

**Building the Hut** 

## MINNER

# BUSHCEAR



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

#### THE MOUNTAINEER NOVEMBER 1979

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The Journal of M.U.M.C.

Correspondence:

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

- 1. 1980 Tasmanian Wilderness Calendars are available at the clubrooms at a price of \$4.00. Well worth purchasing for presents to friends etc.
- 2. Tobin Sorenson has not only blitzed Australia with his climbing but also with his lectures. His illustrated talk was well attended at Melbourne University and well worth attending. With his extreme climbing ability Sorenson is one of a new breed of super rockclimbing alpinists and there is a revealing interview with him to be published in the next issue of Thrutch.
- 3. Well-known NSW climber Joe Friend is currently attempting to promote the formation of an Australian Climbing Union. Club and individual membership is envisaged and VIAA membership is hoped for. A meeting of any interested climbers is to be held over the Christmas-New Year vacation at Mt. Buffalo. A formation of a National Climbing body in Australia is long overdue and Joe's efforts deserve much support.
- 4. The MUMC IV 24 Hour Walk team is to be congratulated upon their first place in the Men's Event. The Golden Boot has returned to where it belongs.
- 5. The finances of the club suffered yet another blow when the distributor of the Journal went into receivership. It is hoped that we will be eventually paid our debt of some hundred dollars but the present position is unclear. The true position will not emerge until the company is wound up.
- 6. Meanwhile work on the next edition of "Mountaineering" proceeds at a slow pace. Advertising support is growing and articles are gradually being accumulated. The magazine may not be published until early 1980.
- 7. Problems occurred when Prue Dobbin performed well enough in IV Canoeing events to entitle her to an award of a University Sporting Blue as it has always been club policy not to recommend anyone for Blues. The feeling has always been that such awards are irrelevant to mountaineering. A decision on Prue Dobbin's award has been delayed to next September and in the meantime the whole question should be discussed at the A.G.M. While the editor agrees with traditional club policy, if a person really wants a Blues award perhaps it is their business. (Perhaps competitive canoeing has little to do with mountaineering thought for the future!).
- 8. This year's Alpine Instruction course never eventuated as the teachers were ill at the crucial time. For a club that has such a record of interest in alpine climbers and a host of experienced alpine climbers it is a pity that only two people ever volunteer to lead courses and that if they are ill or unavailable, the course does not go on.
- 9. The MUMC Orienteers are organising the V.O.A. relay championships on Sunday, 9th December, 1979 near Daylesford. Entrants and helpers are most welcome. Contact Ron Frederick, telephone 870 4033 (H) and 874 8111 (W) for further details.

Armed with stories of raging rapids and ice-cold waters, nine intrepid MUMC canoeists arrived at the I.V. canoeing championships this year to compete against contingents from six other universities on the Goobarragandro River.

The first of the three events, canoe polo, was played for the first time at intervarsity this year. Canoe polo is a relatively new sport, sort of a cross between basketball and water polo except that its played in kayaks. Quite an unusual game involving lots of ramming and capsizing. Despite a complete lack of experience in this field Melbourne paddlers did well to win two of the five games.

The Wine and Cheese Night, an integral part of every intervaristy canoeing competition, once again proved very successful enabling canoeists from different universities to meet each other (and also to get highly inebriated). A great night!

The slalom course this year consisted of 23 gates, suspended over 200 metres of fast grade 2 water (fresh from the snowfields). Although the course was not as difficult as rumours had suggested it still demanded considerable skill to do really well. One particularly hard gate, gate 17, required a tricky "cut in" and to overshoot it meant smashing into nearby rocks followed by a highly probable capsize. The Melbourne University team, who happened to be judging gates 17 to 19, accordingly spent a lot of time extracting canoeists from the freezing river.

The water was quite shallow in some spots making it very difficult to roll, as Ian discovered after wiping out on gate 17, however he later recovered sufficiently to make a good run in the Kl and C2 events.

As usual Prue came first in the Ladies Ki and Janet and Gaye, who had no never seen a slalom course before made very commendable attempts, even beating some Monash lady paddlers.

It was in the Canadian events, however, that Melbourne really excelled with brilliant C2 runs by Leo and David, and Roger and Pete. A surprise win in the C2 teams event against some world class paddlers placed Melbourne Uni. in 2nd place overall in the slalom.

