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Blue Lake Ice

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**MOUNTAINEER**

**AUGUST**

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

# **BUSHGEAR** PL



On Crosscut Saw

**SUPPLIERS OF BUSHWALKING,  
ROCKCLIMBING, CAVING, SKI-  
TOURING AND OTHER  
OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT  
46 HARDWARE ST. MELB.  
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## NEWS

1. The cancellation of the Oxo Ball due to lack of interest is a sad event. Such a annual evening is desirable but perhaps the format should be changed. Was the old style formal evening with meal provided too old hat and expensive? What are the alternatives? Write to the Mountaineer and state your views (or excuses for non-interest).
2. Given the Oxo - Balls-up it is nice to report that some events were successful. It was terrific to see the graduate lounge filled to overflowing on the occasion of the first meeting of the newly formed Melbourne Uni. Conservation Society. The recent Annapurna III expedition film night also saw a very large turn-out. Closer to home the Photo Competition/Pie Night went off very well. Howard Cooper and all his helpers deserve our thanks for the work they did. John Chapman proved to be a delightfully humorous judge and he did a great job.

Winners were:

3. Andy Rothfield is at present climbing in Canada. Later this year he hopes to climb in the Indian Himalayas with the local NZAC section trip.
4. As some of you may have noticed the club-rooms are gradually being re-arranged. It is intended that the library is to be moved into the old store and that as the store furniture is not required it be disposed of. Large wall towards roof notice-boards are to be installed where the library used to be. At some stage in the near future a working bee is to be held to tidy up the club-rooms and finish the moving about of furniture. Anyone prepared to help please contact the Stores Officer.
5. The Committee feels that once the club-rooms are tidy it would be good to have some historic photographs (modern or ancient) hanging on the walls. If anyone has such photographs or old frames donations of such will be gratefully received.
6. That fine book "Alps at the Crossroads" by Dick Johnson is being reprinted. Ordering details available at the club.
7. Given the niggardly approach of our State government to the creation of new national parks one can only be envious to hear about the creation of a new National Park in NSW larger than SW National Park in Tasmania, and in terrific mountains. The park is the Wollemi National Park and it covers the Colo-Hunter region north of Lithgow. It covers amongst others, the famed Wolgan Valley, a rockclimbers paradise. It is 502,000 hectares in size. It is 80 kilometres from Sydney. Some logging is to continue in the north of the park for 5 years but in general the griping of the saw-millers was a delight to read. See the newspaper cutting reproduced in the latest Tasmanian Wilderness Magazine.

## 1. MT. BOGONG HUTS

Correspondence from the Lands Department has advised us that the inter-departmental committee set up by them to advise on huts in the alps has decided to rebuild Bivouac Hut on the Staircase Spur as soon as possible. This decision seems irreversible, even though it is unlikely the hut will go up before this winter. The Lands Department's description is that the hut "will be kept to a minimum size and no sleeping accommodation will be provided."

It appears that no decision on a Summit Hut will be made this winter, so there is still time for ski-tourers and bushwalkers to voice their opposition to the plans being proposed. (See May Mountaineer for background). Please write letters to the Premier and Minister for Lands. The new Minister for Lands is:

Hon. V. Houghton,  
2 Treasury Place,  
Melbourne. 3002.

## 2. NEW NATIONAL PARKS

The National Parks Service as of 26th April, 1979 has taken over jurisdiction of several new or extended National and State Parks; including extensions to Brisbane Ranges, Hattah-Kulleyne, Kinglake, Mount Buffalo, Wyperfeld, and Baw Baw National Parks, the new Croajingolong, Snowy River and Tingaringy National Parks in East Gippsland, and the new Big Desert Wilderness Park. Some less critical State Parks will be handed over to National Parks on 26th April, 1980. Information is available from the National Parks Service, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, telephone 651 4011.

