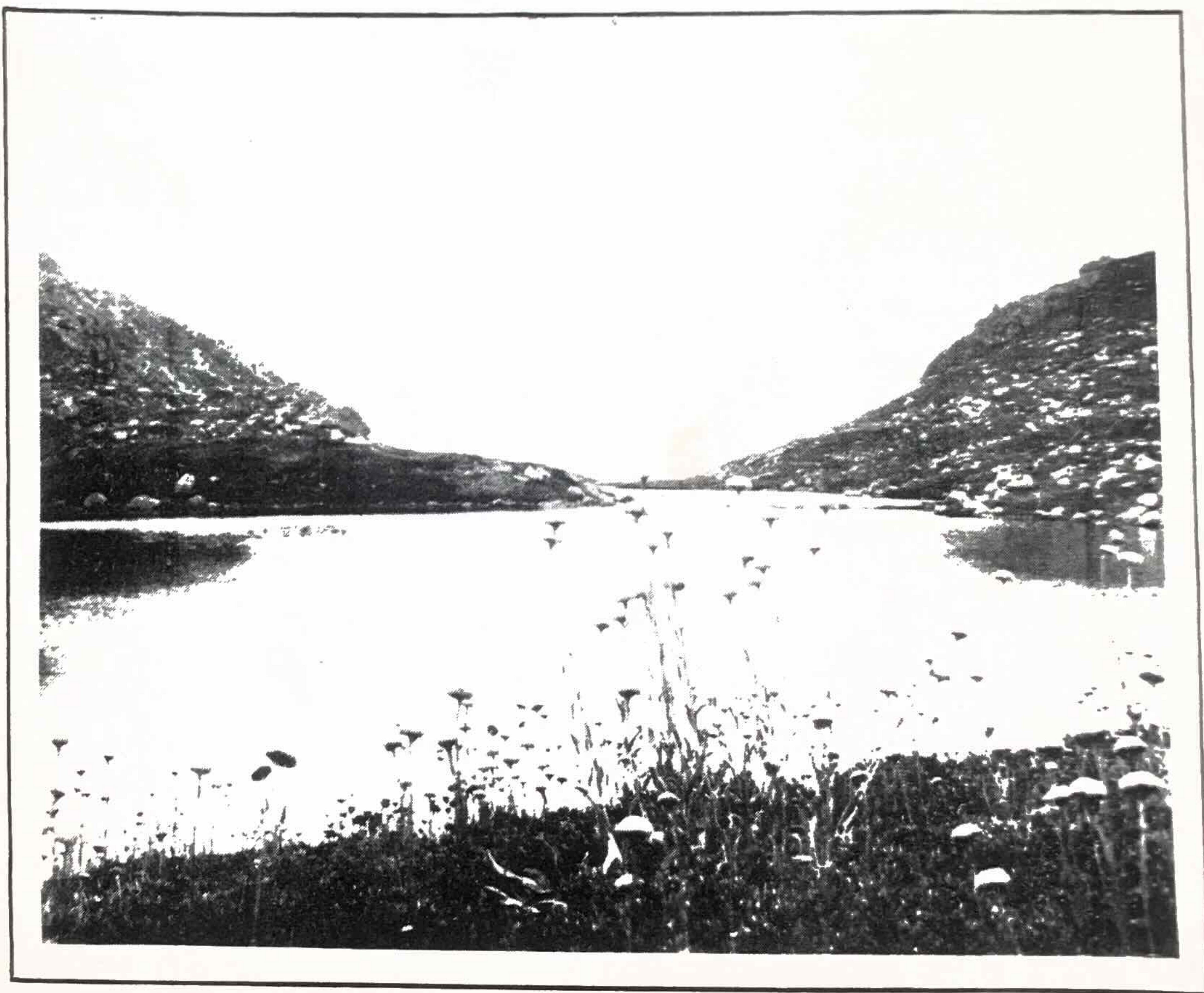


HEYBOB

Volume 19, 1977



A black and white line drawing of two lorikeets. One lorikeet is perched on a branch in the upper right, facing left. The other is perched on a branch in the lower left, facing right. There are several long, narrow leaves and small, spiky flower heads scattered around the birds. The word "heybob" is printed in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

heybob

**university
of
queensland
bushwalking
club
magazine.**

**volume 19
1977.**

EDITORIAL

Well, Heybob is back again in its more traditional form after last year's edition was published as a reprint of "The Mount Barney Guide". "Heybob '77" has suffered the usual problems of lack of articles, and hopefully the combination of two years literary talent to produce such a small edition isn't a more real indication of the other more important activities of the club. Thankfully, this year's edition lacks previous years' criticism of costs being close to prohibitive, but the future editors, I am sure, would be very appreciative of someone's help in the field of advertising.

The Heybob editorial offers the chance to review the club's activities since the last publication, its goals and achievements, progress and innovations, the diversifications and recessions in interests and the general strengths and weaknesses of the club.

Recent years have seen a fairly constant high club membership but unfortunately the number of active members dwindles as the year proceeds to leave the fairly small core of hardened bushies. It is indeed unfortunate that more don't stay on to enjoy walking in the latter parts of the year.

One of the areas of greatest recent change has been in the sphere of the greater financial assistance being maintained by the Union's grants. As well as allowing for expansion and replacement of equipment, these grants have allowed the introduction of a trip subsidy scheme which has proved very successful in countering the previous years' restrictions on size and number of trips due to lack of available transport. The scheme seems to promote the goals and activities of the club and it is hoped to continue it in the future.

The activities of the club remain generally the same from year to year, with the usual changes in special spheres of interest. Club trips have been well varied, in length, type and distance covered, new areas visited by the club included Gloucester Island. Private trips have been common and larger groups have spent vacations at Hinchinbrook, New Zealand, Tassie and the Snowies. Conversely the lighter social side of the club seems to be strong this year and this proves to further and strengthen the companionship found on walks in an enjoyable form of relaxation. There seems to have been a decline in the rock-climbing aspect of bushwalking, but possibly due to the formation of a Uni Rock Climbing Club, however the club has played a more decisive role in Federation Mountain Rescue.

Unfortunately, dwindling interest has left skills such as map reading and first-aid to depend a lot on the bushies previous knowledge. It is hoped that in future years the elder bushies will help the club's "freshers" by passing on some of these basic but essential skills.

Conservation has always been of major interest to bushies, but a diversification of fields of concern and a lack of major issues hasn't helped interest. Major areas of concern recently have included Uranium mining and export, the sand mining of Fraser and Moreton Islands, and the development of the Yeppoon Wetlands, while there have been substantial increases in National Park areas, especially in the Scenic Rim Area, of which we have special interest.

Wishing you the best in the future.

Jon Fearnley.

The body roams the mountains ;

And the spirit is set free

Hsu Hsia-k'o

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This section is probably the most gratifying job that any editor has to perform - well, it most certainly is for me! But who deserves the thanks and a share of the credit? Well 1977's Heybob gives well deserved credit to the many people who have contributed so much in time and effort into its evolution, development and reproduction.

Firstly, thanks to all those who presented articles - for their time, inspiration, effort (and pain - never mind the arm-bending). Special mention too for the longer articles with associated maps and photos.

This year's Heybob, for the first time, has been printed by the Queensland Conservation Council, who have proved excellent printers in every respect. Many thanks to Gordon, and Bob and Liz for all their guidance and hard work - and to Jane, who deciphered, corrected, punctuated, arranged, set-out and typed the many and varied articles presented to her.

The advertiser's support has been indispensable in reducing the financial burden of a magazine such as this and I urge you to support them in their respective fields.

For the inside cover drawing, special thanks to my Mother, and for the great photos thanks Hugh, Bob and Janine - they were really superb!

Special thanks also to those who helped us out where I unfortunately had to leave off - your help was really appreciated.

And to those who usually miss out in the acknowledgements - the collators, who nearly go troppo getting these pages into a suitable form for your leisurely reading enjoyment - our thanks to you too!

Thanks.

Cover Photograph: Lake Albina, Kosciusko National Park - Rob Brodribb.

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YOU'LL GET CHILBLAINS

BOB BRODRIBB AND WENDY LEVERINGTON

The Snowy Mts has a lot to offer for the bushwalker in both summer and winter. In summer there is pleasant walking through scunge free areas above the tree line with a wide variety of brilliant wild flowers. In winter, ski touring replaces walking as the easiest way to see the National Park, and carries the bushie away from the Yo-Yo slopes and tourii.

The length of trip in the park is limited only by your imagination, and may range from weeks to day and half-day walks. One of the most interesting areas is from Schlink Pass to Thredbo along the Main Range. This area is mainly scunge free consisting of grassy meadow and clumps of stunted bushes less than 12 inches high, filled with wild flowers. This area is good for the stroppy and not so stroppy. Schlink Pass to Thredbo via Mt. Kosciusko could be done in three days, or as we did, in seven, incorporating side trips and allowing for bad weather. The northern end, from Schlink Pass to Conset Stephen Pass consists of undulating plateau with numerous clumps of granite boulders - good fun for rorting in. To the north of Schlink Pass, Gungartan (not marked on the Kosciusko 1:100,000 map, but is at Ref pt 257834), and the surrounding area is very similar. Southward from Conset Stephen Pass the range becomes more defined and incorporates the highest mountains in Australia.

The longest climb along the range is 300 m on the north side of Mt. Twynam, the other peaks being mere pimples poking up above the general level of the range- The view from the tops of the knobbies are worth the effort of getting there. You look over beautiful ranges in Victoria, along the main ridge with all the other interrupting knobbies and down into the spectacular gorges and gullies on either side of the ridge. Blue, Albina and Club Lakes nestling just below the tops of the ridges are beautiful, but very cold even in the middle of summer. Formed from the vestiges of glaciers, and surrounded by the lingering snow of summer, they are definitely worth a visit. Watson's Crags and the Sentinel are spectacular, resembling Mordor country. The southern end of the range around 'The Lump' (Mt. Kosciusko) is another fascinating area. It includes Mt. Townsend, the only real mountain in the area, which would have been the highest mountain in Australia if they had built a car park on the top of Mt. Kosciusko. The Ramshead Range, above Thredbo, to the east of Mt. Kosciusko, is an excellent rorting area and resembles the back yard of a concrete pipe factory with

numerous untidy piles of granite boulders.

Camping in the area presents no special problems, except that above the tree line no fires are permitted and a stove of some sort is essential. Flies are also a bit of a problem around meal times in hot weather. In cold weather the only danger is that they may fall into your cup from the stuporosed state.

Camping in summer is excellent. Numerous asthetic sites abound both above and below the tree line. Water is not a problem.

Other areas around the ranges are reputed to be excellent. A good guide to the area is 'Walking in the Snowy Mts.' by the Geehi Club.

One of the many attractions in summer is the magnificent display of flowers carpeting the mountains just as lavishly as snow in winter. The Daisy or Compositae Family is represented by the White Snow Daisy, the yellow and white everlastings, the yellow variable grounsel, the yellow billy and bachelor buttons, the yellow blackfellows yams, the Australian edelweiss and others. The mat plants, including Stackhousea, Montia and pentachondra cover the ground like a carpet. The buttercups or Ranunculaceae are represented by a number of different species. There are numerous other beautiful flowers including the variably coloured eye brights the gentians, mountain celery and alpine mint and the fascinating trigger plant. A useful book-easy to read and carry, for plant identification is 'Flowers of the Australian Alps' by Nure Mass.

Winter

In winter for both the novice, and experienced Nordic skier, plenty of fun can be had. The main range area is best avoided by the novice as conditions are very exposed, and the snow is often icy making conditions treacherous for the uninitiated. There are plenty of spots in the National Park where the novice nordic skier can escape the commercialized areas yet not risk life and limb. These include the rolling plains within the Ramshead Range near Smiggins, Perisher and Thredbo. A week can easily be spent within a few kilometres of Perisher Valley without being disturbed by tourii.

In this area navigation is easy and there is plenty of

protection if the weather turns nasty, as it frequently and quickly does. Depending on the quantity of snow, there may be interesting skiing below Smiggins (it can snow down to Sawpit Ck.).

In late July, early August '76, when we were there, the snow changed dramatically. When we arrived there was only partial cover on the Ramshead Range at Perisher, while 8 days later when we left, after 5 days of snow, it would have been possible to ski the 10 miles down to Sawpit Ck. Unfortunately our skiing capabilities prevented us reaching Kosciusko and Lake Albina etc. With about 6 days skiing, the average bushie would probably have enough expertize to get there, although, bad weather is always on the cards and prevents practice. If contemplating the main range it is essential that there is someone in the party who has skied or walked the area before.

Gear for Winter

Snow proof tents and flys are obviously essential. Even camping down around Perisher 40 Knot winds are not uncommon. (We had 2 nights and days of these breezes).

