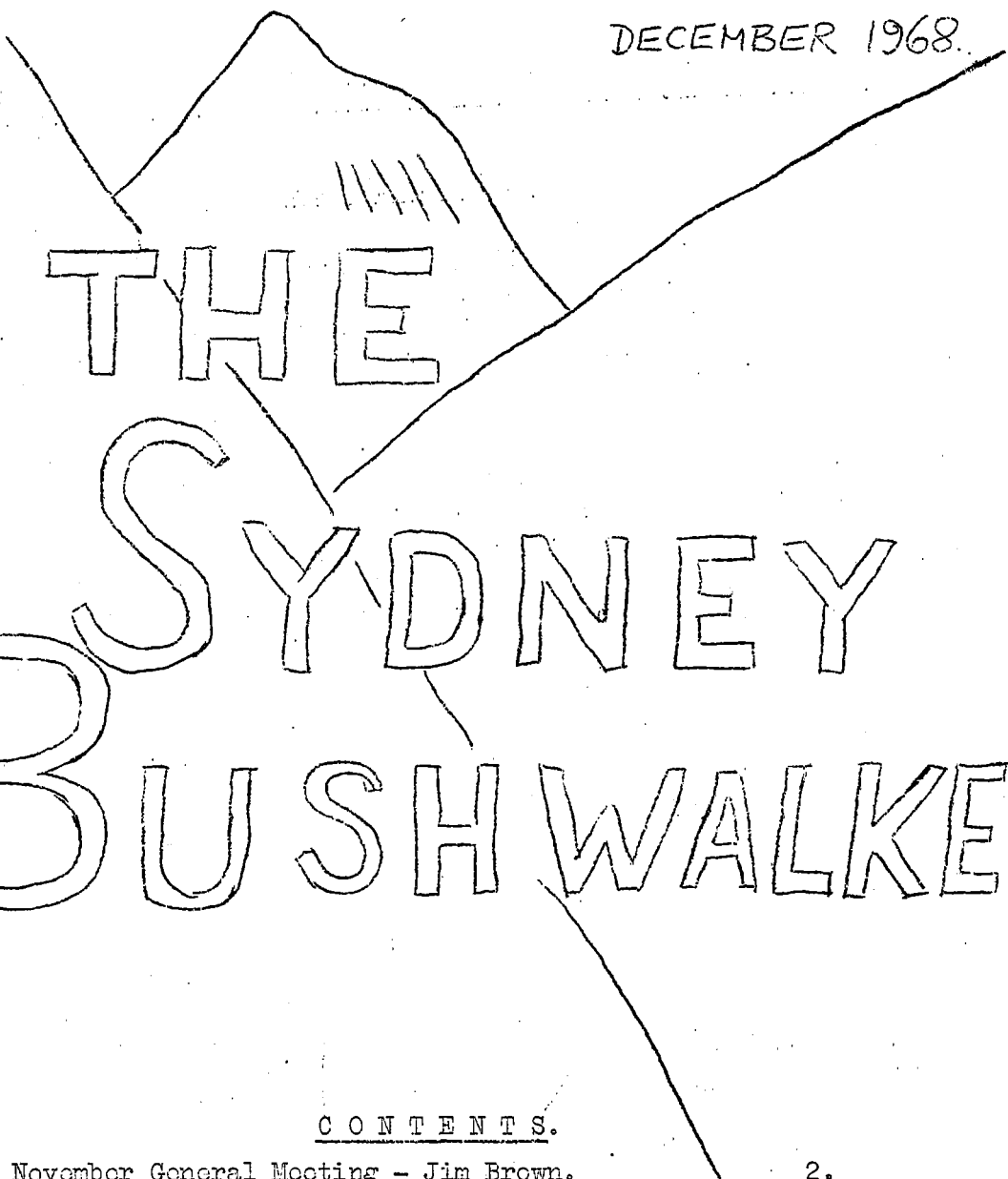


DECEMBER 1968.



# THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

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A monthly bulletin of matters of interest to  
the Sydney Bushwalkers, Northcote Building,  
Reiby Place, Circular Quay, Sydney.  
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THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

Jim Brown.

Vice President Bill Kotas occupied the chair, presenting an urbane and cheerful countenance to his first assemblage of walkers. For a change there was a quartet of males as new members, including even one with that name - Ted Van der Male: there were also Doug Frewer, Ross Hughes and Eric Rhodes.

