per capita consumption estimates (did you know that you will be using almost 4 times as much sanitary tissue in the year 2010 as you are currently using!), rather low yield per hectare figures, and low timber utilization estimates.

Some changes for the worse, albeit slight, are that the area of parkland has decreased by 1000 ha (total of about 67,000 ha) and the area devoted to hardwood production has increased by 2000 ha (to a total of about 13,000 ha).

The previously proposed Mt. Pilot State Park east of Wangaratta has now been proposed as a multi-purpose park. This is a change in name only and represents a rationalisation by the L.C.C. of their previous comments about the park in which a number of activities were permitted.

Most of the forests in this study area have been designated as uncommitted land which means that the status quo will be maintained. Thus, the non-mechanised - mechanised recreationist (e.g. trail bike rider versus bushwalker) conflict will continue. It is indeed very unfortunate that the L.C.C. has not yet addressed itself to this extremely important land use conflict. Very little discussion of this conflict has appeared in L.C.C. Reports and Recommendations and fewer positive solutions have been put forward. The L.C.C. has apparently thrown the responsibility of solving the conflict back to the various land management agencies and has given no lead in the situation. This is a failing which must be rectified in the Alpine Study Area where this conflict is greatest and where bushwalking values are highest.

2. Merrimu Reservoir, Lerderderg River

The Victorian Ministry for Conservation in April released its comments on the environmental impact statement prepared by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission for its proposed Merrimu Reservoir on the Lerderderg River. The reservoir would be within the proposed national park, upstream of the gorge.

The reservoir, for irrigation purposes, was a fait accompli as a tunnel had already been constructed to carry water away. The only problem was to determine whether the dam for the reservoir would be made out of concrete or rockfill. There was no opportunity to determine whether or not extra water for irrigation and a reservoir were desirable, or even which site on the river was most suitable. The Ministry recommended a concrete weir because it would have less impact on the environment. They also recommended that more work be done to assess the minimum desirable flow of water out of the weir through the gorge.

CONSERVATION NEWS (Cont.)

The State Rivers E.I.S. was a very superficial, shoddy little document and the whole public input process in this case, as with the Thompson Dam, again shows little indication that government agencies understand proper planning and democratic procedures. Calling for public comment after a project has quietly become a fait accompli should not be allowed in this society.

3. Proposed Ski Development Near Rocky Valley Reservoir

A proposal has been recently put to the Falls Creek Management Committee for a day visitor, downhill ski development on the slopes between Rocky Valley Reservoir and the current Sun Valley development. There are plans for 2 new lifts, a car park for "at least 300 cars and numerous buses" initially, then twice this number later, as well as various service buildings. The development, if it occurs, will bring hordes of people right to one side of the Bogong High Plains exposing part of the plains to the noise and sight of the development. It will also inevitably increase the number of people wandering on to the High Plains themselves. It is typical of the many examples of blind development gnawing away at our rapidly diminishing natural recreation areas like a cancer.

The Falls Creek Committee of Management are reported to have received the plan "very enthusiastically". They are "eager for the entire plan to be given the go-ahead". Approval is needed from both the S.E.C. and the C.R.B.

M.U.M.C. has objected to the proposed development and the ski-touring convenor has written a number of letters to various government agencies as well as to the Minister for Conservation. The major argument against the development is that it would occur in the Alpine Study Area which is currently being studied by the L.C.C. Our government has stated that changes in land use are supposed to be frozen in any area being studied by the L.C.C. and must await the Final Recommendations of the L.C.C. As the development would have a major impact on the environment it should not even be considered in the absence of an environmental impact statement. A letter to this effect has been sent to the Ministry for Conservation.

4. Huts in Kosciusko Park

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs recently (May 1977) released part of their draft policy on huts in Kosciusko Park. Acknowledging the conflict between huts and wilderness, the Federation came up with the following general policy:

1. No existing huts should be deliberately destroyed.
2. No existing hut should be replaced in the event of its destruction, regardless of the means or untimeliness of its loss.
3. No new huts should be built.

In certain parts of the park where wilderness quality is low and hut values are unusually high, exceptions to the general policy are made. Hut values are defined in terms of historic, management, survival and training values.

There are two areas where exceptions to the general policy apply. These are :

1. The Whites-Schlink corridor where wilderness values are low and hut training and management values are high. In this area destroyed huts should be replaced and there may also be future justification for entirely new huts.

CONSERVATION NEWS (Cont.)

2. The Snowy Headwaters (Mt. Townsend - Mt. Twynam - Dead Horse Gap area). This area is small, unique, very popular, and sensitive to over-use with wilderness value low in summer but higher in winter. Huts in the area have survival, training, and management values. Lake Albina, Seaman's, and the Soil Conservation hut should be maintained, replaced if destroyed, and if there is sufficient justification (mainly extremely heavy usage) new huts could be built. Rawson's hut and the Stillwell Restaurant are considered to be of dubious value so the Federation neither advocates nor opposes their removal.

The remainder of the policy is expected to state that "all huts should consist only of relatively basic shelters with minimal facilities, and that only maintenance and very limited restoration should be permitted on huts in wilderness areas."

This appears to be a very good attempt to produce a long needed policy on huts in the Park. We could certainly do with a similar policy on huts here in Victoria. The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs hut policy, of which 99% of us will not even have heard, states that no new huts should be built in areas used for bushwalking, then goes on to tell us how to build huts! Clearly more work is needed on this policy.

* * * * *

WILDERNESS TRAVELLER'S CREED

I believe that the Pioneer Ethic is dead, and the Wilderness Creed is alive.

I believe that Man - the intelligent animal - can travel through the wilderness and LEAVE NO TRACE.

I will keep my group small.

I will keep my stay in one place short.

I will not cut down trees or branches.

I will not build fires, or if I do I will keep them small and scatter their cold remains when I leave.

I will leave no rubbish or other evidence of my stay in the wilderness.

I will LEAVE NO TRACE.

* * * * *

ROCKCLIMBING REPORT

Easter was spent at Mt. Arapiles by a large band of M.U.M.C. climbers and the efforts of several novices making their first leading forays deserve special mention. Kevin Chamberlain and David Beilby shared leads on Eagle Cleft (9), D. Major (9), Holpip (11) and Eskimo Nell (11), and Gary Martin led Siamese Crack (14) in excellent style. Experience was gained seconding Arachnus (8) and Fugue (12) by Andrew Kinkaid. Joe Walsh also covered a lot of rock following David Lia on Eagle Cleft (9), D Minor (11) and Dunes (9) amongst others.

