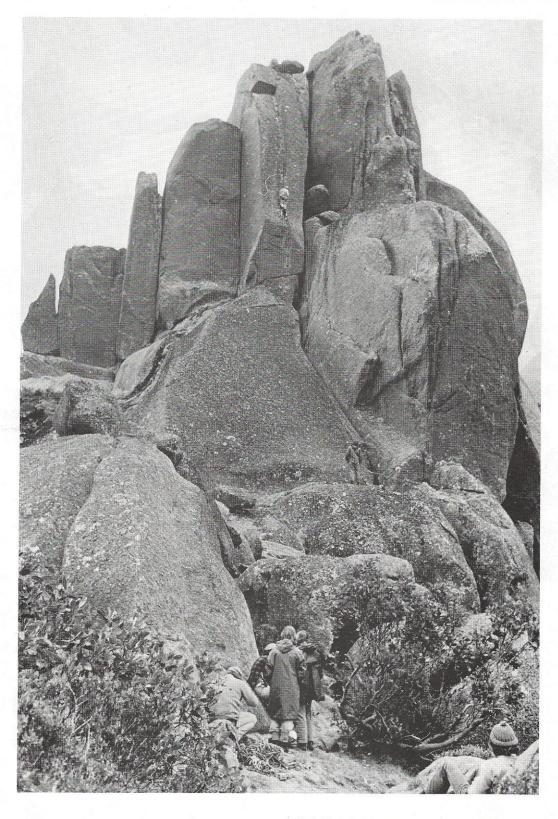
the

MOUNTAINEER



"THE CATHEDRAL, MT. BUFFALO" Photo by John Chapman

BUSHGEAR PTY. LTD.



"SNOW CAMP AT BAW BAW"

Photo by John Chapman

SUPPLIERS OF BUSHWALKING, ROCKCLIMBING, CAVING, SKI-TOURING AND OTHER OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT 46 HARDWARE ST. MELB. PHONE: 67 3354

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COMMITTEE SCHOOL STATES	CONTRACTOR OF STATE OF THE STAT	
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Editor: Cathie Seccombe	14 Uvadale Gre, Kew	803814
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Canoeing: Karen Roberts	16/205 Flemington Rd., Nth. Melb.	(198)
Skiing: Andrew Rothfield	19 Devorgilla Ave., Toorak	208500
Caving: Anne Donnelly		
Orienteering: Tony Kerr	5 Beleura Ave., Vermont	8742726

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The editors have noted with concern the changes proposed to the canoeing section. These moves may have repercussions for the rest of the club and we feel that they should be carefully considered before any action is taken.

The suggestion that has been raised is that touring and slalom canoeing may be better organized as separate sports, with the idea that slalom canoeing as a separate club within Melbourne University. Touring would remain as a section of MUMC. Such a move would enable slalom canoeists to improve their skills and compete more effectively in competitions, without, for example, having to compromise by building boats that are also suitable for touring.

The danger in splitting the canoeing section is that the strength of that section may then be diverted to the development of a slalom club. The result being that rouring could die off as a club activity as caving has tended to do. The advantage of a club such as ours lies in the diversity of activities it offers. Any move that would threaten these activities should be avoided.

But on the other hand it is always possible that an initial loss of members to the slalom club would soon be compensated for by new members.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

VICTORIAN CLIMBING CLUB

To commemorate 25 years climbing in Victoria the Victorian Climbing Club invites past and present members and their friends to a barbeque at Hanging Rock.

Sunday, 30th October, 1977

Celebrations will begin at lunchtime in the carpark below the main steps (Vampire Crach). All welcome B.Y.O. meat and beverages. For further details contact:

Pete Canning 459-6281 Hugh Foxcroft 24-2084

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

I would just like to make a few comments about the store and the way in which it is being managed. In his election policy speech the stores officer promised us more of what we had become accustomed to in 1976 and said that he would maintain the same standard. But, contrary to his promise, he has delivered far more than this. The service is not of the same slack standard as last year, it is slacker still! In addition the efficiency has dropped even further, in that there is invariably a shortage of health food bars (especially cherry-coconut bars) and the store has somehow managed to look more derelict than it did last year.

Last year we had constant moanings over the lack of stores officers. This year we have constant moanings about the way in which the previous stores officers are constantly abused and maltreated. Yes, he is moaning for a different reason, but he is definitely moaning more loudly.

So I would like to congratulate the stores officer. Not only has he given us what we had last year, but he has given us so much more of it. And I don't want to hear the usual reply "I'm not here to serve you" - if that's how you feel, why the hell did you run for the position?

Yours,

Peter Megens.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Editor,

Some more information to supplement that given in the last Mountaineer about the causes etc. of hypothermia. This is based on an article in the December 1976 issue of "Climber and Rambler" magazine which in turn was extracted from 'Medicine for Mountaineering' by H.N. Huttgren (M.D.) & J.A. Wilkerson (M.D.).

The wind chill chart is often used to show the serious effect wind has on increasing bodily heat loss. In the cold, wet, windy conditions experienced in Victoria, this is particularly relevant. The chart shows the temperature/wind combination which is equivalent to a certain temperature under no wind conditions. A section of the chart is reproduced below.

***************************************		Temp	eratu	re (°	F)		t translation for the policy Though the strong translation with physical
	50	40	30	20	10	0	- equivalent to temp. when no wind
Wind 5	48	37	27	16	6	-5	
Speed 15	36	22	9	-5	-1 8	-32	
(m.p.h)25	30	16	0	-15	-29	-44	
35	27	11	-4	-21	-35	-51	

Thus a wind of 15 m.p.h. and a temperature of $40^{\circ}F$ has the same chilling effect as a temperature of 22°F with no wind.

