

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

ISSN 0313-2684

CLIMBING IN KAPUTAR

If the quality of rock climbing in the Mt. Kaputar National Park was ever in doubt, such doubts can be laid to rest after the appearance of "Aslan", a 50 m climb on the northern face of Euglah Rock. The climb was put up by visiting top U.S. climber Tobin Sorensen and visiting top U.K. climber John Allen, and is graded at 26, which rates it as the equal hardest climb in Australia. The only others (to my knowledge) being "Procul Harem" by Kim Carrigan at Mt. Arapiles in Victoria and "Manic Depressive" by Greg Child in the Grampians, also in Victoria (possibly the only 3 in the country capable of climbing a 26 at the present time). Compared to these areas and many others such as Frog Buttress in Queensland, Ben Lomond in Tasmania, and the Blue Mountains, Kaputar is a lesser known climbing area and consequently less frequently visited by top climbers which makes the appearance of "Aslan" even more astounding.

Kaputar was much slower to develop as a climbing area than the more accessible regions such as the Blue Mountains, and even the nearby Warrumbungles. In fact, where these latter areas have a climbing history going back to the 1930s, the first recorded climb in Kaputar was in 1963, with the next climbs coming in the mid to late 1960s, and most of the development taking place in the last 5-6 years. In the period 1975-1978, many classic high standard climbs were put up, including "Red Disc" 19, "Sky Pilot" 20, "Trigger" 20, "Air Raid" 20, "Borrowed Time" 20, and "Micauber" 21, all of which are on the Governor and most of which are attributed to Armidale climbers Dick Curtis (now in Tasmania) and Brian Birchall.

But, believe it or not, with all this high standard climbing going on, there are still huge areas of virtually unexplored cliffline, such as the N.E. face of the Gins, Nth faces of Mts Waa and Bobbiwaa and Yulludunida, where all grades of climbing are possible. Such areas allow medium to low grade climbers (and even beginners) to go out and do a new route (which isn't possible in other established climbing areas where all the easy routes were done first). As well as the unexplored cliffs, many medium to low grade classics exist in the area worthy of repeat ascents.

At present Mathew Zuiderdien is preparing the new guide book, which involves the inclusion of some 50 new routes since the first one was published in 1978. This should promote even greater interest in climbing in the area, since the first edition was only a rough working guide.

Mark Colyvan

(from Narrabri Bushwalkers Newsletter)

ON THE CLUB SCENE

Welcome to the Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoors Club, P.O. Box 132, Baukham Hills, 2153. The aim of the club is to provide a family club for bushwalking, outdoor and social activities. This club is located in the "Hills" district and appears to have no minimum joining age.

The University of New South Wales Mountaineering Club has amalgamated with the University's Bushwalking Club and they are now known as U.N.S.W. Bushwalking and Mountaineering Club.

The Tamworth Rucksack Club has changed its name to Tamworth Bushwalking and Canoe Club. New address for the Bush Club is C/- 12 Forest Road, Double Bay, 2028.

The Illawarra Bush Club has resigned from Federation affiliation due to a declining membership.

WHAT'S NEW

Several new books have appeared on the shelves recently.

A Guide to Bushwalking, Book 3 - covering ten one day walks - about \$2.00, Myall Lakes National Park - a touring guide by Alan Fairley - about \$2.00, Rock Climbs of Narrow Neck - about \$5.00

Paddy's Bushwalking and Camping plus Skiing has just been 75% rewritten and is now on sale for \$2.00.

So far as gear is concerned, you can now buy dry japara jackets (round \$42) which are lighter and less likely to tear. With the fuel crisis, you won't need to re-oil them, and their many colours will attract the flamboyant walker.

