This expedition made new determinations of the heights of the local mountains. Taking a mean figure of 8600 m for the highest summit of Kangchenjunga, the following relative heights were measured: Yalung Kang −95 m; Kangchenjunga S Peak −109 m; Middle Peak (between the highest summit and S Peak) −122 m. Confirmation of these results is awaited, while a more accurate absolute determination also seems necessary.

Notes 1973 Australasia

Colin Monteath

Australia 1972–73

Keith Bell and Greg Mortimer made the first traverse of Ball's Pyramid, a 1800-ft sea stack off the NSW coast. The descent of the N ridge was severely hampered by the arrival of Cyclone 'Kirsty' necessitating several desperate bivouacs.

This duo has put up considerable numbers of fine new routes throughout Australia in the past year including the breathtaking 970-ft Icarus (grade 19) on the huge N face of Bluff Mountain in the Warrumbungles.

All states of Australia continue to produce fine young climbers and many new routes (a conservative estimate gives 350 new routes in the past year). Completely new and exciting areas continue to be found and opened up resulting in many great climbs; far too many to name.

Established trade routes continue to take a hammering with further elimination of aid resulting in some very high-grade routes. High ethical standards are being maintained. *Thrutch* magazine continues to serve climbers throughout Australia and New Zealand with up-to-date news articles and details of ascents.

New Zealand 1972–73

Mount Cook area, 1972 winter season Bill Denz and Alan Jones completed the first winter ascent and traverse of Mount Hicks (3170 m) in the upper Hooker valley. They bivouacked on the summit ridge of Hicks; from there Denz carried on solo to complete the first winter ascent of Dampier, New Zealand's third highest peak.

Graeme Dingle and Noel Sissons made the first winter ascent of the magnificent S ridge on Mount Cook. They bivouacked twice on the ridge then descended the W ridge on Cook from the low peak. Perhaps the most significant winter ascent of the season went to Limbo Thompson and Bob Cunninghame when they made the first winter Grand Traverse of Cook from Gardiner to Plateau huts. The small close-knit group of climbers attempting winter routes was brought to a sudden halt when Keith McIver and Bill Hauck were killed attempting the Caroline face on Cook.

Mount Cook area, 1972–73 summer season Bill Denz soloed the 4000 ft ice route on the S face of Cook. He followed up this first ascent by soloing a new line on the Caroline face coming out directly on the low peak of Cook. Routes like the Caroline face, S face on Douglas, W face on Haidinger and the E face on Sefton continued to attract top local and overseas climbers. No less than three hard new routes went up on the S face of Hicks; a complete ice route by Keith Woodford and Mike Browne; a buttress route by Graeme Dingle and Noel Sissons and a mixed gully route by Denz, Peter Gough and Etienne Kummer.

Mount Cook, 1973 winter season Rob Rainsbury, Brian Pooley, John Visser and Colin Dodge climbed the E face of Cook thus completing its first winter ascent. Peter Gough and Bill Denz climbed the 3500-ft rock Sheila face on Cook, also a first winter ascent. These two climbs mark only the third and fourth times Cook has been climbed in winter. One of New Zealand's top guides, Bruce Jenkinson, was killed by a short fall whilst rock climbing near the Mount Cook village.