Experienced climbers were variously off or on-form. Those who were off-form included Peter Megens and Peter Martin who attempted Hyaena (18) and Rack (19) yet again, but success came on The Mantle (14) with Steve Pawley. Andrew Rothfield and Ross Stephens both fell from the crux of Resignation (10) and were forced to transfer their attentions to the nearby Kaiser (12) to reach the top of Tiger Wall. Stephens later did Panzer (12) with John Stone. On-form climbers included Peter Watson who, accompanied by various V.C.C. hard men, succeed in leading Kachoong (21) after a fall. Tony Marian and Neil Currie led Libretto (14) and Ejaculation (13+) in good style. Nick Reeves, Hugh Foxcroft and John Chapman put up a new route on Tiger Wall which sports the name Toothpaste Buttress (16). Foxcroft later led Little Thor (20) and the crux of Harner (20).

Day trips filled in the remainder of first term at various venues. At North Jawbones (Cathedral Ranges) there was little leading but much top-roping. Chapman led Xanthene (17), Roger Barson led a combination of Divect (9) and Central Buttress (8) and Reeves shot across Traverse of the Sods (14). When Martin led Xenith (13) congestion reached an all time high on the belay at the end of Traverse of the Gods which resulted in a diversity of finishes: Chapman on Greg's Direct (14), Rothfield on Traveller's Slab (12) and the remaining parties up Speigal's Overhang (10). Occasional venturers on rock Graeme Oakes and Mike Henderson alternated leads on Steve's Delight(5).

The petrol strike deterred most climbers from travelling to the cliffs, but fortune does favour the brave and Foxcroft, Marian and Jane Landman enjoyed the Anzac Day weekend at Mt. Arapiles. After Foxcroft led the crux of Eurydice, Marian continued up Orpheus (14). Marian also led the somewhat intimidating crux of Saracen (15) and Trapeze (10) to give Jane her first experience of gripping up; it seems this climb affects everyone the same way!

Werribee Gorge was the venue for several more day trips before the end of term. Notable achievements included Megens leading Octavia (18) and Currie conquering ConscientiousPontius (17). David Beilby led Cicero (14), Sweet Chariot (11) and Deathgate (12). Several people have found out how close the deck is at Werribee Gorge the hard way recently and it is to be hoped that they will pay much closer attention to protecting their leads in future: not all of us have come away from the Amphitheatre with only a few bruises!

The May vacation saw most climbers in the Grampians hoping for a spell of fine weather. Camping at Barney's Creek placed us close to all the cliffs in the new Central Grampians Guide. At Mt. Rosea Ian Millar and Peter Angus completed two of the cliff's classic climbs, Tourist Direct and Mixed Climb (both 11). Reeves and Foxcroft did Bus Stop (17) which culminates in a magnificent corner crack. A large group decided they had insufficient time to complete Debutante (15) after the first pitch, so the crux of R.I.P. Corner (18) received a couple of top-roped ascents by Megens and Foxcroft, and several attempts. Over on Eastern Wall (Peking Face) Robyn Storer and Jane Landman gained their first leading experience on You Likee? (6) and Chop Suey (6) enjoying the new challenge immensely. Marian and Currie did Bushide (14) and Moratorium (17) stating that the respective gradings could

ROCKCLIMBING REPORT (Cont.)

well be reversed. At Bundaleer Bill Cruickshank, Tony Moore and Frank Gargano were doing their first climbing since the Beginner's Weekends and ascents of The Minch (9) and Scarab (13) were strong efforts. David Lia also led these two fine climbs ably seconded by Lyndee Beattie and Natalie.

The next day dawned cold and miserable and whilst one party set forth for Bundaleer, the others travelled to Mt. Arapiles where it was also raining. At Bundaleer, Martin, Kinkaid and Cathie did Scarab (12): the erstwhile leader, Megens, lighting a fire in the camping cave. Meanwhile at Arapiles everyone was trying to keep warm and dry so after an early dinner we drove into Natimuk to imbibe a little. M.U.M.C. honour was upheld at the pool table to the rowdy cheers of the large climbing contingent (and the scowls of the local P.C.).

In the morning the weather was still inclement so a couple of hours were enjoyably spent playing an improvised game of cricket. After lunch the sky was slightly brighter so thoughts returned to climbing. Everywhere the rock was damp and periodically it was doused by another shower so easier climbing and seiging were the order of the day. Castle Crag saw ascents of Trapeze and Cunrak (both 10) but climbing was too wet in the Organ Pipes and a retreat was made from Piccolo. In Central Gully, Hyaena (18) fell to Foxcroft and Martin after numerous attempts by the assembled throng. The following day was slightly better; that is it remained dry. Some powerful leading by Currie saw he and Marian succeed on Eurydice (17), one of Arapile's finest long routes. Megens and Martin made numerous attempts on Little Thor (2) but were repulsed time and again. Kinkaid and Harry Burr climbed on Tiger Wall. On his first attempt at leading Andrew showed considerable pluck in continuing his lead after injuring an ankle during a mild tumble.

Jos Verbaken came out of semi-retirement to lead a trip to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. He was accompanied by Chamberlain and Beilby. All three were very impressed with the climbing at Moorarie Gap and the potential of surrounding areas. The weather was kind enabling the party to climb every day. On Chequer's Wall Thor (15) and Asimor (14) were climbed and on the Ramparts GRRC was done. The leads were spread fairly evenly although Verbaken led most of the cruxes. Undoubtedly the two newcomers are showing the benefits of regular climbing.

Although wet weather seems to have come early this year there will be several climbing trips during Term II. Many of these will be day trips which are organized at short notice (i.e. Thursday or Friday). If you wish to go climbing any weekend please come and see me for there will inevitably be a trip somewhere. Remember the Pig Roast at Mt. Arapiles on the Queen's Birthday Weekend (11-13th June). It is undoubtedly Victorian climbing's premier social event and well worth attending.

Hugh Foxcroft

* * * * *

TRIPS PROGRAMME

Please note: It is the responsibility of people who have signed to go on trips to contact the leader rather than the leader having to contact everyone on his/her trip.