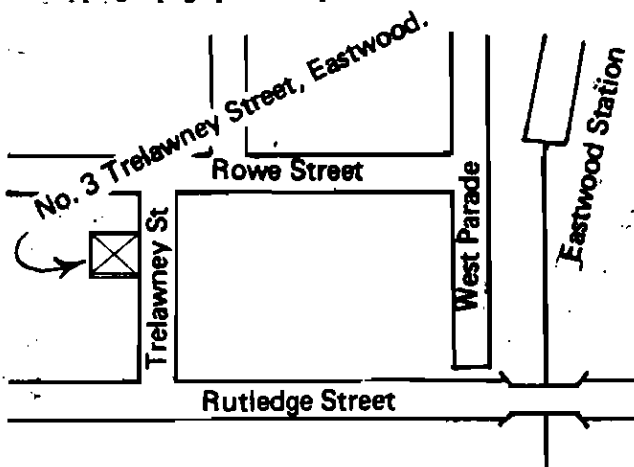
Paddy is also selling the "Bimberi" sleeping bag, which lies between the Kiandra and the Hotham. Described as a good all year bag, it has the advantages of a square-end and weighs only 1 kg.

EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

ALL THE USUAL GEAR:

Fairydown sleeping bags, abseiling gear, parkas, packs tents, boots, groundsheets, lightweight food, AND MUCH MORE.

Agents for Lands Department and Division of National Mapping topographical maps.



EASTWOOD CANVAS GOODS AND CAMPING SUPPLIES

**3 TRELAWNEY STREET, EASTWOOD.
PHONE: 858-2775**

SCHEDULE N.2

A CODE OF ETHICS OF THE FEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS, N.S.W.

1. Objects:

To encourage the preservation of the qualities of the natural environment; and to promote their enjoyment by travellers on foot, ski or in oar - or sail-powered boats.

To reinforce the concept that, in the natural environment Man is a visitor who neither remains nor leaves any substantial trace of his presence.

To establish guidelines for the maintenance of the safety of the party unit; and to encourage courtesy.

2. Preservation of the Qualities of The Natural and Primitive Environment:

2.1 Self-Reliance

In the natural and primitive areas visitors are self-sufficient, do not use any form of mechanised transport for travel, do not rely on air-drops for food supplies, and provide their own portable accommodation - for example a tent.

2.2 Campsites

For minimum impact in popular areas camps should be on previously used sites.

Camping on fragile vegetation should be avoided.

Construction of tent platforms and bedsites, and the digging of trenches, should be avoided.

Trees, both living and dead, are part of the scenery and should not be cut. Only fallen wood should be used for tent poles. Aluminium tent poles should be used rather than green timber.

All evidence of use is to be removed before leaving a campsite.

2.3 Fire and Fuel

Gas or liquid stoves should be used wherever wood is scarce, above the treeline, and also during bushfire danger periods. Current regulations about fires in the open should always be observed.

Wherever possible, existing fireplaces should be used, or else a small area cleared for a fire well away from tents, trees, scrub and grass.

Only dead fallen timber should be used, and sparingly.

Completely extinguish the fire with water before leaving.

2.4 Sanitation

Toilet waste including paper should be buried beyond the reach of flies and well away from present and potential campsites, tracks and streams.

2.5 Water and Washing

Water supplies should be kept free of any polluting agent.

Swimming should be done downstream from where drinking water is obtained.

2.6 Rubbish

"Carry out what you carry in" - everything that will not burn should be removed, especially foil, metal, plastics, cans and bottles.

Blazes, cairns, tin tags, etc., do not belong in the natural environment.

3. The Maintaining of The Safety of the Party Unit:

3.1 Preparation

Written details of your walk should be left with a responsible person.

A walker should always carry a map and compass and be competent in their use.

A walker should carry a first aid kit suited to his needs, and be familiar with basic treatments.

A torch and matches should be carried in a waterproof container.

3.2 On the Track

A walking party should have a leader and should abide by a leader's decisions.

Each member of the party should keep in contact with the person in front.

Any member who is unable to keep up should immediately let it be known to the leader.

The leader should count the party from time to time.

A reliable person should bring up the rear.

4. Courtesy and Commonsense:

4.1 Within the Party

The sounds of the natural inhabitants should predominate.

Noise from radios and other devices is not in keeping with the natural experience.

Fires should be lit at a safe distance from any tent.

Each member of the party should provide his own share of wood and water.

Stepping over uncovered food should be avoided.

4.2 To Others

A party should camp alongside another party only if invited.

A supply of wood found in a camping cave, or in a hut, should be replenished before leaving.

