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AUSTRALIA

Mr N. Lamb
PO Box 57
Greenfell NSW
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1 March 2001
133 Willandra Way
149 Epping Rd
Marsfield 2122

Dear Neil

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory in view of our discussion when we last spoke, & you might pass it on to Graham.

Bob was active in the inaugural activities of the University walking club. He was also a friend of Ronald & Ron & he traced me through Heather.

Sorry I didn't get to you earlier but the pressure has been on me particularly the past six months. My special Sydney friend Allie - we have been friends for over sixty years - has been dying from cancer & passed away last week. I had been spending every second week-end with her for the best part of a year. Then my bronchiectasis flared up. I have since been to a special clinic at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital & I now have a breathing exercise routine which is keeping it under control. (This should have been done 2 yrs ago when it was first diagnosed.)

I finally have a date for my R. knee replacement - it is 24th April. You will not be able to reach me for at least 3 wks, a bit more if the specialist decides I need more rehabilitation treatment.

I do hope all your juveniles have reached maturity & things are more peaceful. I hope the summer weather hasn't been too drastic over your way. It has been pretty drastic here. Regards to self & Heather

From Julie

83 Gray St
Caruna
Brisbane
16/4/66

Dear Julie,

Many thanks for your Kodachromes, they helped to fill in the gaps in my collection and the evening went over quite well. I have taken the liberty of enclosing some of our past circulars and as you will see the Club is now well established. I have been away on two week-end trips and a number of day outings. It did not take very long to get the feel of it back again and am once again leading quite confidently.

I have just spent a weekend at the Steamers, and had a great time. On the Sat. we did Reptile route again on the Funnel (it was climbed 3 times that weekend) and found it by far the best route there. We ended up doing the Abscels off in the dark in the middle of a sharp but short storm. There was I rotating gently in the dark soaking wet, endeavouring to swing across onto the large ledge - most entertaining. Sunday was an easier day - the normal route up the Mast. Three new climbs were put up by Ted Caus's party. An awkward budge from the Tinnacle onto the Eastern end of the Mast and then straight up. A new route up the South Face of the Funnel and a direct route up the sharp arête of the Funnel joining Reptile Route at the hole.

(2)

This last, led by Don Groom, being called "The Reptiles Tail". We eventually arrived home at 2 a.m.

Monday. The Valley now that the sawmill is shut down is very attractive and a veritable hive of ~~the~~ wild life. The Bell Bird colony is deafening. The road in is not too bad, though we left the cars and piled in the back of Hugh's Land-rover for the final section. The Lincoln looks much the same from the Steamers as I saw it that first morning, rather sad and very nostalgic. We took over one of the old deserted mill houses for the weekend and I will never forget sitting there with Hugh listening to his radio - the Shepherd's song from "Chants du Auvergne", very beautiful and most moving in that setting.

Apart from the Steamers, a brief list of others climbs carried out.

Beanoah - Sth Face - "Atropos" - new route
" - North Face - "Achilles" - new route