Queen's Birthday, 11-13th June

- Canoeing: Mitchell or Thompson River
Transport: private
Leader: Ross Seedsman (Ph. 83 4497)
Standard: Medium
- Skiing: Bogong High Plains
Transport: Private
Leader: Jol Shelton (Ph. 347 3051)
- Walking: (a) Grampians - Major Mitchell Plateau and Mt. Williams
Transport: Private
Leader: Nick Dow
Standard: Easy - Medium
- (b) Hatta Lakes
Transport: Train or car
Leader: ?
- (c) Cathedral Range
Transport: Private, Leaving Sunday morning, 8 a.m. from
29 Norma Road, Croydon.
Leader: Andrew Walker (Ph. 64 4126 between 9 - 5 p.m.
and leave message.
Standard: Easy Medium.
- Ski-touring: Dargo High Plains
Leader: Steve Glen
Standard: Medium
- Climbing: Mt. Arapiles
V.V.C. Pig Roas. \$3. includes grog.
Transport: Private
Leader: Hugh Foxcroft (Ph. 24 2084)

June 18 - 19th

- Bushwalking: Grampians - beginners welcome
Transport: Private
Leader: Ian Moore (Ph. 82 6029 A.H.)
Standard: Medium
- Canoeing: Beginners Trip
Transport: Private
Leader: Karen Roberts (Ph. 329 6216)
Standard: Easy and wet.

June 25 - 26th

- Bushwalking: Lederderg Gorge
Transport: Private
Leader: Jenny van Staveren
Standard: Medium

TRIPS PROGRAMME (Cont.)July 2 - 3rd

M.U.M.C. 24 hour walk: Destination a secret!
Transport: Van
Standard: Very bludgy

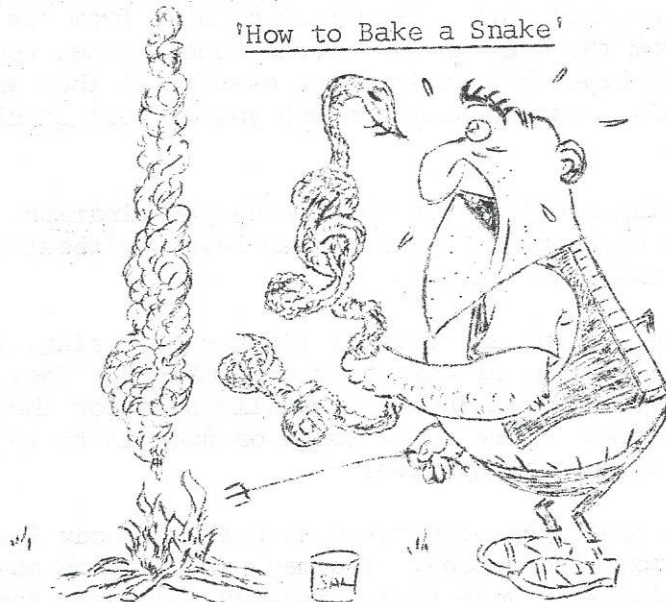
Hash House Organiser: Iris Janke

Any volunteers to help put names on list in club or contact Iris 489 9263.

Search and Rescue Practice Weekend - boycott the 24 hr. walk!

Transport: Bus leaves 7.30 p.m. Fri. from Batman Av.
Leader: Rob Jacobs

Maps to be supplied. Bring snow gear and touring skis.

"MOUNTAINEERING EDIBLES"'How to Bake a Snake'

If a snake is killed and thrown straight on to the fire it immediately twists and turns into a very disconcerting shape. The snake should be laid lengthways on the ground and with a sharp knife, incisions made right along both sides close to the backbone, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep, thus cutting all the sinewy parts. The snake should then be bent to make it supple and rolled up like a butcher rolls a rib roast. This is tied up with a piece of string, slipped under the hot coals, covered with ashes and left to cook. When tender on one side it is turned over. It is served, when cooked, with the gut removed. The fat is still intact in delicious round nodules, the flesh is white and firm, and it tastes - well, a little like a chicken.

WINTER SEGMENTHypothermia; The No. 1 Killer

Hypothermia, which, by definition, means a lowering of the body core temperature due to heat being lost faster than it can be produced, is the number one killer of winter outdoor recreationists. Commonly called "exposure" by the news media, hypothermia is particularly dangerous because it can occur when one doesn't expect it. Severe cold, for instance, is not a necessary precondition for hypothermia.

The human body functions normally only within a very narrow internal temperature range. When the core temperature goes much above or below the norm (98.6°F) the body regulatory centres are affected. The brain is usually the first to show symptoms, exhibiting slowed reactions and foggy thinking. With further cooling unconsciousness results. If the body core temperature falls below 98°F there is increased risk of disorganized heart action or actual heart stoppage.

The skin serves as an outer shell to the body, protecting the core from changes in temperature as long as possible. When the skin temperature falls a great deal it cannot continue to protect the body core for long. Soon the internal temperature will begin to drop as well.

Hypothermia usually results from cold, wet, windy conditions. Other contributing factors can be poor physical condition, exhaustion, insufficient food intake and intake of alcohol and drugs.

Cold is not as great a danger as wind Wind blows through clothing making its insulating value almost non-existent. Conduction of heat from one material to another also saps heat from the body in cold conditions. Snow, rock and metal are all good conductors of heat, but it is often overlooked that water is an excellent conductor as well. Getting wet can rob you of heat quicker than almost anything else.

Care must be taken regarding dampness caused by body perspiration. Dressing in layers allows moisture to be absorbed by the inner layers without affecting the insulating capacities of the outer layers.

Symptoms: The first notable signs are usually intense shivering, tension in the muscles, fatigue and a feeling of deep cold or numbness. Most of us have experienced these symptoms. When we have, we usually head for the nearest lodge or warming room. But sometimes there is no lodge or duck in to to get re-warmed, or perhaps you choose to ignore the symptoms.

What happens next, unless some steps are taken to halt the body loss, is that the symptoms will become more pronounced. You may exhibit poor co-ordination, stumble more frequently, and slow your pace. You may also have some difficulty articulating when you talk. These symptoms are usually noticeable to your companions, if not to you. They should take immediate steps to warm you up. Without warning the symptoms can worsen until death occurs.