## 3. BOGONG HIGH PLAINS OVER-SNOW TOURS AND HELICOPTERS.

In May, the Conservation sub-committee met for discussions with Wally Wagner, the Victorian Ski Association (VSA) representative on the 10 member Falls Creek Tourist Area Management Committee (FCTAMC). We found the discussions very useful and friendly and have set the basis for a good working relationship if any grievances on land use and other activities on the High Plains arise this winter.

### Main points:

(a) FCTAMC is comprised of committee-men, one each from Falls Creek Commercial interests, Private Flat owners, Ski-Tow operators, Bright Shire, C.R.B., Soil Conservation Authority, SEC and Lands Department (chairman). There are two committee members from the VSA. One appears to represent downhill ski activities only, leaving the other, at present Wally Wagner, as the only person on the Committee representing our interests as ski-tourers and bushwalkers and taking our grievances to committee meetings. The aim of the meeting was to find out whether he would be willing to represent our interests meaningfully and forcefully. We are convinced that Wally Wagner can genuinely represent MUMC, but the situation may be very different if another individual takes his seat on the FCTAMC.

(b) FCTAMC technically has jurisdiction only over the restricted Falls Creek Township. However, guidelines Wally Wagner drew up for FCTAMC on their policy regarding over-snow tours, snowmobiles and helicopters on the whole of the Bogong High Plains, have been accepted by the SEC. This is most important, since the SEC controls an area

fairly small but completely circumscribing the Falls Creek Township - called the SEC Crown Grant Area. This is crucial, since this means that any of the above activities originating from Falls Creek, which is really the only possible origin for a paying commercial prospect, must comply with FCTAMC guidelines. We are satisfied that these guidelines are sufficient to prevent a repetition of last winter's helicopter and snow-mobile-serviced downhillers around Mt. Nelse.

We are trying to find out whether the Lands Department, which controls the remainder of the High Plains, has accepted the FCTAMC recommendations as well, or whether they have similar ones of their own.

(c) As yet there have been no applications for over-snow tours or helicopter flights for the coming winter.

SUMMARY: We can be fairly optimistic for the coming winter on the Bogong High Plains and should not see a repetition of last winter's activities. After the LCC Final Recommendations have been presented (perhaps towards end of June) hopefully the National Parks Service will be nominated to control the High Plains. By all reports National Parks are totally opposed to over-snow tours and non-rescue snow-mobile activity.

4. We have become rather concerned at the lack of activity on Tasmanian conservation issues in Victoria presently. We are therefore sponsoring the renaissance of the Victorian branch of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society (or South-West Action Committee). We will be having a meeting on Tuesday July 3rd at 7.30 pm. in the Sports Union. All people interested in Tasmanian or South-West conservation are welcome to come or contact the Conservation Convenor.
5. The LCC has recently published the Study Report on their South-Western Area, District 2. (\$6.00 from Community Services Centre, 356 Collins St. or Land Conservation Council, 464 St. Kilda Rd.). The area includes Mt. Arapiles, The Grampians, the Black Range and Mt. Eccles. M.U.M.C. is preparing a submission based on conservation of bushwalking, rockclimbing, caving and flora and fauna values. Anyone interested can send private submission to the LCC by Friday, 13th July.

# THE SIXTY-SIXTH HOUR

Michael McGarvie

(Diary written on Thursday, 15th February 1979 in the Eastern Arther Range, S.W. Tasmania).

I write this note in some of the most miserable conditions I've ever experienced. The place is called Goon Moor. We arrived here three days ago on Monday 12th at about 4.30 pm. Until then the weather had held out and we'd actually had fairly good views of Federation Peak, which is about a day's walk from here. Then it broke.

We woke the next day to an icy, windy morning and decided to push on towards Federation Peak. Camping on the 'sheltered' side of this high, exposed saddle had been meagre protection against the menacing fury of the 'Roaring Forties'. After packing briskly we began a slow climb southwards out of the Moor. Visibility was less than one hundred feet, so we crouched together in high rocks to escape the chilling westerly winds pouring rain, sleet and mist on to the whole of the Eastern Arthurs. We sang; we joked; we huddled; but we could only wait there for an hour or so to see if the weather would improve. It got worse, and we lost precious body heat. We decided to return down the ridge up which we had just climbed. It was too dangerous to continue along the cairned, rocky route in such misty, cloudy, angry weather.

