

3-62

The Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club

THE MOUNTAINEER.



Number 3

1962

Registered at G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical

THE MOUNTAINEER

Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

Correspondence : Union, University of Melbourne, Parkville. N.2.

No. 3. Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical.

This month we printed as many contributions and reports as were legible and in plain English. We will continue to do this but cannot spend time correcting and shortening articles. Please do not hesitate to resubmit revised contributions.

Although there were only 65 new members during orientation week, this number has been considerably increased in the past few weeks. There is a wide variety of trips planned for the next few months, catering for new and old members whether interested in walking, climbing or caving. Details of these trips and lists for names will be posted on the Club Notice Board in the Union several weeks before each trip.

Any new members requiring advice or information on any Mountaineering Matters are invited to cast aside their fears and come to the terrible "Snake Pit", better known as "Aikman's Rd" (directions in the circular); and freshettes, please do not be deterred by the Band of Bearded Brothers who frequently decorate the portals of this noble institution.

A VAIEDICTION - (forbidding Moaning, on the occasion of the Poet's leaving of the Committee of Elders)

Grieve not my friends,
nor weep nor moan
That Brother Dick from thee
hath gone -
For two long years he hath thee served,
- And is self-exiled now, as he deserved.

The Circulars he wrote with glee
bringing the light of poesy,
To pages full of mis-spelt notes
On karabiners and nylon ropes,
With breaking strains and technicalities
- And all this just to avoid fatalities.

His Poems ranged thru Love to Sausages,
(He didn't live some of them down for ages -
Especially the Ballad and one on Salami
Which proved beyond doubt that Dick was balmy).
But gradually he gave up Verse
And by exam-time said first things first.

But Dickie has almost a chip on the shoulder,
(Or perhaps it's just that he's getting older,)
For those who gripe about climbing-rules
And say the Committee's a mob of fools -
But when the time comes for them to act
They're conspicuous by absence, and that's a fact.

But since he's no better, and of little use,
Dickie saw there was no excuse
For holding office as Assistant Sec.,
'Specially as his Sec's Notes need constant check
By the "Doktor" who called him a decadent wreck,
And hoped "he'd slip back thru his --- and break
his flamin' neck."

So farewell my friends,
nor weep nor moan
That Brother Dick from thee hath gone,
The hills and mountains shall remain
Where thou canst wander and forget they pain -
And wonder what manner of man was this
Who wore his jaws in hairy parenthesis.

Bro. Dick

New Committee Members - 1962

President : Viv Pulford. 109 Tennyson St. Elwood. S.3.
636 Swanston St., Carlton. 34 4651.

Vice Presidents : Fred Mitchell. 145 Highett St. West Richmond. JB 5270.
30 Princes St. Korumburra, Vic.
Peter Morgan. 437 Buckley St., Essendon. W.5. FF 8120.

Treasurer : Robin Hawthorne. 112 Leopold St., Sth. Yarra. 26 4628.
82 Fitzroy St., Kerang. 335.

Secretary : Frank Hicks. 86 Paisley St., Footscray. W.11. MW 1835.

Assistant Secretary : Gwyn Davies. 1 Emily St. Mid. Brighton. S.5. XB 4849.

Trips Secretary : Doug Hatt. 5 Cradley Ave., Kew. WM 8658.

Committee Members : Chris Davis. 9 Carnsworth Ave., Kew. WM 8292.
Lindsay Ingram. 5 Hillcrest Rd., Glen Iris. S.E.6. 25 2371.

1st Year Representative on the Committee

Each year a 1st Year member of the Club is elected on the committee.
Through him (or her) 1st year members can present their suggestions or their
complaints.

Climbing Leaders

B. Bewsher
C. Davis
R. Dunse
I. Guild
D. Hatt
L. Ingram
B. Jones
N. McGann
F. Mitchell
J. O'Halloran
R. Riorden
E. Webb
P. Morgan

Competent Climbers List

R. Coles
J. Jacobson
M. Kirkham
B. Melbourne
R. Morris
D. Myers
P. Smith

Membership List

Each July, a list of all financial members is drawn up and sent to each member. The list gives name, status (e.g. Climbing Leader, Vice President), address, phone number. This is immensely useful in contacting friends quickly so please if you are a New Member make sure you have filled in a membership form, and also notify immediately any change of address.

Club Stores and Equipment

The Club Stores and equipment are located at "Aikman's Rd" at the rear of 21 Royal Pde, Parkville (entered only from the lane parallel to Royal Pde.)

The Rooms will be open during lunch hour 1 - 2 p.m., during the week, and in the evening by special request. Stores officers are Chris Davis (phone WM 8292) and Peter Morgan (phone FF 8120).

- Applications for hire of equipment (tents, packs, sleeping bags etc.) must be in the hands of the above at least one week before the delivery date. (Leave a note in the Club Box.)

The Club Letter Box is on the first, floor, Union House, just before the corridor to the Rowden White Library. The box is distinguished by the Little Oxo Man on the Door.

Since the hiring fee of equipment operates on a time basis, any delay in returning same costs you money!

Would any persons having spare packs, sleeping bags or tents available for loan to New Members during the Easter vac. please contact Chris Davis as soon as possible.

Tents - Lost and Found

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the Club nylon one man tent, or claiming a 2 man Paddy Willesden japara tent left in the van after the Wilson's Promontory trip this year, please contact Chris Davis (WM 8292).

For information on equipment for walking and climbing, buy the "Equipment Report", 3/- from Club Stores.

FOR SALE

Kemptons Superdown Sleeping Bag - extra long.