The rights of landholders should be respected. Permission should be obtained before crossing private property, or using private roads.

Fences or posts should not be damaged. Gates and sliprails should be left as found. The first through should see that the last knows how to leave it.

Permission should be obtained prior to camping on private lands.

SECOND NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

A conference on National Parks to be held at the Women's College, Sydney University on November 23-25, 1979.

The conference is intended to improve community understanding of the diverse benefits of national parks, and includes papers on value for health, recreation, tourism and economy, science, education and environment protection. The conference will

divide into workshops to discuss and provide recommendations on specific methods of improving the national parks.

Registration costs \$45.00 or \$15.00 for full-time students. Registration and further details:

on foot, ski or in car - or sail-powered boats.

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Only dead fallen timber should be used, and sparingly.

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Swimming should be done downstream from where drinking water is obtained.

2.6 Rubbish

"Carry out what you carry in" - everything that will not burn should be removed, especially foil, metal, plastics, cans and bottles.

Combustible material, including food scraps, must be burnt completely on the fire AFTER cooking is finished.

2.7 Tracks and Markers

Marked or formed routes should be used where they exist, and making new parallel tracks avoided.

River crossings should consist of local fallen trees, or rocks, and not especially constructed bridges

A walker should always carry a map and compass and be competent in their use.

A walker should carry a first aid kit suited to his needs, and be familiar with basic treatments.

A torch and matches should be carried in a waterproof container.

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Australian Conservation Foundation,
C/- T.E.C.,
18 Argyle Street,
Sydney, 2000

Telephone: 271497

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH AND RESCUE

The New South Wales Federation of Bushwalking Clubs was formed in about 1932 to create a forum of bushwalkers keen to protect the Blue Gum Forest from the developer's axe. Since that time, the activities of the Federation have encompassed all aspects of outdoor recreation and wilderness conservation.

In about 1934, at the site of the newly dedicated Blue Gum Forest, a bushwalker became lost/temporarily mislaid. A number of clubs in the area were involved in the ensuing search, and it was on this occasion that the bushwalkers resolved to form a self-help group for bush search and rescue. Thus the foundations were laid for Australia's oldest land-based volunteer search and rescue group.

For the next forty years, a small band of dedicated and hardy walkers have enjoyed bringing fellow walkers to safety, without further injury to their patients or themselves; an unequalled record in this field.

Being aware of the shy and retiring nature of the typical bushwalker, it is not difficult to appreciate why the activities of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue are rarely emblazoned in the press. A contributory factor to this lack of publicity is the traditional bushwalker "uniform": how could a rabble of such pathetically dressed persons possibly negotiate that rugged terrain in such foul weather? Call them volunteers and say the police did it.

This outward appearance of disarray conceals a group of the most highly experienced walkers trained in every aspect of bush search and rescue; and as you tread ever deeper into the wilderness, remember - Bushwalkers Search and Rescue can get you out!

Bushwalkers search and Rescue is not for all, but if you are a member of an affiliated club, are prepared to take one or two days off per year (without warning), are a reasonably competent walker and are prepared to sacrifice at least one weekend per year for training, then why not you?

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue is not able to train persons to abseil, climb and canyon techniques; that is the responsibility of the clubs. In an earlier issue of this Newsletter were laid down the basic requirements for participation in Search and Rescue. These prerequisites call for a very high standard; we can't afford to have a rescue carried out by untrained and inexperienced people. But in spite of all the gloomy forewarnings, we need new faces at training weekends. We also need club contacts. Your club should have received a club contact advice form soon after the Federation AGM. Complete and post it NOW; otherwise Search and Rescue will not be able to contact your club when the call comes, and you will miss out.

The training weekends for the remainder of the Federation year are as follows:-

- 1 and 2 December: Canyon Search & Rescue at Mt Wilson, base at picnic grounds, approx. 1.5 km beyond Mt Wilson P.O. (towards Mt Irvine), starts 8:00 a.m.
- 22 and 23 March: General large scale search practice, first aid, radio technique, possibly air support; location Wollemi area, to be notified before Christmas.
- 7 and 8 June: Technical/vertical rescue practice, arduous navigation training, Dharug Nat. Park, main camping area, 8:00 a.m.