Prevention: Hypothermia is more easily prevented than treated. Keep in mind the all-important factors of warmth, dryness and wind & water-proofing. Include wool garments wherever possible. Wool is one of the best insulating fibres known to man, and is the only one which retains most of its insulation when wet. Goose-down is generally recognised as an excellent insulator, but it loses this quality almost entirely when wet.

Keep your head and neck covered. Carry extra, dry garments for the entire body, but particularly for your head, neck, feet and hands.

WINTER SEGMENT

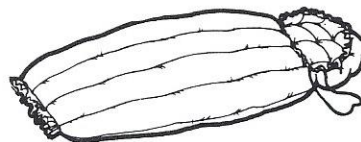


PETER TREEBY — MT. BAW BAW
Photo: Robert Jones

Kimpton SLEEPING BAGS

arctic bag

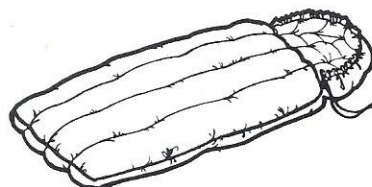
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted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

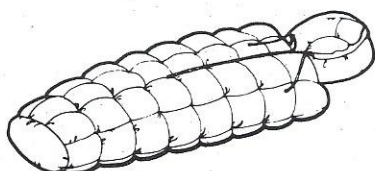
Body of bag cut 6'6" long x 32".
Total weight of bag 5¼ lb.

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

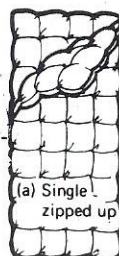
snow bag



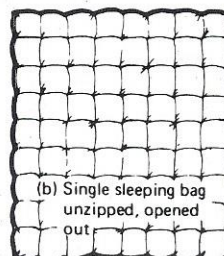
For skiers, bush walkers and sportsmen who want warmth without weight: Fitted with an inside closing zip and adjustable hood. An added feature is the heavily padded, circular foot panel, for protection in cold conditions. Supplied with our special waterproof container bag.

combination sleeping bag

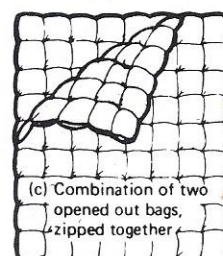
opened out to make a 6' 6" x 5' warm, light eiderdown, equalling the warmth of two pairs of blankets. For caravanning or camping purposes, it is simply zipped together, forming a single sleeping bag, or two bags opened out, can be zipped together, forming a perfect roomy double bag, capable of accommodating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



(a) Single sleeping bag zipped up



(b) Single sleeping bag unzipped, opened out



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

Economic Down Quilt Co.

39 Sackville Street, Collingwood, 3066.

Phone: 41 4878

WINTER SEGMENT (Cont.)

To keep your energy production high have a good supply of food and nibble between meals for a good supply of energy. Candy and dried fruit are good for quick energy, while nuts and other proteins and fats have a slower but more long-lasting effect.

Carry an emergency shelter with you. In the event of a storm, it is important to stop and set up camp early. Going on in a cold, snowy blizzard may bring on the early symptoms of hypothermia. Your lessened capabilities will make it difficult for you to perform routine tasks when you do stop. You might not be able to light your stove, let alone choose the best camp-site and put up a tent.

Finally, keep active after you settle in: it is necessary to help your muscles produce heat. Isometric exercises have been shown to be very effective for this purpose. They can be done in a confined area (i.e. tent or sleeping bag). Isometric exercises can be done by pitting opposing muscles against each other or simply contracting the desired muscle, holding for a few seconds and relaxing.

Treatment: A person suffering from hypothermia is losing heat at a faster rate than he is producing it. First of all, therefore, you must reduce his rate of heat loss. Bring him out of the elements, putting him into a tent or some other type of shelter. Take off any clothing that might be wet and replace it with dry clothing. Encourage him to start some isometric exercises if he can.

When you're bivouaced out in the middle of nowhere, the best way to help the victim is to put him in a warm sleeping bag, preferably with another person. Give the victim hot drinks.

It can take a long time to warm up completely, so don't rush the victim into moving before he's ready. He will be susceptible to the cold for quite a while after re-warming and should be aware of this fact.

* * * * *

Danger of Frostbite

Frostbite is an actual freezing of the skin and underlying tissues, usually at the extremities or other exposed areas (feet, nose, ears). Damage to the tissue is a result of the interruption of blood flow in the area and the formation of ice crystals between the cells.

Understanding the process by which frostbite occurs is simple when one considers that the body's defence mechanism against cold is chiefly concerned with maintaining the body core temperature. When a part of the body - a hand for instance - is subjected to extreme cold, the cold defence mechanism is triggered. The surface vessels in the hand are constricted, and blood circulation to the area is lessened or completely interrupted. This reduced circulation means less body heat will be lost; unfortunately it also means the hand will freeze if subjected to the cold long enough. In other words, given the choice between a frozen limb and a lowering of the body core temperature, the body will sacrifice the limb.

WINTER SEGMENT (Cont.)

The above of course is a simplified explanation..... As the tissue freezes, it appears, according to recent research, the ice crystals form between the cells. The crystals in themselves do not cause tissue damage, but they grow by drawing water from the nearby cells. The dehydration of these cells destroys their internal chemical balance, causing the death of the cells and severe damage to the tissue.

Causes of Frostbite: Actual contact with an intensely cold object is a primary cause of frostbite. One of the worst examples of this is touching cold metal with wet or damp hands. Metal is an excellent conductor of heat and will draw warmth from the body almost instantaneously.

Usually exposure to cold air only doesn't cause frostbite, as air is a poor thermal conductor. But the combination of cold and wind can cause frostbite quickly, since wind carries body heat away rapidly - as does water. Other factors which may increase the chances of frostbite are high altitude, exhaustion, fear, hypoxia and inadequate nourishment. The condition, when it occurs, is nearly always related to other factors such as fatigue, accident or being caught ill-prepared in a storm.

Intoxication often leads to frostbite in civilization. Both alcohol and tobacco should be avoided in the winter wilderness because of their effects on the circulatory system. Tobacco constricts the blood vessels, restricting circulation, while alcohol dilates the vessels allowing more blood to get chilled.