The four days of competition finished with the downriver race, over 8 km. of white-water. Once again it was the C2 events in which Melbourne did really well with a second by Pete and Ian in the Open C2 and an outstanding first by Andrew and Prue in the mixed C2.

As usual, the standard of paddling at Intervarsity this year was very diverse giving novices confidence to compete against those with similar abilities but also providing very keen competition for those with a lot more experience. All in all, a very successful competition.

#### Other notable events include:

- \* Prue hitting the team manager over the head with a paddle in the Mixed C2 down-river event.
- \* Leo not coming last in the CI event.
- \* Team movie-star Prue Dobbin being interviewed and filmed by a local TV film crew.
- \* The MUMC team being stranded at the end of the down-river race with a car, a boat trailer and no car keys.
- \* Rally drivers, Ian and Leo, having everbody holding on tightly as they raced the hired car along the steep, muddy slalom site access road.

#### Slalom

Open Kl (29 Competitors)		Mixed C2 (11 teams)		
David Danks Pete Freeman	3rd 6th	Cussen/Dobbin Freeman/Rice	3rd 7th	
Andrew Wilson Roger Hatten Ian Egerton	12th 23rd 24th	Melbourne Uni.	3rd	
	<u>2nd</u>	Open K1 teams (5 teams) Pete Freeman )		
Open Cl (15 competi	tors)	Andrew Wilson ) Roger Hatten )	3rd	
David Danks Pete Freeman	2nd 3rd	Melbourne Uni.	3rd	
Leo Cussen	9th	Ladies Kl teams (4 teams)		
Melbourne Uni.  Ladies Kl (17 compe	2nd titors)	Janet Rice ) Prue Dobbin ) Gaye Carter )	Last	
Prue Dobbin Gaye Carter Janet Rice	lst 13th 17th	Melbourne Uni.	4th	
Melbourne Uni. Open C2 (15 teams)	3rd	Open C2 teams (4 teams)  Egerton/Wilson)  Dobbin/Cussen)  Freeman/Hatten)	lst	
Danks/Cussen Freeman/Hatten Egerton/Wilson	2nd 3rd 9th	Melbourne Uni.	lst	
Melbourne Uni.	<u>lst</u>			

#### FINAL PLACING 2ND

#### Down River

Open Kl (14 competitors		Ladies Kl (9 competitors)	
Roger Hatten	9th	Gaye Carter 81	th
Melbourne Uni.	4th	Melbourne Uni. 4	
Open C2 (4 competitors)		Mixed C2 (10 competitors	
Freeman/Egerton	2nd		st
Melbourne Uni.	2nd	Cussen/Rice 9	th
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#### FINAL PLACING - 2ND

Canoe Polo 5 teams

Team: Wilson, Freeman, Dobbin, Cussen, Hatten, Egerton.

Melbourne Uni. 4th

#### The Team:

Prue Dobbin, Ian Egerton, Gaye Carter, Roger Hatten, David Danks, Leo Cussen, Janet Rice, Pete Freeman and Andrew Wilson. The Intervarsity 24 Hr. Walk was held in the Bilahdelah Forest near Newcastle. Melbourne University was represented by two mens teams. Martin Hall and David Rowlands as one team and Rod Costigan and myself as the other.

Rod and I left the start almost last having drawn position 16 out of a total of 17 teams. Martin and Dave had alraady quietly disappeared. We went well early making good progress through some easy, close spaced checkpoints, until, an out of bounds area, we slipped into a ungle gully where the going got he vier. Back on the road and some more quick checkpoints. The weather was sunny and the ground was carpeted in flowers, including Greenhood and Caladenia orchids. This, with our seemingly good rogress made the walk delightful.

A long steep climb up to the fire-tower where Rod viewed the country as the sun set and I lay exhausted on the ground. We changed into our woollies and kept going along a delightful moonlit, ridge-top. No hard checkpoints and no mistakes. Yet! A long roadbash to checkpoint Z then down through thick bush to a scrubby creek junction, upstream of which we noticed a number of glow-worms.

Two checkpoints and then lost! The road additions supplied at the start were incomplete and we had to search for the right road. A swap of information with Uni. of NSW men and we were on our way. One checkpoint and back to the hash-house at 1.30 am. after 13 hrs.

We were shocked to find that although we thought we had done reasonably well, Martin and Dave had done exactly the same route and left the hash-house on the second half 4 hours earlier.

