

20¢

MOUNTAINEER

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

February

MAR 1980



mountaineering 80

The Journal of Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.
An annual survey of mountain activities in Australia and
New Zealand and beyond.
Published April 1980.

Features Articles including

New Guinea Caving.
Canoeing around Tasmania
Hooker Valley Climbing
Walls of Jerusalem.

Interviews: Tobin Sorenson; John Allen.

Available from bookshops, walking shops, newsagents and from the Melbourne
University Mountaineering Club C/O Sports Union, University of Melbourne,
Parkville 3052. \$2.50 (includes postage).

THE MOUNTAINEER.

M.U. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB COMMITTEE POSITIONS 1980.

<u>PRESIDENT:</u> Iain East Ormond College	3477052
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT:</u> Jan Kirkpatrick Harold St. Wantirna	2211744
<u>TREASURER:</u> Stephen Cowden 4 Greens Crt. Mentone	936839
<u>SECRETARY:</u> Andrew Wilson 27 Sunnyside Ave. Camberwell	824665
<u>ASSISTANT SECRETARY:</u> J. Richards 315 Victoria St. West Melb.	7295396
<u>STORES OFFICER:</u> Roger Hatten 9 Pine Ridge Dcnvale	8421403
<u>EDITOR:</u> Peter Robins 13 Lucerne St. Vermont	8741630
<u>PUBLISHING OFFICER:</u> Peter Smillie St. Hildas College	3473422 8486825
<u>CONVENORS:</u> <u>BUSHWALKING:</u> Rodney Costigan 76 Park St. Moonee Ponds	3706987 (H) 6094126 (W)
<u>CAVING:</u> Sue White 123 Manningham St. Parkville	328415
<u>ROCK CLIMBING:</u> Craig Nottle 1 Kerferd Rd. Glen Iris Jim Van Gelder Ormond College	254809 3471077
<u>CANOEING:</u> Doug Haig St. Hildas College Peter Freeman 241 Royal Pde. Parkville	3473244 4198839 3473810 (H) X 7348 (W)
<u>CONSERVATION:</u> Sam Rand 36 Alexandra St. Balaclava	5273702
<u>ORIENTEERING:</u> Peter Turner 20 Crathie Ave. Park Orchards	8701128
<u>SKI-TOURING:</u> Jol Shelton 26 Kerr St. Fitzroy	3501222 (W) X607

THE MOUNTAINEER

MARCH 1980

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LETTER RECEIVED FROM KOSCIUSKO COMMITTEE

2

NEWS

3

SO YOU HAVE JOINED THE MOUNTAIN BERING CLUB

5

PIONEER HUT DAYS

Nick Reeves

10

A FLASH FLOOD IN THE MATIKITUKI

12

BOOK REVIEWS

14

LETTER RECEIVED FROM KOSCIUSKO COMMITTEE

The Plan of Management for Kosciusko National Park is under review, and it is anticipated that a considerable involvement of the public will be sought by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Two of the key issues will be (1) whether to allow more overnight accommodation within the Park, or locate future such development at Jindabyne, and (2) whether to introduce a public transport system to service resort areas.

As you are aware, the current transport and servicing arrangements are often inadequate and detract from efficient resort operation as well as the quality of local environments. Both Spencers and Perisher Creeks are unacceptably polluted. The responsibility to reverse this situation lies primarily with the National Parks and Wildlife Service; it also depends upon the awareness and cooperation of lodge users, and to a lesser degree, the skiing public.

The proposed sewerage treatment plant for Perisher Valley does not specify control of nutrients (phosphates, nitrogenous material) which results in plant growth in waterways and loss of available oxygen for aquatic fauna. The plant also cannot be guaranteed to be effective in an alpine environment.

To overcome these problems requires rationalization of development plans to control the consistent increase in overnight visitors and hence the environmental pressures.