Used once. Reasonable offer. BL 7305. Nights only.

1 Pr. N.Z. rubber soled Mountaineering Boots.
Slightly used. Size 9.

Interested persons phone 50 4491.

1 Pr. Jenkins Workmaster Boots. Good Condition.

Excellent for walking.

Nailed (triple hobs) for climbing.

40/- Juliet Hillman. WY 1642

FOUND

One New Zealand pattern PARKA, on 8th Jan. 1962. on Jagungal (N.S.W.)

Phil Waring, 33 Highgate Gve., Ashburton. S.E.11. BL 1611.

CLUB MEETINGS PROGRAMME

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday, 13th April | Men's Lounge. 7.45 p.m.
Fred Mitchell one of the club's leading contemporary climbers will show slides of his climbs in New Zealand during the 1961-2 season. |
| Sunday 15th April | Hanging Rock Day Trip. Leader : Ian Guild.
Beginner's day scrambling on small pinnacles. Handy for a grounding in basic climbing principles. |
| Thursday 19th April | Easter. Two major trips. Vans from the Union at 6.30 p.m. for
(1) Hotham - Bogong
(2) Dargo - Howqua
See notice board for any minor changes. |

- Friday 4th May Men's Lounge. 7.45 p.m. Climbing Course. Introductory talk on rope use and climbing techniques.
- Sunday 6th May "To the bowels! 'to the bowels of the earth! they cried, When they the dark and muddy mouth of Labertouche espied!"
quote "R.A.M."
- Leader : Rod Coles.
Subterranean scrambling at Labertouche Cave near Drouin. Bring 'the old man's' boiler suit the going might get muddy. Private transport possibly.
- Weekend May 12-13th Sugarloaf : This is the beginner's climbing weekend for the year. Equipment is supplied by the Club, bring your own sandshoes or climbing boots.
Leader : Ian Guild.
- Friday 18th May Informal evening in the Cricket Pavillion. Sure to be a good turn. Music, yarns, 'acts' etc.
- Sunday 20th May Search and Rescue practice day for members of the S-R unit.
- Weekend May 26th-27th Mt. Buffalo. Leader Peter Morgan.
Walking trip, climbing for those interested. Very scenic area should not be too difficult.
- Queen's Birthday
long weekend
June 2-3-4 Leader : Chris "Doc" Davis. Traditional fun fiesta in the playground of the Grampians. Climbing, walking - the lot!
- Weekend June 9th-10th Sugarloaf Weekend. Leader : Lindsay "Scales" Ingram.
Follow-up to climbing course. Bro Gerry Jacobson will lead a weekend walk through an area which has much native flora and fauna.
- Friday, 15th June Men's Lounge, 7.45 p.m. Easter trip slide night. Bring your slides for everyone to see you in action.

Details regarding time and place for the departure of these trips as well as the approximate cost, will be posted on the Club noticeboard at some future date.

If it is imperative that details be known early, contact the leader via the club letter box on the first floor of the Union Building.

Annual Club Dinner

Members are advised that the Club Dinner will be held this year on a Saturday. 23rd of June is the day so keep it clear, promises to be up to the usual high standard! Approximate cost will be 25/-.

Congratulations!

Believe it or not, there have been two recent engagements in the Club. The affianced are Milly Milner and Bro. Dick Myers (perhaps this event explains his absence from the committee this year) and Margaret McKinnon and Jim Menadue. Congratulations to both couples and we wish you all the best!

Secretary's Report - 1961. Annual General Meeting - 22nd March, 1962

Membership.

It appears that, for the moment, membership is remaining constant. Intake at this year's Orientation Week was 65 members bringing membership to 363 including 249 in 1960.

Membership at the same time in 1961 was 349 and 249 in 1960. However the active membership of the Club is still not as great as the Club would like even though big improvements were made last year in new member intake.

Committee Activities

Last year's Committee met 10 times to try and dispose of Club business. Attendance at these meetings was above 90% of total attendance, at all except a couple of vacation meetings when apologies were tendered by those on trips or in country areas.

The committee received a grant of £96 from the Sports Union which was spent in the following way:-

- 4 Tents with suitable modification,
- 2 Sleeping bags
- 6 Inner Liners
- Maps
- Stationery

The Committee was also successful in obtaining a room for Club equipment. This room (actually 2) is located at the rear of 21 Royal Parade and entrance can be gained only via the back gate. These rooms called anything from "The Snake Pit" to "Aikman's Road" now house all club equipment, stores and libraries, and is open at all lunch times and at evenings by request to the Stores and Equipment Officer.

Other activities including the purchasing of a First Aid Kit of suitable standard and rope for climbing.

Meetings

These were quite well attended last year in contrast to the 1960 position. In particular the following nights were deemed a great success:-

A talk on "The Reserve" by Dick Myers.

The "SW" night by Lindsay Ingram and Ralph Knight where a "movie of rather dubious quality" was shown.

The Auction in the Cricket Pavilion.

The First Aid Instruction Night by Bob Sommers.

Finally all who attended the "Club Dinner" had a very good night. This year's talk was by a Club member, Bill Melbourne, who gave a first rate account of a trip of his to Bolivian Andes.

Trips

It is to be regretted that these fell behind the standard of previous years and some of the blame must be taken by Committee Members and other Senior Club people for being a bit lax on this matter. A Club's activeness is gauged by the quality of its Trips and Meetings and it is to be regretted that this side did not function as well as it should have.

However the following trips or outings were very popular and most had a good time.

Labertouche Cave - leader Doug Hatt.