Huttgren and Wilkerson also stress the importance of maintaining an adequate water intake to prevent dehydration. They suggest at least 2 quarts per day is required during mild exertion. Dehydration can result in dizziness, weakness, increased danger of frost bite and a tendency to suffer severe shock after minor injuries. Salt (taken in drinking water, salted nuts, soup etc.) acts to reduce dehydration.

When treating a person suffering hypothermia, a "warming agent" must be placed in the sleeping bag with the patient. This is because a sleeping bag only provides insulation, and thus the patient can only heat the bag to the same temperature as himself. Hot water bottles or another person are satisfactory "warming agents". eugada art. Er san las arts file la OXO :

Daren Fawkes. green grillage to retire there are not over our use or excelling

NEWS AND OTHER ODDS AND ENDS:

S.T.A.V.:- The objectives of the Ski Touring Association of Victoria are (i) to encourage safe ski touring through educational programmes, pamphlets etc.

(ii) to strive to maintain the limited ski touring areas in Victoria in a suitable condition for ski touring.

Membership of S.T.A.V. is \$4 for MUMC members

\$6 for families

\$5 for individuals

The address is Box 20A G.P.O. Melb. 3001.

- Anne Donnelly has changed her address. She is now living at 236 Palmerston St. Carlton.
- The annual MUMC dinner dance was held at the Vintage Room, Tower Hotel on Wednesday, August 10th. A lively time was had by all and your verbose President presented the awards for 1977 as follows:-

frozen gnome - Jol Shelton frozen pixie - Dianne Coon

cuddly couple - Tony Marian and Jane Landman (the

tell-tale car gave them away)

For winning first prize with her door ticket, Sue Parkinson received the honour? of having her photo taken with the President!

* * * * * * * *

	RESULTS OF THE 24 HOUR WALK		
	SECTION A T. DENT & R. TATCHELL B. CANNON, H. SCHAAP & R. JUNG D. ROWLANDS, D. FERNARNWANNAN W. ISER & K. PYKE F. TREZISE, G. COLES & M. HALL N. PHILLIPS & R. PHILLIPS N. WALLS & S. ROSENTHAL T. DREHER & I. EAST F. ASHBY, J. HOOPES & P. RUMPF D. BAYLISS & T. DOWELL T. KERR & J. BURROWS P. HORNE & R. EDMONDS		.29 pts27 pts. 26 pts. 21 pts. 21 pts. 20 pts. 18 pts15 pts15 pts.
	TEAMS WITH AT LEAST ONE FEMALE MEMBER A. TARR & J. TARR I. MOORE, M. MORLEY & C. O'BEIRNE D. FAWKES, J. VAN STAVEREN & A. FLINT		29 pts. 26 pts. 3 pts.
	SECTION B N. CURRIE & P. MARTIN G. DOWNES & G. EASTAUGIT P. COCKERILL & N. BLUNDY R. BARTNICK, A. SHEARER, M. WERNER & B. LA J. STONE & N. DOW C. WALSH, A. PERMICHELI & D. POOL	NTHAM	19 pts. 17 pts. 13 pts. 12 pts. 8 pts.
	TEAMS WITH AT LEAST ONE FEMALE MEMBER J. DOWNE, D. CADDY, A. WALKER, C. TAYLOR, G. JAMESION G. PIERCY, C. SEXTON, J. PROWSE & J. HAYWO R. WITHES, L. HARRIS, M. ANSON; P.TROTTER D. BUSBY & E. HICKEY T. KIDDLE & C. LILLEY J. THORPE & A. TYRELL	M. MCPHATE & ODD	(not all 22 pts. finished) 21 pts. 20 pts. 12 pts. 12 pts. 7 pts.
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	Hash House 1 2 3 4 1 *****	2 3 4	John no Lucien Language Localitation Language Proper Maria Baran L. Localitation
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'GARLEN REFUSE REMOVED CHEAPLY'

(A Saga of the Flinders Ranges)

In the first week of the May holidays, three enterprising MUMC climbers decided to abandon the waterlogged Victorian cliffs and head for the desert lands of South Australia. The 1200 km. journey was broken at Clare (S.A.) where a mantle-shelf is needed to enter the toilets (or else a key from the Park manager). The following afternoon we reached Wilpena Pound in the southern Flinders Ranges. Our camp was set up in a fine stand of native pines about 2km. from the cliffs at Moonarie Gap. We later discovered that there was an upper campsite (supplied with a tank of water) immediately below the cliffs. However, the brisk 45 min. walk each morning warmed us up for the climbs. The walk back in the dark was made easier by the white dots which had been painted to mark the track.

The first day presented us with the problem of choosing a climb from the magnificent array that confronted us. After consulting the guide-book we settled on a grade 12 climb on the Ramparts called G.R.R.C. (Garden Refuse Removed Cheaply). This was a fine corner of five pitches (136m). The fourth pitch was a bit below standard and we suggest you omit it in future. When we reached the top we were rewarded by the fine spectacle of Wilpena Pound lit by the setting sun. The descent gully is rather precipitous and we moved down cautiously in the gathering gloom.

Realising that the days were short and the climbs long we rose at six the next day to avoid possible benightment. Feeling eager and confident we charged up to tackle Asimov on Checker's Wall (68m, Grade 14). This led to a fine display by the leader (Jos) of how to protect the crux and then pike in favour of the second (Kev). The latter soon met his match at the overhang of the second pitch where a silver jug proved very useful. After some hours of continuous belaying, Dave finally got his chance and shot up the last pitch in fine style aided by gusty winds and light rain (falling upwards?). Evening came and morning came: the second day . . .