There are major development plans proposed for Thredbo, Perisher Valley and significant proposals for Charlotte's Pass and Guthega. These plans have been designed to develop to the potential limits for the respective areas as specified in the current Plan of Management. If approved, these proposals pre-empt the new Plan and impose a situation of Kosciusko National Park that is probably insensible in terms of servicing, safety, transport and environmental requirements. In addition, it is doubtful whether the private subsidy for the resorts equates the public subsidy. Subsequently, the taxpayer will continue to support development within the Park or alternatively, the private contribution will become prohibitive for lodge owners.

What are the answers? Nobody knows the right answer for Kosciusko National Park at this stage, however there is demonstrable haste to direct management towards development.

There are several alternatives to be critically examined. These include:

- 1) locate future overnight accommodation and associated facilities at Jindabyne
- 2) implement an efficient public transport system
- 3) offer incentives for weekday skiing
- 4) encourage day skiing to alternative locations.

What is the approach?

Place a moratorium on development of overnight accommodation and related

decisions until the review of the Plan of Management is complete. This means that you will have a say in the new Plan. A series of workshops will be held in the near future.

This requires urgent action. Enclosed is a petition to the Minister for Planning and the Environment, Mr. Paul Landa, to request an immediate moratorium on such development.

Please approach your Club members to consider the petition and return to

Kosciusko Committee,
P.O. Box 1875,
Canberra City, 2601
(Phone (062) 473-064)

as soon as possible.

Donations will be gratefully received at the above address. A receipt will be furnished upon request.

Note: Petition is on Notice Board at Club.

NEWS

1. Last Summer saw the Club and its members enjoy a very successful climbing season in New Zealand. The highlight was an ascent of the Balfour Face of Mt. Tasman by Mark Moorhead with a New Zealander. Mark was lucky to find this extremely difficult face in perfect condition, being good ice all the way. The descent was enlivened by a lost crampon. Craig Nottle had a successful season, climbing Aspiring with Howard Cooper, Haidinger and Douglas with an American and a Damper-Hicks traverse with Ed Neve. Ed climbed Mattebrun with Hugh Foxcroft. Hugh had a good course with Geoff Wyatt and the week's many ascents included the S/W ridge of Aspiring and the North Ridge of Barff. At Pioneer, the West Face of Haidinger was climbed by Nick Reeves and Robyn Storer and later by Howard Cooper. Robyn and Nick made an ascent of the West Buttress of Lendenfeld. The third ascent of the North Rib on Sefton was made By Nick Reeves with a Tasmanian and New Zealander. This climb, 8000 feet high is one of the longest climbs in New Zealand.
2. Much of the club records including old minute books, financial records and correspondence have been donated to the University archives who will catalogue them and provide proper storage. The archives are anxious to expand its collection of club records and if anyone had any records, photos etc. which might be of interest and they are prepared to donate them, they should contact Andrew Reeves c/o University Archives.
3. The last committee meeting for 1979 saw the Canoeist lobby approach the committee with the news that they were seriously considering forming a breakaway canoe club within the university. At that stage their views had not been finally formed and it would seem that providing a certain amount of independence and financial self sufficiency is given to them the canoeists could do what they wanted to do but that some connection between MUMC

m and touring canoeing was desirable. The whole question will be discussed at the AGM.

4. At the same committee meeting it was decided to attempt to have a combined dinner dance with the other university mountaineering clubs. Letters have been sent to these clubs inviting their comments. This was the suggested solution to the debacle of last years non dinner dance when only ten people seemed to want to go. If anyone has any suggestions about what form this years dinner dance should take please see Howard Cooper.
5. The club sends its best wishes and congratulations to Josette and Peter Kissane who now have an instant family of five.
6. Marcia Friend (McDonald) has had a baby girl, Katie and in the United States, George Kuczera is the proud father of a baby girl. George and family are expected back in Australia later this year.

SO YOU HAVE JOINED THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

- an introduction to the Club for new members.

The Club and its facilities

The Melbourne University Mountaineering Club was established "to foster interest in, provide facilities for and publish material relating to the sport of mountaineering". Membership is open to all past and present staff and students of Melbourne University. Currently there are about 650 members.