Buchan Caves - leader Doug Hatt. This replaced the usual Loaf post exam weekend. However the 42 people who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Grampians - leaders Lindsay Ingram and Doug Hatt.

24 Hour Walk - Organiser Max Corry. Last year 98 people entered, the winners being Alex Tarr and Bob Jones. This event is becoming very popular and entries should pass the century this year.

Wilson's Promontory - leader Bill Bewsher.

Easter - leader Peter Morgan. It is to be regretted that this trip was marred by a Van accident early Friday morning and another accident later on.

Work of the Sub Committees

1. Equipment Report

- Under the expert guidance of Roger Riorden and Fred Mitchell the Report was published late last year. Already 1200 copies have been sold and the Club's thanks must go to Roger and Fred for a magnificent job.

2. Climbing

This consists of all leaders under the leadership of Ian Guild. The committee has drastically and courageously drafted new rules and principals which will be published in the next issue of "The Mountaineer". It certainly looks as though Climbing is really going ahead at the moment and full credit must go to Ian for the way some of his jobs have been tackled in the last few months.

3. S. & R.

This drastically needs overhauling. It is to be regretted that NO work has been done in the last 12 months. The Club must keep an active up to date S. & R. list for its own use and for the F.V.W.C. if we are to be of any help in rescue work.

4. Heard Island

Under the leadership of Peter Morgan, Fred Mitchell and Barry Hayes preliminary planning for an Expedition to Heard Island is being undertaken.

The Expedition to Heard Island which is planned for November 1962 - March 1963 aims to attempt an ascent of the unclimbed mountain Big Ben, and to carry out instructions in scientific fields such as geology, meteorology and biology.

This is the first enterprise of this kind that has ever been undertaken by an Australian group. The Expedition has the official recognition of the University of Melbourne and also the personal support of Mr. P. G. Law, Director of the Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Progress has been rather slow and in particular Finance is very slow but we have not, nor are we going to give up this project at the moment.

Applications from Club Members for positions will be called next month.

Some Movements of Club Personnel

Four members are at present climbing in Europe with 3 others having paid visits during the summer season, and

Two members, Dr. Loewe and Eric Webb are at present in America.

Also New Zealand was visited by about 12 members over the vacation, although not all climbed.

Some Notable Achievements by Club Members

1. Fred Mitchell and Graeme Wilmot accomplished a Grand Traverse of Mt. Cook, N.Z.
2. Doug Hatt and Chris Davis, 2nd ascent of Mt. Green, N.Z. for the season.
3. The East Wall of Mt. Geryon by Bob Jones.

- Finally I would like to thank all Club members for their help during the year and in particular the way they helped at Orientation Week. I am indeed grateful for everyone's help, including my typist and secretary, Carolyn Robertson for without their help this job would be impossible.

Thank you

Peter Morgan

THE MOUNTAINEER

No. 3

Page 9

Statement of Receipts and Payments
March 15th, 1961 to March 19th, 1962

RECEIPTS

Balance on Hand 15.3.61	£84 10 11
Subscriptions:	
175 @ 6/-	52.10.0
47 @ 10/-	23.10.0
11 @ 12/6	6.17.6
	82 17 6
Subs. in Advance	30 0 0
Club Stores	102 2 9
Pack Badges and Song Books	9 6 0
Ropes	580 18 10
Annual Dinner	53 11 0
Hire of Equipment	38 8 10
24 Hour Walk	88 19 0
Oxo	36 9 0
Interest	4 19 2
Trips	190 16 0
Equipment Report:	
Advs and Sales	302 0 3
Sundry Receipts	20 15 0

£1,625 14 3

PAYMENTS

Postage	£51 11 3
Circulars	36 0 5
Stationery	13 11 11
Stores	82 13 0
Rope	608 9 4
Annual Dinner	54 13 3
Suppers	2 10 3
24 Hour Walk	79 16 2
Oxo	25 19 1
Search and Rescue	
Phone Calls	1 7 4
Trips	191 0 0
Equipment Report	263 11 0
Sundry Payments	50 11 0
Balance - Being Cash	
on hand 19.3.62	164 0 6

£1,625 14 3

Each subscription includes 3/- for dues to "The Mountaineer"

R. HAWTHORNE

Treasures, M.U.M.C.

19th March, 1962.

Anti Tetanus Injections

Present arrangements for the first, in a set of three anti-tetanus injections, are that the injection will be administered before the official club evening on Friday 13th April.

The course is available to club and non-club members and the cost of the serum (per person) will be approximately three shillings.

These injections are strongly recommended for all people engaging in any type of out door activity.

Pre-term Loaf Weekend - March 10th and 11th

A small group of members went to the Loaf with the basic aim to do some serious climbing. On the Saturday climbing was restricted to the Sugarloaf where the "Streak" and the Cave Slab" were climbed by just about everybody. In view of the standard being climbed and abundance of leaders (one each) it was decided to visit Jawbones.

This smallish face offers some first class climbing everybody doing two climbs. It is to be hoped that this year the Club will visit other faces than Sugarloaf more often. This I feel will benefit members in numerous ways and if the enjoyment experienced by all on this weekend can be taken as a standard, then it should be done more often.