There was an early call for announcements, in order to get some walks information over before anyone left, the Minutes of October were confirmed, and from this, and also from Correspondence there was no business arising. The Conservation Secretary had joined in the barrage of correspondents, writing about limestone mining at Colong to the Ministers for Lands and Mines. An amount of \$25 had been voted for Betty Farquhar to organise children's events at the Reunion.

The Treasurer reported current funds at \$540, a reduction of \$140 on the previous month's figure. The dinner dance had caused a loss of about \$68, and there appeared to be some discrepancy in the number of tickets printed, sold and returned unsold. Jack Gentle moved, and it was carried, that the missing tickets be sought, as our funds were accountanble.

Walks Report revealed reasonable high activity in October, commencing with the Labour Day weekend, when Ken Ellis, deputising for Owen Marks, led a party of 15 in windy weather around the Castle area, and Ross Wyborn had a large party at Watson's Crags. David Cotton replaced Sheila Binns as leader of the Blue Gum trip, and reported 5 people and very dry conditions. Ivy Painter and Owen Marks both lead day walks on October 20th, 19 being on one trip in the Wondabyne area and 20 on Owen's Kangaroo Creek jaunt. Don Finch's trip to the Bendothera area on 25-27th October was curtailed owing to bushfires, and the same weekend saw Jack Perry with 10 people on a day walk at Hawkesbury River. The opening weekend of November, Alex Colley's Barren Ground trip was cancelled owing to fire hazards, and Allan Wyborn's jaunt on the Upper Wollongambe Creek had 12 people, and some difficult going which prevented them reaching The Crater.

Barry Wallace queried the absence of comment on the fatality which occurred on the Watson's Crags snow trip: the Walks Secretary explained that he had not yet received an "official report", but was able to furnish some information, indicating it had been an unfortunate mishap, involving a fall on an iccaxe. The victim survived some time, and the actual cause of death was considered to be pneumonia caused no doubt by exposure.

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Federation Report mentioned that Rock Rescue required equipment costing \$500 - somewhat in excess of current S & R funds. On Conservation matters it was mentioned that the pieces of land near Colong which had been reded to the park were the "bits the cement people didn't want." There was also dismay at the beach mining proposals along the North Coast. A S & R practice, in co-operation with police and other avid defence organisations would be held either near Wiseman's Ferry or in Dharug National Park on 30th November and 1st December.

In General Business, Jack Gentle proposed that the Dungalla Club be invited to affiliate with SBW since the new Club was basically made up of ex-SBW or SBW members. Some discussion followed, and it was mentioned that the Club had asked for a copy of the Dungalla constitution which was still awaited. Gordon Rodmond said a copy was being forwarded, but the motion was lost.

David Ingram suggested a couple of measures that might be adopted in following the previous month's resolution to provide activities likely to keep the interest of old members: there could be a deliberately short walk on a fixed weekend each month, and some organised theatre parties.

Wulf Hilder reported the presence of some trails on the Bulli-Coal Cliff area which had been "exposed" by the bushfires. He also sought any information members may have about Black's Ladders (near Nelly's Glen) and advised that a reprint of the veteran Blue Mountains/Burraborang map, also maps covering the Kaputar Mountains had been released.

Then it was 9.20, and all over, and the Bone was put to rest.

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T H E A T R E   P A R T Y .

"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW" on Thursday, February 13, 1969.

Owing to an exorbitant increase in the meals over there, it has been decided to have a theatre party without dinner. The show starts at 8.15 p.m. and costs only \$1.10.

Please contact Owen Marks, 30.1827 or Social Secretary Barry Pacey at the Club. All members are invited and are welcome to bring as many friends as they wish.

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BLUE MOUNTAINS PASSES

Pat Harrison

4. CROWN MOUNTAIN is the Mount Solitary of the Capertee Valley and well deserves its name, for it is like nothing so much as the circlet that crowns a kingly head. As you drive down the valley there are ever-changing views of the mountain, and from some angles it appears to be a complete circle. This is not true of course, for Crown Mountain is about a mile long and somewhat narrow, its general direction being north-south.