The Club rooms are situated in the Old Meteorological Workshop, the green weatherboard building in Tin Alley behind the squash courts. The rooms are a general meeting place and is open on weekdays from 1.00-2.00pm. Here you can find out what's going on both from other members and the notice boards, as well as book for trips. There are also a few relevant books, magazines and maps on sale. You will also find

- (1) The library, which contains a wide range of books and magazines relevant to club activities which you can borrow.
- (2) The map library, which enables you to investigate the maps which are available for a particular area. With permission from the map librarian and/or bushwalking convenor you may borrow them for photostating purposes but they must not be taken on trips.
- (3) Equipment Hire Store - this room is generally locked but when stores officers are present it is open at lunchtimes. The Club hires out equipment to members. You will need your current membership card to borrow gear. Available for hire are packs, tents sleeping bags, parkas and stoves. In winter, cross country ski equipment may be hired. Specialised equipment for climbing, caving and canoeing is available for use. The climbing, caving and canoeing convenors should be consulted before borrowing such gear.
- (4) Food Store - a very small selection of camping food is sold at discount prices.

The Club also owns and maintains the Feathertop Memorial Hut which is open to all members and non members at all times. Several work parties are arranged during the summer months and regular use is made of it at other times particularly for winter snow trips.

The 'Mountaineer' is the Club magazine which is produced about five times per year. 'Mountaineering' is a glossy journal produced annually. Articles sketches, cartoons, etc., together with some assistance to editors with production jobs will be much appreciated.

Organisation of Trips

Although trips are usually advertised in the 'Mountaineer' in the Trips program, they are often subject to change or organised at the last minute. Checking out the trips book at the clubrooms is your best bet for finding out exactly what's doing for the next couple of weeks. Here you will find details of location, standard, leader, approximate cost and transport.

To book for a trip you should

- (1) fill in the trips book at the Clubrooms of a lunchtime. You will be required to give your name, course and year, address, telephone number and any other information requested such as transport required or available. Check details of trip and note any special arrangements such as a compulsory talk beforehand, particular equipment needed etc.
- (2) make yourself known to the trip leader. They will answer any of your questions and make sure you know exactly what's going on.

Limited insurance operates for all Sports Union members on all official Club trips, but this does not cover transport to and from an area.

Club Contact System - occasionally a trip is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and it is necessary to contact parents. This is one reason why a detailed trip list is important. You will be given a sheet outlining who should be contacted in such circumstances. Give this to your parents or others who may worry.

ROCK CLIMBING

The past couple of years have seen a great renewal of interest in climbing in the club and currently it's a thriving club activity. While climbing is certainly a thrill sport, you don't have to be fantastically strong or gymnastic to enjoy it.

In first term, a beginner's course is held and this consists of a couple of instructional evenings and a couple of weekends away. We have a good range of gear and initially all you'll need is 15 ft. of 2" seat belt webbing for a waistloop, a screw gate karabiner and a pair of sandshoes or boots. If you can't make the course, beginners are welcome on most trips.

There are climbing trips nearly every weekend. However they are generally organized at short notice and often do not appear in the Mountaineer. The trips book is your best bet or alternatively contact the Climbing Convenor. The most popular climbing areas are Mt. Arapiles (near Horsham), the Grampians, Mt. Buffalo, Hanging Rock, Werribee Gorge and the Cathedral Range (Sugarloaf and the Jawbones). For safety's sake, if you're not on a club trip, you can only borrow club climbing gear if you're competent. Most people are regarded as competent climbers after 3-4 weekends away.

While the best place to learn is on the cliffs, 'Basic Rockcraft' by Robbins and 'Mountaineering' by Blackshaw contain some good information.

CANOEING

Another very popular club activity. The club mainly goes in for white water touring - the most popular rivers are the Yarra, Delatite and Macalister but any canoeable water will do. Occasionally the canoeists head off to the beach and do a bit in the sur. We also compete in slalom events organized by the Victorian Amateur Canoe Association and hold eskimo rolling sessions in the Beaurepaire pool; both are good ways of improving your skills. Each year we send a team to the Intervarsity competition.