Similarly sleeping mats and good bags are essential. Point Five 'Northern Lights', and Fairy Down 'Everest Mummies' are certainly warm enough, and were quite often hot at night. During our foulest days (40 Knots winds and -3°C at midday) we were still quite warm in spencer or singlet and woolshirt and woolen trou with windproof anorak and overtrou. This is certainly the most important layer for keeping warm and dry. Snow gaiters are also to keep snow out of the tops of the boots. The hands and head should also be covered as up to 40% of body heat loss occurs through these surfaces. A shovel is handy to dig yourself out each morning and to make snow walls and igloos etc. Sunglasses and/or snow goggles are also advisable, as the sun shining on the snow is very bright and can cause blindness similar to that caused by arc welding. Also there may be some use for keeping the snow out of your eyes during blizzards, but it is usually almost impossible to see.

Huts.

In the main range there are numerous huts varying in size from 20 bunks at Lake Albina to the hut at Lake Cootapatamba which has a 6' by 6' floor. More details can be obtained from the Park Rangers. Most of the huts are grotty and are best avoided in summer. In winter, you have less choice

unless you are experienced and well equipped for sleeping on the snow. Beware of pack eating rats in winter. There is a day shelter at Smiggins which can be slept in if the weather is foul although there is a sign there saying 'No camping permitted!' There are plenty of well protected camping sites below the tree line for winter camping, as long as you can find an area not covered with too much snow. Due to the low moisture content of the air, snow gum burns well even if it is covered with snow for days. Unless you have a fire avoid melting snow for water as it is very time and energy consuming. Beware of chilblains!! (you get them from heating up frozen feet or hands too quickly.)

Skis can be hired at Perisher, Smiggins and Thredbo for around \$20 per week. They are marginally cheaper away from the resorts, such as at Jindabyne or Cooma, but you then have the inconvenience of getting them to the snow. We found 'Fleets' at Smiggins quite good. The hiring fee includes breakage insurance, which means that if you break your skis (it is quite easy to do), they are replaced free of charge.

General Information

Weather: Winter foul weather comes from the south west. Changes can occur quite dramatically from fine sunny weather to blizzard conditions in a few hours. Clouds in the S.W., strong winds and high alto-stratus clouds in the east are apparently ominous signs. The weather greatly affects the snow. If there has been recent snow falls without wind, then the ridges and the western slopes will be denuded of snow leaving ruts and sastrugi. If the weather has been warm for the last few days with no snow over night then the northern slopes will develop crusty snow - ice after a freeze. This is good for breaking skis, or hitting submerged rocks.

Access

Private transport is a convenience method, however in winter there is no overnight parking above Sawpit Creek, and chains are required for travelling anywhere in the National Park during this time.

Public transport is not too bad, buses going from and to Cooma daily. It costs \$12 return to Smiggins Perisher and Thredbo. There is also a shuttle bus service from Sawpit Ck. to Smiggins and Perisher which costs \$5 return for about 10 miles. Hitching is also very easy. The easiest way

CHOOSING A CAMERA FOR BUSHWALKING

11

CAMERON DAVIDSON

This article was prompted as a result of several people asking me for information on what type of camera they should buy (not to mention a bit of arm-twisting from an obviously desperate editor) and is therefore aimed at those with little or no photographic experience.

First, a word or two about the film. The obvious favourite is colour slide film, being much cheaper than colour print film and easier to obtain accurate colour rendition with. Generally speaking, the lower the speed (as a rating) of the film, the sharper the slide and the better the colours. On the other hand if you have a film that is more sensitive to light (i.e. faster) then it is easier to take photographs in dark conditions such as in rain-forest. Black and white also has a place, especially among the more fanatical photographers.

Now onto the cameras. If you're not really worried about the quality of the photo and just want the occasional snapshot of something in sunlight then stick to your instamatic. Just don't get too adventurous with it - if your subject is not in fairly bright light be prepared for the midnight in the coalmine type shots. Alternatively, allow your friendly camera dealer to deplete your bank account and get yourself a decent camera. These come in two basic types for 35mm film: a camera in which you line up your subject through a viewfinder in one corner of the camera, and one in which you actually look through the camera lens (it's all done with mirrors). The latter system is the single lens reflex (SLR) type and is generally the more expensive of the two as well as being more versatile.

The viewfinder camera is relatively cheap (\$50 - \$100) and comes with varying degrees of refinements. Focussing is accomplished either by guessing the camera to subject distance and setting that value on the lens or, usually, by what is called rangefinder focussing where there is an aid in the viewfinder which informs you when the camera is correctly focussed. Exposure (the combination of shutter speed and aperture) can also be set by guesswork (not recommended), an off-camera light meter, or in most cases by a built-in light meter. A large number of cameras in this class can automatically set the exposure in daylight and some can even set the correct exposure when a flash is used. When used properly within their moderate range of

to get to Cooma is by train which runs twice daily from Sydney at 7.30 a.m. and 8.45 p.m.

The whole area is within the Kosciusko National Park, the largest park in N.S.W. The park is well run, and the Rangers helpful and friendly, though they like to keep tabs on everyone in the park, and you should register with them if you intend walking or skiing in the area, even if it is only for a day. The main centre is at Sawpit Cr. where there is also a large camping area, but there are also ranger stations at Smiggins and Thredbo.

There are a number of good publications on the area.

Snowy Mountain Walks by the Geehi Club is available in the library. There are also a number of good ski touring books such as 'Introduction to Ski Touring' by the N.S.W. Ski Assn. This book and others are in the hands of sundry seedy club members and can usually be begged, borrowed or stolen at minimal personal danger. They also can be bought at Sawpit Ck. and the Cooma information centre, and sundry walking shops in Sydney and Canberra.

"We need the tonic of wilderness, to wade sometimes in the marshes, where the bitten and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground. At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigour, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and decaying trees, the thundercloud and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander."

from WALDEN by Henry David Thoreau

shutter speeds they give very good results. Unfortunately they suffer the restriction that they do not have interchangeable lenses. This is where the SLR steps in.

For a reasonable SLR camera you are looking at a price in excess of \$200 (up to ones which cannot be bought with less than \$1000) but for this price you buy the ability to use wide angle, telephoto, or close-up lenses. In addition, you see almost exactly what will appear on the film thus making it easier to focus and compose your photograph. This is virtually essential if you intend taking close-up shots as focussing becomes much more critical as the camera gets closer to the subject. If you do not intend to buy other lenses and you have no great desire to take close-ups then don't buy an SLR - a viewfinder camera of similar quality will be about half the price and half the weight. On the otherhand, if you expect to get involved in photography then it is probably a good idea to buy one of the better SLR cameras. Despite what some dealers may try to tell you, the more expensive cameras generally are designed better, contain more useable features, and have noticeably better lenses.

Features which make for convenient photography include: a built in light meter; automatic aperture diaphragm operation (also called bright-field metering or semi-automatic operation but not automatic exposure); and even automatic exposure itself. The usefulness of a built in light meter speaks for itself; an automatic diaphragm simplifies operation of the camera; and, although it's more expensive, letting the camera automatically select the exposure makes life easier as well as ensuring more consistent exposures (if you're as sloppy as I am).

It seems to me that the type of photos most popular with those who take them are scenics, people shots, plants and animals - probably in that order. Apart from the second type, they place strong restrictions on the type of lens required for good results. Scenes normally have to be taken from very limited positions and, for example, to get the feeling of being at the bottom of a gorge a wide angle lens is probably necessary. Similarly, a telephoto lens can be quite handy for getting photos from mountain tops not to mention sneaky ones of those who thought you were their friend. A telephoto lens is essential for photographing all but a few animals and birds but so is a bit of time or a lot of luck which is why there are so few photos of them taken

on walks. Close-ups don't involve quite as much expense. The standard lens normally purchased with the camera can be used to take close-ups either by fitting an accessory lens to the front of the lens or by extending the lens from the film by means of extension tubes or a bellows. The latter method gives somewhat better results and a good set of tubes will not cost more than \$30 - \$40; close-up lenses are even less. A more extravagant solution is not to buy a standard lens at all but to get a lens that is specially designed for this sort of use. These "Macro" lenses also focus to infinity thus doing everything that a standard lens can **do** and more. But, however nonetheless for a number of reasons I wouldn't advocate buying one unless taking close-ups would be the main use to which you would put it.

I could go on for days on this subject (Groan) and eventually all the points which I have just touched upon would become clearer. In order not to bore either of my remaining readers too much I suggest the easiest way to learn more is to go and pester the salesman until they have explained things to your satisfaction. You'll then have a good idea of what is available and the only remaining problem is the worst - deciding what your requirements are. One final word of warning - shop around, prices vary substantially. Who knows, maybe you, too, can join the select band of masochist trendies carrying around 20 kilograms of the latest photographic whizbangs.

*"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings -
 Nature's peace will flow into you
 As sunshine flows into trees.
 The winds will blow
 Their own freshness into you,
 And the storms their energy,
 While cares will drop off like autumn leaves."*

John Muir. 1892.

THE QUIETUDE OF THE QUEENSLAND BUSH

IS NEVER FAR AWAY....

Queensland's National Parks range from the hot, dry sands of the Simpson Desert to the lush, green, tropical rainforest of Mount Bartle Frere.

A little bit off the beaten track?

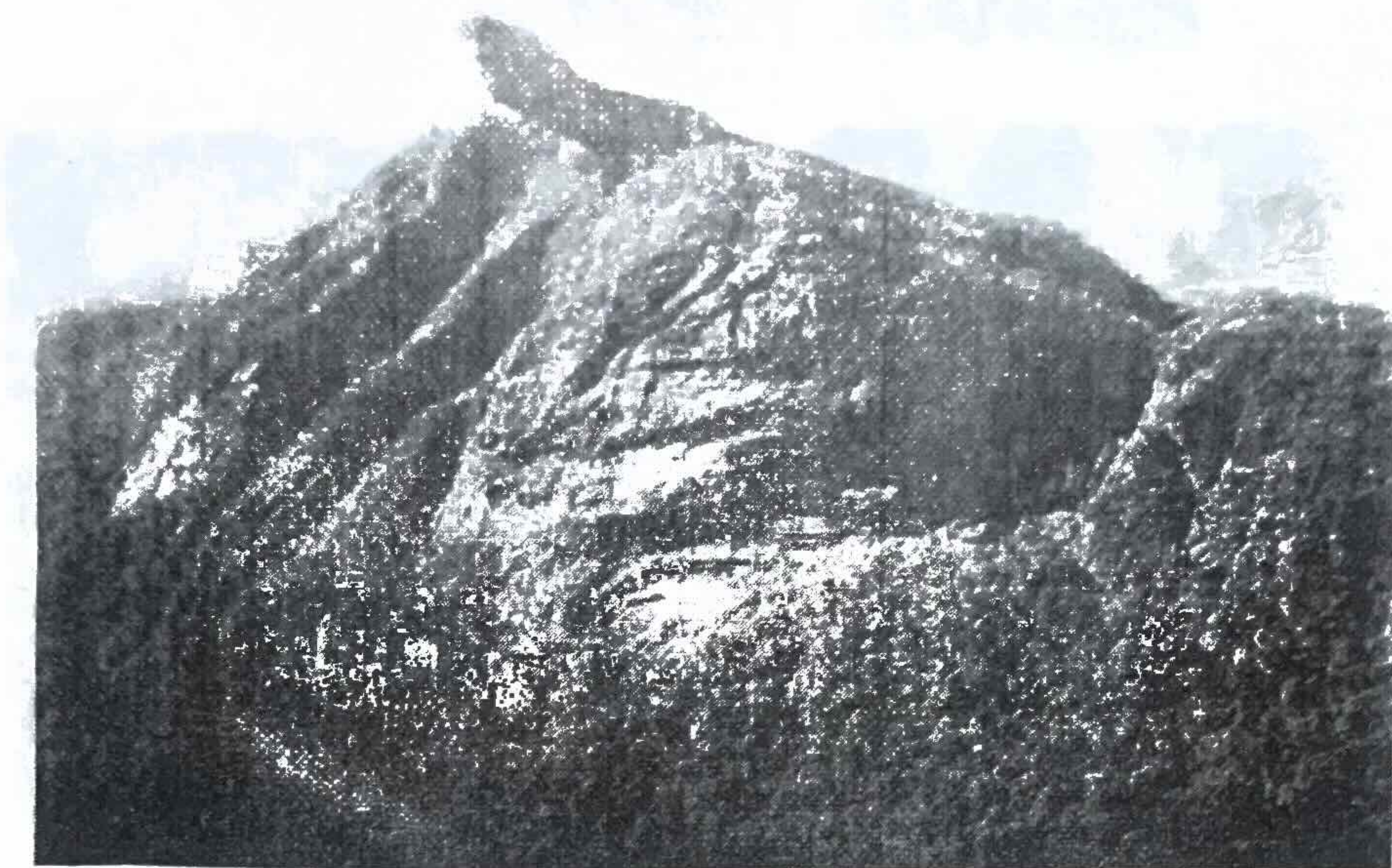
Then how about Mount Tamborine, the Lamington National Park, Mary Cairncross Park in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast?

You'll find somewhere close to nature around most of our major centres of population and if you want to stay awhile there are camping grounds, guest houses, motels and flats to suit the simple life-style of the average bushwalker.