The third day was lousy - we't and cold. We needed water so we headed off to Wilpena settlement where we enjoyed a welcome shower (courtesy of the Caravan Park). Sight-seeing seemed in order so we walked through the gap into Wilpena Found and obtained fine views from the Lookout ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hour walk). The Sacred Canyon sounded alluring so we drove off along a grade 2l! road to see some antique Aboriginal graffiti. We found these rock engravings quite fascinating and also enjoyed the technicolour graphics at Arkaroo Rock, which is only a short distance from the campsite at Moonarie.

Determined to make the most of our last day at Moonarie we decided to tackle the awesome Thor (Grade 15, 86m, 3 pitches). The first pitch (crux) involved a technical move out of a roofed chimney onto a corner and was led by Jos in fine style. Dave followed like the proverbial rat up a drainpipe, while Kev took time to appreciate the finer aspects of the problem. The second pitch was led rather hastily by Dave, encouraged by an impatient belayer threatening strike action. We found that the third pitch (direct finish) was a true 15 and the original finish somewhat less gripping and less time-consuming.

A spectacular abseil by Jos left him dangling 10m above the deck. He just happened to have a spare rope on his back and successfully completed the

'GARDEN | EFUSE REMOVED CHEAPLY' (Cont'd)

tie-on and a rapid hand descent. Kev forgot to use leg loops and was nearly bisected by the time he reached the bottom. As sunset approached we threw caution to the winds and ourselves at Corkscrew Retribution. The crux is a roofed corner with a crack leading across the roof and then up. It requires a simple upside down layback followed by a movement ressembling that of a corkscrew. Unfortunately, gravity was against us.

On the Monday we left the complete solitude and silence of Moonarie and drove to the tourist complex at Arkaroola in the northern Flinders. Here we found a privately owned 'national park' enclosing rugged gorges, limpid water-holes, some hot springs (85°C), fabulous mineral deposits (including gold, copper, uranium and a whole mountain of quartz crystal) and plentiful wild-life. No climbs have been documented in this area but we found some spectacular rockfaces at Bararranna Gorge. The rock surfaces here show regular ripple marks which were formed beneath ancient seas. The roads in this area were too much for a rear leaf spring in the Holden. After welding it twice, we crossed our fingers and headed across 360km. of salt bush desert to Broken Hill. The following day we proceeded to the land of the long black cloud and switched on our wipers at the border.

PARTICIPANTS: Jos Verbaken, Dave Beilby, Kev Chamberlain.

"Consider a climber poised on minute holds on a steep cliff. The smallness of the holds, the steepness of the angle, all add to his pleasure provided he is in complete control. He is a man playing chess with his body; he can read the sequence of moves far enough in advance, so that his physical economy — the ratio between the effort he uses and his reserves of strength — is never totally disrupted. The more improbable the situation, the greater the 'emands made on him, the more sweetly the blood flows later in release from all that tension. The possibility of danger serves merely to sharpen his awareness and control. And perhaps this is the rationale of all risky sports: you deliberately raise the amounts of effort and concentration in order, as it were, to clear your mind of trivialities. It is a small scale model for living but with a difference: unlike your routine life, where mistakes can usually be recouped and some kind of compromise patched up, your actions, for however brief a period, are deadly".

From: The Savage God: A. Alvarez

* * * * * * * * * * *

MOUNTAINEERING FIRST AID

Dianne Coon

Having recently taken over the responsibility for first aid from Liz Brown, the club kits are presently in a state of flux, prior to being reboxed and repacked.

There are no radical new innovations in the kits, nor need there be, for the essence of a good first aid kit is its simplicity; after all, somebody needing to deal quickly with, say, heavy bleeding, does not want to have to ware through piles of confusing bandages and medications to get what is most suitable. To this effect, there will be a (hopefully) comprehensive list of contents and directions contained in the kits so as to ensure the most efficient use of the contents.

I have endeavoured to equip the kits so that all that is necessary to use them is basic common sense and rational thinking. They are an attempt to cover, at least adequately, all the types of injuries that may be encountered during mountaineering activities. Therefore, there are a couple of different types of kits designed to cope more easily with injuries that are more prevalent in these sports. For instance, the canoeing kit contains extra equipment for cuts and abrasions and, more importantly, waterproof bandages and dressings. An addition to the climber's kit is the pack of air splints to cope with broken limbs. (Incidentally, it is hoped to have a talk arranged at the next climber's pub night to instruct in the proper use of these splints).

However, the thing that should be stressed most here is that the kits are designed to cope with the unexpected, for I am working on the assumption that you are all big enough boys and girls to be able to prepare for and cope with your own headaches, blisters, sunburn and especially allergies. There is very little provision in the club kits for the first three ailments and absolutely none for the last, so it is essential that each person has his/her own kit to cope with such minor mishaps, leaving the party kit for the more drastic and unexpected injuries. Finally, it is the leader's responsibility to look after the health and welfare of his party, so please take a first aid kit on every trip.

The following was prepared by Mike Henderson and Liz Brown, and printed in last year's "Mountaineer". However I feel that it is important enough to be printed again and taken on trips.

Priorities are important in first aid

- -take care to FREVENT injuries
- -if something does go wrong, assess the situation as well as you can
- -take care of yourself as well as the patient

Examine the patient FULLY. Note your observations on his condition.

Your assessment of the situation will include

- -the environment
- -the condition of the patient (e.g. conscious/unconscious)
- -whether you can take him to medical help or whether medical help must come to him
 - (Can medical help get to him?)

Do not panic.

Reassure the patient - do what you can to make him comfortable. Remember: while there is life there is hope.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Take care!