The frequency of trips is very dependent on water levels, but on average there's one every two weeks. They are advertised in the Mountaineer but

sometimes go at shorter notice (so again make sure you read the trips book or the notice board). We'll be holding a beginner's course in first term. Before a trip, there's normally a work party to get the boats in shape (these are held in the old weight room under the main oval scoreboard)..If you can't make the beginner's course contact the Canoeing Convenor or go along to a work party when it's advertised. 'Let's Try Canoeing by Ferguson, 'Canoe Skills and Canoe Expedition Techniques' by Williams and 'Canoeing Guide to Victorian Rivers' by the VACA are good reading.

CAVING

Most of the caving in the club is done in close association with the Victorian Speliological Association (V.S.A.) The cavers go away at least once a month, usually to places such as Buchan, Limestone Creek, Bindi, Glenelg River, Babs Ridges (Portland) and Naracoorte. Longer trips are held to the Nullabor Plain, Yarrangobilly (Snowy Mts) and Northern Tasmania.

Beginners are always welcome. You'll need old clothes or a boiler suit and a sturdy pair of boots. You can borrow a helmet and a carbide lamp from the club. These plus two other independent sources of light are essential. If you want to try caving contact the Caving Convenor or see the notice board at Aikman's.

SKI TOURING

A fantastic way to explore the alpine areas in winter. Ski-touring is effectively hiking on skis as opposed to being confined to one slope as you are on downhill skis. Because of the more extreme conditions, you'll need better equipment than for bushwalking and you'll have to know how to camp in the snow.

A beginner's ski touring course is held in second term which will probably consist of an instructional evening and a weekend away. We also run a beginner's snow walk in second term which is a good introduction to snow camping techniques and the sort of conditions you'll experience touring.

Trips again tend to be organized at short notice and to be sure you should check the trips book or contact the ski-touring convenor. The club has 12 pairs of touring skis together with boots available for hire. They're very popular and you'll have to get in early. 'Nordic Touring and Cross Country Skiing' by Brady and 'The New Cross-Country Ski Book' by Caldwell are good books.

ORIENTEERING

A cross country navigational run (walk) in which a competitor has to find his own way from control point to control point over a course marked on his map. A good way to improve your navigational ability.

Events are organized by the Victorian Orienteering Association (of which MUMC is an active member) at least every second Sunday within about 50 miles of Melbourne. Coming events are advertised in the Mountaineer or alternatively you can join the VOA and receive their regular newsletters. There will be a beginner's instructional evening in first term. If you have any enquiries contact the Orienteering Convenor. Suggest you read 'Orienteering' by Disley for a good introduction.

MUMC is responsible for organizing 2-3 events during the year - any assistance with this will be much appreciated.

SNOW AND ICE CLIMBING

Real mountaineering - the ultimate.

The lack of really high mountains and permanent snow in Australia limits snow and ice-climbing to only a few weekends in the winter. Mt. Feathertop Mt. Bogong and the Snowy Mountains are about the only possibilities. However each summer MUMC has several members heading off to New Zealand to climb. MUMC holds its own 2 or 3 day instruction course based at the Club hut on Mt. Feathertop in the second term vac. If you're interested, you should read 'Mountaineering' by Blackshaw and 'On Ice' by Chouinard.

THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR WALK

A perennial event in the Club, usually held on the weekend nearest the full moon in midwinter. It involves navigating from checkpoint to checkpoint and travelling as far as you can over the course in 24 hours. A good test of endurance and navigation.- particularly during the long hours of darkness. Regularly spaced "Hash Houses" provide food, warmth and the opportunity to rest or withdraw. Pick your team carefully - it can really make or break a beautiful friendship.