Prevention: The best way to prevent frostbite are (1) to be in good physical condition (2) wear good clothing (3) think constantly about ways to minimize exposure. A great deal of body heat can be lost through the head, face and neck. Clothing, especially on hands and feet should be snug but not tight (areas which are tight will not keep a layer of heated air next to the skin). It should be ventilated to allow perspiration to escape. Wool garments are particularly useful, since they keep you warm when wet. Mittens are preferable to gloves in extreme cold, as the fingers are not isolated from each other. Try not to touch metal objects, such as a camera, with your bare hands. Keep extra mittens, socks in your pack and change into dry ones whenever you stop after exercise which has caused you to perspire.

Avoid heavy exercise in extreme cold. Panting or heavy breathing gives off large amounts of heat and moisture. Once you have been thoroughly chilled it takes several hours of rest and warmth to return your body to normal.

Eat plenty of good food when you're out in the cold for extended periods of time. Carbohydrates (sugars and starches) are good for quick energy. Fats are usually a good heat-producing food, but they must go through the entire digestive system before they can be assimilated. Many people find fats almost impossible to digest while at high altitudes.

Symptoms: The common occurrences of numbness and blanching of toes, fingers or cheeks are often called frostbite, but should more accurately be called frostnip. True frostbite always does some damage to the affected tissues.

WINTER SEGMENT (Cont.)

There are two main categories of frostbite, superficial and deep. These are distinguished only by the depth of frozen tissue and the amount of damage. In the superficial version, the affected part is white and frozen on the outside, but when pressed gently, it is soft and resilient below the surface. After the area has been rewarmed it becomes numb, turning a mottled purple, and then swells, with a stinging, burning sensation. This swelling will persist for a few weeks. After the swelling subsides the skin will peel, become red, tender, sensitive to cold and perspire abnormally. There is only minimal, if any, permanent tissue loss.

Deep frostbite will originally be hard throughout the entire affected part. Deep blisters usually form 3 - 7 days after rewarming. The entire hand or foot will swell, there will be blue, violet or grey discoloration and intense aching and shooting pains. The blisters will eventually blacken and shed, leaving a new layer of raw, red skin. In extreme cases the entire area will become blackened and shrivelled. In these cases, usually some permanent tissue loss will occur, but not always.

Treatment: The only type of frostbite which should be treated out on the trail is superficial frost-nip. When sudden blanching and numbness of the skin are noticed the area may be warmed by the steady pressure of a hand, blowing warm air or holding the area on the belly or in an armpit. Never rub the area.

Never attempt to rewarm actual frostbite on the trail. Partial thawing or thawing with re-freezing is far more injurious to the tissue than leaving the part frozen until proper re-warming can take place.

The frostbite victim should be taken to base camp or hospital immediately. A large container of water should be heated to 108°F - never higher than 110°F. While the water is heated the patient should be warmed all over as he will have difficulty maintaining his body heat.

When the water has been heated to the proper temperature, strip the frostbitten part and insert it in the container. It should remain there approximately 20 minutes. Water should be occasionally added to maintain the temperature around 108°.

Keep the patient warm and comfortable until he is completely recovered. The injured part should be exposed to the air as much as possible.

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Reprinted from "All About Winter Safety", World Publications. 1975

WINTER SEGMENT (Cont.)

By: Andrew Rothfield

CLIMBING MT. SEFTON

One morning in January I was sitting in the Tavern Bar at the Hermitage watching the experts play darts. It had been raining for the last three days, but this morning the weather was clearing. One could occasionally glimpse the familiar outline of Mt. Hick's through the Hooker valley cloud. It was time to get out of this dreary pub and go into the mountains.

Pete and I had decided to cross the Copland pass to climb Mt. Sefton by its West ridge. This is a long climb in a fairly remote area, and I was unsure about its difficulties. However, club members had successfully tramlined the route during the previous season, and nobody seriously indicated that we were attempting something beyond us. So we packed up after lunch and left.

Gary Wills joined us to make a party of three. We checked out at the Park Headquarters, and marched off towards the first Hooker swingbridge, feeling particularly intrepid. The sun shone through breaks in the cloud. We were going to climb our first REAL mountain.

Pete and Gary raced ahead. Their hiking pace was naturally faster than mine and I dropped behind them. My plodding along in the rear became a consistent feature of the trip, but they did not complain. We arrived at Hooker hut that evening and enjoyed an excellent meal of fresh food, the last for some days. The weather forecast was reasonable.

Next morning the valley floor was full of dense mist. Consequently, we slept in for a few hours then had a leisurely breakfast. At noon the visibility was still poor, but if conditions up at the pass were uninviting, we could bivouac at the emergency shelter.

The track climbs steeply through snowgrass until it gains a rock spur which is followed to the snowline. The fresh snow that had fallen during the last few days made progress difficult. One was virtually wading uphill, sometimes sinking up to the waist. After a quick lunch at the barrel-shaped Copland shelter we resumed plugging up the final snow slope.

It was hard work. We changed leads often. Tracks left by a party who had crossed from Westland that morning did not provide any firm footing, but they are reassuring to follow. As we neared the top, a loud, cracking sound came from the slope to our right. A large slab avalanche was forming only fifty yards from us. It began sliding quickly down the gully and crashing over the bluffs below. We watched at first in amazement, but then hurried left and up to the top. From the pass we descended a gully and ran down across the snowfield, avoiding the avalanche debris but enjoying the occasional bumslide. The track is picked up at the snowline and is followed down to Douglas Rock Hut and the Copland valley sandflies.

Next morning was fine. We walked down the valley track to Welcome Flat. From there one follows Scott Creek upstream. Creek beds provide the only possible access route up through the impenetrable Westland forest and scrub. After hours of clambering over and under innumerable boulders, we arrived at the luxurious Scott Creek bivouac rock. Home sweet home.

WINTER SEGMENT (Cont.)

Two-thirty next morning. The moon is high and almost full; the air is cool and clear. No need for head-torches. We dress quickly and force down some porridge. Three climbers hurry up the ridge leading to the snout of the Scott glacier. Reaching the snow, it is discovered that all is not easy. The freeze is poor and we must plug steps through the fragile crust. A large bank of cloud moves in from the Tasman Sea and begins to fill the valley below us. After another hour, the cloud increases and we debate whether or not to continue. The threat of poor visibility on the descent forces us to turn back. One does not pike off climbs such as these, one retreats gracefully. We wander down through the fog to the bivvy rock and wait for the next day in sleeping bags.