Peter Morgan

Australian - Pacific Climbing Expedition

A note has been received from the leader of the above Expedition, Mr. Bob Jones, that on the 4th of March all members of the party were fit and well and about to begin their journey to Ball's Pyramid, 10 miles south of Lord Howe Island. They are enjoying the utmost co-operation from all sources, with special attention from the Meteorological Station. Being of course a member of our Club, Mr. Jones is anxious to assure us that:

"Yea, verily, we have upheld and honoured the noble traditions of the Ancient Order of Oxometrists. But harken unto our joyous tidings - beautiful maidens serve and wait upon our table on the great verandah of our fortress. Yea, and even mermaidens in binary bathing costumes. When my men return from our conquest of the great Ball's Pyramid, with our vessels laden with loot, we shall be sought after by the Beauties of this fair, idyllic island.

"However, Brothers, should I or any of my men not return from the perils of rock and water, lament not, nor mourn; for our adventure shall long live in the hearts of mountain-men. I leave to you Brother Dick, my reliable old chariot..."

(There follows a touching Last Will and Testament, your Assistant Secretary, Bro Dick, being the beneficiary, executor and oxometrist).

We wish them well on this exciting venture.

First Ascent of the East Face of Mt. Geryon, Tasmania - Xmas - New Year 1961-62

Party : Robert Jones, Bernie Lyons

At approximately 5.45 p.m. on Saturday 23rd Dec. 1961, there were two strangely clad men near a quaint old-type sports car at Melbourne Airport. Both of these men were seemingly rehearsing for a Marx Bros. comedy. Actually they were endeavouring to re-pack their gear into some kind of order in their rucksacks. Previously it just wouldn't fit in! The problem was finally solved by the use of a carton to take the extra food. Just after 6.00 a.m. a plane took off and a bystander walked back to his car muttering about climbers.

That same day, Bernie and myself staggered back in amazement at Deloraine P.O. The scales showed that Bernie's pack weighed 61 lb., mine weighed 71 lb., and the carton of food, 35 lb. Hitch-hiking became hard that hot afternoon, and we were forced to spend the night camped beside the Great Lake. We dozed off to sleep with the sight of a beautiful moon-rise lingering in our dreams.

Next day we finally made Cynthia Bay about 2.30 p.m. It was hot and we waited until 4.00 p.m. before pushing off. It was hard work, but after walking for about 1 hour we met a Malayan chap who gave us a description of a "mad bearded Englishman" going like mad and trying to reach Du Cane Hut by nightfall. Somewhat humbled by this news, we trudged on and we reached Echo Point Hut on the lakeside by 7.00 p.m.

On Xmas Day, after an early swim, we pushed off for Narcissus and after bearing the heat and our packs for a while we flopped down amongst the series of tents which had been erected to replace the burnt down huts at Narcissus. Here we tarried awhile and enjoyed the combination of sun and water. It was here that we met another lone walker - a fit blond chap travelling north. He was a good-hearted soul because he said to us as we arrived, "Would you care for a cigarette?" I replied, "Only if you have Sobranic." They were Sobranic!

- Towards 5 p.m. that day we finally arrived at Windy Ridge Hut. We were tired and terribly thirsty in spite of the creeks which we stopped at on the way up from Narcissus. After a bath in the creek we felt refreshed. Just as we returned to the hut we met two chaps travelling south - one an Austrian, the other a Bavarian. They seemed to prefer to cook outside on their little stove, but Bernie and myself soon had a good fire going and we set to the pleasant task of heating up our 4 lb. tin of chicken. That evening we shared our nip of Scotch with the others and prepared our rations for our climb.

On Boxing Day we left the Windy Ridge Hut with 3 days provisions for the assault of the East face of Mt. Geryon.

We took a route from the hut which led almost in a straight line for Geryon itself. Eventually we found ourselves caught in thick undergrowth on the south side of a ridge leading toward Big Gun Pass. We soon gained the top of this ridge and following its general direction toward the foot of the Pass, the way soon became fairly open; the top being a scattering of shrubs and boulders.

When we had gone a good two-thirds of the way toward the Pass, we branched off and headed almost directly toward the Northern part of the Geryon ridge. In doing this we soon found ourselves in a delightfully cool spot near a streamlet partly surrounded by a few native pines and other alpine vegetation.

After enjoying this idyllic spot we were forced to bash uphill toward the north buttress through some of the thickest scrub I have ever had the misfortune to come across; fagus! With relief we reached the foot of the Geryon cliffs and after a good rest we traversed southwards until we reached a series of small overhangs just south of the scree separating the North Peak and the North Buttress. Nearby was a healthy spring of cool water so we unanimously made a bivouac beneath the overhangs.

It was only 3.00 p.m. so we did a quick traverse around the Acropolis - Geryon Saddle. The view was superb and the cool wind very refreshing. An easy climb took us to the top of the Acropolis and while Bernie belayed me, I managed to scramble up the nearest 'Needle'. However, it was getting late and by the time we reached our bivouac it was dark. It was peaceful and rapturous to gaze out into a backdrop of stars from our lofty "bedroom".

On Dec. 27 I awoke at 4.00 a.m. but was dismayed to see cloud pouring over the Du Canes only to re-vaporize again above our valley. The Acropolis with its Needles stood out black against the velvet sky. I decided to go back to sleep and see what the weather was like in another couple of hours. This time we both awoke and decided to 'give it a go'. By 9.00 a.m. we were moving up our first pitch which started from a kind of cleft in the face directly 'neath the Foresight. We climbed for about 3 pitches up an easy groove to a terrace.

The next two pitches were more difficult and we found ourselves at the base of a large crack. From here it was necessary to traverse right and upwards using a piton towards a series of smaller ledges, where we had lunch and enjoyed the view. Bernie, however, began to be a little skeptical about our proposed route. Comments like, "It's 3.00 p.m." and, "It may get too hard" only received slight consideration on my part.