Sleet stung our reddened, numbing faces as we crept our way back down into the Moor, leaning into the howling, whitened winds to prevent over-balancing. We found a new campsite, less exposed than the first, but cramped and totally saturated. Two other sodden little tents sat miserably in the slush. Their occupants had arrived the night before as we had, but decided to stay put for the day. As we arrived, disappointed, one of the blokes there helped us drain mud from the poor tent sites left. We worked in the unceasing rain and wind.

The first hours of that afternoon were disheartening. Cold and wet after setting up camp, we changed into dry clothes and massaged our icy limbs until feeling returned. Richard Serpell and I were in one tent, Jon Miller and Peter Robins in the other. We spent that afternoon sorting wet things into corners, mopping puddles, and cheering ourselves by talking of books and other experiences. Jon and Peter were quiet. The three strangers talked quietly in their tents. We brewed some soup, climbed into our sleeping bags and had an early night.

Wednesday morning welcomed us with drizzle and rolling, swirling mists cascading over the saddle down around our campsite. We had no view of where we were going, no sight of where we had come from, so we just stayed where we were. When the rain didn't drown our voices out, the four of us spoke or joked with each other from tent to tent. For most of that slow day one of the three strangers read a book to his companions. His deep, resonant, muffled voice drifted into our tent with an almost paternalistic character about it.

We only ever emerged from our sleeping bags to go to the toilet; a mammoth effort in that squelching quagmire. We remembered forgotten pencil and paper games. We played "I spy" and "Animal, Vegetable and Mineral", sometimes yelling at the top of our voices so the other tent could hear against the pounding rain. Occasionally we discussed our position seriously, other times we laughed and joked ourselves into hysterics.

Last night was sometimes frightening. The driving wind sent the rain teeming down against the tired, weather-beaten walls of our flimsy, soaked tent. Often during the night I lay awake in the blackness hoping a savage gust of wind would not tear a gaping rip in the japara cotton.

Daylight aroused our stranger companions and they hastily packed their sodden belongings and set off down the mountains, out of this terrain of alpine fury. This is the sixty-sixth hour we've spent on this lonely, wet, cold, isolated Moor. We have decided to return to the lowlands where the weather will not be so ferocious. We are going to make our way back to Hobart without reaching our difficult destination. It's a safe and sensible decision, yet we all regret it.

The one, omnipotent, dominating sound for these last chilling days has been the thunderous booming of winds and sleet up there on Goon Moor saddle. It's like the ever-present crashing roar of ocean surf, yet seems twice as powerful and twice as destructive.

We sit and wait as I write. We will leave in an hour. Snow is falling.

(Yet another account of a trip to Federation Peak undertaken by Richard Serpell, Peter Robins, Jonathan Miller and Michael McGarvie).

WHY DON'T ALL YOUSE APATHETIC  
BUGGERS WHO NEVER COME TO  
CLUB ACTIVITIES BLOODY DO SO!

B - B - CUE

Sports Pavilion - 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Food + Booze available  
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Free Climbing Film.

- 7.00 PM  
Start

Mystery Entertainment + showbag  
at 10.00 PM.

GET PISSED! HAVE A CHUCK!  
HAVE A GOOD TIME!

DICK DELASANTO

# MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## BUSHWALKING

### Six-monthly Report.

At risk of seeming pessimistic, I am forced to report that the recession in bushwalking has continued unabated into 1979. The usual beginner-orientated trips in First Term failed to attract the numbers that we have come to expect and few of their participants have been seen since.

A beginners' trip to the Mt. Stirling area in the first weekend of first term was organised by Ross Stephens and took only twelve beginners, but was a great success for those who went. At Easter this year, a van-load of thirty-seven people went to the Bogong High Plains in perfect weather, and there were three other club walks, two of them to the Snowy Plains area.