Each year there is also an Intervarsity 24 hour organized and MUMC enters teams in this.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CONSERVATION

MUMC is very involved in conservation - we are associate members of the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Conservation Council of Victoria and The Victorian National Parks Association. We obviously have a vested interest in preserving what good bush country remains. Club policy has always been to leave the bush exactly as we find it. However it has become necessary to act on a larger scale and to publicly present our point of view. Recently the Club has been involved in preparing submissions for the Land Conservation Council in the hope of having more National Parks created in Victoria. We are also active on the South West Action Committee which is trying to save the last great Australian wilderness - South West Tasmania - from being destroyed. We are generally trying to do something about the consumer-orientated society which, with its ever increasing demand for resources, is destroying some of our most beautiful country.

If you're interested in helping out contact the Conservation Convenor - there's a lot to be done.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

We run evening or lunch time meetings reasonably frequently throughout the year when we try and arrange a speaker or films, or else show slides. Pub nights are also organized.

PUBLICATIONS

The Club has published two books. "Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering" is a guide to all the gear that's around for the rucksack sports

and also contains some good information if you're just starting out. (If you're interested in testing equipment and documenting it, contact the Convenor of that subcommittee). "Bushwalking in the Victorian Alps" contains track notes for nearly every walk in the Victorian alpine area. Both are outstanding publications and have filled a real need. We also have a Club Song Book which is good for a long van trip. You can buy all these publications down at Aikman's.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Club has quite a few members in The Federation Of Victorian Walking Clubs search and rescue section. This involves having yourself organized enough so that within a few hours after a callout, you're ready to assist the police in searching for people who've gone astray in the bush. You'll need to be reasonably experienced and be approved by Committee, but it's an excellent way of giving something back to the community who've given us such a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.

CLUB ORGANIZATION

The Club is associated with Sports Union which gives us an annual grant for equipment and some running expenses. Club membership fees are used to supplement this as well as covering the expenses of publishing the 'Mountaineer', running or subsidising functions, paying insurance premiums etc.

The Club committee are responsible for the general running of the Club and consist of:

President	
Vice-president	
Secretary	
Assistant secretary	These members of
Treasurer	the committee are
Stores Officer	elected at the AGM
Editor of the 'Mountaineer'	
Publications Officer	
Climbing representative	
Canoeing representative	
Ski touring representative	These committee
Caving representative	members are nominated
Conservation representative	by their respective
Bushwalking convenor	subcommittees.

When the history of New Zealand Fascism is written due prominence will be paid to that distant outpost of the Third Reich, the Fox Motor Camp. For there, two old crones run the place and the lives of its inmates with an interfering and restrictive iron hand that the Gestapo would have approved of. Sure the old ladies were polite enough as we wandered into the camp store and asked to purchase some food and soft drink. But once we inquired about the chances of being able to spend the night there the politeness with which they took our money changed to suspicion. A cross examination commenced about our desired length of stay, sexual preferences, inclination to wash and the nature of our camping equipment. It was only when convinced that our ice screws, snowstakes and bivvy bags were expensive ultralight tentage that they consented to let us stay. If these old ladies were bad, that night the sandflies were worse.

Given the limited delights that the township of Fox Glacier offers it was with relief that we were able to fly through a gap in the clouds and land in a plain 20 minutes from Pioneer Hut. A short grunt later we had reached that fabled mountain haven and had entered into the inquiries and comments that herald the arrival of a new party to a climbing hut high in the hills.

To our surprise the next day was fine and we were able to climb. Robyn and I had chosen the West Face of Haidinger, a classic rock and ice climb. The start of the route was less than thirty minutes from the hut. With two friends, Mike and Russ we gathered on a ledge at the base of a buttress. Above were 500 feet of slabs, solid rock tilted at 60 degrees. Two great streaks of verglas restricted our route finding options to a limited area of dry rock between them. Forced out of the obvious corner system, the climbing was exhilarating moves on the slabs. A small roof provided the crux at about grade 13. Traversing across the streak of verglas to gain the ice field was also tricky. After two reasonably steep patches the ice fields steepness eased and the climb became of pitches, quickly front pointed. We belayed off snow stakes and both teams were able to climb side by side. The climbing was good and the conversation and companionship better.

It was windy upon the summit and we did not linger. The first two hundred feet down the descent route along the main divide were very tricky. We were slower than normal as a woman had died at this spot ten days before. We could see in an inaccessible spot, remains of the accident, being slings and bits of rope. After an age, we were all past the bad bit and an easy ridge.