After our rest, Bernie led off to the base of a long chimney. Some difficulty was had in starting the beastly thing but once over the start, the going was smooth and rhythmic up to a good ledge. It was here that we noticed a spanking new piton belted in near a perfectly good belay. It was bent in such a fashion as to indicate that it had been used for abseiling. *

* (A few days later we found a reference in the Pine Valley Hut logbook by Keith Lancaster to a "reconnaissance of Geryon" on Dec. 26th, '61. From this we assumed that an examination of a route very closely associated with our own had been carried out.)

From here the route took a nasty severe turn involving a further 50' vertical climb, straddling both sides of the chimney on small holds. Then came a traverse for about 20' followed by a further 20' vertically to a trim belay on a small precarious ledge. To gain further progress to the next hold 10' above the ledge on a wall, it was necessary for me to stand on Bernie's shoulders. Once this difficulty was overcome, an easy pitch of 50' followed to a broad terrace, near the gully which separates the Foresight from the North Peak.

After a short rest we walked up the terrace for 120' and roped up for an easy traverse toward a groove which runs up the east face of the Foresight on the right hand side for about 250' to its summit. An examination made from the bottom of this groove made us hesitate about tackling it. It looked O.K. for about 30' to the top of a small block to the right of the groove, but after that

I traversed 20' back to our own stance and Bernie decided to inspect the groove as far as the block. We exchanged positions and he had climbed about 20' up the groove when suddenly a foothold cracked off in a pivoting motion. Bernie lost his balance and fell about 40' before I took the shock on the rope. He had bounced a couple of times and as a consequence he had bruised his ankle. After a few minutes rest he nonchalantly retrieved his hat and climbed up to me and thence back to the gully mentioned earlier.

We climbed up the gully for two full pitches and this brought us to a stance about 20' below a huge chockstone which blocked the exit from the gully. This was surmounted after a little difficulty. From here we more or less followed a route (believed to be the standard one) on the east side of the Foresight of difficult standard to the summit about 150' above us. The time was 7.00 p.m. and all told we had completed about 1300' of climbing, which had entailed 1100' - 1200' vertically.

The hour was late and after a couple of traditional photographs had been taken we quickly climbed down to the chockstone, and abseiled down the western side for 120'. It was becoming dark and we were anxious to be clear of any serious hazards. After a false start in traversing along to the Acropolis - Geryon saddle, we were stopped by steep bluffs on the west side of the southern spur and reluctantly we had to retrace our steps. Eventually we reached a lower level of scrub and scree by descending directly beneath the southern peak. After much knee-bruising and cursing we were refreshed by a cool breeze as we approached the saddle.

The use of a torch was unavoidable and extremely advisable as we traversed on the east side of the mountain back to our camp. At 11.30 p.m. we had reached our haven and quenched our thirsts by mixing two billies full of cool milk. Biscuits and honey constituted our evening meal and the bliss which we experienced after crawling into our sleeping bags can only be known after a day's physical and mental exertion in the perfect harmony which constitutes climbing.

Bob Jones

From - "With Axe and Rope in the New Zealand Alps" (by George Edward Mannering)

"When you take it up and sling it on your back in the orthodox fashion you remark, "Yes, I think it does weigh fifty pounds". In ten minutes your estimate of its weight has doubled. In an hour you begin to wonder why Nature has been so foolish as to make men who will carry swags; bad language seems to slip out quite in a casual way, and you begin to bend forward and do the "lift". But the "lift" does not seem to fulfil quite all that is said in its praise, for soon the torturing burden settles down again and drags on your shoulders more heavily than ever. After a bit of nice balancing over loose moraine the swag triumphs. Down you go, and the wretched thing worries you, whilst you bark your fingers and swear horribly, bruising your knees and shins, and cursing the day on which you saw the light of a hard and feelingless world. You recover and repeat the performance as before, and by the time your day's work is done you find out to your own demonstrated satisfaction that the burden weighs at least five hundred-weight. You sling it off and give it a malicious kick, with the result that you break a thermometer or some such delicate instrument. Then you try to walk, but stagger about like a drunken man; there is no small to your back, your back tendons are puffy and tired like those of an old horse, your head swims, and your eye is dim."

Extract extricated by Greg Martin

Black Mountain - Geehi via Cobberas, Kosciusko and Jagungal.
26th Dec. 1961 to 10th Jan. 1962.

Party : Peter Connell, Margot Horne, Rod Neil, Ellen Davies, Phil Waring.

Maps : Snowy Mtns. Authority 1" = 1 mile dylines;
Kosciusko Military Sheet.

This trip is a pleasant walk of 112 miles through the Australian Alps, following the Great Divide from Victoria into the land of New Sud Welsh. The lack of rugged grandeur characteristic of Tasmanian peaks is compensated for by the terrific expanse of country seen from the summits of The Cobberas, The Pilot, Kosciusko, Townsend & Jagungal. From Kosciusko, the Horn and Hump on Buffalo, 90 miles away, are plainly visible.

The walk proper began from Rodgers' property at Black Mountain after taxi-bashing from Bairnsdale (100 mls, £11). The first night out found us at a large waterfall on a tributary of the Suggan Buggan R. - a welcome relief after a sweltering day. Then via the monolith Buchan Rock to the Playground, a green sub-alpine valley nestling under the rocky Cobberas.

Two brumbies were seen during the day, and again the next day on the dry rocky Cobberas. When a mob is disturbed the stallions will charge to within 20 yds. or so before veering off.