From the beginning of March until snow fell and stayed in early July, there has been a club walk every weekend, most of them to the Alpine area, Otways, Grampians, Little Desert, Wyperfeld and Hattah Lakes. The enthusiasm of Jim and Kathy Grellis, Ian Moore and Ross Stephens in leading trips has been largely responsible for the continuity. While some trips were of only three or four people, a few were very popular, for example Alan Molloy's Grampians trip at Queen's Birthday.

It has been suggested that a programme of walks in early 1980 be compiled soon. The purpose is two-fold: to allow walkers to plan ahead in this usually neglected period; and to assist in the revision of A Guide to the Victorian Alps. It is hoped that capable members will commit themselves to leadership when the trips are planned. Please give this some thought - we'll catch up with you later.

I shall conclude on an optimistic note by saying that six-months close observation of the irregularities of walkers' activities has convinced me that there are in the club vast hordes of closet bushwalkers. Stand up and be counted! Come out in the open and face the world! Don't be ashamed because you are different, because you think people will stare! Don't be afraid to tell people how much you enjoy the simpler pleasures of ambling through the bush - just because your family will reject you\*. Walk tall and be proud when you look an old friend in the eye and say. "I am a Bushwalker!" Walkers of the world unite!

\*They won't.

Final Note: I would be pleased to hear from any experienced club bushwalker who would be prepared to lead a walk during the August vacation.

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## 24-HOUR WALK REPORT

The annual 24-hour Walk was held at Longwood over the weekend 7-8 July. The course was through very pretty country, traversing alluvial plains and granite hills. Competitors were treated unusually well by the weather and the hash-house cuisine. All credit to Andrew Walker (again), Andrew Rothfield, Mark Woods, Steve Glen and Sue White.

### RESULTS

		<u>Pts</u>
1.	Phil Rumpff, Rob Edmonds, David Rowlands	18hrs, 19mins 42
2.	Martin Hall, Paul Tresize	20hrs, 21mins 42
3.	Alex Tarr, Janet Tarr	20hrs, 53mins 42
4.	Ray Whithers, David Trotter, Ron Penkora, Terry Griffin	33
5.	David Church, Christine Arnold	32
6.	Bruce Hargraves, Arthur Day	32
7.	Ron Watts, Lyn McNaught	32
8.	Jon Miller, Rod Costigan	31
9.	Ian Allison, Ian Smith	30
10.	Theo Dreher, Iain East	28
11.	Cathy Crock, Ernie Butler, Jayashri Kulkarni, Michael Axtens	28
12.	Peter Mitchelhill, Robert Symons, Bill Leyton, Russell Macquarie	26
13.	Peter Ashby, Cynthia Ashby, Krystyna Watters	23
14.	Neville Byrne, Helen Edmonds	22
15.	Tony Sherwood, Andrew Webb	22
16.	Alan Bult, Graham Mills, Geraldine Livingstone	22
17.	George Raitt, Fiona Raitt	22
18.	Darren Fawkes, Jenny Van Staveren	22
19.	Sandy Morrison, Bruce Leslie, Robin Dexter	20
20.	Bill Disseldorp, Paul Ryan, Neil Roberts, Michael Taylor, Paul Stork	19
21.	Torsten Dowell, Janice Harbert	14
22.	John Patterson, Andrew Hayes, Michael Cain, Ken Payne	14
23.	Kathy Grellis, Jim Grellis	13
24.	Fiona Masterton, Ingrid Hadinek, Rosie Horvath, Eileen Cadogan, Kerry Lambert	13
25.	Jeff Wilson, Ken Barker	12
26.	Margret Bush, Rick Bush, Bruce Cochrane	11
27.	Steve Law, Paul Quirk, Michael Prowse	11
28.	Scott Lindsay, Cameron Mackrill, Rob Davies	10
29.	Michael Carew, John Bergin	10
30.	Stuart Mackrill, Doug Mackrill	10
31.	John Smelt, Peter Walsh, Brian Pridmore	7
32.	Warrick Craine, Andrew Meede	7
33.	Bruce Every, Rob McPherson, M. Peters, K. Peters	2
34.	Nicholas White, Brian Franz, Lyn Cook, Rhys Madden-Wellington (disqualified for splitting up)	

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FILM NIGHT

+ LECTURE

MONDAY OCT 15<sup>th</sup>

P.L.T 7.30PM

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Proceeds to Annapurna II expedition.