Sunburn can be prevented by wearing suitable long sleeved shirts and long trousers if you are susceptible. Zinc cream and a hat are also useful.

Snow blindness can be prevented by wearing goggles appropriate to the situation.

Hypothermia (exposure to the cold) can be avoided if people are aware of the problem and are wearing clothing appropriate for the conditions, and carrying suitable food, etc.

<u>Snakes</u> are generally very timid animals - don't annoy them by sitting on them or putting your hands in their hollow log house.

Be sure that your tetanus vaccination is up to date. I have yet to meet the bushwalker who comes home unscathed by prickly bushes, sticks, rocks... (Incidentally - what is the state of your immunity to polio, T.B., German Measles, etc. etc.?)

As was said before, PRICEITIES ARE IMPORTANT in first aid.

The human body is well adapted to withstand a variety of insults like weather (both heat <u>and</u> cold) and dehydrated food, and stresses like mountain climbing with a heavy pack. Injuries are generally repaired while their owner scarcely notices.

HOWEVER - SOME SONDITIONS ARE LIFE THREATENING.

These conditions include:

2. as a result of decreased circulating blood volume. Decreased circulating volume will follow severe -

haemorrhage
burns
vomiting
diarrhoea
water deprivation
shock

IMPAIRED BREATHING - Breathing may be impaired by - snake bite (or bite

- snake bite (or bite from some other venomous animal)
- injury, especially an injury involving ribs or one which pierces the chest wall.
- electric shock.

Refer to a St. John course or manual or some other source for treatment of these conditions. (See below for blisters and snake bite).

MOUNTAINEERING FIRST AID . . (Cont'd)

- Note. 1. Do not attempt to administer anything by mouth to an unconscious patient.
 - 2. Do not use alcohol in first aid.
 - 3. If you are very thirsty do not drink alcohol or seawater or urine these will all worsen the situation

TREATMENT OF BLISTERS

Do not break unless necessary (e.g. if on your foot). Cover blisters and pre-blister areas with leucoplast/elastoplast WITHOUT

DRESSING. (Dressing will only increase the pressure and rubbing on the area).

Should a blister become infected, use "Cicatrin" powder and a cressing. If your feet are badly blistered, wear your spare shoes (if you carry a pair), e.g. for a day to give the old blisters a chance to heal - and, unfortunately, perhaps for some new ones to develop). Choose your boots and socks carefully in the first place!!

TREATMENT OF SMARE BITE

DO NOT PANIC. ACT QUICKLY.

1. Make patient lie down. (Reassure him)

2. Quickly apply a constrictive bandage between the bite and the heart, over an area where there is one bone only (e.g. upper arm or thigh if this is possible) and WASH the bite. A constrictive bandage is at least 2" wide.

Australian snakes spray a large proportion of their venom over the victim's skin. The poison can enter the body through the skin - so wash it off.

Do NOT incise the bite. Do NOT suck the bite.

A constrictive bandage can be safely left in place for 1-2 hours. Leave it for an hour, loosen for a few seconds and replace (depending on the patient's condition).

Identify the snake (if possible). SEEK MEDICAL AID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TREAT THE PATIENT FOR SHOCK.

N.B. You put yourself at risk to be bitten if you attempt to kill snakes.

BURNS

All burns must be treated with plenty of cold water. Minor burns should be dressed with an antiseptic cream and left open to the air if possible. Burns where the skin is broken should be covered by a sterile non cottonwool type bandage. Greasy creams like Savlon should not be used. The cream of choice is Silver Sulphadiazine cream. This is very expensive and needs a doctor's prescription. It is probably only worth carrying on major expeditions.

*Each party member should carry a minimum of first aid equipment which should meet his own needs as a bush walker.

MOUNTAINEERING FIRST AID . . (Cont'd)

RECOMMENDED CONTENTS FOR FIRST AID KITS

1. Personal kit N.B. 1 Rubber constrictive bandage (2"- $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide) - AT LEAST CME FER PARTY 12 Bandaids

1 roll of Leucoplast/Elastoplast (1"-2" wide)

1 tube of antiseptic cream (e.g. Savlon) S and/or

1 tube of burn cream (Paxy1) (antiseptic/anaesthetic) 12 tablets for pain (e.g. Disprin)

Safety pins

Scissors (small)

Salt tablets/salt (optional)*

Glucose (optional)*

Any personal drugs necessary (e.g. if you know you are allergic to something in the bush take some antihistamines).

Elastic bandage and/or knee/ankle support - take this especially if you think you are likely to have a problem with a knee/ankle. Zinc cream

- These items are very likely to be found in any bushwalker's pack
- S For the psychological satisfaction of those who believe in its healing powers. This cream may be of benefit in softening the scabs of a painful cut, but will be of doubtful benefit in the healing process.

POCK CLIMBING

Hugh Foxcroft

Very little climbing has been done over the last month due to cold weather and the enticement of skiing.

On one of the few trips to Arapiles Bill Cruikshank did D Minor (11) and Piccilo (10). Chips O'Beirne and Joe Lynch did Toccato (14) and with Frank Gargama did Trapeze (10). Dianne Coon did Camelot (9) and The Eighth. During a hailstorm David Lia led The Undertaker.