Fifty minutes rest, and Rod taped his blisters without complaining. A bad choice of route on the second leg meant a long walk between check-points on the start of the second leg all because we wanted to avoid scrubbashing along a switchback ridge. After all the moon had gone down and you couldn't even see the road in front of you.

Three-thirty a.m., I fell over on the road and the ground was comfortable, I didn't want to get up. Rod pushed me on and things improved as the sun came up. Shorts on and up a very steep hill. We dumped our packs and moved on to the next checkpoint. On the way, the organiser drove past and told us that Dave and Martin were about ten minutes from the finish. Great! Time getting short we pushed on, more trouble in jungle gullies looking for checkpoints. Then a long hard roadbash with a long uphill section, a final checkpoint and bash down to the hash-house. Relief, rest, food and fifth place in the results. A great weekend for us, and a good result for M.U.M.C. First and Fifth (best number two team). So if you want a cheap trip to Armidale next year, and like walking (70 km. in 22 hrs., 2500 metres vertical climb) then come to the next I.V. 24 hr. Walk.

"Going to Blue Lake?"

"Yes, I hope the weather gets better!"

At the time of this conversation it was raining at Perisher Valley. It should have been snowing. The three of us, Rod, Tim and myself spent the time being amused at the strange costumes downhill skiers were wearing. In turn they were axes, hammers and by the monstrous bundles, partly camouflaged by ice and the fact that one-way tickets could not be purchased to the top of the mountain. A warning to those who follow.

By the time we had walked to the top of the chairlift the weather was most shithouse. Our thoughts also rested on our stomachs after we had devoured some medieval milk chocolate that I found underneath the top station. Shivering, we played around with compasses and one inch thick klister we skied down into Guthega in the SnowyRiver Valley by way of a pole line.

We spent a soggy night at Guthega. We skied up the Snowy River Valley. The wet snow and overcast weather added to the atmosphere of immense strength which the Snowy River has. There were large chunks of ice crashing down and frothing chutes of icy water. All this was left as we skied up the Blue Creek Valley. Half-way up this valley is Blue Lake. It is surrounded by a spectacular ampitheatre of rock, steep snow and vertical ice. The whole scenery was really inspiring - especially the broken 30 foot cornice on the far side and the 300 ft. of avalanche debris running down to the frozen lake.

Next morning we awoke to real life spindrift, two feet deep and it had collapsed our tents. Eventually we walked around the lake, trying not to trip up over our crampons. Roddy, who had been to New Zealand impressively climbed a thinly iced boulder. When I tried to follow I soon realised how gripped you can get on iced-up rock. We "bouldered" all morning with an axe and ice hammer. During the afternoon we tackled one of the longer ice gullies on the northern side of the lake - as shown on the August "Mountaineer" cover.

On the third day we rose again and ascended a frozen wall. It was about 30 feet high, reasonably solid and really good fun. The difficulties we encountered made Sorenson's efforts of 3000 ft. of steep ice a little hard to perceive, especially when he didn't have the comfort of a top rope. In the afternoon we climbed another gully that divided near the top. The right-on about 50 of slope. From here I set off hoping to reach the top via the ramp before the rope ran out. But after 30' I found an 18" deep fissure running across the slope. Then, another three steps, my left foot sunk in about a foot and beneath it was a chasm, fifteen feet deep.

"Hmm, looks like they grow crevasses in Australia after all!"

From there I reached the top as quickly as possible on all fours with ice-axe and hammer in my hands. At the top I set up a belay and Tim and Rod were soon with me. Unfortunately, the slope and pseudo crevasse didn't avalanche during the rest of our stay but that would have been too close for comfort.

Roddy had visited Watson's Crags on the first day and he had come back to Tim and I raving about a route he had picked out - 70° slopes followed by a rock pitch. We all visited Watson's Crags. As we descended to the base of our climb it became evident that the slopes were much gentler than we had been told and that the snow was soft. The top three pitches of the five pitch route were very worthwhile. The last moves of the climb, on icy rock were quite hard.

Finally, Saturday, we arrived at Thredbo. It was a cosmic transition to jump suits, day tickets, and plastic. A quick change of thinking and we began the long hitch home.

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NOVEMBER 1979

## ----AN ALPINE CLIMB IN THE HIMALAYA

Recently, local NZAC member Gary Wills went on a trip to India to climb in the Himachal Pradesh region. He went with Andy Rothfield, Ed Neve, Peter Allan, Mike Rhineberger and Max Berry. The trip was successful as most members climbed White Sail, a 6455 m. peak.