To our even greater surprise the next day was fine too. Tired after the previous day's effort we selected another short climb on Lendenfeld. We had intended to climb the West Buttress, which to our knowledge had not had a repeat ascent. Problems arose when, attempting to find a reasonably direct approach we found ourselves in a maze of crevasses. Having spent some time finding a way out we decided to plod up the easy way via Marcel Col. As we climbed up towards the Col the extent of the plod before us became apparent just as an easy approach to the buttress offered itself. We took the hint and moved right to the rock.

The fact that this buttress has been so rarely ascended is amazing. There are two hard pitches but these could be avoided by easier variants. Most parties that climb Lendenfeld by Marcel Col would romp up the buttress and

have a far more worthwhile day. We found good rock and pleasant climbing. The last rock pitch was superb. A crack system led right, out over a void and a final short jamb crack led to the top of the step. Unlike many alpine rock pitches, runner placements were frequently made.

When the next day was fine we suffered little shock as all were asleep. As pleasant as climbing is sunbaking at a Mountain Hut eating goodies and drinking copious amounts of hot refresh. Hut bashing commenced in a more serious form the next day as the unprecedented eight day fine spell came to an end. Amidst cloud, strong wind and a constant threat of rain we took the opportunity one morning to sneak out to the village before the weather came in earnest.

Spring floods in Otago and Southland were frequent news items last year, however one flood of more particular interest to mountaineers passed almost unnoticed.

On the evening of October 25, John Aspinall noted the river at Mount Aspiring Station was low and clear. The next morning it was again low, but was unusually dirty. There were other unusual features too, such as blocks of ice stranded 50cm above the water level at Camerons Flat, and 2m above it at Wilsons Bluff.

Peter Plew, of Aspiring Air was over the Matukituki on a scenic flight about 8 am. the same morning (26th) but noticed nothing unusual. However, on his next flight at about 11.20 am. he saw a tremendous cloud of dust in and around Gloomy Gorge, with bits of rock still falling from Rob Roy. The dust cloud had not dispersed when he passed by on his next flight some 50 minutes later.

Subsequently the news filtered back to Dunedin that Pearl Flat had been devastated, and so on November 18 we made a brief inspection of Gloomy Gorge on our way into the Dart. Unfortunately a heavy fall of fresh snow obscured many of the details, but we were able to get the general picture.

There used to be a lake in Gloomy Gorge - the map shows it as some 300m long by 200m wide. Where it had been was a huge pile of rock debris perhaps 20m high. There was no clear indication of where it had come over the headwall of the cirque, indicating it had been travelling at considerable velocity. Below the lake a gully about 1m deep had been carved across the flats and a fresh trim line extended down the gorge at least 5 to 10m above water level. On Pearl Flat the scene was equally awesome. Fresh silt veneered the lower half of the flat. The mouth of Gloomy Gorge was marked by splintered and peeled trees and was littered with boulders and debris. Numerous logs and smashed trees littered the bush edge and blocked the track opposite the mouth of the gorge.

From these observations I have reconstructed the following description of the event.

During the small hours of the night of October 25th-26th a large piece of Rob Roy detached itself and crashed down onto the Maude Francis Glacier. It roared across 2km of glacier and over the bluffs to land fairly and squarely on the frozen lake. The high speed arrival of perhaps a million tonnes of rock abruptly displaced the contents of the lake, which surged off down the valley, gouging out its channel and stripping and plucking the vegetation as it went. A few minutes later a brown torrent of water, mud sand, rocks, and logs burst out onto Pearl Flat. The debris temporarily dammed the Matukituki at the bottom end of the flat, ponding up the water for a distance of 300m, and to a depth of up to about 3m. This dam apparently broke after a short time and a wall of water with its load of debris and floating blocks of ice was released into the Matukituki. Stranded silt and debris indicated the river rose 4 to 5 metres on Shovel Flat, probably about 3 metres at Aspiring Hut, 2 metres at Wilsons Bluff and 0.5 metres at Camerons Flat. Most of the large debris was deposited at or before Shovel Flat, but a trail of stranded ice extended at least 20km down the valley. By 7am. it was all over.