You will want to know more about the possibilities of an open air holiday in the quiet Queensland bush so go and see the experts at the

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU.





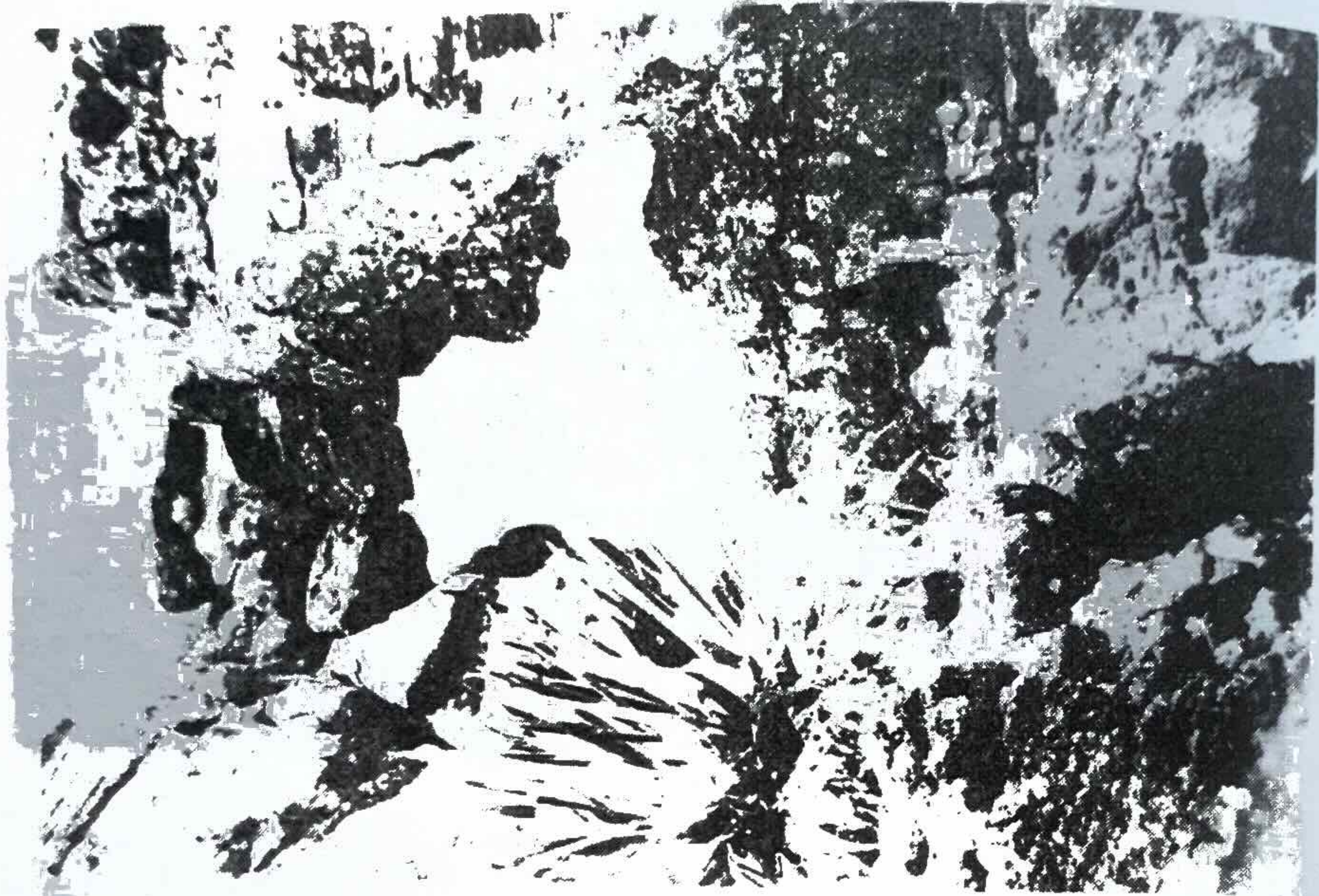
Mount Warning - Northern N.S.W.



Sand landscape - Moreton Island.



On a jigger p. - Gloucester Island.



The Hole in the Wall - Little Liverpool.

TWO WALKS IN THE BORDER RANGES

17

LEVERS PLATEAU

REG POLLITT

The "Mini Heybob" describes Levers Plateau as an area infrequently visited by the club, and one which has certainly been overlooked by members in recent years. Only one of our party of nine had any real first hand knowledge of this fascinating plateau which certainly warrants closer examination by all who enjoy a diversity of vegetation coupled with a certain remoteness which is unattainable in traditional walking areas.

For those contemplating a trip to this area the Mt. Lindsay highway is followed until the Innisplain turnoff is encountered on the left just before crossing over the Interstate Railway line. From here the Running Creek Road is followed until it again converges with the railway line, where the line is crossed through manually operated gates. Consideration should be given to the operators of these gates, particularly if a car drop off is employed; consequently it is advisable to arrive early as possible and inform them of your intentions. From here the road is followed until it forks, whence the left branch is taken. It may be prudent to ascertain from the nearby farm house of possible traffic movement from the farm house on top of the plateau. At the time of writing the occupants of these two houses were related and are most helpful to considerate bushwalkers. Care should be exercised for on many bends, there exists sharp concave drainage depressions which are difficult to see even in daylight. It is desirable to take only vehicles suitable for prolonged low gear work and to undertake the trip only in dry weather since the condition of the road in wet weather makes it all but impassable for four wheel drive vehicles. Although we negotiated this section at night, it affords excellent views of Mt. Maroon and the Barney massif when viewed on a clear day. While the actual length of the precipitous section is approximately five to six kilometres, this distance really should not deter interested parties.

Having camped beside the border fence on the Friday night we crossed on to foreign soil and initially started to walk due south through luxuriant rain forest which had the strange capacity of deflecting our compasses, for we must have changed directions half a dozen times before we unexpectedly came upon the ultimate in graded tracks - the logging road which was not indicated on "current maps". However, since this road led in through country which alternated from rain forest to open eucalypt forest, it provided occasional glimpses of Mt. Barney and Mt. Lindsay for our ever ready

photographers.

After a consultation on our possible position we again entered the rain forest, heading in an easterly direction and traversing a rather interesting ridge which fell away quite steeply on both sides. The section where we descended will, I feel sure, remain a sore point for many of our intrepid leaders for some time to come, for it was here that lantana was almost impenetrable.

Preparations for camp were made early that night, slightly downstream from the confluence of Surveyors and Long Creeks after a brief reconnoitre for a more suitable site. It is quite astonishing just how many times people fall in a creek when they are idly waiting for the return of the remainder of a reconnaissance party. Our score was six times with some people giving repeat performances.

We awoke the next morning with corrugated bodies after having slept on ground covered with vines and at eight o'clock made an "early start" down the creek to the junction of Oaks Creek and Long Creek, where the moss covered remains of an old rail logging bridge lay forlornly in the early sunlight. Apparently this area, the upper reaches of the Richmond River, was logged eighty or ninety years ago; however there exists only a haunting silence of those days gone by, when money hungry men ravaged our forests with little thought for the future.

Oaks Creek is an extremely pleasant water course offering an easily accessible route up to that rather doubtful rabbit fence which divides our two "Countries" i.e. New South Wales and Queensland. One gets the feeling that the futile maintenance of this fence is intended to keep people in a job. A job which has resulted in the accumulation of numerous plastic containers along the boundary.

The day proved quite hot as we wandered along the border, encountering two snakes; a beautiful carpet who absolutely refused to allow us to obtain a good photograph, and a lively black who undoubtedly was under contract to another film studio.

Richmond Gap was a welcome sight after a tiring walk over undulating country which concluded an interesting and certainly a varied visit to Levers Plateau.

BLACK CANYON

The birds were heard fluttering just above the tent as the morning sunlight broke through the trees and the sounds of bush turkeys and wallabies ushered in a new day at O'Reilly's, a day which was to prove excellent for walking. Surprisingly we were away by eight o'clock heading back down the road in the direction of Luke's Bluff, where we surveyed the magnificent valley below, our eyes searching the ridge to our right endeavouring to pin-point the departure point from the Commando Trail which was to lead us down to the left branch of the Albert River.

I must say that the stroll to Luke's Bluff which leads across a farming property affords some excellent views of Mt. Lindsay, Barney and Maroon with the Main Range as a lazy blue back drop. Earlier in the morning ominous rain clouds were seen scudding across the sky borne on a breeze which was quite invigorating. However, as we descended the Commando Trail the sunlight once again held sway dominating the ridge in true regal splendour, our steps quickening to the brightness of the day.

Our progress was quite rapid for we reached the river by ten o'clock much to the astonishment of a herd of young heifers who in true bovine fashion wheeled in one direction and then another quite aimlessly as though the sight of eight people was simply too much for their comprehension. As we crossed the stream we were again subjected to the vacant stress of the remainder of the herd, it was almost as though these cattle had not encountered men before. Perhaps the misnomer "The Commando Trail" deters walkers from this area, but let me hasten to assure those who have not employed this route that it provides an easy and quick access to the valley below.

Initially we ran parallel to the river, avoiding lantana which unfortunately has been making rapid advances up the creek from the cleared areas below, where Castle Craig can be seen in an entirely new perspective, forcing its rugged head up through the sunlit sky. The creek was a welcome sight after the dry grassy slopes and although progress was slow we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as we cautiously moved upstream, for in many places there was a dearth of sizable rocks for hopping and of course this necessitated skirting the chilly waters over the prolific growth of weed which invariably conceals ankle twisting rocks and other goodies such as sunbaking snakes.

None the less this part of the river unfolds beautiful and varied sights almost at every turn. There is a certain tranquility to be experienced in this valley with the massiveness of The Lost World frowning down on the right hand side.

It was our intention to negotiate Red Rock Cutting that day, however the prospect of a swim late in the afternoon met with general disapprobation, consequently we decided to make camp on a relatively flat bank amongst some beautifully tall trees upon which were growing magnificent staghorns and orchids.

Music echoed through the night enlivening the glow worms who hovered in the soft velvet blackness beyond the warm glow of our fire. It is most enjoyable to listen to a uninterrupted sing-along, particularly when a few members have an almost inexhaustible repertoire of songs for the occassion. After such an evening a good night's rest is assured.

To awake under the leafy canopy of a rain forest with the sunlight glistening on the leaves and to be snug in bag is unquestionably one of the best ways of being reborn. Our departure was late, however we made considerably more progress than we had done the previous day, arriving at Red Rock Cutting after enjoying the scenic beauty. It is utterly amazing just how much litter was found in the upper reaches of this beautiful creek. The rare Fanta was all too frequently encountered in our rubbish strewn valleys in the disgusting habitat of those clear and moss bound pools.

The prospect of icy water discouraged three of us from swimming through the cutting, however the length is really not at all daunting, the actual distance being five to six metres which can be negotiated quite easily if care is exercised. Obviously photographic equipment and sleeping bags should be encased in plastic bags for such a trip. The alternative route on the left hand side going up stream can be troublesome with rather dense growth inhibiting progress by entangling packs. It was quite humorous for we could hear feminine screams, as no doubt the waters were proving colder than anticipated. However, we did not have to contend with any cases of hypothermia when we met on the other side.

Although the falls above the cutting are not high their beauty is enhanced by a large moss covered boulder shouldered to the right of the cascade with the green immensity of the mountain side towering above, dwarfing both the falls and the

viewers, leaving one with a sense of smallness.

We continued our journey upstream leaving our packs at the commencement of the upward climb out of the river and proceeded on up to Black Canyon, whose presence was felt quite sometime before we actually entered the impressive black walls. Even though the season has been one of the driest for many years the volume of water plummeting down Lightning Falls created a blast of cool air which is channeled down the Canyon and is considerably cooler than the surrounding air and quite pleasant and invigorating.

Lightning Falls terminates the canyon, with a smaller cascade raining down on the left hand side into the dark green pool. Photographers may experience difficulty in wet seasons for the spray can virtually prevent a close approach to attain satisfactory results.

Half an hour each way should be allowed from the commencement of the blazed trail up the stream to the Falls, although visitors may prefer to have a luncheon stop between these two points where more favourable spots may be found.

The blazed trail provides a means of rapid ascent to the graded walking track leading to the top of Lightning Falls, and at least an hour should be allocated for this section. Significant sections of the trail have been eroded, exposing many roots which of course provide excellent hand-holds enabling easy climbing, which otherwise would prove most difficult. There are several flattish sections providing resting spaces for a small party, these becoming more frequent after the half way mark.

As you climb, the enormity of The Lost World comes into view, and you are left with the feeling that you have accomplished something. Upon reaching the graded track it is then approximately six kilometres back to O'Reilly's and when we traversed this section a quietness pervaded the whole area on the western side of the ridge. Strolling along a graded track after such a walk gives one time to think of the beauty of this fascinating area.

In the twilight just before re-entering the clearing at O'Reilly's many scrub turkeys were seen perched high in the trees on the lower side of the track, while a possum crouched on the same branch as one of the turkeys, his prehensile tail distinguishing him from the other black mass of birds.