Rock climbing Equipment

This is a list of colours and stampings found on climbing gear belonging to MUMC members. It is to be hoped that this will aid the identification of gear and expediate the return of mislaid equipment. If you are planning to mark your gear, endeavour not to duplicate any of the following:

Club: Orange, "MUMC" or "MU" (newly acquired pitons are purple)

BARSON, Roger: Purple
BLUNDY, Neil: Dark blue CHAPMAN, John: Red "JC"
CURRIE, Neil: "NEC"

FOXCROFT, Hugh: White, "F"
LIA, David: Green "LIA"
MARIAN, Tony: Pink "TEM"

MARTIN, Peter: "JEX"

MEGENS, Peter: Black (tape)

MITROY, Jim: Blue and Green (tape)

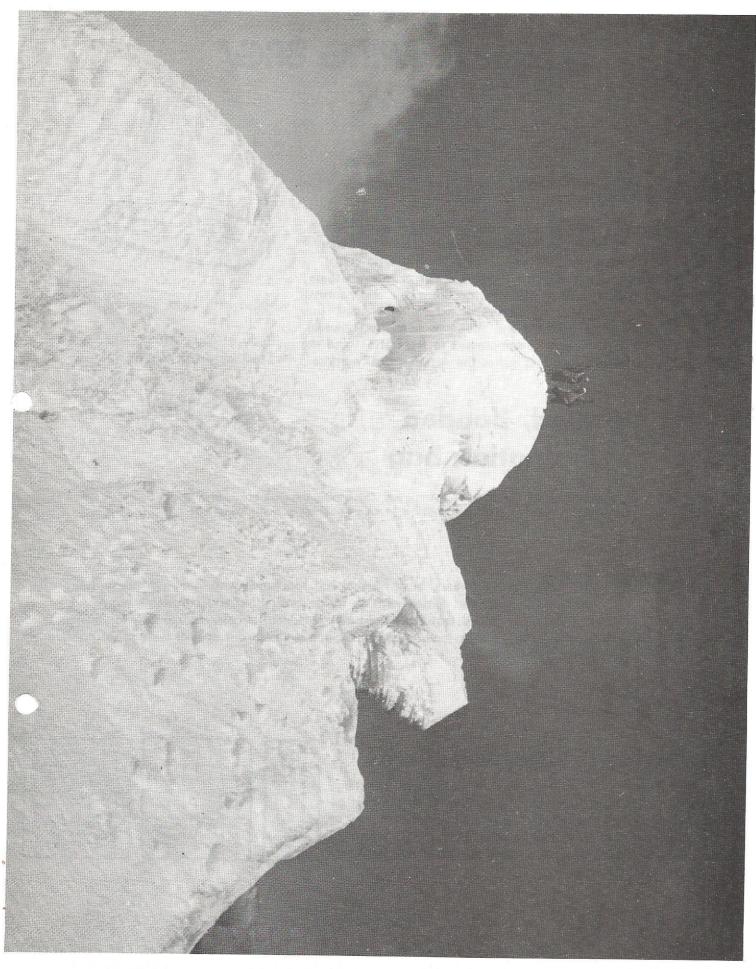
REEVES, Nick: "N" or"X" (pitons: white, purple)

ROTHFIELD, Andrew: File mark

STORER, Robyn: Cream STONE, John: Pale Blue

WATSON, Peter: Green, "FOW".

* * * * * * * *



"CLIMBING IN SOUTH AMERICA" Photo by Mike Feller

Kimpton SLEEPING BAGS

arctic bag

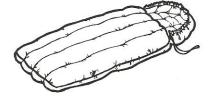
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted 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 21/21b. superdown.

Body of bag cut 6'6'' long x 32''. Total weight of bag 5% 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



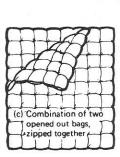
For skiers, bush walkers and sportsmen who want warmth without weight: Fitted with an inside closing zip and adjustable hood. An added feature is the heavily padded, circular foot panel, for protection in cold conditions. Supplied with our special waterproof container bag.

combination sleeping bag

opened out to make a $6'\ 6''\ x\ 5'$ warm, light eiderdown, equalling the warmth of two pairs of blankets. For caravaning or camping pur poses, 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

INTERVARSITY 24 HOUR WALK

Daren Fawkes

MUMC this year hosted the IV 2/3 hour walk. It was held on the weekend of May 21/22 using the Glenburn 1:50,000 map. A disappointing number of teams competed, only six universities being represented in the men's competition and three in the women's competition. MUMC failed to field a women's team, only two girls being interested in competing, one of whom was forced to pull out at the last minute.

Monash made a clean sweep of the event, winning the mens and womens events. Scores were:

Mens	Monash Melbourne		points	5					
	UNSW	52							
	Latrobe	26							
	Sydney	22							
	Newcast16	22				2 9			
Women	Monash Latrobe	17 15							
	UNSW	-11	(lost	14	pen	alty	po	int	s)

IV 24 hour walks are quite different to the familiar MUMC event. They are a score event as distinct from a line event. Checkpoints are given a points score according to distance from the start and the hash-house and difficulty of locating the checkpoint. Teams then have to decide which checkpoints to visit, the aim being to accumulate as many points as possible.

As a result teams spend as little time as possible in the hash house, several teams in fact spending the first 22-23 hours out on the course. This reduces catering costs but decreases the interest generated by a line event such as the club 24 hour walk in which the leading competitors are known throughout.

Several teams had obviously gone to some trouble in planning their event; some came equipped with dear "Contact" plastic to stick to their maps, and a couple marked checkpoints with luminous pens. The Monash teams were notable in this regard, the team members showing the benefit of Monash's close affiliation with the Victorian Rogaining Association (rogaining means 24 hour walking)

Several changes in format were suggested to the event. Next year, it is hoped to include one or more short events, such as an orienteering course, and a 12 hour relay event. It is hoped that by extending the IV event to three or four days, competitors will have a better chance to get to know one another than is possible at present. Most teams arrive the night before and leave the following night so socialising opportunities are limited.