The committee is as follows:-

Director: Robert Pallin - 4671334 (H)

Field Officer: Keith Maxwell - 5001111 (H)

Information: Mike Richter - 4763861 (H)
- 2335330 (B)

Equipment: Keith Massie - 6319171 (H)
- 6394115 (B)

Medical: Sue Cave - 4766530 (H)
- 441241 (B)

Committee Member: Robyn Tuft - 6987640 (H)
- 6662358 (B)

WALK SAFELY, WALK WITH A CLUB!

TWO SERVE YOU BETTER!

That is our aim, and the reason we now have two shops in Sydney.

The advantages for you include:

- * More stock than ever before on display to select from.
- * We can make larger purchases, often at a better price and pass the savings on to you.
- * If an item is out of stock at one shop, we can usually obtain it from the other within a matter of hours.
- * Our new shop in the city now makes it unnecessary for many to make that trip across the bridge.
- * Running two shops keeps our small staff on the ball.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

17 FALCON ST., CROWS NEST, 2066
Ph. 439 2464, 439 1647

62 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY, 2001
Ph. 29 4840



THE PALAWAN EXPEDITION

Palawan is the westernmost island of the Philippines and measures 425 kilometers by 40 kilometers. Rugged limestone mountains run the entire length of the island.

Palawan is the home of an exotic flora and fauna found nowhere else. In the Taboan caves, remains of paleolithic man have been found that are said to pre-date and have connection with the Australian Aboriginal. Deep in the forests of the south is a tribe said to be culturally the world's oldest. Very little research has been done on the island and only the coastal areas have been explored. The island is honeycombed with caves that were once used as burial sites for a people that buried their dead in clay jars. The classic is St Pauls Subterranean River which is easily navigable for at least four kilometers, and only part of the main river has been explored.

Traditional Explorations is working in co-operation with the Government of Palawan, and various societies and educational bodies in both the Philippines and Australia. We will collect information on the island, prepare reports, make films and generally assist the Government of the Philippines in their plans to preserve parts of Palawan as wilderness sanctuary.

On the island, the expedition will divide into small groups of similar interest. Groups can choose where they want to go. Participants can also visit other islands of the Philippines but will be expected to contribute to reports which form the basis of this rare and beautiful area. All costs will be worked out on a co-operative basis. Members should

Bemusedly rereading the explanatory note "Why Rogaining" thoughtfully included by Peter Tuft in our briefing papers, 50 of us lined up for the start of this year's Rogaining event, organised with admirable thoroughness by the UNSW Bushwalking and Mountaineering Club at Wollombi.

It was to be a test of bushcraft, not just athletic ability, so Don and I planned our strategy: leave road accessible points for darkness; make sure of the easy ones; carry only water and ultralight survival gear. We navigated scrupulously and ran whenever possible - not for us the lame (or sane?) excuse of taking it casually!

The question is not so much "Where did we make mistakes?" as "which mistakes were the most disastrous?" I wasted precious master map reference time covering my map with Contact plastic; Don copied in a road without the 'indistinct' dots; our first leg took in a way-out point "because we couldn't get back for it"; I failed to wear a sun hat and salt my water, took an impulsive sip from a cow country creek, stuffed down dried fruit and spent the next 10km, 4 points and 5 desperate hours vomiting it back up. Don navigated - I was barely conscious.

Back at Wollombi Hall, blessed soup and 3 hours sleep (instead of our anticipated 1 hour) pulled body and mind back together and we set out for a new round of mistakes with heavy torches and only an hour's darkness left, most of which was spent finding an easy point which was actually 100m from the map reference (the only organisation fault I could find). Torches unsportingly dumped for retrieval after the event, we recrossed our tracks of the previous day (there must have been a good reason for it) and really got