The next rock fall occurred about 10am. resulting in the dust cloud seen

by Peter Plew, but as there was little if any water left in Gloomy Gorge the river was not affected significantly. Rockfalls continued at intervals throughout the summer, and on January 11 a dust cloud was visible from Wanaka. Photographs taken on February 10 revealed that the volume of rock fall debris in Gloomy Gorge had approximately doubled, although it was clear from the nature of the deposit of the new material, and the stranded rocks on the glacier and on ledges on the bluffs that the later falls had not arrived with the same velocity as the early ones. The photographs also indicate that an appreciable volume of ponded water is again accumulating in Gloomy Gorge, and some reports suggest that some of the subsequent falls have also been accompanied by surges of water down Gloomy Gorge. It might be best to camp up at the top end of Pearl Flat if you are thinking of stopping there, although there doesn't appear to be any real risk unless the lake reforms in the head of Gloomy Gorge. Unfortunately, from Pearl Flat there is no way of telling if it has.

Reprinted from the New Zealand Alpine Club Journal 1979.

BOOK REVIEWS

Land of Mountains

Peter Radcliffe

Methuen 1979

\$24.50

This book is in the tradition of those previous pictorials on New Zealand Mountains - Temptes "Mantle of the Skies" and Harris and Master's "A Land Apart". Like such works it has been published with an eye to the general purchasing public. The text contains a miscellany of potted history, basic technique and common place information: all jumbled up and often superficial.

However the collection of photographs is very fine and these make the book worthwhile. There are many good climbing shots and large colour plates abound. Whilst the Mt. Cook region is given its usual prominent place other areas including Mt. Egmont, Ruapahew, the Hopkins Valley and Arthur's Pass are given attention. Unless you collect New Zealand climbing books this book is probably too expensive to purchase but it is certainly worth seeking out for a browse through. It will give many ideas for future New Zealand trips.