Viewed from any vantage point the Crown seems impregnable and unassailable, but in actual fact there are passes at the northern and southern ends and all that is necessary to find them is to walk up the steep buttresses until the cliffs are met and then look for the break.

At the southern end the pass begins in a cleft and after a scramble culminates in another cleft with a slight overhang. The northern end is a walk-up, apart from two places where short-legged people might need a push.

In favourable times water may be found in a soak at the north-eastern corner of the mountain. A good way to traverse Crown Mountain is to pick up an old vehicular track near Genowlan Mountain, follow it down to Airly Creek, then go up Coco Creek (usually dry) until you meet the spur which swings you around under the southern cliffs of Crown Mountain - and Bob's your uncle.

The topography is shown on the 1:50000 military map Glen Alice

5. THE GLOW WORM TUNNEL is the second of two tunnels on the disused Shale Railway Line between Newnes Junction on the Main Western Railway and the old village of Newnes in the Wolgan Valley. This railway line, which was something of an engineering feat when it was built about the turn of the century, was used to transport the products of the oil shale from the walled-in Wolgan Valley. The shale mine fell on bad times, and the railway tracks were pulled up and taken away, but the tunnels still remain as a reminder of past enterprise and as a present handy means of access to the beautiful, walled valley of the Wolgan.

It is about 24 miles from the signposted turnoff on the Great Western Highway near Clarence to the mouth of the second tunnel, along a road which is in good condition and which appears to be kept that way since the Prisons Department took charge of the Pine Forests out there. You drive through the first tunnel but walk through the second one and come out under high cliffs whence there is a magnificent view of the valley. The Wolgan, like the Capertee valley, has its isolated mountain, known as Mount Wolgan or The Donkey Mountain.

The old hotel in the valley is still licensed but only sells the amber fluid in bottles; however, it tastes just as good after walking down the old permanent way. The inside of the hotel is more notable for its picture gallery. Maps needed are the military Wallerawang 1:63360 and Glen Alice 1:50000.

6. GREEN GULLY PASS is the shortest way from Newnes in the Wolgan Valley to Glen Davis in the Caportee Valley. This pass has also become known as the Pipeline Pass, from the pipe which carried the shale fuel from Glen Davis before that town was abandoned and the shale works broken up.

The pass on the Wolgan side begins about two miles downstream from the Newnes hostelry and goes up, over, and down Green Gully to the Caportee side.

Some care is necessary to ensure that the beginnings of the pass are found on either side. There are good views of the Wolgan cliffs from the top.

Maps needed are the military 1:50000 Glen Alice and Glen Davis.



"AFRAID ROSS IS PAST HIS PEAK."

THE LAST THROES OF WINTER

"Fred"

The last day the snow at the top of the duplex was shaved smooth and then frozen with the wind. You balanced against the wind as it blow you towards the cornice, getting loops straightened, bindings checked and hoping you could do all these things before the wind took you over the edge. I was wearing gloves and my hands would sweat and then freeze again coming up, so I always had difficulty getting my hands back through the loops again. The wind, coming over the top, was very rough.

Everyone was skiing over the cornice, then swinging across the moguls which were frozen too, and were dangerous to turn on with the wind taking your balance and freezing the track and everyone going so fast. The cornice was very steep but safe and it was like rounding out, mushing down in an aircraft so after you were coming up your heart and lungs and stomach, especially your stomach, were still compressed and your knees were compressed and starting to run apart, hands beginning to sweat a lot, then having to swing before the crusted snow, swinging, then on a just balanced traverse and the wild excitement coming back after the sweat. Later in the day the moguls softened and I could turn on them and swing in great arcs under the duplex, going fast and safe, clattering right onto the lift, so that when we stopped just after two I was tired, and knowing something could crack at the pace, content to go home.

They had been four wonderful days.

On the days we went into Perisher there had been overnight drift and some new snow and the air, very early in the morning was cold with frost crystals sparkling on the hard crust and, leading, I went very cautiously through the trees. On the second day the drift was in the air with the blizzard coming and with white skis, no horizon, no visibility, the snow hard and very fast. I thumped into the Perisher Creek without seeing it and felt the pack roll up my back, then I was out of the creek and still moving. The others, coming behind, saw me go into the creek and could stop. We had lunch on the first day at the top of the chair lift, behind a rock, in bright sunshine. Biscuits and paste and cheese then with honey, fruit juice and fruit cake and then more fruit juice. Looking out over an immensity of snow and then at the delicate world of frost crystals and snow plastered on old lichened rock. The second day Phil brought hot water in a thermos and we made Bonox. We had that meal sitting on our skis, all the food set out on the snow in front of us and the very proper people in the queue looking at us rather oddly.