The silhouettes of these animals against the dark foliage of

the trees provided a great contrast, when a few more steps brought us face to face with the dying sun, whose aging rays mellowed the welcome clearing, the conclusion to a memorable trip.



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The Wilderness

long nights
wondering at the dawn
sweat
in the sleeping bag
freeze
before dawn.
early morning
walking,
the side
of
the road.

unanswerable questions
and
cold winds
rip
the stream
below
flows
turbulently.

Terry Gilmore

BOOK REVIEW

Showell Styles, "Back-packing - A Comprehensive Guide"
(London; Macmillan, 1976)
Recommended Retail Price: \$6.95.

In this book Showell Styles, a man of vast walking experience and a well versed author, presents what is truly a comprehensive guide to back-packing.

With an easy to follow systematic method he tells of his experiences with and his advice on all types of equipment, from tents, packs, sleeping bags and clothes etc, to tips and gimmicks for making life easier, that have been gleaned from numerous contacts with other walkers and a practical and inventive mind. His guides to light-weight travel and living in comfort on trips are indicative of this.

In his review of the back-packing routes of the world, supplemented by ample splendid photography, Showell shows that his vast experience is mainly confined to European areas, from Britain and Norway to the Alps and Spain, but including as well a few of the more celebrated walks in the United States.

The real value of the book lies in its practical and comprehensive approach to the basic needs and techniques required for back-packing. Thus it would be very useful to anyone taking up back-packing as a hobby as well as providing an interesting insight for the experienced walker into Showell Styles.

"I say therefore that he is an enemy of nature, whosoever has not deemed lofty mountains to be most worthy of great contemplation."

Conrad Gesner. 1541.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

25

BOB BRODRIBB

Western Australia has plenty to offer the stropky or slack bushie. There are beautiful coast walks, spectacular gorges, peaceful lakes and inlets and stately forests, not to mention a magnificent wildflower display.

The best time to be there would probably be September to early November. The wildflowers are at their best then, the north is still dry and the south is starting to dry out by mid October, December/January would probably be the worst time for walking. The south is hot and as dry as a proverbial bone while the north is too wet.

The following is an account of some of the areas that I visited and some others that were recommended to me. It is by no means a comprehensive study of all the walking areas in W.A. If you want more information all I can say is "GO West Young Man".

THE NORTH

The Kimberleys

This is an area for the affluent bushie. Your own vehicle is a prerequisite (unless you can beg, borrow or steal some one elses). A four wheel drive would be handy due to the wear and tear of getting to some of the interesting areas. A standard suburban sedan will get you to all the places worth going to, however, it may not stay together for as long. Winter is definitely the best time of year to go to the Kimberleys. It's not so hot and all the interesting spots are easily accessible. In summer the roads turn to bog and if you aren't stuck there is a \$200 a wheel fine (including the spare) if you are caught on a road closed by the main roads dept. Cattle are the main hazard of the area. The roads are unfenced and early in the morning and late in the afternoon they are a real trap to the young player. Tales are told of landcruisers doing end over end somersaults after hitting cattle camped on the roads.

Fuel is another problem. Derby Fitzroy Crossing, Broome and Willare Bridge on the Fitzroy area are the only constant sources. In an emergency the stations will be happy to sell you some. However, a number of them don't like making a habit of it.

The Kimberleys are usually divided into Easy Kimberley

centred on Kununurra and Wyndham and West Kimberley centred on Derby. These notes refer largely to the Derby area as I didn't get across to the eastern areas. There are plenty of interesting places in west Kimberley. There are a number of beautiful gorges and rugged ranges in the area all suited to day trips or base camps. Most are varying distances off the "Mt. House/Gibb River" road which runs north-east from Derby.

Napier Range

Originally a coral reef now it stands like a giant rock wall in the middle of a black soil plain. It is only about four-hundred feet high but it has been carved into interesting shapes and formations by the wind and rain. It looks like the outer wall of some mediaeval city. There are numerous caves and art galleries along its length.

King Leopold Range

North from the Napier Range this is a true mountain range. The rock is largely a deep red and in the early hours of the day looks very pretty. There are numerous rocky outcrops of interesting shapes and sizes.

Grant Range

This is a small but very interesting range about 40 kms. south of the Derby to Fitzroy Crossing road. It is quite rugged with lots of very interesting looking gullies and gorges.

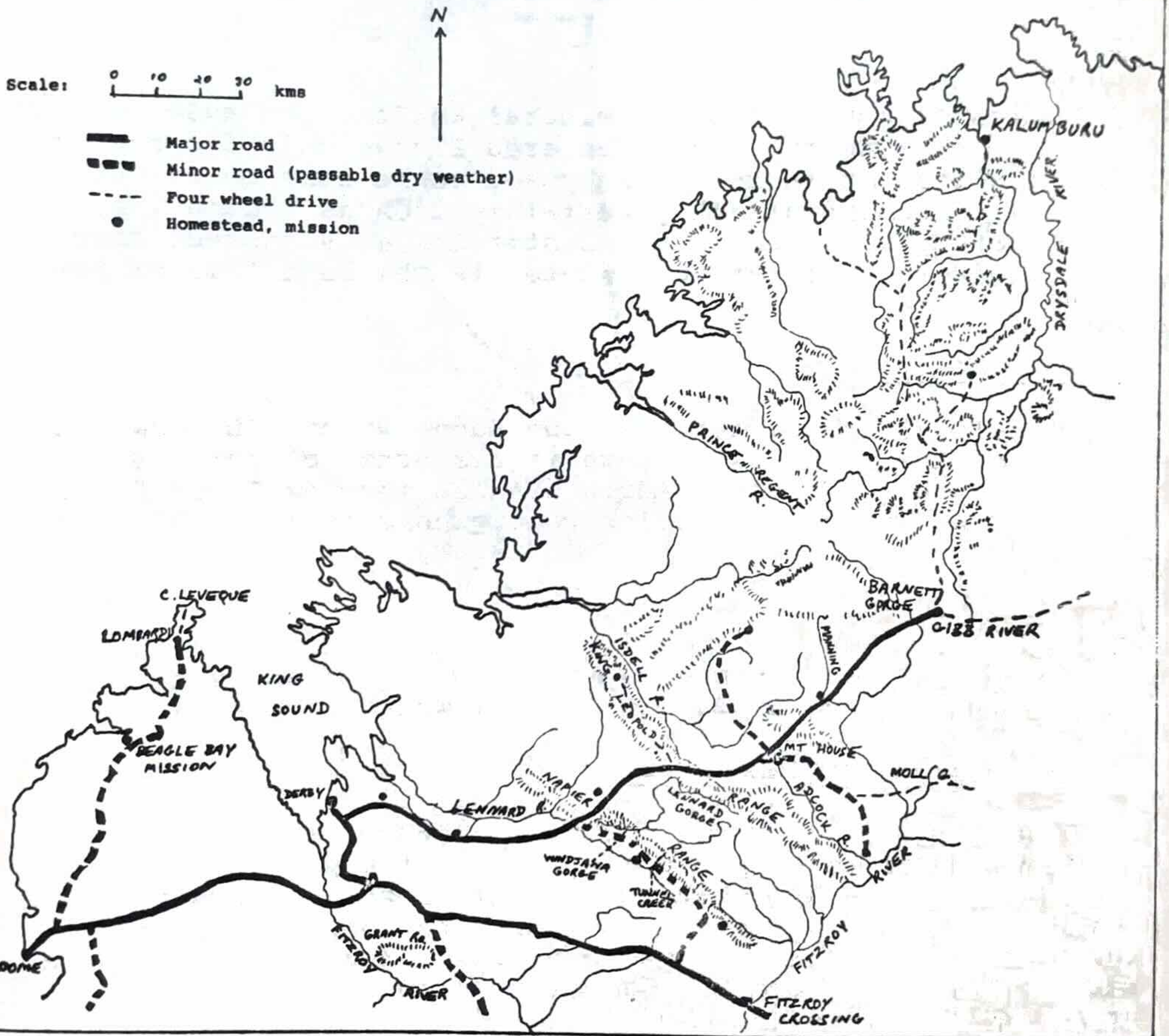
Windjana Gorge

The Kimberleys are renowned for their gorges and Windjana is one of the best. The Lennard River cuts through the Napier Range to produce a magnificent gorge lined by vertical limestone cliffs up to 100m high. The colours in the walls range from a striking orange to a deep grey black.

There are a number of other fascinating gorges in west Kimberley which I didn't get to due to lack of time and the onset of the "wet". These include Tunnel Ck. where a branch of the Lennard has gouged a tunnel through the Napier Range. A number of other gorges off the Gibb River Road are all readily accessible in the dry and are well worth a visit.

The most interesting area of the west Kimberley district appears to be the area to the north of Gibb River station.

WEST KIMBERLEY



This is still a very isolated area with some really magnificent scenery.

The coastline in the west Kimberley is also quite fascinating. South of Derby, between Broome and Cape Leveque there are a lot of beautiful sandy beaches. North of Derby the coast drops precipitously into the sea and there are numerous fiord like formations along the coast.

The Pilbara

This area is famous for its mineral wealth. It also has some very rugged scenery. It is an area I have only flown over. Around Wittenoon there are supposed to be some beautiful gorges. From the air they certainly look as though they would be worth a visit. Chichester Range is another area that is quite fascinating. Winter is the best time of year to visit this area.

North West Cape

The interesting area here is Cape Range which runs down the middle of the cape. The range is dissected by some very stropky looking gorges. Added bonuses include Tower "Zero" to climb and watching turtles come ashore to lay their eggs.

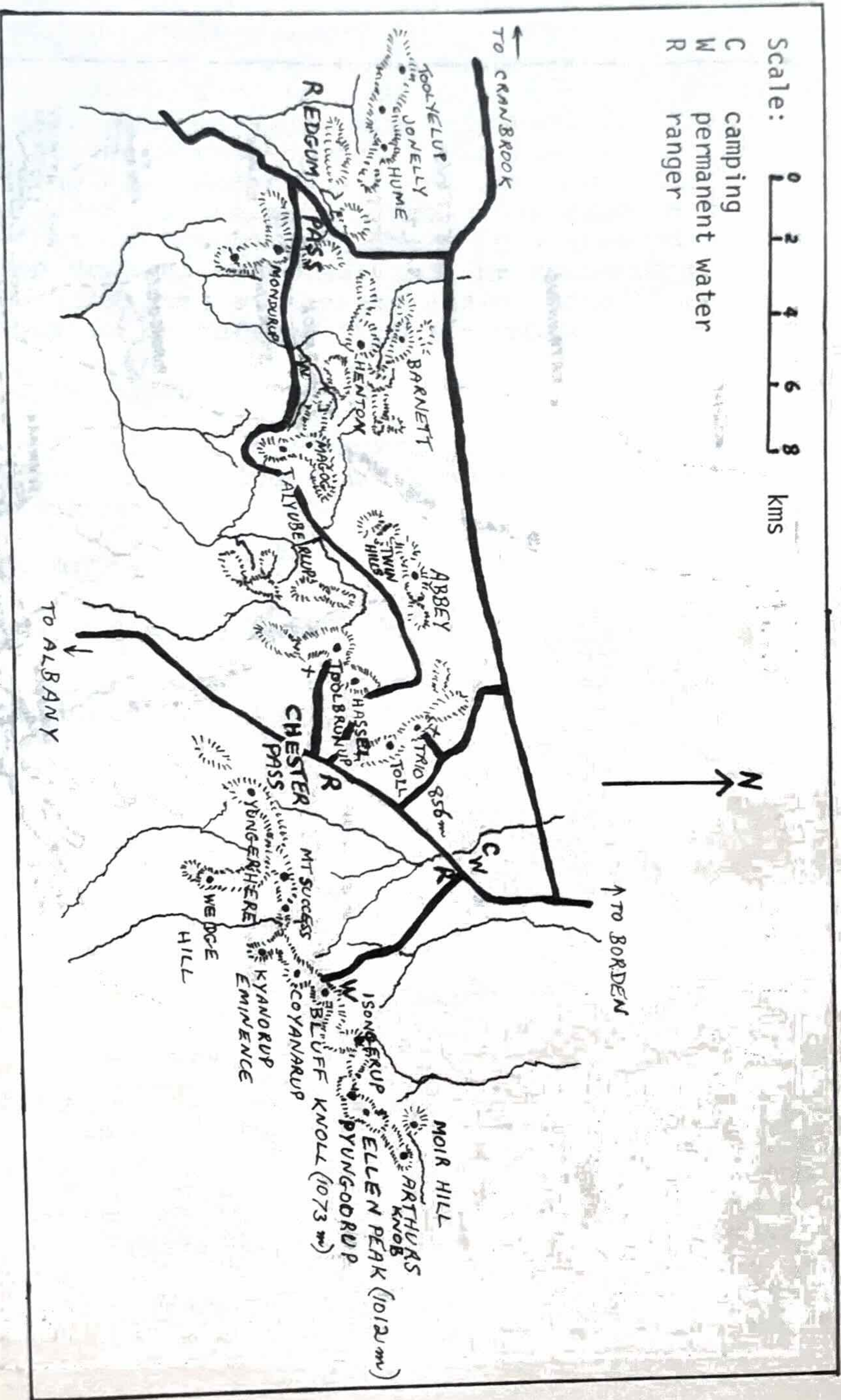
THE SOUTH

The south-west has lots of interesting spots with a big range of habitats. Summer is reasonably hot and very dry. Winter is cool and as far as I could work out pretty damp.