# L.C.C. VICTORIAN AIPS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

What the L.C.C. Final Recommendations on  
the Alpine Area Really Mean.

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The Land Conservation Council finally released its Final Recommendations on the Alps on June 14th. There is not much to be overjoyed about - the fight is still ahead and our (conservationists) huge effort for an alpine national park has either been ignored or misunderstood by the L.C.C.

An important insight to come out of the report is the obvious political force guiding the L.C.C., despite its supposed impartiality. Hamer delayed the report's publication until after the election, even though it was ready months ago. The Forests Commission and Forestry in general have been a very strong and successful lobby and have come off very well.

## The Recommendations

The general boundaries are very similar to those of the Proposed Recommendations. Major changes are the scrapping of the concept of an Alpine Council and an integrated management approach. There are four National Parks, two entirely new, although both were previously Protection and Recreation Zones with basically similar guidelines for management. There are fairly extensive Hardwood Production area (70% of timber is available for logging), and over one-third of the area is "Uncommitted, almost all of which is loggable.

## The National Parks:

- (1) Wonnangatta/Moroka - previously Protection-Recreation Zone managed by Forests Commission. It is a victory that this area has been proposed a National Park, but there has been no contraction of "Once-only logging", and deer-hunting and grazing are to continue. Strange activities for a National Park?
- (2) Bogong - previously to be managed by National Parks anyway. Grazing, once-only logging and mining (Red Robin Mine) are allowed. The extensive experimental logging previously proposed for the slopes north of Mt. Fainter has been stopped.
- (3) Cobberas-Tingaringy - previously to be partly National Parks and Protection-Recreation Zones - grazing and one-only logging are again permitted as well as widespread mineral exploration.
- (4) Snowy River - unchanged from the Proposed Recommendations, with once-only logging and grazing continuing.

Other major features are:

- (1) Avon Wilderness - unchanged, and incredibly still to be managed by the Forests Commission, even though the Mallee (Big Desert) Wilderness is now run by National Parks.
- (2) Natural Features and Scenic Reserves - Basically areas previously recommended as Protection-Recreation Zones, but not included in National Parks - include very important bushwalking areas such as Lake Tarli Karng, The Governors, The Bluff - Mt. Magdala and the Mt. McDonald to Mt. Magdala section of the Alpine Walking Track and Mts. Gibbo and Pinnibon, almost all to be controlled by the Forests Commission.

- (3) Hardwood Timber Production Areas - most of which are fairly reasonable - there is obviously a need for some logging.
- (4) Non-committed Land - this is probably the most unreasonable aspect of the Recommendations. The conflicting aims assigned to these areas are:
  - (a) the maintenance of the capability of the land to meet future demands (i.e. including conservation) and at the same time
  - (b) to supply goods, such as timber.
 In effect about all of the large uncommitted areas can be logged the same as Hardwood Production areas. Together with National Park "once-only" logging areas, the foresters can chop 76% of the millable timber.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: Obviously we still have a fight on our hands, but conservationists have made some gains. Main objections to the recommendations are:

- (1) The Bastardization of National Parks - with logging, grazing, mining and hunting allowed one can hardly call these areas National Parks. The distinction is probably not understood by the general public, who are now pleased to find Alpine National Parks. We must be aware of the distinction and its importance as a precedent for the general National Parks system. It is up to us to inform the public of the distinction, and to press for a REAL alpine national park.
- (2) The Park areas in the Alps proper are disappointingly small and are not joined. Large lengths of the Alpine Walking Track are not in recommended National Parks, and quite a bit is in Hardwood Production areas.
- (3) One-third of the study areas is "uncommitted", but almost all of this is available for logging. This means that huge areas can be logged.
- (4) The Avon Wilderness is to be controlled by the Forests Commission rather than the National Parks Service.