Hopefully next year, more club members will be interested in competing. Not necessarily for the sake only of winning, but because the IV 24 hour is a good opportunity to travel (paid by the Sports Union) to another state and to meet up with fellow bushwalkers from other universities. It was interesting to hear of the activities and sorts of clubs other universities have. Next years event will be hosted by Sydney Uni or Newcastle Uni so start training now!

INTERVARSITY 24 HOUR WALK . . (Cont'd)

Thanks must be extended to those who helped set the course (watch out for the electric fences!) and those who helped at the hash house (watch out for the stew!) The cooking was good, except for the burnt custard. And Port for breakfast, well I ask you.

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BOOK REVIEW

"The High Alps of New Zealand" by Rev. W. S. Green

Rev. Green was a keen climber of the 19th. century who regarded climbing as a sport and who sought virgin peaks to conquer. The difference between Green and his contemporaries was that he decided to travel to New Zealand and claim Mt. Cook as his prize.

In those times (1881), a journey from England to the Antipodes was not accomplished by simply rolling up to the local BCAC office. Green's journey to New Zealand took 3 months, stopping off at Cape Town and Melb. en route (where he was quarantined at Portsea after an outbreak of smallpox on the ship). His book takes us back 90 years to the time when sea journeys were an ordeal and when Australia had barely made an impact on the world. Times have not changed too much for as Green sailed up the crooked "Stygian ditch called the Yarra Yarra" his nostrils were assailed by the smells of riverside industries.

For their expedition Green and his two companions, Boss & Kaufmann carried a considerable amount of equipment, including a tent, "seven feet by seven and six feet high, made of strong duck supported by two upright poles from which two hammocks were slung one over the other, leving room for two cork mattresses on the ground". The rest of their gear included such items as an oppossum rug, an early camera, an aneroid barometer and drawing materials. The day to day menu was supplemented, where possible, by freshly shot keas.

For a complete picture of early climbers, this book fills the bill. It tells how Green, Boss and Kaufmann endured storms and travelled through unroaded bush to get within striking distance of Mt. Cook. After a brief reconnaisance, they set off for the summit. But when close to their goal, they were forced back by bad weather. Lacking sufficient supplies, they returned to Christchurch to be greeted as heroes. However, it was to be some years before the actual summit of Cook was reached, not by Green but by a party of New Zealanders.

Daren Fawkes.

("The High Alps of New Zealand" is in the MUMC library)

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BOOK REVIEW

"Granite Climbs in the A.C.T." BY A. J. Wood

At long last an updated guide covers Booroomba. This guide is a must for the "respectable" climber. The guide itself is along the line of recent V.C.C. publications but seems far sturdier and well constructed. The cover photograph (of 'Humzoo') is indicative of the photography throughout the book; that it is quite good.

The plastic cover like a recent South Australian guide is useful for keeping the book clean and dry. The Ewbank grading system is followed with ideological differences, for example exposure and protection are not taken into account. However, on a recent visit I found the grades of most crack climbs equitable with Victorian and South Australian grades (excepting perhaps Col Reeces 'Value for money' grading of recent climbs in South Australia) The M.O. grade is not used which is a pity because holes in closets don't show as much and surely 'two crackers for aid' is not free climbing.

The guide covers areas of granite in the A.C.T. and not Mt.Correc (sand-stone). Cliffs or rather boulders, such as those at Lego Land are included and with the guide you can easily locate this area and Trojan Wall in order to break the "Booroomba only" trips to A.C.T. Many first class climbs, such as Fiasco, Jotts Jeft, Integral Crack, Hermes etc., are in this guide and with the separate history of first ascents at the back of this book it is a must whether you intend to go there or just be up on Australian Climbing history (which the book will become part of).

Ian Sedgman.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Michael Feller

(1) Off-Road Vehicles and Bush Tours in the Victorian Alps

The Transport Regulation Board, on June 17, approved an application by the Commins to operate a 4-wheel drive vehicle to support horse riding tours in the alps of far eastern Victoria. Michael Feller presented the case against the use of the 4-wheel drive vehicle on behalf of the F.V.W.C. at a public hearing in May. These tours will travel through some of the best walking country in Victoria - around the headwaters of the Buchan River and the Cobberas area.

The Commins applied to run 13 different tours. They were refused permission to operate the vehicle on Cobberas Trail and McFarlane's Flat Track but will still be able to travel to the Cobberas area via the Tin Mine road (recently bulldozed anew by the Forests Commission). Their tours are also subject to a number of restrictions aimed at minimizing the impact on the physical environment. For example, they are required to "...remove from State Forests, National Parks or other Crown Lands, all rubbish or litter originating from tour operations or passengers, except where organised disposal facilities are provided".

This is all very well but the main point of the F.V.W.C.'s objection concerned the social environment. The introduction of vehicle-supported horse riding tours into the area will only result in an escalation of the bushwalker vs. mechanical recreationist conflict and will only lead to a further degradation of the wilderness values of the region.

(2) Woodchipping

The Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment has recently released its long awaited report on the environmental effects of woodchipping This mammoth 450 page report contains a wealth of information on woodchipping and forestry operations throughout Australia and is a must for all those interested in forestry or woodchipping. It is available from the Government bookstore in Swanston St., Melbourne.

The Inquiry found that, although there are many unresolved environmental problems associated with woodchipping there was no reason to reduce or stop current woodchipping operations. With regard to future new woodchipping operations, the only such operations permissible should be those which use sawmill or sawlog residues. In other words, those which would chip the wastes from sawmills or the material left behind in an area after it has been cut for sawlogs. There should be no expansion of existing sawlog operations so as to increase the volume of woodchips.

The four general conclusions of the Inquiry were:-

1. "Whilst a number of environmental problems exist, curtailment of the existing woodchip industry program is not warranted on environmental grounds at this time.