Both days we skied until late then across all the tows and the runs, through the trees and around lodges, on hard snow and caterpillar ruts, over buried and half buried tows to the creek and then trudged slowly across the flat, sliding skis, pushing down hard for heels to grip, then sliding skis on again. On the road the caterpillar tracks were hard and

STOP PRESS

Available shortly in a series of booklets.  
Route Guides to South-West Tasmania produced  
by Hobart Walking Club as a guide and general  
information on tracks in this area. Also available  
from Paddy's all maps and general information on  
S.W. Tassie, Field West, The Arthur Ranges, The  
Federation Peak area, Picton La Perouse, Cox  
Bight-Iron Bounds, Lune River, Precipitous Bluff.

PADDY PALLIN AND STAFF EXTEND TO ALL BUSHWALKERS

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

=====

ruttet then towards the end of the road the tracked vehicles had made immense corrugations like undamped harmonics. They were wild to run over.

At night it was mild and we could sit by the fire in stockinged feet. Whillier slept by the fire and would wake long before light and push more wood into the fire, then go back to sleep. He was in Paddy's Langlauf and still training. It was sixteen or seventeen years since he had been in a race. He was older by that much and more sunburnt and garrulous. When I made introductions everyone had met somewhere or other. Bertie had found two bushwalkers in the race. He brought them down in the evening and we sat by the fire and drank beer and Bertie and the bushies discussed their training methods. Bertie had run for miles everyday and then on the morning of the race had eaten a peculiar mess of Milo, custard, born sugar and fruit juice. Just to make sure he wouldn't "burn out" during the race he had a packet of Sustagen as he drove up the mountain. The bushies had eased off their training by running up and down all the tracks to Blue Gum and then, finishing at Govetts, had run back around the road to Perrys. It was twelve or fourteen thousand feet in a day. Ray and Bertie had both done two hours and thirty minutes. We had seen the start of the race from the chairlift. From a distance they were ants on a honey trail. Trudging home that night they ghosted past us.

I would stand outside the queue smoking a cigarette watching for the others, picking them out by their steady precise skiing, watching them come down the long smoothed slope under the duplex. I saw Helen run into soft snow, then on the opposite traverse she stopped and kick-turned. When she came down I said,

-You cheated.

-You saw that kick turn?

-Yes

-I hurt my knee.

-Badly?

-Too bad for housework. Not for skiing. Isn't that a reasonable distinction?

At night we would pick up conversations, thoughts, scandalous, scabrous stories of our contemporaries that we had begun on the lifts. I had done all the cooking and catering. Sylvia did the camp work and Helen washed up. After we had eaten I would put on a cauldron for washing up water. When it boiled I would take it off, Helen would let it cool until it needed boiling again, until a lull in the stories corresponded with the correct temperature, damn it. We were having coffee.

-This is beautiful. How do you make it?

-Cold water, don't let it boil, fairly strong.

-Any special blend. Mocha? Kenya?

-Just fresh.

-George came home and said "Bill Gillan makes beautiful coffee." He had me try everything, new blends, percolating, boiling, not boiling. New pots. Still he said it wasn't as good as yours.

-When did I give him coffee?

-Before the winter. The Budawangs.

I remembered the night. We had finished the Jews of Planetary



Motions and were on to the synergistic effects of drugs. Especially the improvement in the flavour of coffee if whisky is added to it. I said, -There is whisky in that coffee. I always put whisky in coffee. -This is beautiful coffee.

I told the story of the young husband who complained that his wife couldn't make gravy in the style of his mother. She tried all ways then in desperation one night she threw a handful of flour into the pan and said "--- him". The gravy was just as his mother made it.

We brought the children down at the end of the week, but there had been a blizzard all the time. Then it came on to rain and blow very hard. Two children died in the snow at Thredbo and others ran into trees in the high wind. The cornice had avalanched along its whole length but it did not matter because the lifts were all under snow and the snow itself was soft and dangerous so we went home again.