ACTION: The issue is now above the L.C.C. and is political. Our voice must be heard. Talk to people - many are ignorant, but will listen.

Write letters of complaint to:

Editors of newspapers  
 Premier, Hon. R.J. Hamer  
 Minister for Conservation, Hon. V. Houghton.

You can pick up a copy of the Final Recommendations FREE at the Community Services Centre, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne. Because of the huge number of submission, the L.C.C. is not mailing the report to submitters.

The South-West Book - A Tasmanian Wilderness.

Edited by Helen Gee, Janet Fenton. Published by the ACF.  
Hardback \$15.00. Paperback \$11.50. 307 Pages.

"One of the ironies of the continuing controversy over the South-West is that whilst the matter has been an issue for over a decade, few are equipped to argue about it authoritatively. A reason for this has been the lack of a single comprehensive treatment of the issue."

This book succeeds in satisfying this need. It is an important, fascinating if slightly flawed work. It is a huge miscellany of facts, analysis, anecdotes, arguments, maps, diagrams and photos concerning all aspects of the South-West. History, Natural Environment, Recreation, Industry and Conservation are the major topics covered.

Given the activist background of the editors and the nature of the publisher it is not surprising that the most successful sections of the book are those covering Industry and Conservation. The recent commercial exploitation of the area is examined and the social utility of the industrial czars depredations weighed up. There is a great need for such careful studies of the supposed "benefits" to the community by development in the South-West given the H.E.C. visions for the area.

The section upon the Natural Environment also appears to be very comprehensive.

Less successful is the historical section. The treatment of the aboriginal era is impressive, complete and succinct. However, with the exception of an all too short historical survey of the region, the rest of the historical section is a mish-mash of potted analysis, chronological survey and anecdotes. Many of the contributions (e.g. those by Jack Thwaites) are indeed worthwhile and fascinating and it is not suggested that they do not deserve their place. But it is a pity that the evocation of the past through anecdote and reminiscences is not accompanied by the type of perceptive analysis of the economic, social and political forces behind the past exploitation of the area that is seen later in the book. Since 1788 Australians have seen the natural environment as a thing to be tamed and exploited. In this book the despoilers of last century are seen through rose-tinted glasses. Passing of time has invested their activities with a romantic hue.

The section upon recreation is also disappointing. Only in the chapters on canoeing and caving are we given any understanding of the growth and development of these activities in the South-West. Too often in the section we are presented with one person's own subjective feelings about their pursuit as a substitute for an overall picture of the past and present extent of the activity. See the climbing chapter for example. It is true that "Physical Challenge is no longer a condition of life; one must actively seek it. Reliance on one's own strength and skill to climb a mountain, cross a wilderness or an ice field, negotiate an ocean or a river, becomes a rich and intensely personal experience" but what is needed in a resources book for activists is surely not impressionistic accounts of experiences similar to their own but rather the historical data of the recreation use of the area which provides the basis for establishing the interest of wilderness users in the area.

Whilst some mainland sources are neglected, the bibliography is magnificently extensive. It is one of the most important aspects of the book and it will be the commencing point for anybody wishing to research any aspect of the South-West.

When one considers the need for such a work the size of the book which has resulted, and the vast amount of information contained, despite previous criticisms, I cannot help but be impressed with the achievement of those who produced it. All should purchase this book and read it well. It will make a significant contribution towards the preservation of the South-West.