2. Clearfelling for woodchips poses a number of threats to the environment. Some of these are fully recognised and can be acceptably minimised by a plication of appropriate management techniques. Other environmental threats, notably those relating to soil nutrients, wildlife preservation, and conservation of genetic characteristics, are less well understood

CONSERVATION NEWS (Cont'd)

and require further research to identify their true nature and magnitude, and to determine ways to counter them effectively.

3. Because of the above mentioned environmental threats, any indiscriminate extension of clearfelling for woodchips outside the boundaries of present concession and licence areas would be viewed with concern.

4. Schemes to make economic use of sawmill waste and silvicultural residues, including thinnings, from existing sawlog operations have environmental as well as economic benefits. Approval of any such schemes should however incorporate safeguards to ensure that the material chipped is restricted to genuine wastes and residues and that additional trees are not felled merely to maintain or increase chip supplies".

The Inquiry came to numerous other conclusions about specific aspects of woodchipping. Some of the more important ones are -

1. "The Committee is not satisfied that forestry authorities are doing all that could reasonably be expected in the way of ensuring that existing environmental protection prescriptions are correctly implemented in the forest."

2. "In the professional forestry setting, technical excellence implies the attainment and maintenance of high standards. The Committee is not satisfied that the professional challenge in this area is always

fully met".

In other words, the actions of foresters have been criticised.

"The extreme lack of knowledge in the biological sphere in Australia is cause for serious national concern. It is hampering responsible decision making in areas of considerable social importance. The Committee believes this provides overwhelming grounds for urgent

Government action".

Thus, we know relatively little about our forests. Increased research and research funding was advocated, with some of these funds coming from levies on the industries which are obtaining timber from the forests.

4. "Requirements recognising the full range of ecological factors needed for adequate conservation of viable populations of Australian fauna and flora in national parks and reserves, as well as multipurpose

managed forests, are at present inadequately met.

Thus, ecological reserves in Australia are currently inadequate. Similarly, parks were also considered inadequate. However, the recreational or social aspects of forests and parks were scarcely considered. From the bushwalker's viewpoint this is a major black mark against the report. In the entire 450 pages, the conflict between woodchipping and wilderness-type recreation is barely mentioned let alone discussed. The Committee was almost entirely concerned with the biological aspects of woodchipping and even states this on P.305 with - "The Committee notes the social value of parks and reserves and wishes to provide for public access wherever possible and wherever biologically sensible. However in its consideration of the 'woodchip threat' to the survival of species of animals and plants the Committee has placed its main emphasis on biological aspects". Perhaps the reason for this apparent lack of concern for the social environment comes from the fact that, of 245 written submissions to the inquiry, only 5 came from outdoor recreation clubs. These were the Amateur Canoe Association of W.A., Hobart Walking Club, M.U.M.C., N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs and the Northwest Walking Club of Tasmania. Of the 137 witnesses presenting oral evidence at hearings, not one represented outdoor recreation interests although a number of people representing conservation organisations might have spoken

CONSERVATION NEWS (Cont'd)

on behalf of outdoor recreation. Where were all the bushwalkers, all the wilderness-lovers, all those who have expressed verbally their dislike of logging activities? Reclining in their armchairs of apathy as usual, incapable of putting pen to paper for even the most humble of letters. Those who do nothing but sit back and criticize have absolutely no right to criticize as they are not participating properly in society.

Apart from this rather major defect in the report and a few minor ones such as recommending that a special reserve be set aside in East Gippsland for the protection of Leadbeater's possum (p.341) which, unfortunately, does not occur there, the report comes to a lot of sensible conclusions. If the report's recommendations are implemented the timber production vs. alternate land use conflict will be reduced although not eliminated.

The report recommends more rigorous conditions attached to the granting of woodchip export licences by the Australian government. Existing licences can only be renewed when forestry authorities can "...ensure sufficient regeneration for future requirements" and can show "... that implementation of environmental protection measures laid down...is fully effective". Increases in the quantity of chips exported should not be approved without "...most careful consideration of all relevant environmental factors" as set out in the report. New licences can only be granted to projects using only waste from genuine sawlog operations and mill wastes.

In Victoria the region of woodchipping concern is East Gippsland. Applying the report's recommendations to the East Gippsland situation we see that the proposed woodchipping operation could proceed if some environmental constraints are taken into account and if only wastes from sawlog operations are used with no expansion of those operations merely to increase chip volumes. Now, sawlog production in East Gippsland has been steadily increasing over the past decade so, if woodchipping of the wastes were to occur, how would one know whether an increase in the area logged was due to a desire to obtain more sawlogs or a desire to increase the chip volume? We would have to rely on the Forests Commission for this. The Forests Commission has not been noted for its scientific integrity or its honesty in dealing with the public in the recent past (e; ; the article elsewhere in this issue on the cinnamon fungus) So what guarantee do we have that it will mend its ways in the future? If woodchipping in East Gippsland were to abide by all the regulations and requirements of the report, then it would be a desirable industry there, in my opinion. If however, it were to cause an increase in the area logged with the possibility of a pulp mill in Orbost, then it would be undesirable. It is unfortunate that, in determining its desirability or otherwise, we must rely on (1) the Victorian government which has a history of continually increasing the amount of timber to be made available from state forests to timber companies, and (2) the Victorian Forests Commission which has a less than perfect record in its honesty in dealing with the public.