The alarm clock fails to ring, but Pete wakes us at three. The ponderous ritual of the alpine climber dressing for the day is repeated: shirt, trousers, socks, boots, gaiters, parka, gloves. It is much colder. There is no menacing cloud out to the West. This is the day.

The freeze was bombproof. We climb quickly to yesterday's highpoint. From there it is a traverse to Welcome Pass across the upper Tekano glacier. The pass is the start of the West ridge. It is superb - a frozen knife-edge of snow. A bit scary at times, with huge cliffs beneath us on the left and the crevasses of the Douglas neve on the right. Higher up, the morning sun strikes the ridge. I lead unnecessarily into difficulties, and we belay, but the summit is soon reached. It is an amazing place to be, you can see everything: Cook, Tasman, down to the Hermitage, the Tasman Sea, even Aspiring The inevitable summit photos are taken.

It is getting late, however, and the mountains get nasty after lunch. The ridge is carefully descended. We plod through the soft snow below Welcome Pass and are soon back at the bivvy. We pack and go down the creek to Welcome Flat hut for a beer (provided by an amiable ranger who wanted someone to drink with) and a hot bath in the famous pools. What an end to a fabulous day.

Summary: An account of the ascent of Mt. Sefton (10,359 ft.) by its West ridge by Peter Cockerill, Andrew Rothfield and Gary Wills in January, 1977.

* * * * *

"IMPRESSIONS OF A BEGINNER"The Beginners Weekend at Mt. Arapiles, March 18 - 20th

The weekend began for most the Wednesday before when a "how to climb" lecture, demonstration and slide show was held. Hugh Foxcroft managed quite ably, with a little help from his friends and the demonstration, carried out with the utmost decorum by Nick Reeves and Tony Marian, was quite exciting. The correct moves needed to make an ascent - especially one as taxing as the climb to Aikman's road summit, and the special talent of knowing how to dispense with footholds when they were no longer needed i.e. one tap, were adequately demonstrated by the dynamic duo.

Friday night began the weekend itself and this included a cute little game called Squash as much as you can into one car and a meeting for some at the Ballarat fish and chips shop. About sixty climbers - some competent, some beginners, arrived at Arapiles where some who were in the right place at the right time imbibed in a little climbing chat and alcohol.

Sleep came to most and Saturday morning heralded the beginning of the instruction, with the beginners being taken to the foot of the cliff under the wings of the numerous "competent" climbers. Equipment and instructions at the ready, climbs on numerous of the easier grades began with competents yelling instructions and catching beginners while beginners were generally wondering why they came at all.

The progression of time and climbs led most to "circus" time on Saturday afternoon. It was held near the plaque and beginners learnt a little in the skills of bouldering: both how to go up and off, and how to abseil. Matt Taylor sat for a surprisingly long time dangling above the multitudes and others of adventurous spirit attempted climbs in the vicinity.

For a little light entertainment Saturday night was spent at where else - but the Natimuk Pub. There was lots to drink, lots to laugh and talk about and lots to sleep off. For those who achieved the latter, Sunday dawned clear and bright and more climbing was done. Grades climbed were generally higher as the beginners became more confident in their own and the competents' ability.

Sunday included amongst other things, a six hour climbing excursion for some and the infamous Trapeze for others. Sunday night, after the long drive home, was most probably spent contentedly sleeping the weekend off.

Lyndee Beatie

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RAIN, SNOW, EASTER EGGS AND JAGUNGAL

Daren Fawkes

As the road wound up towards Dead Horse Gap, we began to doubt whether we would get to Albina. Light rain turned to snow. The green leaves of the trees became white. Was this Easter in Australia or Christmas in Europe? Arriving at Thredbo, we braved the cold to check if six bushwalkers had taken the chairlift a couple of hours before. Yes. While standing around, we noticed six figures descending out of the mist under the chairlift. Yes.

"Too cold and windy up top" said Graeme.

"Too cold and windy down here", we countered.

Camp that night was at Rutledge's Hut. This is a reasonable camping area on the Crackenback River some 10 km down from Thredbo. So instead of camping at Albina, we joined a transplanted suburbia of Fords, Holdens and tubular frame tents, gas lanterns and children.

Friday morning was still wet and cloudy. Thredbo looked positively uninviting as we drove through, heading to Round Mountain some kilometres to the north of the Main Range. Hopefully this area would have escaped the worst of the weather which still assailed Kosciusko and Townsend. The intention was to climb Mt. Jagungal and explore the surrounding area. Graeme and co. would probably be there.

By lunchtime, the sky had cleared, illustrating the fickle and rapidly changing weather conditions which can be encountered in the mountains. At Kosciusko, on the Razorback, on the Crosscut. There can be no substitute for warm clothes and suitable waterproof gear if you intend heading out into the mountains at any time of the year, and especially from March onwards.

The track from the road at Round Mountain leads south for 1½ kilometres before branching left to Round Mountain Hut. We kept on the main 4WD track and headed towards Jagungal. From here, the north face is reminiscent of the east face of Feathertop with its steep gullies. However it is surrounded by wide, rolling valleys and ridges. Ideal ski-touring country. Jagungal stands alone astride the area. "All roads lead toJagungal".

Next morning we came to the SMC hut. Locked. Make a note to bring a tent in winter because it's a long ski from the road to Grey Mare Hut. Further on at the track junction below Jagungal - people.

"Where are you from?"

"Melbourne - M.U.M.C."

"Hey, there's some other M.U.M.C. people up on the summit."

G. Oakes and co. I wonder if they're heading for Grey Mare Hut too? A few hours later we reached the hut. Reasonably good. No one here.

Dumping packs we followed Straight Creek down to Valentine's Falls. Before reaching the Geehi River, we crossed the creek, up to the top of a spur and there were the falls. The map indicated a track down. We scrub-bashed. No track. The falls cascade a couple of hundred feet downwards in leaps and bounds, while the rocky slopes at the side let you climb to get a closer view.

RAIN, SNOW, EASTER EGGS AND JAGUNGAL (Cont.)

As the sky darkened, we hurried back to Grey Mare Hut, navigating by memory in the cold till we hit the track up to the hut. Cream of mushroom soup. Good. That only left the outside cold. Tired legs. Too much kedgeree. Meanwhile Andrew continues to lay claim to the "Bottomless Pit Award". He has no challengers.