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#### NOTICES:

The editor would like the words for the following songs for the song book :  
Dinah, Eumarella Shore, Gypsy Rover, Isle of the Apple, Old Bark Hut, On the Banks of the Condamine, Trampers Lament, Walker Love, Wandering the King's Highway, Where have all the flowers gone?

---

The Wagg family have again scored with another addition to the family. The new arrival, a girl, Catrina brings the total score for Geoff and Grace to four (two of each). Congratulations to Grace and Geoff.

---

Another Bushwalking Link. Bob Pallin and Nancy Moppett were married on December 7. Nancy is the daughter of Tom and Jean Moppett who have been members of the SBW for many years. Bob of course needs no introduction. All the best, Bob and Nancy.

---

Rona Butler and Jack Pettigrew were married on December 6. The occasion was celebrated with a Maori Oven type barbecue. Rona and Jack of all places are going to - yes, you guessed it - south west tassie for their honeymoon. Congratulations, Rona and Jack.

---

Another Wedding. Kerry Hore married Bo Anderson last month. Kerry has been a member of the club for a few years. Bo has also been seen on some club walks. Congratulations are due to Kerry and Bo.

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10.

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Book Review - BETWEEN WOODJIL AND TOR. Barbara York Main; Jacaranda Press, Landfall Press. 1967.

Science, when I made that fateful turn into Harris Street, was Physical Chemistry; Cathode Ray Oscilloscopes were very new and Nuclear Physics had really big letters. Zoology and Biology were for girls and, as I failed to perceive, were more often than not taught by girls, or more precisely young women. Phys.Chem. had been terrorised into generations of Tech. College students by a male, born old and the matured, like Prometheus, on his rock to which he was bound by surface tension and the concept of fugacity. In the adjoining lecture room Zoo. and Bio. were the province of a woman, barely of voting age, audaciously blonde, tall, smiling, sunburnt. Student unrest is not an invention of the present generation.

Perhaps to compensate for that obviously wrong choice of career, I am now a compulsive reader of the life sciences.

Colong showed Conservation is by no means dead; that some are prepared to trot daintily down Parramatta Road in its defence, or to shake their Party Tradition in its preservation. If we had possessed an integrated study of Colong similar to Barbara York Main's intense study of a small area we may have done better. The campaign salvaged for the time being some of Colong.

We know vaguely what is in our National Parks, botanists have classified the flora, in some parks a start has been made on the faunal populations, and geologists, only incidentally, can tell us what is under our feet. But nowhere can we readily produce a body of knowledge to show why one area is unique and how the intrusion of civilisation, for want of a better word, by destroying one component will destroy the whole. Dr. Main's loving study of a small area could well be the model ~~that~~ a Wild Life and National Park Service might sponsor.

The book is a fascinating account of a small area marginal to the wheat belt of Western Australia. The land is bounded on one side by the fences of successful wheatfarms, to keep stock out, and on the other side by a granite outcrop. Before the discovery of trace elements the land was "too poor" for wheat and the unreliability of the rainfall and increasing aridity saved it from exploitive grazing. The vegetation is "wodjil" a climax vegetation of acacias, mallees and a prickly assortment of hakeas, grevilleas and casuarinas; in many ways similar to the flora of the heaths of our closer National Parks, if in fact climax floras have been preserved. The fauna living on the edge of a scaring desert are markedly different. Dr. Main's particular field of interest has been the trapdoor spiders and the planktonic life in the seasonal, normally dry, ponds and the techniques evolved to survive in incredible but recurring sets of conditions.

Survival through the summer for both fauna and flora is normally by two ways, aestivation or summer dormancy or through an inter-phase in the life cycle. Aestivation in animals takes the form of preferred temperatures and some means of storing food and waste in the body until the preferred conditions of temperature and humidity are met. In the trapdoor spider of Western Australia, the male does not survive throughout the year, whereas the female is long lived spending the summer insulated from the heat, her body in contact with the deep moist ground. The male trapdoor will only "wander" on nights when it is dowy with an air temperature of 17°C, conditions which also, specifically stimulate the female to breed. Allure among the arachnids. Allied with this tight reproductive control is "adaptive polymorphism" - some of the offspring will line their burrows with twigs and so escape drowning, but will succumb to fires while some of the offspring will have an earth lid and will survive the fire but not rain. The species of lizards all have different temperatures at which they are most active so forage only when their preferred food is available and do not compete with other species. In turn these lizards have heat and cold resistant forms so that some will survive the occasional years of unusual frost or more than extreme heat. Some termites and nitrogen-fixing bacteria live only on casuarina needles shed by the tree to reduce water loss. In short interdependence of rainfall, temperature and climax population is demonstrated.