Gary talks about the trip.

"How did you become involved?"

"Peter and Mike organised the trip. However I became involved at short notice. Ed rang me up and said do you want to go climbing in India next month? I said yes."

"What were the peaks like?"

"The peaks are about 600 m. high and reasonably accessable. You do not need porters but we did use donkeys. Generally the peaks are snow but there are some beautiful rock peaks of excellent granite. The average climb is 1500 - 2000 m. The peak we did was enjoyable but it tended to be a snow slog."

"Any bureaucratic hassles?"

"I was not involved in negotiations. We were stuck in Delhi for a week until a liason officer was assigned to us. People wanting to go there should put in their applications at least 6 months prior to departure. You also have to pay for the peaks. It cost us \$100.00 each in peak fees."

"What about your climb?"

"It took about 4 days to climb White Sail. We established a camp on a on the main divide and it was a good day to the top and back to our tents. There were four steep pitches, two through ice cliffs, and two near the top. The rest was easy."

"What effect did the altitude have?"

"We first noticed the effect of altitude at 12,000 to 14,000 feet. We had headaches at 17,000 feet. Above 18,000 we found climbing hard work. We spent a week between 12,000 - 14,000 feet establishing a base camp and this seemed to help. It took a couple of weeks to fully acclimatise."

"Did you need any special equipment?"

"We took normal alpine gear plus double boots, super gaiters, cluvet, thermal underwear, mountain tents and a comprehensive first-aid kit. You only need for these peaks normal gear plus some extras. We really treated them as a big alpine route."

"What was the liason officer like?"

""He was worth his weight in gold. He could speak Hindi, and he generally liasoned between us and the locals. He made hiring donkeys easier. We had a really great bloke, Raman Gupta, and he did a good job."

"Any funny incidents?"

"Yes, but only libellous."

Queen's Birthday came and I was told by everybody that there was no snow in Victoria. It was a pity as my skis were all waxed up waiting to be tested with the first snow fall. However, all was not lost as rumour had snow on the ground in NSW. With a few friends from Monash I decided to endure the 12 hour drive in order to find the elusive white stuff.

On Friday night the Hume Highway passed in the hazy way it does with vague memories of greasy cafes, midnight changes of drivers and the odd turnoff. We spent the night at Geehi and continued on to Charlotte's Pass the next morning. Surprisingly enough there was plenty of snow for ski touring in certain areas. It was satisfying to see all the downhillers shaving their skis to pieces on the rocky ground at Perisher Valley.

After much messing about we left Charlotte's Pass at one o'clock in the afternoon and dropped into the Snowy Valley. There was not much snow by the river. However once across the valley on southern facing slopes the snow became good. It was hard and frosty and it was on with the purple Klister. The grip was fantastic at first and those with wax could laugh at the antics of the unfortunates with stepped ski. Higher up the snow turned to solid ice and we all walked. Camp was made towards dusk near Hedley Tarn.

A cold, windy night gave way to a sunny day. We headed off to have a look at Blue Lake. As the ice covered the ground with a one inch thick layer nobody took skis. Blue Lake was most impressive with ice gleaming from the cliffs and the lake half frozen over. After some skating practice we returned to our camp and spent our time attempting to find some snow to ski on.

Towards evening I set up to the top of Mt. Twynam to watch the sunset. Although icy I used skis at first but towards the summit I had to walk. Amongst the weird ice formations at the summit I stood watching the sun setting behind hazy clouds and casting a pink glow upon Watson's Crags and the Sentinel. The huge drop into the Geehi and Victoria was filled with cloud, slowly boiling up the gullies to the main range crest.

It was a hairy descent to camp. If a fall had occurred at some spots a couple of hundred yard slides would have resulted. Most of the descent was by sidestepping with knees vibrating at high frequency on the corrugations. In good snow the descent from Twynam would be fabulous. So back to camp and dinner in sleeping bags listening to the choofah purring and the wind howling.

An uneventful retreat to Melbourne the next day. We had done little skiing but it was an interesting start to the season.