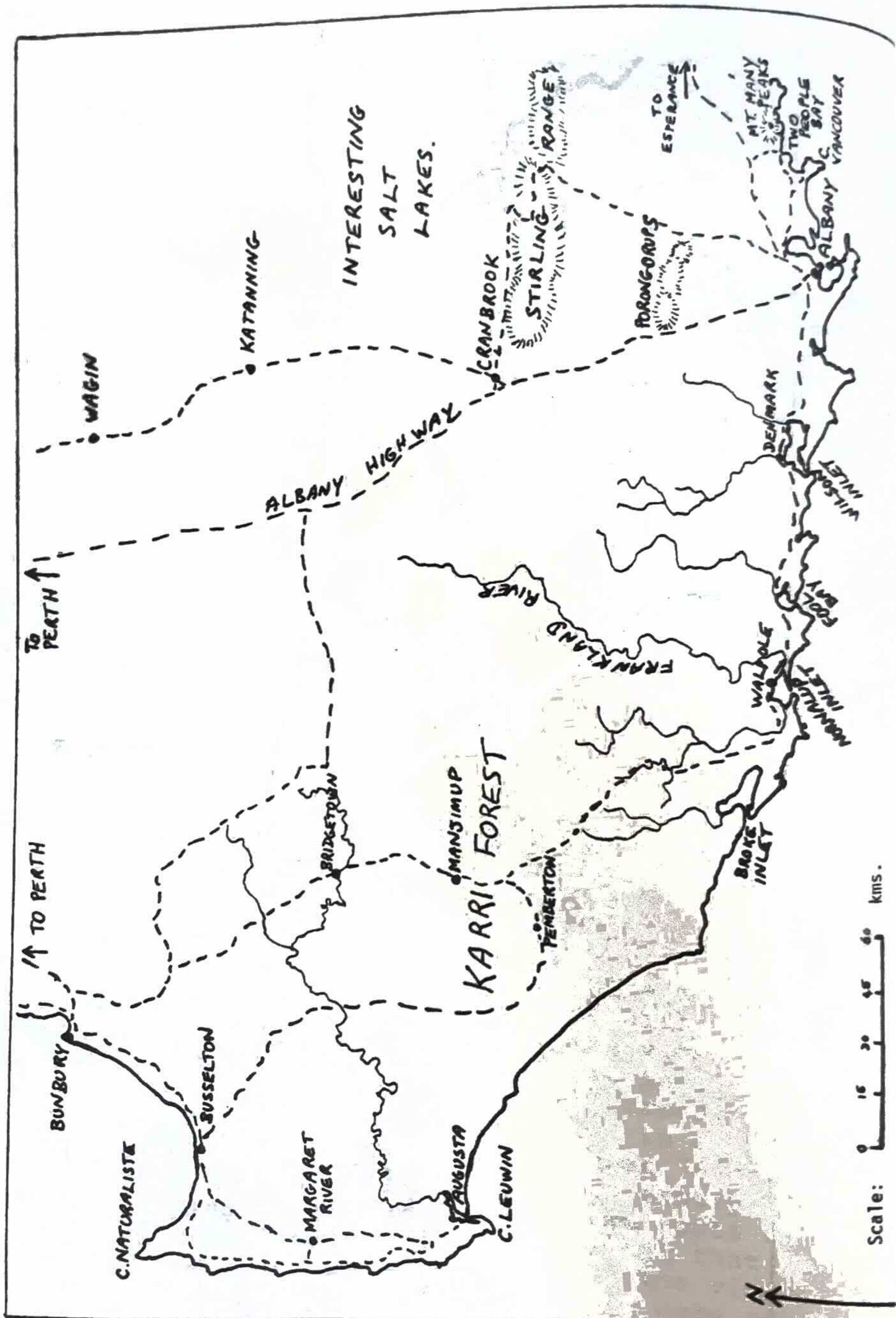
Stirling Range National Park

This is a beautiful range north of Albany. The range consists of a series of peaks rising from the plains. The peaks themselves are quite impressive and the views from the tops pretty good. The vegetation in the park is largely thick heath with innumerable banksias, grass trees, stunted mallee and other forms of ferocious growths. In summer there is very little water around. In December 76 the only water I found was at the camping area and two grotty pools behind a road. Camping is allowed only in two spots where everything is very dick decent. However I found that the best spots to camp were on top of the peaks. The views late in the afternoon and early in the morning were really magnificent. The wildflowers in December were still very good.

STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK



SOUTH-WEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Mt. Magog in the centre of the park is a good place to camp for a night. A four wheel drive track leads to its base and a track can be followed through the thick scunge up the western side. There is room for a small party to camp in the saddle between Magog and Talyuberlup. However, there are plenty of one person spots at the summit where the views are uninterrupted. Water has to be carried. Bluff Knoll is the highest peak in the park. The views from here are worth the effort of the climb. There is a good view of the whole park and down to the coast and the Porongorup range in the south. Campsites on top are again largely one person spots. Water has to be carried from the bottom of the climb.

Porongorup Range

Between Albany and the Stirling Range the Porongorups are a series of granite domes and knobbies. The slopes are covered in moist eucalypt forest.

COASTAL AREAS

Mt. Many Peaks / Two People Bay

Around Albany and to the east the coast is really magnificent. Granite slabs end precipitously in the sea and there are numerous little sandy bays nestling under tall granite peaks. Mt. Many Peaks is about 50 kms. east of Albany and lends itself to some really interesting coast walks or to slacking around in one of the many little secluded bays. The water in summer was reasonable to swim in.

Two People Bay and associated C. Vancouver is another rugged and spectacular area. It is also a reserve for the relatively rare noisy scrub bird (Atrichornis clamosus).

Nornalup Walpole Inlet

West of Albany along the southern coast there are a number of sunken river valleys with narrow outlets into the sea. The Frankland River at Walpole is probably one of the nicest of these. Lined by beautiful forests the inlet and river are very peaceful spots just to potter around in a canoe or other means of transportation. The area is a national park and the headquarters of the park are at Walpole. Official camping is permitted only there, however there are numerous beautiful places where you can get away from all the tourii.

WEST COAST

From Cape Leeuwin north to Busselton there are numerous pretty little bays for slacking around in. In this area there are numerous limestone caves. If you can put up with the guide some of the tourist caves are very pretty. There are plenty of caves to be found just by wandering around in the district.

National Parks of Western Australia

All the parks that I was in seemed to be very regimented with limited official camping areas. Most also charged a minimum of \$1.00 a night per person. They have a number of parks under 2000 hectares and only seven over 100000 hectares. The bigger parks are:-

- Drysdale River (northern Kimberleys)
- Chichester Range (Pilbara)
- Fitzgerald River (between Albany and Esperance)
- Hamersley Range (Pilbara)
- Kalbarri (north of Geraldton)
- Stirling Range (north of Albany)
- Cape Arid (east of Esperance)

Wildflowers of Western Australia

They really are good. I was in Perth in October and at that time the hills behind Perth were magnificent. There was an incredible array of species. There were at least four different species of Angosanthos in flower. Western Australia has 46 species of banksias varying from the crimsoned flowered B. coccinea (in flower in Dec. in the SW) to a number of prostrate species. Clumps of Hibbertias of bright yellow, mauve Thysanotus creeper, numerous peas and dainty Thelymitra ground orchids made a really beautiful sight. In the paddocks the rich orange flowers of the Christmas tree (Nuytsia floribunda) looked really great.

Access to Kimberleys

Your own vehicle is definitely necessary. The good spots are a bit far to walk to from the main roads plus traffic is conspicuous by its absence. I saw two vehicles in 36 hours along the Gibb River Road and it's the second major road in the area.

From Derby the bitumen extends to Fitzroy Crossing in the east, Broome to the south and to past Meda station to the north. From Broome the gravel extends 600 kms. to Port Hedland. From Fitzroy the gravel extends 350 kms. to north

of Halls Creek. The Gibb River Road from Derby is a reasonable gravel road with the main hazards being cattle and sudden bottomless culverts.

Access to Gorges

Derby - 10 kms
 Mt. House/Gibb River turn off - 7 kms
 Windjana Gorge turn off - 123 kms
 Tunnel Creek to right follow signs to Windjana - 147 kms
 Tunnel Ck - 186 kms
 Yamarra Gap - 136 kms (Napier Range)
 Ingliss Gap (King Leopold Range) - 189 kms
 Lennard Gorge turn off - 198 kms to right in about 6 kms
 Rough Track
 Mt. House/ Moll Gorge turn off to right - 255 kms. Moll Gorge
 32 km to yard turn left 22 km to gorge
 Adcock Gorge turn off to right - 276 kms drive 5 kms
 Galvan Gorge turn off to left - 293 kms walk upstream 500ms
 Barnett River - 309 kms left hand fork to camp 4 kms.
 Manning Gorge turnoff at Mt. Barnett homestead - 315 kms
 right hand fork to gorge 4 kms
 Barnett Gorge - 337 kms turn left then right hand fork to
 gorge 4 kms

Coast South of Derby

Access is via a road passable to standard vehicles in dry weather only. Leaves Broome-Derby road about 15 kms from Broome.

Grant Range

Turn right off main highway 26 kms past Broome turnoff sign posted Camballin. About 25 kms turnoff to right to Myroodah settlement. Some of the Grant range is sacred to the aborigines at Myroodah and permission should be obtained from them before you wander through.

Hamersley Range National Park

Access is from Wittenoon about 190 kms south of Port Hedland.

North West Cape

Access to the most spectacular gorges is to head towards the range from the airport at Learmonth. The tip of the cape and the american communications base is accessible from the town of Exmouth.

THE SOUTH

Stirling Range

From Cranbrook in the north (just off the Albany Highway) a good gravel road leads to the park. From Albany the bitumen road cuts through the range at Chester Pass and continues on to Borden. A good gravel road running west from Chester Pass and connecting up with the Cranbrook Road gives good access to the western part of the park. A bitumen road runs from the rangers residence at Chester Pass to the foot of Bluff Knoll. The four wheel drive track to Mt. Magog runs off Stirling Range drive at the picnic area about 4 kms to the west of Magog and Talyuberlup. There are numerous fire trails through the park which can be used as walking tracks to enjoy the wildflowers and heath without the scunge.

Porongorups

Access is either west from the Albany/Borden Road about 40 kms north of Albany, or east from Mt. Barker. The park headquarters are about 25 kms east of Mt. Barker.

Mt. Many Peaks

Access to the coast is either to the north of Cheyne Beach or to the south at Beth Beach. The Beth Beach turnoff is 35 kms from Albany on the Esperance Highway. The Cheyne Beach turnoff is a further 10 kms towards Esperance. A four wheel drive track runs from Beth Beach for an unknown distance east along the coast below Mt. Many Peaks.

Two People Bay / Cape Vancouver

From Beth Beach a four wheel drive track runs behind the beach round to the cape. From Albany a road from Middleton Beach runs along near the coast out to the cape.

Walpole / Nornalup Inlet

Walpole is on the main road from Bunbury to Albany. From around Walpole there are numerous vehicular tracks leading towards the coast and back into the forest. The official camping ground is at Coalmine Beach on the inlet about 1 km east from Walpole.

QUOTABLE QUOTES OF '77

35

(THE HAVE A GO AT NEIL GIBSON PAGE)

Overheard after a Mini-Heybob collating:

Neil Gibson: Well I must be off. I have a long way to go home.

Gus: Do you need a tow?

(For those of you who are unfamiliar with Neil Gibson, he drives his car occasionally - when it feels like going.)

* * * * *

Helen (after a wet night under crowded fly on Hinchinbrook, distastefully fishing wet socks out of wet sleeping bag): "I hate sleeping with something cold and wet and horrible."

Liz (looking at Gibbo's early morning state): "You mean Neil?"

* * * * *



THE HOWS & WHERE'S OF WANDERING ROUND TASSIE

NEIL GIBSON

WHY GO? Tasmania offers some of the most magnificent and varied walking found in Australia, ranging from isolated clag-bound peaks to sunny coastal beaches. Two months of solid walking in Tassie leaves a further two months next year, and the year after

HOW TO GET THERE. Probably the cheapest (well, at least the surest) way is by rail to Melbourne and by plane to Devonport \$103 return in 1976). The train journey is very pleasant (chuckle, chuckle) ... well a lot more pleasant than trips on Queensland trains. It's a good idea to take food for the train trip with you, as train food is generally about the same quality as refectory food and twice as expensive.