From Grey Mare Hut, east up to the Strumbo Range. Range? Really a low ridge falling gently away to wide valleys which merge into plains further on. Jagungal slowly comes closer. The sun shines down, reddening faces and arms and legs. Packs become heavier, the pace slower. A long plod up the gentle slopes to the summit. Through prickly scoparia - like bushes. Till at least we reach the summit and celebrate with a Scotch Finger.

Distant views to Kosciusko, Townsend and Watsons Crags. To Round Mountain and Deep Gorge. A good vantage point, but not overly spectacular view. Barely a trace remained of the 3 inches of snow which had covered the ground just two days earlier (according to the Grey Mare Hut logbook). Just yellow grass beneath a blue sky and bright sun.

"What about going down that spur?" suggested Andy.

An hour and a half later we reached the track after battling with the scrub. We'd only descended 1200 ft. Memo - stick to tracks in future!

O'Keeffe's Hut is of similar construction to those at Grey Mare and Round Mountain. Unsophisticated shelter from the elements in poor weather. Only one occupant but he was expecting the other two members of his party shortly. We met them 20 minutes apart further along the track as we headed towards Bogong Creek.

After another bitter night, it was up early before the sun came over the hill to melt the frost. And out to the road before lunch. But only after crossing the icy waters of the Tumut River. This would probably be a hazardous crossing in winter and spring when rain and snow melt increases the flow.

Melbourne. Traffic lights and alarm clocks. Where would I rather be?

Daren Fawkes.

* * * * *

THE MITTA MITTA TRIP, or "WE HATE YOU, DARTMOUTH"

Dianne Coon

The future of canoeing trips down the Mitta Mitta River looks very uncertain after August this year, for that is the date the authorities have announced for the start of filling of Dartmouth dam and the consequent destruction of the lovely Mitta valley. Therefore, it was an exceptionally large group of canoeists who took off on Good Friday to have what could be our last look at the lower Mitta valley.

Friday afternoon saw four carloads of people arrive at Dartmouth damsite (the finishing point of the trip) in preparation for what was to be an epic car shuffle. Four hours and 69 windy miles later we arrived at Hinomunjie bridge after driving across the mountains in dark, foggy conditions that would have kept even Tony Marian to a mere 60 mph. The bludgers at the end hadn't even lit a decent fire for us to warm our frozen little bodies by, so we retired to our tents and the comfort of Bill's tinnies.

Despite all the rain that had been flooding Melbourne, there had been very little in the mountain catchment areas, and the river was a beautiful .8 metres, which in turn dropped to a slightly less beautiful .65 by the finish of the trip. The water at this stage was cold enough to freeze the walls off a bark hump (say that quickly when you're drunk), and the only thing that stopped us from spending three days in the Omeo pub was lack of money and Jol's threats (you be brave when a 6'4-3/4" engineer is threatening you with paddle suppositories!) However, in true pioneering spirit (or was it plain stupidity?) we got on the water (apologies to J.C.) and paddled off into the clouds.

On the first day the water was too cold and the rapids too tame for anybody to think very hard about tipping in (even Nick stayed almost dry). However, Rob Jacobs did entertain us with his impression of how to enter a stopper backwards and then remain inverted in his bouncing boat for 30 seconds. Fortunately, no damage was done (to the boat, we mean: Rob's head has always been like that). We made camp about 4.30 ("slack" groaned Jol) and soon retired to our tents and the comfort of Bill's tinnies to await the Easter bunny, who found us with the aid of rabbit cunning (or did he/she follow the trail of broken bottles I left?).

The second day was by far the best canoeing, and we reached the first big rapid about an hour after the start. Jol, our intrepid leader, in true style attempted the rapid first, just to show us the way it was done. The spectators on the bank watched with ill-disguised glee as he capsized and baled out of his boat, emitting four-letter words and rubbing his shoulder. (and the crowd roared!) Bill Cruickshank pioneered a different route, which was successful, and was closely followed by Ross. Further orthodox (boring) shoots of the rapid were completed by Bill before Rob Marshall reached a new high in entertainment ingenuity by doing the last half of the rapid backwards. (and the crowd cheered!) Judy, not to be outdone, decided that that section was better done out of one's boat, and the boat in turn found that the river 400 yards downstream was much nicer, so we all watched Sandy do a Johnny Weismuller to retrieve it. (And the crowd was disappointed!)

The next big rapid was attempted in equally intrepid style - we portaged. Following this were a succession of really enjoyable grade two and three rapids (and some equally enjoyable capsizes.) Nick dispensed with the

(Cont...28)

THE MITTA MITTA TRIP, or "WE HATE YOU, DARTMOUTH" (Cont.)

necessity of tipping out by filling his boat with water, and Bill L. soon followed suit. Conversation at the bottom of a rapid:

"Dianne: "That's the most enjoyable grade three rapid I've done."

Bill L: "I'm cold."

Nick: "I'll portage."

The last rapid of the day consisted of a drop which Jol had been warning us was 6ft. with a giant stopper at the bottom. (It actually turned out to be only the height of the canoeing convener, i.e. 3 ft., but who's arguing?) Our meal was accompanied by dinner music provided by the dingoes. Then we retired to our tents and the comfort of Bill's tinnies (which were decreasing in volume proportionate with the lessening of the weight in his boat - an elementary lesson in physics administered by an absent John Templar).

Monday morning rose bright and sunny (unlike several canoeists) and after leaching after Jaquie's crumpet (no pun intended) and perving at Rapid's pink underdaks and Prue's blue ones, we set off on what promised to be a torturously long (ask Wayne and Kate) day's paddling. Light relief was provided early when we stumbled on a magnificent wild apple tree laden down with tons of unblemished snow apples. After eating our fill we discovered that they made excellent ammunition to throw at blue helmets worn by red-headed canoeists. "You're abusing nature's bounty" wailed some conscientious conservationist (who shall remain nameless); we threw apples at her. The next couple of hours were punctuated by spurts of apple throwing and a magnificent capsizing by Dianne caused when she discovered that rocks don't get out of the way just because she wants to pick up an apple. By mid afternoon 17 canoeists had decided that sunglasses are a definite must when travelling north-west for more than two seconds. Cheers of joy on reaching the damsite were quickly silenced when we saw the ravages done to the countryside by these environmental rapists (that's my new word.) Judy, Bill and Jol continued the intrepid style of the trip by climbing out over the dam wall in an almost vain attempt to get someone to let us out (we were almost the first canoeists concreted into the dam wall). Meanwhile, the remaining 14 of us partook of a magnificent repast, highlights of which included soggy bread, gritty margarine, and Cream of Chicken soup flavoured with sweetened condensed milk (a Marshall addition - not to be recommended).