(3) The Mallee

The L.C.C. has released its Final Recommendations for the Mallee Study Area. As has continually been the case over the past few years, the

CONSERVATION NEWS (Cont'd)

Final Recommendations are quite similar to the Proposed Recommendations except that controversial land use decisions are invariably decided in favour of exploitation interests to the detriment of conservation interests. A more appropriate name for the Land Conservation Council would be the Land Use Council as the Mallee Recommendations present one particularly glaring example of irrational land use. This is the allowing of military training activities to occur throughout the "uncommitted" land in the Sunset Country and the Big Desert. The most intensive military training activities have been permitted in the northern and southern parts of the Big Desert which happen to be on land which is regarded by the Soil Conservation Authority to be the most erodible in the whole Mallee. M.U.M.C. in its submission to the L.C.C. on its proposed Recommendations strongly commented on this fact but, as appears to be always the case, our comments were ignored and the army can continue to play their games in the Mallee with the inevitable result of considerable soil erosion, degraded vegetation, and the further spread of exotic weeds.

All is not gloom, however, because the Final Recommendations still contain a wilderness area unlike the East Gippsland situation. One could cynically point out that the western part of the Big Desert, where the wilderness has been proposed has little value for any other land use so it is an appropriate "left-over" to give to wilderness advocates, most of whom will never use it because it is not of great value for wilderness recreation anyway. Basically it is a piece of waterless, almost featureless scrub which has little to attract the wilderness recreationist. although it does have high nature conservation values.

Comparing the Final Recommendations to the Proposed ones, we see that the area of proposed parks has decreased by 30,000 ha (to 205,000), the area for hardwood production has increased by 3500 ha (to 37,000), and the area of land to be alienated to agriculture has increased by 28,000 ha (to 73,000). Most of the decrease in park area comes from the Pine Plains area which had originally been proposed as an extension to Wyperfeld Park. In the Final Recommendations this area is recommended to remain Uncommitted land until ultimately it is added to the Park.

Road Closures:

The Forests Commission, to its credit, has recently closed off some more 4 wheel drive roads in Victoria and extended the periods of closure of others. It should be noted that they do not close roads permanently, only temporarily. The more important closures are:-

Grampians - 5 small dead end tracks leading into the Victoria Range as the track from The Chimney Pots to the Victoria Range Track and one from the Victoria Range Track leading via Hut Creek to the Billywing plantation area.

Lerderderg Area - West No. 5 Track above Long Point.

Lake Mountain - Tracks leading from Lake Mountain to Royston Gap Road, towards Messmate Ridge, and one from Lake Mountain Road over Snowy Hill to Cambarville.

Baw Baws - The track leading from the Car Park on Mt. St. Gwinear Track towards Mt. St. Gwinear.

Alps - The Riggalls Spur-McFarlane Saddle track, the last 2km of track to Macalister Springs, and the track from Mt. St. Bernard over The Twins to Mt. Murray.

CONSERVATION NEWS (cont'd)

All these tracks have been closed to venicles until December 31st, 1978. In addition, a number of tracks in the alps, most of which would be snowed under anyway, have been closed to vehicles between June and October 31st this year. This increase in road closure is a most desirable trend from the bushwalker's point of view and suggests that the Forests Commission is becoming concerned over at least some of the environmental effects of off-road vehicles.

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AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS EXPLORATION SOCIETY

This body was formed this year to organise expeditions for keys and girls between the ages of 16 and 19 to study and report on various espects of remote creas of Australia and New Zealand. It is pattered on the English equivalent which has existed for a number of years. As such it shares similar aims with a number of arganisations such as Outward lound, the Secuts etc. to provide the apparturity for techniques to develop self reliance, initiative and leadership skills but in a wilderness environment.

An annual 4 to 6 week expedition is to be held, commencing in Jan 1979. These expeditions are divided into groups with each group studying one aspect of the area such as zoology, botany, geology, entomology, topography etc. The areas into which it is hoped to send expeditions include S-V tosmania, New Guineo, New Zealand, northern Queensland, etc etc.

The ASES is looking for leaders for these groups for the first expedition. Any MUVO members who have qualifications or interests which may be appropriate and are intrested in being a group leader should contact the club secretary for further details or the secretary of the ASES,

Mr R Howkins Westwell Cross, West Rd, Lengwerrin 3910 ph 059 786550

or

Mr Tom Forthwick ph 62661 during working hours.

All members of the expeditions are required to part of the cast. Group leaders however have all expenses paid

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

CLUB CONTACT SYSTEM

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND THEN LEAVE WITH THOSE AT HOME OR ANYONE ELSE WHO IS LIKELY TO WORRY.

It is possible that a party on any Club trip may not arrive back in Melbourne until much later than expected (due to cars breaking down, traffic jams, bad weather, etc.). There is also the minimal possibility that they may not arrive at all. To cope with these situations, the Club has a CONTACT SYSTEM, which operates as follows:-

Before all trips, the Club Contact takes a copy of all details of each trip (i.e. intended route, standard, when expected back, transport information) together with a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of all people on those trips. Nothing further happens if the trip proceeds as planned and all return safe and well.

If, however, the party's return to Melbourne is delayed for any reason, the leader notifies the Contact as soon as possible (in the case of only one car being delayed, it is the responsibility of those travelling in it to ring the Contact, unless the trip leader is also involved).

If the party is long overdue, THE CONTACT MAKES ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE TO BE CALLED.

Therefore, all enquiries by parents or others concerning people who are very late returning from Club Trips should be made DIRECTLY to the Club Contact, who is most likely to have information. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE POLICE BE CONTACTED, as they generally know nothing of our trips and the resulting confusion helps no one (including MUMC - its only result is adverse publicity).

For 1977, the Club Contact is:

ANDREW FLINT & FAMILY 8361602

The Flints should not be called after midnight unless the occasion warrants such action.

BUSHWALKING SUB-COMMITTEE for M.U.M.C.

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