Tibro - Carborundum

Tibro - Prom I

Tibro - Prom II

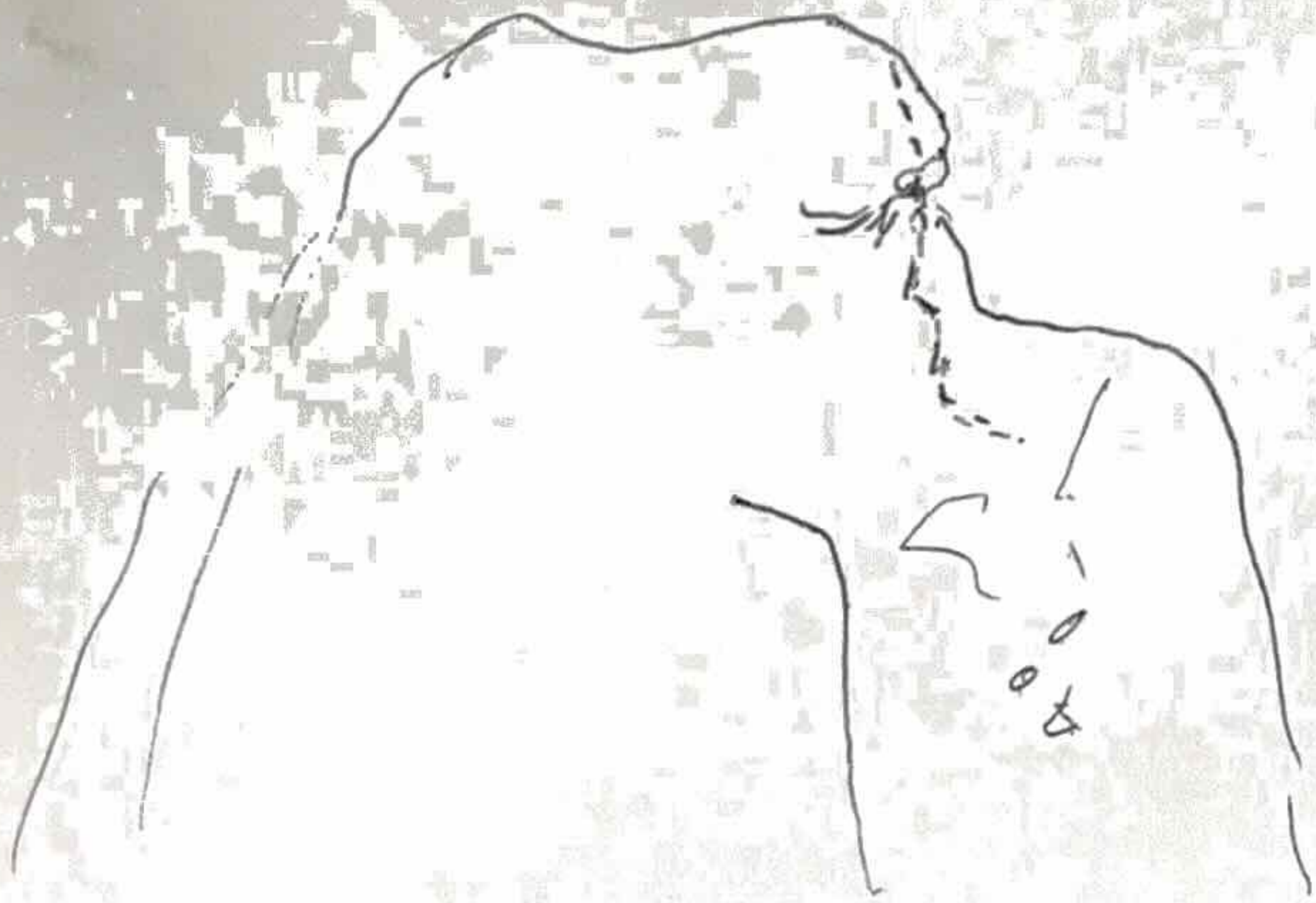
Numbur - The Pinnacle

" - The Cathedral

- The Monks & Monastery

(3)

The tigers have just put a new route up on Tiber which goes up through the Sarge overhangs beneath the summit on the East Face



Grade 5 and highly exposed, somewhat above my standard at the moment. I have taken over as Editor and am now responsible for the Circular etc. I have just started preparing our Guide Book which will be somewhat similar in style to the Sydney Rockies book. We intend producing it in loose-leaf form so as additions may readily be made as new climbs get done. If you would like these sheets as I do them please let me know. The Club were down at the Warrumbungles at Easter and I have not had a chance to find out what went on.

I would very much have liked to have gone with them but it would hardly have been fair to Betsy and the boys. Betsy is pleased to see me out again and says its doing me the world of good. I've lost a stone and a half and am now back to a sensible and healthy $12\frac{1}{2}$. The only disadvantage is that my clothes no longer fit me. Robert started school this year and seems to be fitting in quite O.K., although he gives Betsy a rough time each afternoon getting home shockingly tired and quite frantic. Stewart is the quiet one by nature and I anticipate a lot of headaches over Robert. He just seems to have that edgy excitable nature Betsy herself is quite well and has even managed to put on weight, although, as she complains, in the wrong places. I'm quite looking forward to Winter after an enervating & tiring Summer. At the club Kodachrome competition last Wed. I even managed to take two 1st prizes at which I was very pleasantly surprised. I only put my slides in to help make up the numbers. I wrote to Bill last Dec. asking for a loan of his slides but have received no reply and am now worried as to whether or not he has shifted from his old address. If you know

his address. would you kindly forward it. Hugh is much the same as ever and I enjoy his company very much on the outings. I went to hear the London Symphony Orch, last week, - a magnificent sound, did you get the chance.

How is Canberra and more particularly how are you. Has the physiotherapy been of help. I suppose you would by now be feeling the first wintery blasts. I must write to John but never seem to get around to it. How is Pauline settling down now. I suppose Thomas must be quite a big boy now - time flies. Are you intending a visit up here at all in the future, I would very much like to see you again.

Kindest regards
Neil.

P.S. It is now the 25th Aug & I still haven't sent this - I'm terrible. We have had a winter of sickness here, one thing after another. Betsy is in hospital at the moment - nothing very serious though - so I'm chief cook & bottle washer! I haven't had time for any climbing lately. Hugh has gone back north for 6 months & we had a day on

Crookrock just bef. he left. Up the West face in 50
m.p.h. westerlies. Quite a day. I shall now make a
super-concentrated effort to register & post this
Neill

P.P.S. Try and get hold of a copy of
"Rock Climbers in Action in Svalbard" by John Cleare
& Tony Smythe (Frank Smythes son) - published by
Decker & Warburg \$4.45. Its a terrific book.