Tales of the Australian Mountains

Niall Brennan

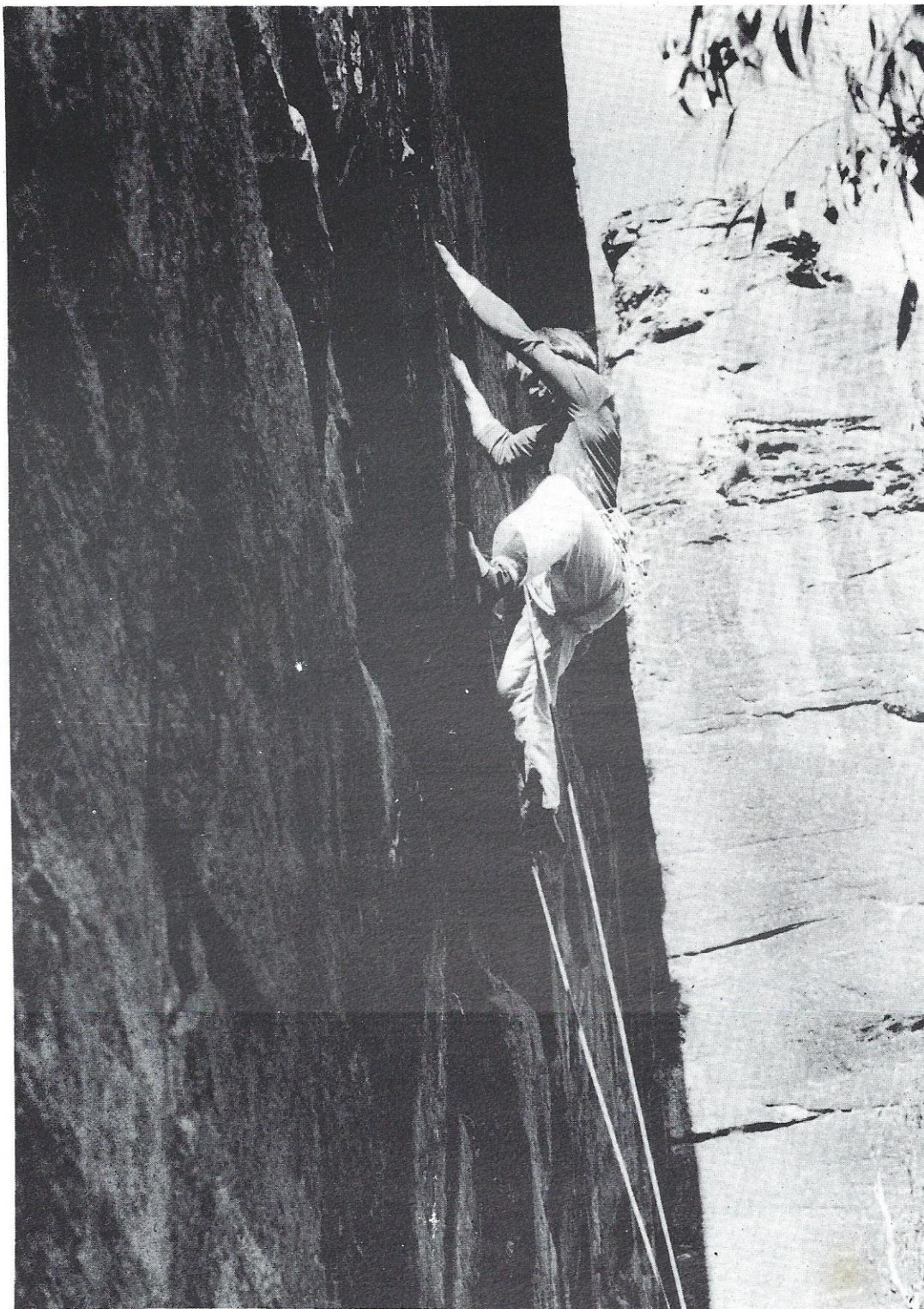
\$9.95

As Niall Brennan is traditionally regarded as the founder of MUMC this book has some interest to club members. It does contain some references to MUMC. There is a chapter on Sir Thomas Cherry, first club president and heavy and there is also a chapter on some of the early personalities of the club, alas, each heavily disguised under an alias. Brennan describes MUMC as, apart from his children, the most successful thing he started.

The book treads a precarious path between formal historical narrative and personal anecdotes. The anecdotes are better than the history. For example, his account of the 1939 bushfires is very superficial, although spread over many pages. It compares unfavourably with the treatment of the fires by Dick Johnson in the Alps at the Crossroads. Yet, his many tales of the characters of the bush, often give flesh to the barebones of a Johnson catalogue of facts about some person. Recent tragedies and searches are given especially detailed treatment.

An odd mixture of history, old tales, and personal recollection this book is worth a read. Fascinating glimpses are given of those long gone heady pioneering days of walking and skiing before the masses of people intruded. These glimpses are all too brief.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT



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

JOANNY-RIVORY CLIMBING ROPES.

SINGLE 11mm (7 falls U.I.A.A.)

50m length \$88.00
45m length \$79.00

DOUBLE 9mm (actual size 10mm
12 U.I.A.A. Falls)
50m length \$66.00

*Mail Orders to Victoria Post free!

WHEN IN SYDNEY, COME AND SEE US
62 CLARENCE ST SYDNEY 29 4840
17 FALCON ST CROWS NEST 439 2454

* POST MAIL TO BOX 703 CROWS NEST 2065 *





"VANGO FORCE TEN, I presume..."

If you're shopping for lightweight camping gear, bush-walking or rockclimbing equipment, canoes or bicycles we've got the range and experienced people to advise you.

ESTABLISHED 1854
molony's

●CITY (Opp GPO) 197 Elizabeth St. Phone 67 8428, 60 1101	●MALVERN 1171 High Street Phone 20 2477	●WODONGA Shop 7-8 Crystal Court 25 South St. (060)24 5488
--	---	---