The vegetation has adapted to a "fire-regeneration" cycle-mallee rooted or dormant buds on the roots giving sucker growth to eucalypts or "dehiscent" fruit, fruit which sheds its seeds after mechanical damage or fire damage to the parent; the seed preferably germinating in an ash bed. This is a cycle adapted to lightning-induced fires, certainly pre-dating agricultural "burning-off". It works, I feel, because of the winter nature of the rainfall, light gentle falls and the existence of a peneplain of low relief. A tentative method of similar fire control is used in the Jarrah and Karri forests to avert disastrous "bush fires".

In the Sydney area, although a similar flora is fire regenerated the violent nature of our autumn and early winter rains causes such intense run-off after litter removal to silt, with sand, our rivers. Soil conservation studies of the Cowan Hornsby ridge show fantastic sand silting after fires in the Hawkesbury estuary. Similar studies of the Colo and MacDonalld Rivers indict burning off and timber-getting activities as far west as Coricudgy; disruption of one parameter or factor will alter the appearance, utility and beauty of a whole basin system. The Hacking River siltation is not unrelated to the Royal National Park fires.

The line drawings in the wide margins are of a disciplined brevity after years of colour photography. West Australian wildflowers are deservedly popular; to read of them in an integrated scientific study was, to me, challenging. I have failed miserably to germinate WA wild flower seeds. Now I shall try again. *Leschenaultia* will flourish here, *calothamnus* and *Hakea multilincata* grace many a garden. *Verticordias* are like Arabs in Melbourne's winter, a triumph if they merely keep breathing.

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Dehiscent seeds are habit forming once you start collecting them. Bottle brush capsules are the type. Once I visited a famous native plant garden on hearing they had a wonderful display of Native Rose. (It will remain nameless since I want to go there again). The Rose was wonderful but the seed capsules were irresistible. Calothamnus Gilesi went into one shirt pocket, Calothamnus vilosa into another. Hakoas and melaleucas into another, huge eucalypt bobbles into shorts. A child was sent back to fetch a jacket to hide these unnatural bumps. The day was hot, the car an oven. The seeds dehisced. I undressed that night like a Beirut courier taking off his solid gold underwear. No seeds, alas, came to maturity. If you can legally acquire a capsule of Xylomelum, the Woody Pear you are sure to be off on a dehiscent jag. The winged seed as you drop it will float in the air like a Calder Mobile.

I wonder what strange beasties roam in Blue Gum when the temperature is 17°C, there is dew on the grass and a full moon is soaring over Mount Hay! I shall consult the stars before I go there again.

Bill Gillam.

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MORE NOTICES.

Peter Lannigan of the SB<sup>7</sup> and Gloria Tripalski of the Kamarukas made a gorgeous couple at their marriage at St. Andrew's Chapel at Sydney University. The guests included fellow workers from A.C.I. and the Veterinary Physiology Department, Climbing Clubs and Walking Clubs; the food and grog filled even the bushwalkers who were present, and now the happy couple are heading north to see a bit of Queensland before departing in January for the U.S.A. where Peter has a job lined up.

---

A surprise going away party was held for Roger Lockwood at his flat on December 2. A variety of Roger's slides were shown which produced quite a few surprises of well known bods swallowing in the lower degrees of decadence. Roger left by MSA 707 the next day for Djakarta where he was going to spend a night with Ia Stephens. Then on to Singapore, Rome and Frankfurt - where he hopes to get a job. He has no plans as to the duration of his absence, however, I suppose we will see him within ten years or so.

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Engagement. Well, the Club has done it again, another two who met through the club have announced their engagement. They are Barbara Mackaness and Peter Finch - congratulations to both.

---

Snow and Clary Brown move into their new home this weekend. Snow refuses to comment on the five bedroom split level design. To find out details go and see them.

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## THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

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KURINGAI CHASE: A full list of the fire regulations which apply to Kuringai Chase have been received from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and they are reproduced below for the benefit of Members and Prospectives planning to walk in this area.