WHAT TO TAKE. Your equipment for an extended stay in Tassie should be in good repair and of reasonable quality. A down sleeping bag is essential (it can snow in mid summer), as is ample wool clothing. Wool is stressed since it still keeps you warm when it's wet. A dry (second) set of clothes should be carried to change into at night. A water-proof tent is also necessary even in the Reserve where huts are provided since those are generally pretty full. Chuffers can also come in handy. Tassie is not like Queensland, the weather is extremely changeable and blizzards do sometimes occur in summer. If you don't carry the gear to cope with this you could (and some have) freeze to death.

Extended trips require you carry light food, generally of the freeze-dried type. About 1kg/day/ person is generally sufficient. Always carry a day or two extra in case of bad weather.

THE NATIVES. The natives are extremely friendly and easy to get along with. The easiest and cheapest way of getting around the island is to hitch. The roads in summer are generally clogged with hikers. The natives often go out of their way to drop you off, or take you home to feed you (bushies generally have an underfed look after a trip) or feed you on the way. Singly or in pairs is generally the optimum hitchability (as a function of the carrying capacity of the average car, though a maximum of twelve has been recorded).

PLACES TO SEE. Walking on the island ranges from easy to difficult. It is important for your own safety not to

Tassie

*in the summer
for memories of a lifetime.*



COACH TOUR 14 days Includes express coach to Melbourne and return plus 8 days inclusive coach tour of Tasmania.	\$488.70
FLY/COACH TOUR 8 days Air Bris/Bris and 8 days fully conducted coach tour through Tassie.	\$560.00
COACH TOUR 16 days (Camping Accommodated) Includes express coach to Melbourne and return plus 12 days inclusive coach tour of Tassie.	\$359.00
FLY/DRIVE 8 days Includes air Bris/Bris and car rental (unlimited kilometres) and accommodation.	\$407* per person
SEA/ROAD ECONOMY You and your car by sea from Melbourne and 8 days in Tassie. Includes return berths, car freight and accommodation.	\$231* per person

* Fares based on 2 people travelling.

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LBO 3289

Tassie really is. See why many old destitute clubmembers are seen to collect coke bottles, and even work before Christmas just to get sufficient money together to wander off to Tassie again.

With care and Hughie's blessing, it's a fantastic place to walk.

attempt a trip that you arn't capable of (physically) or competent of (navigation-wise) to carry out. Types of country range from the overland Cradle Mt. - Lake St. Clair through walk (a good one on which to test equipment and get fit) to the beaches of the south coast track, Freycinet and Maria Island, to the lakes and peaks of P.B, the Arthurs and Denison Ranges.

A PLACE TO COME BACK TO.

Hobart is the ideal place for a base. It offers cheap camping at Sandy Bay Caravan Park overlooking the yacht harbour and the Casino. The railway cloak room can be used to store access gear for very little (20¢ a week). The cafes at Sandy Bay offer good 'real' food after a long trip as do the pubs (an added advantage is the 24 hour trading). The GPO is an excellent place for a mailing address. And in town there are two good walking type shops (the Scout Shop and the Outdoor Centre).

THEREFORE Go, enjoy yourselves see what a magnificent place

ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK

CHRIS DAWES

Arthur's Pass National Park straddles the main divide of the Southern Alps approximately 150 kilometres north west of Christchurch, New Zealand. Its name is taken from the 3020ft pass which has been a major communication route between the west and the east for over 100 years. The two townships in the park are Arthur's Pass and Otira which, by road or rail, are approximately 150 kilometres from Christchurch and 98 kilometres from Greymouth on the west coast. From Greymouth it is best to go by bus as the train misses the most spectacular part of the journey by going through a 5 mile tunnel to avoid the Otira Gorge (Arthur's Pass). Arthur's Pass is a very attractive and untouristy town lying almost at the top of the pass in a long, narrow valley between rugged, snow capped mountains. It is the centre of the national park and consists of a station, national park information centre, shop, touri tea rooms, youth hostel and a few skiing huts. Otira, a larger town, is at the bottom of the pass on the western side.

Accommodation is available at the youth hostel at Arthur's Pass or in the mountain huts throughout the park. Camping is not allowed in either town but there are campsites within 5 or 6 miles of them. It is recommended that you do not depend on the local shop for all your food as it is always shut and the owner seems to begrudge selling you anything if you are not a local. For example on a Sunday he told us there was no bread but on Monday sold us Friday's bread.

There are dozens of walks in the park to suit all and a good contour map can be bought at the national parks information centre at Arthur's Pass. For the slackers there is much to be seen just from the road such as the Devils Punchbowl Falls, Otira Gorge and a few short tourist walks. If you are moderately stropky the Bealey Valley and Glacier is a good day trip (about 8 miles return from Arthur's Gap). The Bealey Glacier is much smaller than Fox or Franz Josef but is more impressive as it is easy to climb around the side and up to the top of it. It is really just a massive pocket of hard packed snow caught on the mountain, so time must be allowed to build a snow man.

Another excellent day trip is up Avalanche Peak (6000 ft) which overlooks Arthur's Pass township. The climb is not difficult and would be a bit harder than Peasant's Ridge on Mt. Barney (S.E. Queensland). Although it is not the

highest mountain, the view from the top is really spectacular as it is well above the tree line and level with the snow line on other mountains. There is virtually no vegetation at the top as it is usually covered in snow and ice. An interested feature is the Crow Ice Fall on Mt. Rolleston which is quite green against the snow and rock. There are two ways up Avalanche Peak and it is best to go up the steeper track (behind the ranger's house) and come down Scotts track. There are also tracks up other nearby mountains such as Blimit Peak and Mt. Aicken. For more experienced walkers there are a large number of routes through the park not so clearly defined and these go to most of the huts in the area.

If you are in New Zealand, Arthur's Pass is one of the best places to go, as it is easy to get to but is not full of tourists and the scenery is just as spectacular as anywhere else.

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A COLLECTION OF DAY WALKS

MT. GREVILLE

Mt. Greville is situated on the shores of Lake Moogerah. Its main source of interest to the bushwalker lies in the gorges eaten into the side of the mountain. There are three main gorges, one on the north side, and two on the south-eastern side.

To reach Mr. Greville by road, follow the "Mt. Edwards Scenic Drive" around the shores of Moogerah. If you intend to ascend via one of the south-eastern gorges, continue past a turn-off to the left signposted "The Head and Warwick" but take the next unsignposted turn to the left shortly after. This turn is over a grid and through a white gateway. The road will take you around to the south-eastern side of Greville and to a point where the twin gorges become obvious.

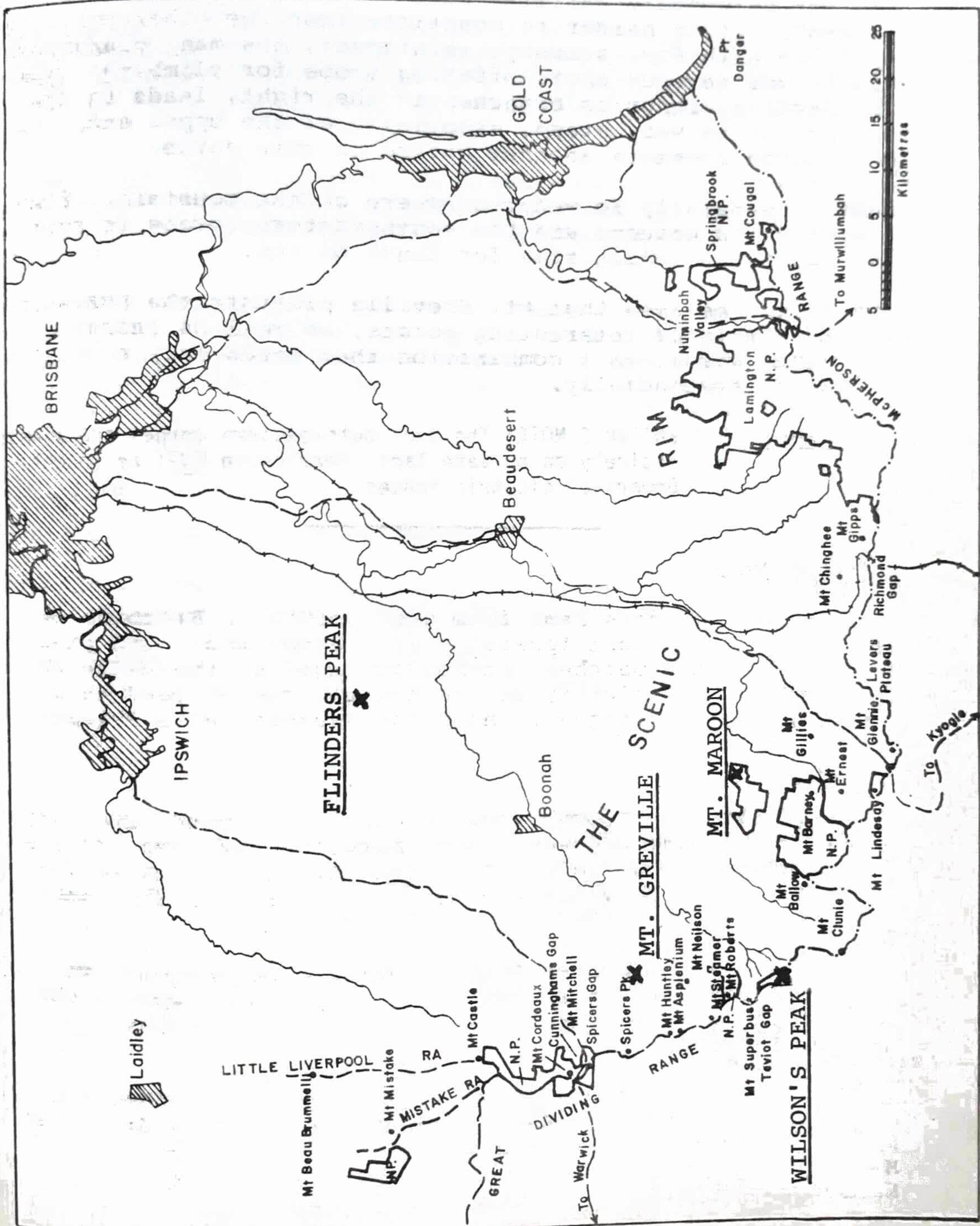
These two gorges are referred to as the 'left' and 'right' gorges, named when looking at the mountain from the bottom. The 'left' or 'Piccabeen' gorge is entered via a large scree slope in a small patch of dry rainforest above the open foothills of the mountain. This spot is best located by walking a short distance in a westerly direction around the base of the mountain. Continue past a large, dry gully that marks the start of the right gorge, and past a small scree patch until a second, larger scree slope is encountered. Follow this slope uphill and into the gorge mouth - a rough track exists.

The gorge is filled with Piccabeen palms and is continuous, with only a very few subsidiary gorges. It narrows in several places to about fifteen feet, with seventy-five foot walls. The walls near the mouth of the gorge exceed this height considerably, although the gorge is much wider there. Yet there is no running water, or indeed, any water at all in the gorge.

When the head of the gorge is reached, bear left and follow the southern ridge to the top. Views from the cairn are limited by scrub; good views can be obtained during the ridge ascent, or if you are prepared to descend short distances in various directions to find open patches.

The right gorge is entered via the dry gully mentioned above. It is wider and deeper than the Piccabeen gorge; it is also more rugged and has more subsidiary gorges. Again, on reaching the head of the gorge, bear left past the other gorge and hence to the top.

LOCATION MAP



I am not personally familiar with the northern gorge, but apparently it is harder to negotiate than the other two. It is filled with dry, scrubby, rainforest, has many branching gorges, and several spots offering scope for climbing. The main section, ignoring branches to the right, leads to the top, but it is very steep, especially at the upper end. Fine loose scree presents another hazard in this gorge.

There is generally no water anywhere on the mountain. Time to ascend and descend via the south-eastern gorges is four to five hours, including time for lunch on top.

Thus it can be seen that Mt. Greville presents the bushwalker with a variety of interesting gorges, as well as fairly reasonable views, in a combination that needs only a day trip to explore successfully.

Nigel Beeke. * EDITOR'S NOTE: The two south-eastern gorges are almost entirely on private land. Permission MUST be sought. Beware of electric fences!

FLINDERS PEAK

You can see Flinders Peak from high points in Brisbane away over to the S.W. past Ipswich. From Swann Road, the peak, covered in rocky patches, stands out against the azure sky on clear days. Its clarity on the horizon can be used as a gauge, as to how smoggy or hazy the weather is in Brisbane.

The drive

First of all, go through Ipswich, and out towards Amberley on the Cunningham Highway. Near Amberley you turn off along Boonah Road on your left. From this turning it is 20.7km. along the roads to where you leave the cars (if they make it all the way).

Scenery along the Boonah Road is quite picturesque - the dry, brown paddocks are sprinkled with farm houses, and to the east of the road begins a line of blue-purple hills and mountains.

The peaks include Mt. Goolman (1520') and then Ivory's Rock. Ahead lies Mt. Perry (1080'), Mt. Blaine and Flinders Peak itself (2223') by far the highest. Further on again are Mt. Elliott (1430'), Mt. Welcome, Mt. Flintoft and Ivory's Knob.