Eventually our three saviours returned, accompanied by a very irate Second-in-charge, and the non-drivers spent the final night downstream of our beloved dam, whilst the drivers spent most of their night in a perilous journey (Bill was driving) back across the mountain. Pure entertained those at the Dartmouth end with her impression of a sleep-walker attempting to kill a snake in the sleeping bag next to her (Nick wasn't impressed), and we headed home the next day cursing Dartmouth and dams in general.

P.S. Tom, John, and Peter managed to escape a mention in this little epistle, so we'll mention them here.

P.P.S. Canoeing joke of the month: What is the metric equivalent of 69?
The answer is on page one eight one of the July, 1946
"Mountaineer". Enquiries should be directed to anyone but me.

BOOK REVIEW"SUMMITS AND SECRETS" by Kurt Diemberger

The proliferation of autobiographical mountaineering books of recent years tends to leave the armchair mountaineer jaded. Many authors seem to have been blessed (cursed?) with photographic or tape recorder-like memories, of using a washing-line as a rope on their teenybopper attempts at rock-climbing, with remembering what was said in the pub on Wednesday, the 4th or whenever.

Diemberger's book is one of moods and emotions. It conveys his emotional response to the physical realities of being in the mountains and of climbing to the peaks. From the Alps to Greenland. Major ascents yes, but described as part of the total scene of climbing with one's companions. A book about Diemberger rather than a stark chronological description of his life.

An author's character can be judged from his writings. An emotional, outgoing person will write a book such as this. A solitary, private person will write as the late Dougal Haston did. The difficulty lies in transferring personal responses into print. It is easy for a book to become a private diary which only the author can comprehend. Summits and Secrets at times strays in this direction but generally it succeeds in recreating the scene for the reader without being over-indulgent.

Living in the mountains of Austria developed a natural awareness of the peaks, passes and valleys in the young Kurt. They were part of his everyday experiences - exploring on foot for crystals and longer bicycle excursions to high passes. A natural progression. Then to the Alps and the great north faces of The Eiger, The Matterhorn and the Walker Spur. Invited to the Himalayas, he climbed Broad Peak with Herman Buhl, and was retreating below the summit of Chogolisa when Buhl walked through the cornice in a blizzard. The peuteret Ridge of Mount Blanc; Dhaulagiri; an ordeal on the Aiguille Noire as lightning assaulted them for two days. And on to climbs in the icy expanses of Greenland.

This book is also blessed with a profusion of photographs. Photographs which give meaning to the words of the text. Some are quite striking; a browse through the plates is worthwhile if you lack the time or inclination to read the full (334 pages) text.

Daren Fawkes

(Summits and Secrets is now in the club library).

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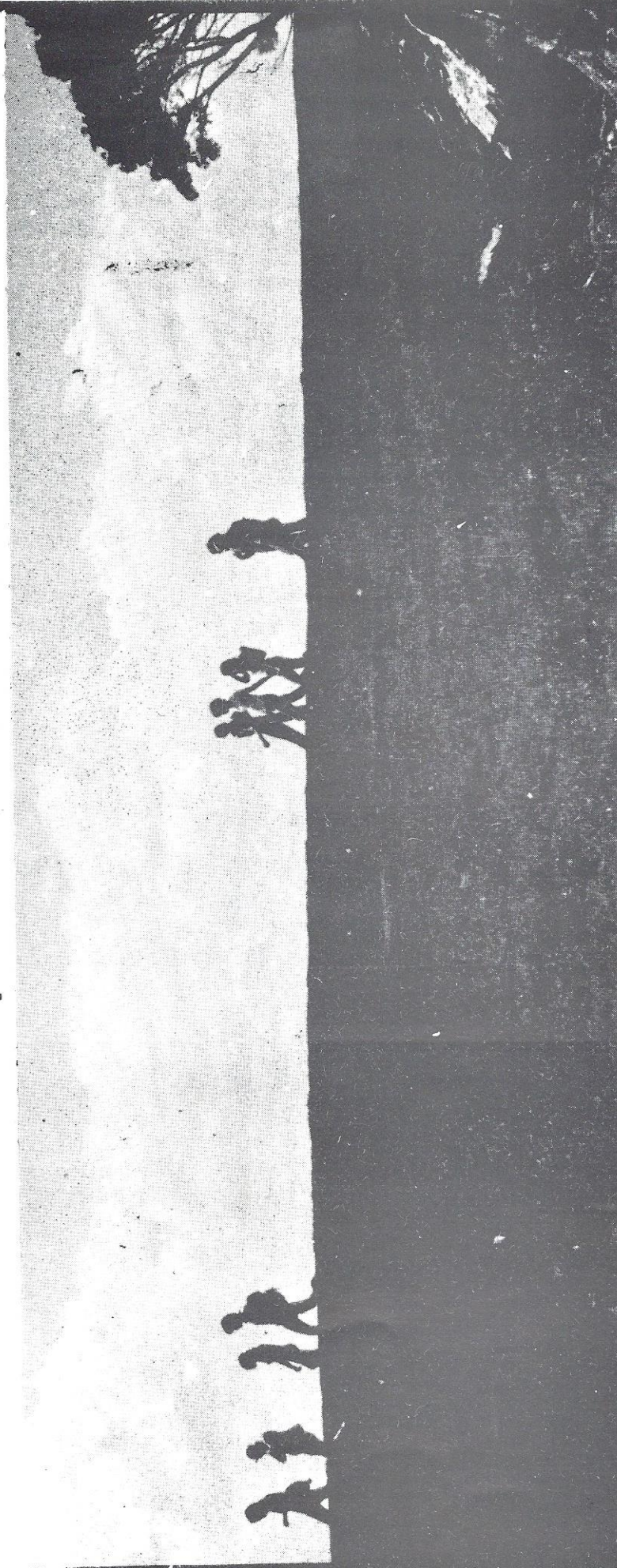
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