### FIRE REGULATIONS

The park fire regulations are strictly enforced to prevent damage to the bushlands, to protect all visitors, to protect property outside the park and to avoid the waste of time and dangers that fire-fighting involves.

Our regulations are simple. They are in force throughout the year. You may light fires and cook with portable appliances only where a square red sign is set up, reading "KURINGAI CHASE AUTHORISED FIREPLACE".

You may not light fires anywhere else within the park. Note that the "fire" regulations apply equally to the use of gas and kerosene stoves, charcoal braziers, spirit burners and wood fires.

Generally you will find authorised fireplaces at recognised picnic grounds, near roads and along the western shore of Cowan Water, but none exist on the Lambert Peninsula (except at the Basin) where fire is totally prohibited throughout the year. Total prohibition may also apply if weather conditions become dangerous. If in doubt check with a Ranger before lighting your fire.

PLEASE

- \* Do not make large fires at the authorised fire places.
- \* Do not destroy trees and shrubs for firewood.
- \* Extinguish your fire COMPLETELY after use.
- \* Be careful with cigarettes and matches, especially when driving.
- \* Report all wild fires immediately - they must be put out before they spread.

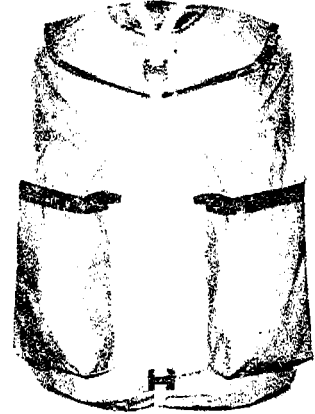
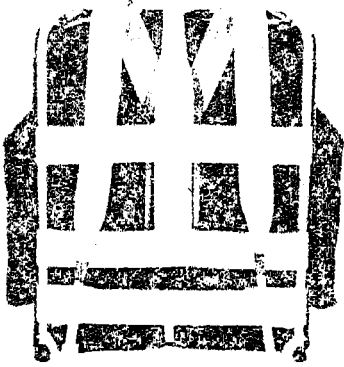
The regulations provide a maximum fine of \$100 for an offence.

Telephone numbers are 450-1701 (Illawong Bay), 450-1450 (Akuna Bay), 919-5150 (West Head), 919-4036 (The Basin), 47-9017, 47-9019, 47-9185 (Bobbin Head).

SQUARE DANCING : Arrangements are being made for people who may be interested in learning American Square Dancing to take it up as an organised activity. If squares of eight people can be organised, they will be taught the steps right from the beginner's stage, and advanced together to higher stages of efficiency. Anyone who might be interested should speak to either David Ingram or Neville Page for further details. Other information may appear elsewhere in this or future magazines.

# KIMPTON'S FEATHERLITE

PRESENT  
THE FULLY IMPORTED 'MOUNTAIN MULE' PACK



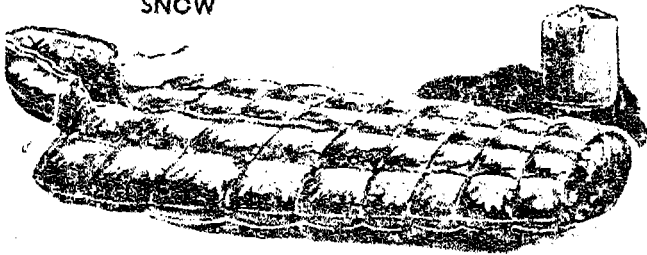
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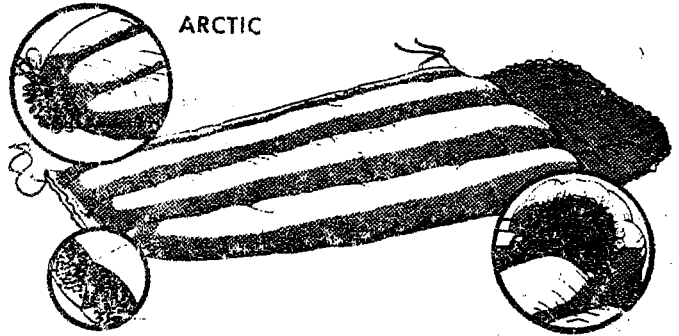
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