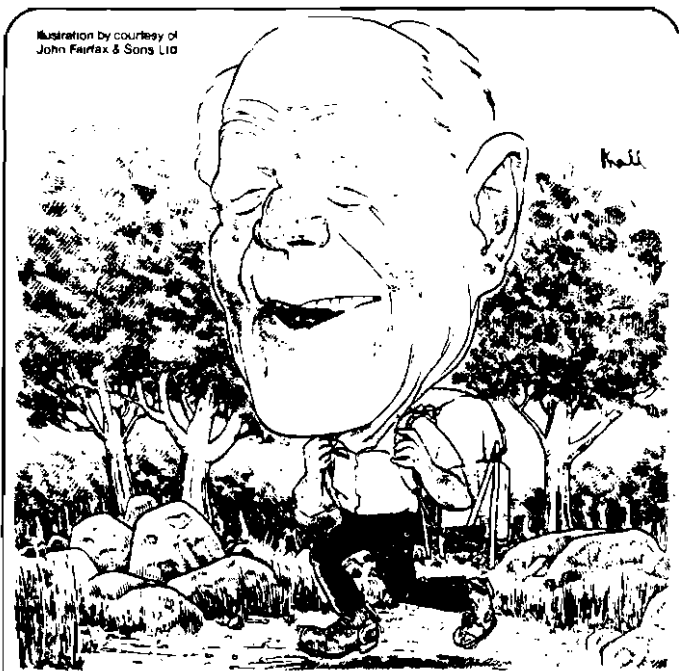


Illustration by courtesy of John Fairfax & Sons Ltd

50 years of service to outdoor enthusiasts

Daddy Pullin Outdoor Gear

Stuck into making up lost time, on a very scrubby ridge which we had expected to be grazed clear like the one adjacent. Forced to abandon half the points which would have made the loop worth while, we roadbashed for home, with the consolation of detouring for a cheeky extra point, running back to the Hall with minutes to spare. At least we felt satisfied with the accuracy of our navigation.

The result? We did about 50km for 17 points out of 39; the winners, Laimonis, Kavalieris, R. Vincnet and Ray Dawes scored 31; runners up, Lorraine Tomlins and Keith Thomas got 24; winning the mixed section.

Murray Scott
Sutherland Bushwalking Club.

MORE ON ROGAINING

The preceding article by Murray Scott amply sums up a competitor's side of the inaugural rogaining event of October 6th & 7th. From the point of view of the organisers I would like to thank all those who turned up and made us feel that our effort was worthwhile. However that is not to say that running the event was a chore - we too had a thoroughly good time.

There seems a good chance that a group of people will be found to enjoy themselves organising another event next year. We hope that Murray and all the others from this year will come along, eager to apply the knowledge and experience gained this time, and determined both to put up a brilliant performance and to thoroughly enjoy the challenge.

The results of the event are set out below - congratulations to the winners and runners-up. Congratulations also to a couple of those towards the end of the list who as far as we could gather, had never done any bushwalking or navigating at all before. They certainly show up all those bushwalkers who probably thought to themselves, "Well, rogaining might be interesting, but I'm sure it's beyond my ability", or something similar. To all of you we say - a big raspberry, you don't know what you are missing, and give it a go next year!

Not being certain of the continuity of the event, no trophies were awarded, and only tiny token prizes. However should next year's event be a success too then some consideration will have to be given to a perpetual trophy, and this year's winners will of course be included on it.

Please send articles to:

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STILL OFF ROAD

An article in a recent Federation Newsletter on some excerpts from the Land Rover Owners Club Newsletter would appear to have embarrassed a few people. This is reflected in their latest Newsletter as the "outcome of misquoting articles" several motions were moved such as:

"That we include the following the following on the front page or cover of all magazines/Newsletters."

"This magazine is produced solely for the benefit of the members of the Land Rover Owners Club of Australia, Sydney Branch."

"The executive of this Club wishes to be known that any article or report printed therein may be partially or wholly fictitious and should not be quoted or purported as being a true record or account of this club, the members, or their activities. Furthermore any views or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Club as a whole."

This motion then produced two amendments:

"That all articles are copyrighted and no item may be reproduced."

The second one is the main reason that I can relate all this for your benefit:

"Since articles can obviously and deliberately or inadvertently be misquoted... the matter be given time for discussion until next General Meeting."

The meaning of all these motions and amendments is clear. Like the daily papers "any article or report may be partially or wholly fictitious" so we can't believe what they say. Does this mean the LROC AGM which was held on 26/9/79 might or might not be a figment of the imagination of the reader? And because "the magazine is produced solely for the benefit of the LROC members" does this mean that

these hot selling little numbers will disappear from our favourite news stands? Maybe they are doing the world a favour!