THE MOUNTAINEER

No. 3

Page 15

Once over the Cobberas, the border is crossed at Quambat Flat, where the mighty Murray is a mere trickle. Then on to climb The Pilot and to the well appointed Tin Mine Huts, where our illegal occupancy of a Snowy Mtns. Authority hut caused us a moment of panic on hearing a jeep. Packs, sleeping bags, etc. were flung out into the bog; but it turned out to be mere tourists in a Land Rover.

Cascade Hut (5000') for the next two nights - a dinkum bark hut - and a day's fishing with patent spears, bent pins, and fly nets. Result : no fish.

Next stop Dead Horse Gap to pick up a previously cached food dump, then via Thredbo chairlift to Kosciusko, the land of Alpinus Touristi. These were there in their hundreds ("Dora, will you get in the photograph!"). Escaping, we forged off to the solitude of Lake Albina, and spent a pleasant day there soaking up sun and scenery. A pair of talking tadpoles, with fully developed heads, arms and legs, seen swimming in the lake were invited back for tea and were found partial to fried cold porridge sprinkled with dried egg. (It was later confirmed that they were bushwalkers).

From Albina we proceeded via Twynam and Tate to a very good hut at Whites River. The going is open and easy; and it was pleasantly surprising to find on the very top of the Great Divide, at 7000' in mid-summer, a steady trickle of water in all of the major saddles.

Then on to Grey Mare Hut, within striking distance of Jagungal, which was climbed the following day. Grey Mare Hut is a deserted gold mine, and a bit spooky. The adjacent gully is cluttered with rock and rubble, an old steam engine and hunks of rusty iron; and in the crumbling concrete is enscribed "B. G. Luton 26/4/49 A. Peterson 26/4/49 Had It". An artist has enhanced the interior decor with charcoal "murals" of gals in Zeus-suits, the Grey Mare Ghost, etc.

Food running low, we departed in haste via the Grey Mare Range and arrived at Geehi the morning of the following day. That night found us back home thanks to a very generous motorist who took the five of us all the way from Khancoban (N.S.W.) to Melbourne.

Phil Waring

Moomba Walk

On Sunday morning, 4th March, 125 people of various shape, size, age and bushwalking experience gathered outside Macedon station for the Moomba Walk. All clubs affiliated with the F.V.W.C. were invited, and, as was apparent from their attire, anyone else who wanted to go for an easy pleasant walk through the bush.

We set off, led by the Bushwalkers, and were soon strung out over $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile or so, walking through a Pine Plantation. On the other side, we found the bushwalkers selling drinks from the back of a station wagon. This was our second stop - partly for morning tea and partly to let the stragglers catch up. We walked along tracks to a small reservoir for lunch and afterwards some of the more energetic ones explored round it or played bat tennis in the overflow channel. Most people were content to bury themselves in the grass and watch members of the Bushwalkers walking miles with billies of tea to groups scattered over the landscape.

After lunch we left the track and headed straight up Mt. Macedon towards the Memorial Cross. The going was pretty rough and the gradient of 1 in 3 separated out the unfit. People were still arriving at the top $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour after the first had climbed through the fence muttering about wire cutters, to be met by curious Sunday trippers. The kiosk was doing brisk business.

Heading down the other side towards Woodend, we had several "catch-up" stops and so through sloping cleared country to the road into Woodend.

The tired and motley 125 piled into the train at 7.30 p.m. including the bearded bushwalker who had accepted a dare and travelled in white shirt, black suit, string tie, straw beater and suede shoes.

So if you want a well-organised, well-rested social walk, put this one down for next year. But make sure you take some liquid refreshments - those Bushwalkers are on a good thing.

Rob Hawthorne

Raison Joe

"Honey is more nourishing than jam" quoted the Leader from the Equipment Report at the Pre-Trip Meeting. Raison Joe shifted uneasily. "Nourishment is the thing" continued the leader. "I trust you will all bring honey". At this point Raison Joe leapt to his feet and disappeared through the window in a general northerly direction. "What's up with him?" asked someone. "He'll be home to Mildura by morning if he goes steady." "You shouldn't have mentioned honey" said the Beetle. "It always makes him go off like that. On account of a trip in Tassie once. It was like this. As you know, Raison Joe comes from a raison farm, and they keep bees, too, so honey and raisons were Joe's chief food. The raisons were alright, but the attitude of the plane flying over didn't agree with the honey, and it seeped under the lid of its M & B tin. Poor old Joe," the Beetle chuckled, "you should have seen his gear! Sleeping bag, sox, shirts, food bags, the whole works gummed up with honey. He got that mess cleaned up about the time we reached Lake St. Clair, where we stocked up with grub and pushed off for Frenchman's. Joe was still fond of honey, so he bought what was available in a carton. He wasn't going to be caught a second time, so he put it in his back pocket away from his clothes. I was walking behind Joe later on, pushing through some Beaurer, and I noticed that he was as usual carrying his long sheath knife stuck down his gaiter. "You might loose

that" I said to him, "I'll put it in your pack for you", so I stuck it in his back pocket and we went on.

"Well at lunch time you should have heard Joe howl! I'd stuck that knife right through the cardboard lid of the honey carton, and it's wonderful what a mess you can get by mixing up honey with matches and maps and dirty socks.

"We helped him fill his M & B tin with what was left, and salvaged a bit by wringing out his socks. Joe screwed the lid on really tight. He wasn't letting that honey out again.

By the time we reached Lake Tahuna Joe felt the need for some quick energy, so he got out his honey tin. He'd made a good job of the lid alright - he couldn't shift it. The thread was crossed, and it wouldn't budge.

