

Adventure in Australia

A former pupil of Warden Park School, Cuckfield, who left the country at the age of 17 to seek adventure, has certainly found it in Manly, Australia.

Lionel Copeland, now 33, attempted to canoe down a 73-mile stretch of the treacherous Colo River with Greg Elks, an Australian. Their effort nearly ended in tragedy.

The two men were rescued by helicopter just 30 miles from their starting point, after being trapped in a deep ravine for four days. In freezing cold, they survived on beef cubes, after their supplies had been lost with the dinghy on the third day of the trip.

The Colo has already claimed nine lives. Its reputation for rising many feet in any sudden cloud-burst has made it a feared river "down under."

It was Mr. Copeland's first trip of this nature, and he was sponsored in aid of a local charity. According to the Police Air Wing Sergeant he was "a little lucky. The two men had no clue at all about how to get out of the gorge, and they admitted they were totally lost."

Mr. Copeland, who formerly lived in Handcross, is a refrigeration engineer, and his companion, Greg Elks, is a policeman. Their Colo River effort raised 490 dollars for the Royal Far West Health Scheme.