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## SURVEY OF BUSHWALKERS AT WILSONS PROMONTORY

SOME CHARACTERISTICS AND ATTITUDES OF BUSHWALKERS AT WILSONS PROMONTORY

A questionnaire survey of bushwalkers at Wilsons Promontory National Park was conducted by F.V.W.C. member Gerry Grandage and others over three weekends (Labour Day long weekend in March, beginning of school holidays weekend in May, and another weekend between these 2) in late summer and autumn, 1977. This survey was part of a Masters thesis Gerry was doing at Monash University.

If (and it is a big "if") the results of the survey can be extrapolated to all bushwalkers who visit Wilsons Promontory, then it appears as if:

Most bushwalkers there are male and less than 35 years old. They are mostly students or professional/technical workers who come from metropolitan Melbourne, primarily from the eastern suburbs. Most have been bushwalking for 1 - 15 years and go bushwalking less than 5 times per year. Most go bushwalking at Wilsons Promontory with groups of friends, although over 20% go on club trips. Most are in moderate sized parties of 3 - 10 people and most have been to Wilsons Promontory previously.

Most bushwalkers are reasonably happy with the management of Wilsons Promontory and think that the park should be managed with an emphasis on conservation. Most are happy with the size of their party and consider that party size influences their enjoyment. They agree with limits being placed on both party size and number of parties, although they are divided over limits being placed over maximum length of stay in the park. They have mixed feelings over encounters with other parties or evidence of them.

Detailed results of the survey (somewhat abbreviated) are as follows:

### Characteristics

CIIC	Tracter Local Language	
1)	Sex of Bushwalkers	72% male, 28% female
	Age of bushwalkers	17% aged 14-16 20% aged 17-20 29% aged 21-25 21% aged 26-35 9% aged 36-45 4% aged over 45
3)	Occupation or profession	38% professional/technical 22% secondary students 14% tertiary students 9% tradesmen/laborers 6% clerical 4% administration/executive/ managerial 2% housewife
		5% others
4)	Origin of bushwalkers \- (	Melbourne & suburbs eastern suburbs