As the night wore on Joe was getting desperate, working on the tin. His cheeks seemed to have gone hollow and his eyes had a strange look. We noticed that because it was hard to sleep through his muttering and banging.

By morning he was hagged when we found him sitting outside the hut with his long knife in one hand and the tin with a jagged hole cut in the top, in the other. We led him gently back over the Pass, and at last safely aboard a plane and sent him home. He's quiet enough now, most times, but he's likely to go berserk if anyone mentions honey." "Poor old Joe" said someone, reaching for another piece of honey cake.

Colline Muir

Some Statistical Data to show the increasing enthusiasm for the beauties of the Apple Isle. Fred Mitchell

M.U.M.C. visits to Pine Valley, Lake St. Clair, Reserve, Tas. (from Hut books)

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Parties</u> (in which there were M.U.M.C. members)	<u>No. of M.U.M.C.</u> <u>Members</u> in those parties
1947)		
1948)	6	49
1949)		
1950	3	7
1951	1	2
1952	3	5
1953	1	1
1954	4	9
1955	4	10
1956	4	8
1957	2	6
1958	3	16
1959	7	29
1960	9	24
1961	12	27
1962 (up to 4/3/62)	3	12
Totals	62 parties	205 members

THE MOUNTAINEER

No. 3

Page 18

BOOK REVIEW

THE MOUNTAIN WORLD 1960/61 (George Allen & Unwin Ltd)

Published by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research

Available at Cheshires

Price 52/6

Contents

Geoffrey Winthrop Young, by Arnold Lunn
Aerial Photography - Alaska and the Alps
Rakaposhi - British-Pakistani Forces Expedition, 1958
Haramosh - Austrian Himalaya-Karakoram Expedition 1958
Casherbrum I - American Expedition, 1958
Casherbrum IV - Italian Karakoram Expedition, 1958
Batura Mustagh Expedition, 1959
German Karakoram Expedition, 1959
Austrian Dhaulagiri Expedition, 1959
Swiss Dhaulagiri Expedition, 1960
Ruwenzori
Swiss Alpine Club Andean Expedition, 1959
The Antarctic during the I.G.Y., with a supplement on mountains
The Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1955-58
Spring in the Arctic Mountains
The Yeti

262 Pages, including 64 pages of first class photographs, maps and sketches.

- Definitely the best buy in current mountaineering literature.

Fred Mitchell

Christmas - New Year 1961 - 1962

Reedy River Gorge (by two absentee members of Anton Cook's trip to the same areas 3 days later)

We set off with our only local information in two small sketch maps and an article from the "Victorian Naturalist". At "Rockbank" station, near Wulgulmerang, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rogers gave us a friendly welcome, a cuppa, and some useful information on the country ahead. They are both keen field naturalists, and we left with long lists of things to look for.

THE MOUNTAINEER

No. 3

Page 19

On Christmas day, we climbed Mt. Seldom Seen, getting a good view of the lie of the land. We photographed a wombat on the way, also one of two male lyrebirds which were staging a dancing contest for a female. We descended the steep spur to the Buchan river two and a half thousand feet below, by rough scree slopes. As the Buchan's course was very winding, (although very pleasant with trout fishing equal to the state's best) we found river-bashing just too slow; so we scrub bashed over several ridges to the Reedy valley. Here, and in several other places, we saw mobs of 4 to 5 brumbies. The first we saw belied the usual reputation of small rather poor horses; since the stallion was magnificent; and one mare and her foal also very good looking. As with all the wild life here, they were not frightened, and we were able to approach closely.

After another pleasant day wading upstream, fishing on the way we reached Reedy River Gorge. The river was cut down through a massive rib of quartzite, producing a gorge which narrows to 10 to 15 feet wide at the waterline in one place. After exploring the gorge, we had intended going to the Cobberas, but as we took 7 days to do what was planned for 4 or 5, this was impossible, as we were not carrying sufficient food for another 40 miles odd. We climbed on to the northern watershed of the Reedy, and followed it to the Buchan. In both rivers, we found many green and black water lizards; from 1 to 3 feet long. When running on their hind legs, they looked ridiculously like a fowl, with neck and tail outstretched. They would jump with a plop into the water, and swim by wriggling like a snake. Crossing the snowgum woodland of the hilly Wulgulmerang "plateau", we saw, quite close, another magnificent display by lyrebirds, a score of bird calls, and a horse's whinny were perfectly imitated.

The whole area is particularly interesting with regard to plant life, and we found many wildflowers not found elsewhere in Victoria. Far eastern Victoria is well worth recommendation to walkers, as well as naturalists.

R. & J. Horgan

Change of address : Ron and Judy Horgan,
25 Garton Street,
North Carlton. . FW 1652

New Zealand, Jan - Feb 1962

Party : Neville Rosengren, John Griffiths.

The party report that Mt. Egmont is just as treacherous as it is claimed to be (its death toll is over 30) and one should be prepared for conditions varying from temperatures in the eighties, to thick mist and snow. We encountered such conditions in the duration of one day.

Otherwise this 8000 footer technically is not a difficult mountain to climb in summer if one is careful to avoid the small, treacherous and steep ice fields encountered on the higher parts of the peak and one is carefully equipped.

But can one properly prepare for $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain in less than 12 hours? We did not! While camping near Franz Joseph Glacier a small stream rose four feet in a similar number of hours during the night, completely washing us out. Fortunately in the chaos that followed at about 3 a.m. we managed to locate a small, deserted hut and spent the ensuing day drying out.