Nick Reeves

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The Conservation section of the S.W. book tells the story of the Pedder fight which was the start of the movement to conserve the South-West. It also tells of the Precipitous Bluff case, where the fight against limestone extraction was taken through the courts to the High Court of Australia and where in defeat through outdated (1929) legislation and incredibly conservative interpretation of this by Judges of the various Tasmanian and Australian courts, it was stated the public had no interests in the area as interpreted under the Act.

The third case study is of the present fight to save the Franklin-Lower Gordon. In each case the area in question is well and sensitively described and the historical development of the struggle to preserve each area well detailed, being more sufficient to inform anyone interested in the conservation struggle for the South-West.

The section reveals the total intransigence of both state Liberal and Labor parties both in government and in opposition, their lack of understanding of the importance of this area to the public and the world, their continual submission to the will of the H.E.C. and commercial interests. The examples of Pedder and the P.B.-Hartz swap reveal the Tasmanian government's total lack of regard for National Parks. Even the South-West Advisory Committee whilst recognising the unique opportunity for preservation of an incomparable region could not recommend preservation because of the potential of commercial development.

The two major political parties, the HEC, mining and timber industries, emerge in their true colours with their classic techniques of delays, deception and withholding of information to further development before preservation and public outcry can halt it.

The benefit of this book is that it presents the facts about the South-West conservation struggle clearly, fairly and succinctly. It is informative and provides background for the uninformed. It carefully details all developments and the fight against them showing that no help can be expected from the Tasmanian government, and that no area will be preserved unless it has no commercial value or sufficient mass public reaction occurs.

The maps are clear and concise and the photos of a good standard. This book is worth the price (\$15 hardback, \$11.70 soft) simply for the straight-forward factual information that we all need to help fight for preservation of the South West.

Theo Dreher

Ed pulled up over the rock above and moved out of sight. A prayer was answered as in reply to my question he announced that he was on the summit ridge. We had climbed the face. Moments of jubilation were short-lived. They lasted as long as the taste of chocolate. We had the descent to contend with. True satisfaction comes when the hot door is opened after such a climb. Even that moment eventually came. After we arrived at the top, the morning after the sleepless night before, Ed and I crept, cleared our heads, made the odd nervous trip or two and left for the face.

Shivering in the icy cold wind at the base of the climb I was too cold to be scared. We had selected the wrong groove to commence with and progress was stopped by a large ice block, wedged in the crack. Ed, with his ice hammer gave the rock a blow and he found a stance beneath a slight wall. Given confidence by the top rope and wearing gloves I pushed the crack between ice and rock. The last pitch was one of the hardest.

After traversing across to it we decided that the wrong start to the main buttress looked too hard. A question of an easier variant to the left. The climbing of the subsidiary buttress was 15/14 but icy rocks made each step harder. Fortunately this was the only low rock encounter.

Once upon the main buttress we looked to the finish of the rock. We had a rope between us and the last bit in the occasional runner. The upper buttress, a piece of snow, gives deliciously steep but easy climbing. Your confidence is needed to negotiate the occasional tricky bit. As one reaches my heart stopped for a while - I had climbed up a small little wall. Confidence that either a ledge or jump would appear. It was a shock to pull over the top wall to the face with a smooth twenty foot fall. A few loose rocks, and an occasional surge before safe ground was reached.

Above the rock our pace slowed. The upper ice field is frozen by steep and very exposed. With good snow on it it would not be difficult but the green ice we encountered made our progress slow. We used rock anchors where possible and belayed each other. One particular area is hard when climbing across ice but the cumulative effect of fatigue, exposure and less than local trying.

The farthest pitch was a steep traverse beneath a rock band. I had already placed one climber, Ed and we were near the end of my tether. My oxygen was starting over the ice and repeated blows of the axe and hammer were required before progress was made. In my last gasp to reach I finally overhauled a necessary alteration of ropes and harnessed. Then even bulged after a casual glance at the rock above. For there in place was a wire. The sudden change of direction was amazing.