About half a mile before the small township of Peak Crossing and roughly opposite Ivory's Rock, the Flinders Peak Road (labelled same) turns off to the left, and heads for Flinders Peak. It is a gravel road, which gradually degenerates into a track.

Along this road you cross 10 creek crossings and pass through two gates. There are a couple of bad patches in the road, and during or after wet weather you may have to walk the last mile or so.

Whether continuing in cars or on foot, you stop just before a third gate, where there are cattle yards to the left of the road. On the right, immediately beyond the third gate is a small pre-fab. house. Where you stop at the cattle yards, Flinders Peak is clearly visible to the S.E. a couple of miles away.

The climb

The climb takes 2 - 2½ hours.

Proceed up the main ridge directly opposite the cattle yards, in a southerly direction through clear open country.

After awhile the bumpy ridge enters open forest country. At one point, over a cliff line to the left of the ridge, is an excellent view of the main peak.

Further up you come to a scungy area - a steep rocky area covered in undergrowth. It is a short climb through or around this scungy area onto a prominent rocky knob. You can steer around the western and southern edges of the scunge, and then swing slightly eastwards onto the rocky knob. Or, you can come straight up through the undergrowth onto the rocky knob.

This rocky knob is the beginning of a rocky razorback ridge heading east. There are views here of Cunningham's Gap and Wilsons Peak.

Head along the razorback to the next rocky knob, which is also met by a steep ridge coming up from the south, from where you can see Mt. Barney and Mt. Lindsay to the S.E.

From here you go along a fairly well defined track up the obvious ridge which goes towards the summit in a northerly

direction. There are some tall grass trees on the way. On the top, there is a Trig. beacon for survey reference (there is another beacon on a knobby nearby too). Due to the combined effects of clearing for the Trig. station, and bushfires, the summit plateau is dusty and covered in scruffy regrowth.

From the summit there are good views all around. You can see Ipswich, Brisbane and the Swanbank Power Station. Also the D'Aguilar Range and the Glasshouses are seen. In the other directions you see the Main Range, and the whole of the McPherson Range.

The best spot for lunch is just down from the peak on the Northern aspect, overlooking the Thumb (a rocky monolith across from the main peak).

Descent

It takes 1½ - 2 hours to descend. Return the same way as you came up. Where the ridge starts to give off spurs (in the open forest part of the ridge) be careful to stick to the spur you came up on, or you will end up further up or down the entry road.

Take plenty of water on the trip as the surroundings are dry and dusty, and the quality of creek water at the base of the mountain doesn't look good. So if you happen to spend a day then I'm sure that you'll agree that Flinders Peak is a pleasant and interesting day walk from Brisbane.

Janet Traves

WILSON'S PEAK

Wilson's Peak is a reasonably easy climb taking approximately 1 - 2 hours depending on the size and speed of the party. There is no difficult rock-climbing. Despite a bit of scung at the top, an excellent 360° view can be obtained by standing on the rock cairn.

The easiest route is to follow the rabbit fence up the southern slope until you reach the cliff line. From here a track, clearly marked by strips of plastic, leads around the base of the cliff and up an easily climbed gully to the

top.

Road access is from Boonah, the last 14 miles being gravel and not recommended in wet weather. Wilson's Peak can be approached either from the N.S.W. border or from Teviot Gap which is shorter. A good idea is to drive in via the N.S.W. border and out via Teviot Falls as this makes a scenic round trip. Road directions from Boonah are as follows. All distances are given in kilometres.

- 00km - Boonah - take Rathdowney Road
- 03km - Intersection - take right fork, then left almost straight away but keep on Rathdowney Road
- 16km - Turn right into Carney's Creek Road
- 23km - Road Junction - keep straight ahead (still on Carney's Creek Road)
- 32km - Causeway and road junction - over causeway then straight ahead towards N.S.W. border. (turn right here only if you want to go via Teviot Falls)
- 34km - Gravel road starts
- 36km - Road junction - straight ahead
- 41km - Road junction - straight ahead to N.S.W. border
- 48km - Very sharp right turn just over crest
- 49km - N.S.W. border and gate. Stay on obvious main road until causeway
- 47km - then intersection take sharp right hand turn Road marked "Killarney via The Head" (grid immediately after turning)
- 59km - Causeway and then veer left. Follow obvious main road until
- 66km - (approx) Border gate (back in Qld) follow road until
- 68km - (approx) Intersection - turn right towards Teviot Gap. In the next few miles you will see the rabbit fence and when it starts to leave the road, that is where you start walking. There are 2 fences; follow the one furthest away from the road.

By continuing along this road you will come to Teviot Gap and then to reference 32 above.

The trip is made all worthwhile by the superb 360° views at the peak, which include the Main Range, McPherson Range, Mt. Lindsay, Barney and the Lamington Plateau.

Chris Dawes.

MT. MAROON

Mt. Maroon, south of Boonah, is fairly isolated from the surrounding mountains. It lies several miles to the north of Mt. Barney, and three miles east-north-east of Mt. May, to which it is connected by a low ridge. The eastern side is fairly precipitous, but the western side slopes gently away. Two types of routes exist up the mountain, either a long, slow walk up the southern or western ridges; or a quicker, though steeper and stiffer climb up the eastern side. The second alternative offers a more scenic and interesting route and is consequently the one I will consider here.

A reasonable campsite exists at the starting point for the ascent of Maroon from the eastern side. This campsite is on the edge of a lagoon on the north-east side of the mountain. To reach it by road, continue through Maroon township on the Boonah-Rathdowney Road, a mile and a half after leaving the township continue straight ahead with "Cotswold" sign, and after another two miles the campsite will be reached. It is advisable to bring your own water, since the lagoon's water is of very dubious quality.

Ascent of Maroon is made up the ridge to the left of the gorge that directly faces the campsite. Continue up this steep ridge until a rock face is encountered near the top, then contour to the right and into the gorge. Follow the gorge up to its head, from where either summit can easily be reached. A track has been worn by usage in the gorge.

The southern peak is the obvious higher of the two summits, and thus a magnificent 360 degree view can be obtained from its cairn. The McPherson Range looks very impressive when viewed from here, including Mts. Ballou, Barney, Lindsay, Earnest and Glennie. Also visible are the peaks of the Main Range, as well as the Lamington Plateau, and as far north as the D'Aguilars.

The round trip from the campsite takes four to five hours, including time for lunch on top. Water may be found in the heath swamp between the two peaks. This trip is well worth the few hours needed, both from the interesting nature of the eastern side of Maroon, and also from the very good views obtained.

Nigel Beeke

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SOME BUSH RECIPES

JANINE BANKS

DAMPER:

A true damper is cooked in the white hot ashes after a big fire has burnt down. The damper must be only a couple of inches thick so it will cook right through quickly. The coals are scraped aside and the shaped dough placed in the centre of the hollow. Take care covering it over. It must be made airtight to prevent it burning.

Camp ovens are also popular if you don't like brushing the ashes off a damper placed directly in the coals. These are, however, a little heavy to carry on bushwalks. I usually use a frypan with a metal plate as a lid. (The cooking sets that fold together are ideal.) Grease both well. Any combination of flour and rising generally works, and depending on the slackness of the trip, there are a number of extras you can add to make it even more scrumptious. Served with jam or honey and a good cup of tea, a damper is good tucker any time of the day. Here are 2 varying recipes to give you some ideas to get started.

I. A couple of handfuls of flour mixed with a couple of pinches of baking powder, salt and cream of tartar. Add about a quarter of a mug of water and mix well. If the dough sticks to everything it's too wet and if you haven't any more flour you are in trouble. Otherwise, the dough may still be too dry, so in this case add a little more water, kneading, to make the dough smooth. Shape and place in pan, cover and cook. Depending on the heat of the fire, the damper could take from 10 minutes to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

II. An alternative is to use self-raising flour, (wholemeal preferably) and add some raisins, a little sugar and powdered milk and an egg. Again, add the water only a little at a time, otherwise it will become too sticky. This sweet damper is delicious for supper with butter and strawberry jam. Make a damper on your next bushwalk.

FLAVOURING MEAT:

If you forget to take along your herbs and spices, a lovely way of flavouring meat is by cooking it layered between the wet branches of bottle brush or red river gum. This should be done in a shallow pit with a fire of red river gum or paper bark wood, which will also impart a delicious flavour.

BEAN CASSEROLE:

A bean casserole is a good value dinner and doesn't require much preparation. Just boil a couple of handfuls of various dried beans (lima, kidney, haricot, blackeyed, etc.) with a few lentils in salted water for an hour or longer, depending on how soft you like them. If you have a base camp, you could leave them soaking all day, which cuts down on boiling time. Add a chopped carrot, zucchini, onion, tomato and a stock cube when the beans appear to be almost cooked. This is very filling for a couple of people.

KANGAROO OR WALLABY TAIL:

Did you know that a kangaroo or wallaby tail can be used as a basis for stew exactly like oxtail? It also makes a good kangaroo tail soup. Roast the tail for a couple of hours so the skin comes off easily, cut into sections and coat with flour. Put it into a big billy with water to cover, seasoning, some butter, and the usual veges (potato, onion, carrot, etc.) Simmer for an hour or so, until meat starts to fall from bones.

PIZZA:

A pizza cooked on the campfire is a feast you shouldn't miss. Just use a flour and water base (S.R. flour makes it easier) and cook it lightly on one side, in a greased frypan. Turn it over and cover the cooked side with a base of dried tomato soup powder mixed with about 2 tablespoons of water. Top with slices of salami, sardines or anchovies, olives, and plenty of crumbled tasty cheese. Cover with a metal plate and bake until cheese melts and runs everywhere.

SNAKE:

You need 2 people to bake a snake, as it must be stretched over the fire between them to prevent it frizzling into a small tightly-curved black char. This relaxes the muscular contractions and allows it to be rolled like a rib roast. The roll is tied with string and buried in the coals to cook. Baked snake tastes like delicious chicken.

FLYING FOX:

The flying fox is cooked in New Caledonia when a special delicacy is required. They are cooked in red wine with prunes. In Malaya, they are cooked in the oven, then the meat is shredded into a bowl. The pieces are then dipped into a

sauce of soya sauce, ginger, oil, and spices. Except for the gall bladder, all parts including the bones of the flying fox, can be eaten. No preparation is required, as the whole animal is placed in the fire and the wings burnt off. The legs of the flying fox taste like ham.

PANCAKES:

Pancakes are good for breakfast especially if you've got some honey or strawberry jam. Mix 2 tablespoons of flour for every pancake with a little powdered milk, sugar and a beaten egg. Add enough water so that the mixture is thin enough to cover the bottom of the pan quickly. The pan should be lightly buttered to prevent sticking. Flip the pancake when bubbles appear. Flipping is just a flick of the wrist. Smother in butter and jam or honey and roll up. Delicious!

WITCHETTY GRUBS:

You can eat witchetty grubs 'au naturel' but grilled witchetty grubs in butter are a real delicacy. You could serve witchetty grub kebab at your next barbecue.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All of Queensland's native mammals, birds, reptiles, (and two species of butterfly) are legally protected. Thus snakes, kangaroos and wallabies, and flying foxes are protected fauna in Queensland and should not be used for these recipes (Seasons may be declared on some species. Information and permits may be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.)

"solitude, in the sense of being alone, is essential to any depth of meditation or of character; and solitude in the presence of natural beauty and grandeur is the cradle of thoughts and aspirations which are not only good for the individual, but which society could ill do without."

J.S. Mill - Principles of Political Economy.

TASMANIAN RAMBLINGS

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RUSSELL O'MALLEY

It was one snowy, blowing, rainy day of the 1976 Tasmanian winter, when looking for things to do while still in bag, that the past few years graphic scribblings provided me with the answer - February, March. Yes, determined to discover the driest months of the year when I might at last be able to appreciate the full beauty that is so often shrouded by mists, I used an infallible statistical guide to past weather conditions - the hut log books coupled with bushwalkers' tendencies to remark (often tactlessly) on anything but the clearest skies. Having a couple of weeks of my summer vacation remaining, I set out with express aims on the Western Arthurs, the southern end of the Lake St. Clair National Park and the Cape Pillar seascapes.

As the plane taxied to the Devonport terminal, the wind rush from the propellers sent swirling waves through the endless fields of yellow flowers. The isolation and small size of the island was apparent through the lack of traffic and yet ease with which the Mt. Field National Park and Russell Falls were reached that same day.

WESTERN ARTHURS: Walking away from the scar that is Scotts Peak Dam, the air was thick with the smell of the leatherwood blossoms. The range before me portrayed a jagged skyline withholding the mystical beauty of the Western Arthurs traverse to come. Arriving at Junction Creek hut in mid-afternoon, a vaguely familiar log book greeted my eye. An earlier (1973) entry reminded me of my firm intention never to return to the land of button grass plains and march flies. Still, under perfect afternoon skies and itching to ascend to the land of the gods, the Tasmanian wilderness had already regained all its charm for me.