southern & bayside suburbs

Interstate & overseas

Mornington Peninsula

westers suburbs

Rest of Victoria

Gippsland

10

68%

47%

16%

11%

8%

6%

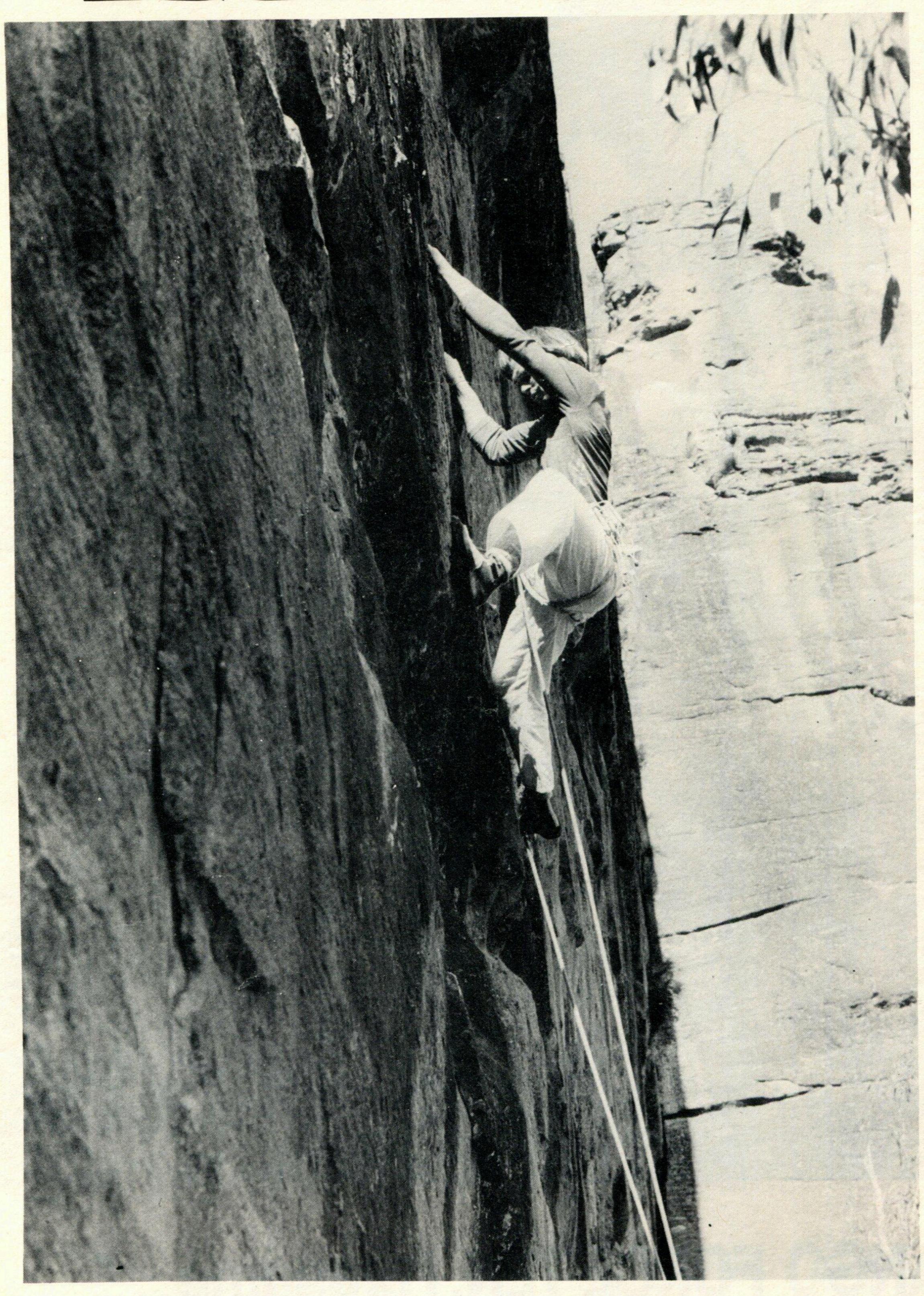
7%

5%

5)	Number of years of bushwalk	ing experience:	
		less than 1 year 1 - 5 years	25%
		6 - 15 "	37% 27%
		more than 15 years	11%
6)	Frequency of bushwalking tr	ips:	
		once per year or less	31%
		2 - 5 times per year	47%
		6 - 15 times per year	17%
7)	Type of party in which the 1	more than 15 times per year	5%
''	Type or party in which the i	oushwalkers visited Wilsons Promonto	ry:
		Family group	8%
		group of friends club trip	43%
		school group	21%
		scouts/guides	14%
		alone	1%
		other	3%
8)	Party size:	1 - 2	15%
		3 - 5	27%
		6 - 10	26%
		11 - 20	23%
		greater than 20	9%
9)	Number of nights spent out:	one	36%
		two	45%
		three	17%
		more than three	2%
10)	Number of previous visits to	Wilsons Promontory:	
		none	23%
		one - two	32%
		timee - ten	35%
		more than ten	10%
Atti	itudes		
Here	the question on the question onse given in brackets (slight	naire is given with the percentage	
1)	Do you think a National Park		
	(6%) conservation purpose (2%) recreation purpose		
	(89%) a combination of ]	hoth	
	(3%) don't know		
	If a combination, on wh: emphasis?	ich of the two should there be an	
	(56%) conservation		
	(6%) recreation		
	(38%) equal emphasis on	both	
2)	Do you think that the size of your walking?	your party influences the enjoymen	nt of
	(83%) yes (14%	(3%) no opinion	
3)	During your present walking to party?	rip at Wilsons Promontory, was your	
	(3%) too small (79%) about right	(12%) too large (6%) no opinion	

	party size to reduce any possil popular walking areas (such as	le environmental	impacts 11	n the warming
	(23%) agree (1	1%) disagree	(6%)	no opinion
5)	How would you react to the Park the number of walking parties i	s Service placin n an area at a p	g an upper articular	limit on time?
	(77%) agree (1	3%) disagree	(10%)	no opinion
6)	What do you think of the system overnight bushwalkers at Wilson	of compulsory was Promontory?	alking perm	mits for
	(85%) agree (1	0%) disagree	(5%)	no opinion
7)	Do you agree with the idea of me park being limited by the Parks	aximum length of Service?	your stay	in the
	(45%) agree (4	4%) disagree	(11%)	no opinion
8)	How do you react to: (a) evidence of past groups in	Pleased	Upset	No opinion
	camping area (e.g. campfire tent-clearings etc.)	s, (45%)	(33%)	(22%)
	(b) having a large group move alongside your campsite uninvited	(10%)	(56%)	(34%)
	(c) being within sight and hearing distance of other groups in a camping area	(31%)	(26%)	(43%)

# MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT



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

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