After hitch-hiking through the North and part of the South Island for four weeks we took a week and a half tramping in the exhilarating Dart, Rees and Routeburn valleys in the South.

The country in this area with many snow capped peaks and abounding with deer is surely some of the best in Australia - the best we have seen. The going is not difficult but again precautions must be taken to prevent accidents in severe conditions. We experienced snow falls and mist on both the Rees and Routeburn saddles while on other days we were severely sunburnt.

We will both willingly provide information on such aspects as the employment situation, how to shoot and skin deer, hitch-hiking conditions, etc. to anyone preparing major expeditions to New Zealand!

We can recommend a trip to N.Z. as being a worthwhile and valuable experience in every possible way.

John Griffiths

Pr. O. D. Walk.

"Pulford for King!" they cried as the mob surged up Sugarloaf Hill. Loosing momentum rapidly they crashed into the scrub on Disappointment and finally ground to a halt on a small plateau. Cries of "lunch, lunch", were heard, but the leader wasn't having any of it. No sir, it was the summit or bust. In fact, half-the party did bust, but the rest made it. The view southwards from the top is worth the climb.

Mt. Disappointment was named by Hume and Hovell in 1824 on their journey from Sydney to Port Phillip. Heading southwestwards from around Yea, the thick scrub forced them to leave their cattle and men, and struggling on alone through the wire grass to the summit of Disappointment, they reluctantly decided to abandon the route. Returning to the cattle, they eventually found a way down on to the plains near Mt. Hickey and ended up near Corio Bay.

The thickness of the scrub was recently verified by two members of the party who made a hurried survey of direct routes to Yan Yean Reservoir.

After mid-afternoon siesta, a pleasant downhill stroll to Rourourrong Reservoir took us to the end of the walk.

Phil Waring

Wilson's Promontory. March 16 - 18

Over 30 mountaineers attacked the Prom on this, the first weekend of term. Ron Horgan led a small party which climbed Mt. Latrobe in a very long Saturday.

The remainder struggled over to Sealer's Cove on the Saturday morning and spent the rest of the weekend lying on the beach, swimming, singing, and trying to fish. A small party visited Refuge Cove on the Sunday morning. Returning to Tidal River was, as one new member put it, "one long tea-party".

G. Jacobson

Day Walk to Mt. St. Leonard. April 1st

The country dancing section of M.U.M.C. had its first (but we hope not the last) picnic of the year, on Mt. St. Leonard near Healesville. A full van load of dancers, skipped and danced from Tanglefoot to Mt. St. Leonard to the home made music of La Bella Polenta, the Mexican Hat Dance, and Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. Contrary to popular expectation no one got lost on the walk. Thanks to Dave Allen for pioneering the route, of just the right length (3 miles) and difficulty for a glorious day such as this.

The walk ended, as usual, in a Chinese cafe in Lt. Bourke St.

G. Jacobson

The producers of The Mountaineer would like to extend a warm word of thanks to Fred Mitchell for the series of cover designs to the journal which he has so kindly offered to produce.

M.U.M.C. Climbing Rules

On Club climbing trips as many leaders as available will be present and will give as much training and instruction to less experienced persons as is possible.

In doing so the following rules will be strictly observed by all:-

1. An official Club Climbing Trip is one which has been properly:-

- a) advertised in the journal,
or in case of trips organised at short notice,
- b) is approved by the climbing Sub Committee and advertised by the most appropriate means.

2. All climbing teams shall contain a leader subject to the exception under Rule 6, no climbing shall be done unless two such teams are present.

THE MOUNTAINEER

No. 3

Page 22

3. Rock scrambling (i.e. without a rope) may be done, away from the main face, under the supervision of an experienced person.

4. The Trip Leader shall have complete control of all climbing activities on the official trip and must be consulted and his permission obtained before members may pursue any unscheduled activities. No person may detach himself from the party without the trip leader's permission.

5. Club climbing equipment may only be used when under the control of a club leader or competent climber.

6. Suitably experienced persons using their own equipment may climb on an official trip but only with the express permission of the Trip Leader and only with persons expressly designated by the Leader.

M.U.M.C. Climbing Leaders consist of:-

1. Capable and experienced climbers who are suited to training less experienced persons.

2. To become a leader a member shall apply to the Sub-Committee which may accept or reject the application.

3. A group of Competent Climbers who will be appointed by the Climbing Sub-Committee.

All articles, notices etc. to be included in the next circular should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary and left in the Club Box, before Friday, 11th May.

Any suggestions, constructive and calculated to enhance "The Mountaineer" will very gladly be received via the club letter box. Address them to Gwyn Davies, Assistant Sec. M.U.M.C.

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION

DECEMBER 1962 -- MARCH 1963

APPLICATION FORM FOR POSITIONS

For Positions available see back of this page

PLEASE USE BLOCK PRINTING

NAME

POSITION APPLIED FOR

QUALIFICATIONS (State in full)

EXPERIENCE in position applied for and particular mountaineering experience.

SIGNATURE

DATE

THE MOUNTAINEER

No. 3

Page 24

PROPOSED PARTY

1. Leader
2. Medical Officer
3. Wireless Operator/Technician
To operate and maintain equipment for communications
4. Geologist
5. Geologist
6. Surveyor
7. Mountaineer
8. Mountaineer
9. Mountaineer
10. Mountaineer

The following positions must be covered by the party members.

- (a) Two people capable of using radio equipment, preferably Leader, Medical Officer, Geologist or Surveyor.
- (b) Biologists - Mountaineers, Geologists and Surveyor.
- (c) Meteorological observations - everyone.