After a steady climb to the top of Moraine A, the view from the ridge below Mt. Hesperus shows accurately the nature of the Western Arthurs where a continuous row of peaks stretch east - west and yet from this first crest, the terrain is already dropping sharply to the south, yielding uninterrupted views of Bathurst Harbour and the southern ocean shores some miles away. Now too, the purple haze of far away mountains had become grey rugged dolorite outcrops with steep scrubby approaches. In sight now is the first of the myriad of tarns, each with its own perfect setting - Lake Fortuna. After climbing quickly to Mt. Hesperus, the shadows were growing longer and a scramble down the slopes to Lake Cygnus brought an end to a good day.

Day two brought the real start to the Traverse with narrow cliff-lines and large rises and falls in height. Coming onto a good viewing point south of the track, the impressive sheer face

rising from Procyon Peak to Mt. Orion nestling the still unseen Square Lake made a picture not to be forgotten. Everywhere wild iris and Christmas bells showed themselves on the treeless moors. After crossing to the south of Square Lake and reaching the saddle between Mt. Orion and Mt. Sirius, the whole of the range ahead and still more distant, the Eastern Arthurs with Federation Peak prominent made a spectacular view. Climbing from Square Lake to the ridge crest was typical of the traverse each ridge hides another tarn with its own special appeal and the steep climb becomes easier with the curiosity of what lies ahead. Mt. Sirius provides a good side track from which probably the best views of the trip can be attained. On returning to the saddle which overlooks Lake Oberon, I attempted to follow the route guide but somehow the "clear slopes leading down" evaded me and an interesting though not too terrible time was spent utilizing the full extent of my reach hanging onto scoparia and swinging down the very steep gullies which eventually emerge at the clear shores of Lake Oberon. With the day still young, a quick look at the route guide again provided some interesting reading where very specific details were given - "Climb the Pegasus." Perhaps the route taken by myself was an incorrect one, however if not, one short section requires noting: that being the apparent impass enroute to the top overcome only by manoeuvring through a small skylight about one average body (without pack) wide. (this is the correct route. Editor.) From the Pegasus a fairly distinct though sometimes misleading track heads for Mt. Capricorn. Despite reasonable going along steep slopes, on the few occasions when the track petered out I finally understood that the path is not always under your feet but often straight above your head and up is the answer. Coming down is even more vertical in places though with use and the fact that you can see where you are going the way is fairly obvious.

Resting in the saddle between Mt. Capricorn and the ridge leading to Dorado Peak were the first signs of life I'd seen since Scotts Peak Dam. Three Melbournites had come to do a section of the traverse. Shortly after I arrived, a great clap of thunder rumbled from the west seeming to hang in the humid still air between the peaks before the storm. Without further ado and fixing my sights on the south west slopes of Mt. Columba all four of us moved very quickly to the exposed High Moor. The storm coming closer and the thunder more frequent, we strained even harder to reach the more sheltered campsite of a lower moor. The tents were pitched just in time to receive the first drops of a heavy storm. During a reprieve in the rain one of the others walked out to the most prominent position overlooking the beautiful Lake Minas below, however came scurry-

ing back with his hair on end swearing lightning had opened the sky only a few feet from him.

The morning dawned a sky of broken clouds and light breezes. The first section of the walk covers what are aptly named the 'Seggary Bumps', referring to the ups and downs on the narrow ridgetop. The first section to 'Lover's Leap' provides a series of interesting manoeuvres and amazing scene changes varying from the razorback ridgetops, to the near vertical drop into the saddle before 'Tilted Chasm' - the sheer overhanging walls of 'Tilted Chasm' itself, where again the angle of fall is spectacular, to the number of little jumps required before 'Lover's Leap' making you wonder whether it is over-rated and you've missed it, then the Leap itself with the soft earth mound on the other side having two heavily imprinted boot-marks showing that it has been done before. At every corner a new lake, sometimes hundreds, sometimes a thousand feet below, shows itself, making this ancient glacial scenery unique to the Australian landscape.

As Haven Lake came into sight the wind had grown much stronger and the clouds more ominous. The campsites described in the route guide (indeed the only usable hundred square feet since High Moor) are on an exposed slope running with water; not an ideal site for a tent in bad weather. Pushing on to Promontory Lake, the vagueness of the route guide had me worried for the first time. Though the view from Mt. Scorpio is good, the summit is not on the through route and sidling around to the northern saddle is more direct, particularly with bad weather coming in... After the rugged terrain of the route so far covered, I was almost ready to tackle the arete leading east from the summit of Scorpio. However a quick compass bearing showed the true direction and the fact that although you can't see Lake Vesta you know it is there many hundreds of feet below, and down is the way to go. Just as I began the descent, Scorpio was engulfed in racing clouds. Cold rain and high winds helped me quickly find the correct route off the ridge onto the more sheltered but steep slopes surrounding Lakes Vesta and Juno. Although most of the previous tarns enroute drained themselves through southerly gaps, the remaining waters found their way to the Arthur Plains of the north. While climbing at the base of the north east cliffs of Carina Peak, there was a good vantage point to view the waterfall between the two lakes. Coming upon Promontory Lake was a relief, as the cloud level was descending almost as fast as I dropped in altitude, though there was still a considerable distance to go to the campsite. Like Haven Lake the shores are exposed and finding the least exposed, highest and driest

spot was difficult if not impossible as the ensuing weather showed.

My thoughts reflected on the shorts and shirt I had been wearing that morning to the now full array of wool shirt, anorak, long and overtrousers - evidence of the rapid climatic changes of any alpine region. No sooner was the tent up than visibility was reduced to zero, light intensity fell to the same, the rain pelted down causing an almost instant rise in the watertable of about a foot, so that the tent may as well have been pitched in the middle of the lake, and the wind gusts literally roared past with increasing fury. The intensity fluctuated throughout the night but by mid-morning the worst was over and by lunch the bad weather had gone as quickly as it had come.

Setting off again in shorts and shirt and thinking of today's landmarks of Lake Venus, the Phoenix, Crags of Andromeda, I could not help feeling how aptly they were named and how much a part of the scene I had become. Looking from the West Portal it was interesting to contrast the way Federation Peak had suddenly grown in size and lost its foreground of rocky ridge tops, so evident from Mt. Sirius, to be clear and impressive but still some distance away across Pass Creek. The Crags of Andromeda are just that and though many tracks appear to descend on the approach side of each Crag, I finally ran out of Crags and tracked through cut scoparia on the south side of Lucifer Ridge, regained the crest of the moraine and found the last of the lakes - Rosanne, as beautiful and as individual as Fortuna, the first of them some days before.

When you reach Lake Rosanne you know it is over; no more peaks, no more tarns and that tomorrow is a long dry walk along the undulating lowlands of the Arthur Plains. Navigation-wise this ironically proved to be my worst day; first finding myself about forty feet above a gully clambering from one section of horizontal scrub to another and finally, looking back at a quartz-pebbled track, I found I had chosen the wrong saddle to descent to Cracroft Crossing so that except for the last fifty yards to the hut I hadn't put a foot right all morning. The walk out to Scotts Peak Dam that afternoon was uneventful except on my return to Junction Creek Hut, I noticed that a group of other UQBWCer's had, unbeknown to me begun the traverse not 24 hours after my start.

PINE VALLEY: Being in fine physical condition after the Western Arthurs, I did not delay in Hobart except to restock, travelling to Cynthia Bay on the southern end of Lake St. Clair

by the following afternoon. Quickly discovering that the jet boat service was exorbitantly priced and that its first run was not until 10.00 am, I prepared for my fifth walk around the edge of the lake. Early in the morning I left for Pine Valley. Though the scenery was familiar, memories of the short, bleak days of winter with rushing streams and the snow carpeted forest floor contrasted heavily with the long February days and the dry conditions which made for much easier walking. The ring of mountains from Mt. Byron to the Acropolis formed an impressive backdrop to the flowering Leptospermums, prolific along the valley track. While walking up the forest track to the hut, I looked through a gap in the trees to see the open valley of sphagnum moss and button grass - reflecting on the water running below, never dry enough to deplete it, never cold enough to freeze it, never deep enough down to prevent your foot or whole body (depending on location) going through it - always there and aptly named last winter - "Permabog."

After an early lunch it was up to the "Labyrinth" where the European landscapes of icy lakes, snow and pine trees had transformed to the Australian summer scenes of low heath, bare rock and an expanse of water, Lake Opisthion. Realizing there was still a few hours sunshine left in the day, I decided that to see the Acropolis at sunrise would be unusual and worthwhile, so that pack was put back on again and the steep ascent to the plateau begun. Despite a previous attempt and long distance viewing between clouds, this was the first time I had actually seen the massif at close hand and even from the plateau it is most spectacular.

After pitching the tent, I began to look for water. Usually having it under the tent and between toes, it became quite frustrating to find that the whole moor appeared dry. However in the last gully before the climb, a "permabog" yielding clean fresh water was found.

With camera ready the first light yielded a number of 'Ayers Rock' like colour changes from red through orange to yellow as the line of light crept down the peaks, then to the plateau and sometime later to the valley below. While the morning was still cool and most sane people were still sleeping in the valley below, I began the ascent of the Acropolis which is truly entertaining and unique, with tall sheer faces of rock towering above, unusual isolated, slender pillars standing as sentinels on the mountaintop, a pile of crashed pillars appearing in all not unlike the ruins of the Acropolis - a phenomenal work of nature. In the early morning there

was no haze, a light breeze, all so distant from the crowds on the plains. From the highest point on the massif you could see a proliferation of peaks, from Geryon near at hand to Ossa, the highest point in Tasmania, to Frenchman's Cap in the west almost to the edge of the earth. After enjoying the timelessness for what must have been a long period, and wandering amongst the tall weathered columns, I began slowly to retrace my steps first to Cynthia Bay and then to Hobart which at that moment seemed a world apart.

CAPE PILLAR: Having only flicked through a few articles in the "Tasmanian Tramp" and heard from others who had been there I was looking forward to exploring the real nature of the Tasman Peninsula. From Hobart central where the bridge was still incomplete the procedure was first to take the ferry across the Derwent to Bellerive then hitch out the airport road toward Port Arthur. After passing through Eagle Hawk Neck there is a signposted turn to Fortescue Bay (13km) off the eastern side of the highway. At that time the Forestry Department had closed the road to facilitate new operations so that I was faced with a 10km road walk in the February sun. To decrease the boredom I began wandering along with my nose into "War and Peace." After a few pages or a couple of kilometres, a good-natured forestry worker stopped and drove me to the turn-off sign to Cape Pillar which on that day was lying on the ground dozed under by dirt.

The walking track is well worn passing first through sclerophyll forest then more open country, dropping steeply into the scrubby Lunchtime Creek which is the last creek with a good permanent flow of water and rising sharply again to the thick heath headland where soon the sea becomes apparent in the south. The track then crosses to the east and from the top of the hill before walking onto the Cape proper, the tall lighthouse of Tasman Island appears. In February '77 this area at the neck of the Cape was still black and bare from a recent bushfire and detracted from what must have been a beautiful setting around Perdition Ponds, the last reliable water (though not running) on the Cape. It is from here that the walk really starts with outstanding views of the most rugged cliffline around the Australian coast. Gigantic organ pipes, the result of igneous cooling and sea weathering tower a thousand vertical feet from the azure blue sea below. Looking down a small crevasse may reveal a large hole where the sight of the crashing seas and the sound of the surf seem out of time. After a little way, Cape Pillar appears prominently, with a deep watery canyon, separating itself from Tasman Island at its closest point.

This was a good afternoon's walk from the road and I was setting about removing the contents of my pack, when the sun appeared under the clouds giving a purely golden light to everything so that the cliff-faces catching its rays produced some rare and beautiful lights - much film was exposed with worthwhile results. Next morning proved overcast though the walk to the Cape itself continued to illustrate the grandeur of the southern cliffs and finally of the eastern coastline towards "The Lanterns" as well. After narrowly escaping the fattest angriest Tiger snake I have ever seen, my nerves were on edge and it took no time at all to reach my overnight campsite again. The walk out was by the same route and after a quick change from bushwalker to a mild-mannered, well-dressed city person I took a lift to the Hobart airport, but not without stopping at the Blowhole on Eagle Hawk Neck where the swell was especially large that day. (H.W.C. informs me of a new Tasman track from Waterfall Bay to Fortescue Bay which promises to be worth exploring in future.)

"DAY 4LAUGHING CREEK TO HANGING LAKE

10 - 18 hours

Distance - $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, climbing 3000 feet.

This is the hardest day of the trip. The climb to Geeves Bluff lies entirely within dense forest. Progress is very slow and there is no water on the ridges. Once in the forest, there is little if any visibility. Although several parties have successfully found their way, none seem certain of their precise route. The following route has been selected from aerial photos (1948 and 1961) to avoid major valleys. Although it has been discussed with those who have done the trip, it has not been proven on the ground.

1st Leg

Extract from Hobart Walking Club "Route Guide No. 5 - Federation Peak" - Day 4 of Federation Peak via the Old River Route