**"VANGO FORCE TEN, I presume..."**

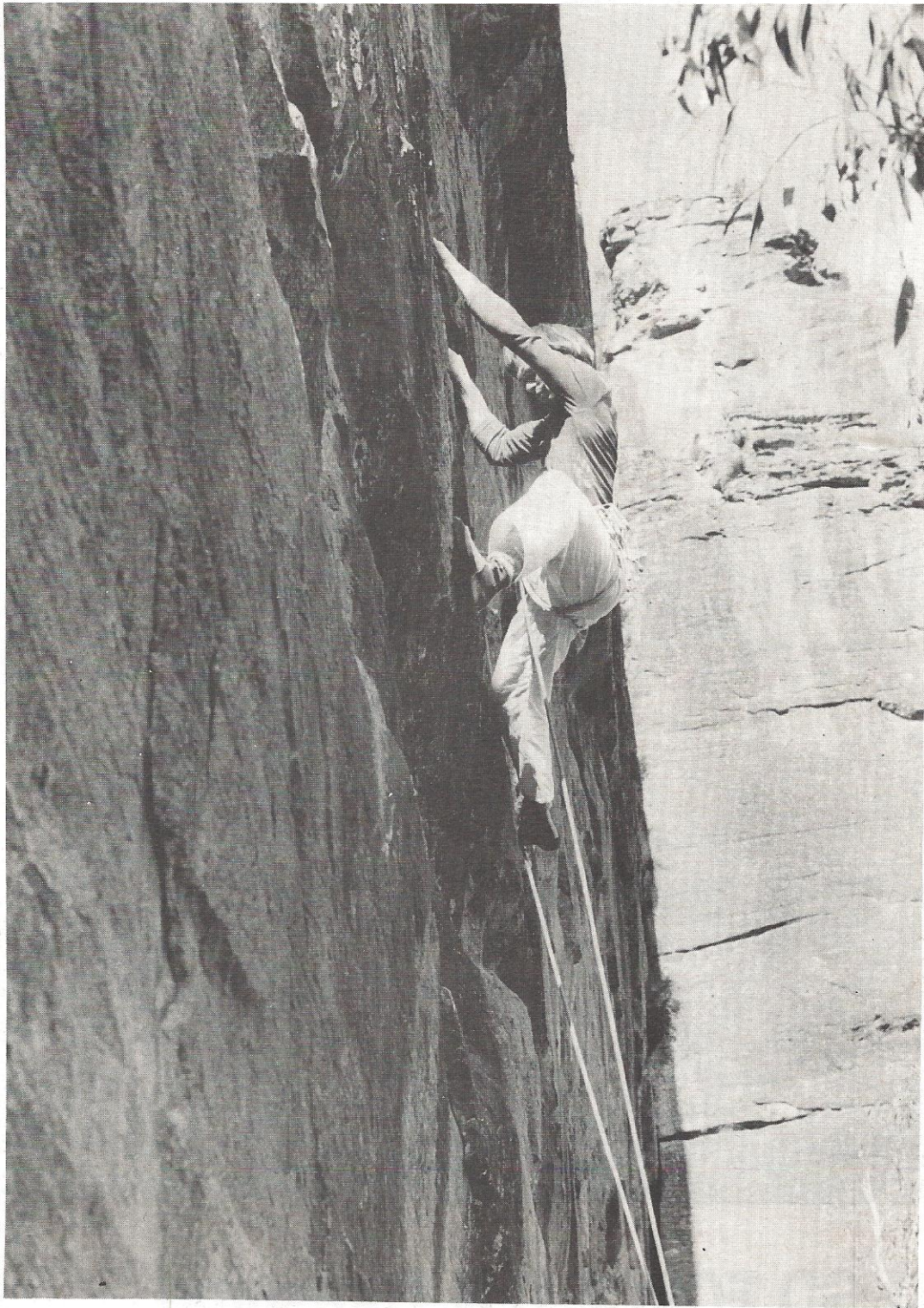
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# MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT



Tobin Sorenson on "Thin Time" 22. Photo G.Harrison - Mountain Equipment.

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