Whatever it all means it's still good for a giggle!

Bob Burton

THE WAGES OF WALKING

Have you notice in recent times how "bushwalking" has become a business? A walk in Royal National Park (2 days) sells for \$30; near Gosford, walks sell for \$27; four days in the Pilot Wilderness are \$120; and the Wild Dogs are \$25-\$55 per day.

If you also happen to like canoeing, then this leads to 5 days on the Murrumbidgee of \$240, and 6 days on the Nymboida at \$250 (if you live near Coffs Harbour).

1979 saw the Federation try and run its own "business". Bushsports '79 was "a series of instructional workshops" in walking, caving, skiing, canoeing, canyoning and climbing. Costing ranges from \$6 to \$33 with some gear hire extra. "Walk in the Wilderness" offered 2-3 days in nineteen areas of the State for \$5-\$10 plus petrol costs. Admittedly this latter activity was aimed at experienced walkers with their own gear.

In front of me I have the ideas for a proposed 1980 Walk in the Wilderness program - some 50 walks for the year. Take the month of May for example: each weekend has one trip listed in the proposed Coolah

Tops National Park, Cocoparra National Park, proposed Bimberri, and finally, Morton National Park (Ettrema Section).

Unfortunately, the overall response for "Wilderness '79" walks was poor, and was criticised from the start. It was a pity that people could not see it as a way of discovering new areas, rather than just a weekend away. Half way through 1979, it was decided not to proceed with any further programming of wilderness walks.

Perhaps we, too, should have charged high prices. This may have encouraged more people to attend the trips - people value things when they pay heavily for it. Maybe the "Walk in the Wilderness" is like the Wilderness - not destined to survive.

WALK IN A WILDERNESS REPORT

Washpool Wilderness: 10-12 August. Federation's trip for the "Walk in the Wilderness" program.

This trip commenced from the Gibraltar Range National Park on Friday August 10. From here we drove to the ridge above and to the East of Hianana Creek. We followed this stream, down through wet sclerophyll/vine scrub, into Washpool Creek. Hianana drops over a number of short falls before forming a steady stream beneath an almost closed canopy. It joins Washpool Creek at a large swimming hole but the water was too cold. A short rockhop past the junction is Pi Pi Flat. Pi Pi Flat is a surprising area, large, flat, well grassed, some hardwood - enough space to camp an army of bushwalkers.

A short distance further down Washpool Creek, Eaglehawk Creek enters from the west. On the southern side of Eagle hawk, 3/4 km upstream from Washpool Creek we established our campsite. (A good site for up to 5 tents, having ample supplies of wood and water.) Saturday was spent inspecting the upper reaches of Eaglehawk and it's main tributary - Weat gully. About 1 1/2 km above our campsite, the start of the waterfalls is heralded by the presence of many very large boulders. I lost count of the number of waterfalls. The smooth slides (enjoyed by one) are a must for warmer weather.

Above the main drop the creek deteriorated into a small babbling brook winding through the creekbed vegetation. A short trip over a small saddle to the north and the trip was reversed but this time down Weat gully. These creeks and their falls would have to be the prettiest I have seen in northern NSW and south-east Qld. I fully recommend a trip through this area to anyone wanting a quiet but beautiful 2 day walk.

On Sunday we retraced our steps up Washpool to the Hianana-Washpool junction. A further 1/2 km above we proceeded up the ridge between the two creeks. Near the top we stumbled on a line of surveyors pegs. Although the ridge is covered in fine timber, it appears that this may be thinner in the very near future.

In all a good walk at a leisurely pace in a beautiful area.

Kimbal.

(from NRBC Newsletter, October, 1979)

THE COLONG COMMITTEE'S WILDERNESS CALENDAR

Featuring 13 N.S.W. wilderness areas in Henry Gold colour reproductions. Also location map, phases of the moon and times of sunrise and sunset.

To obtain calendars (\$55.50), write to:

The Hon. Secretary,
Colong Committee Ltd.,
18 Argyle Street,