

...were no receiving, he should be gested he direct...  
 I reminded him, never higher and the...  
 uors' "top ten" list, was fifty-three and gray...  
 "I don't understand it, humbly." "How did I ar...  
 really not a great be playing?"  
 "I don't understand it, sense!" I replied. "Y...  
 let you retire?"

Kay (Kathleen) Williams, who seen a great deal just after his retu service, now came into his life again. interim, she had married and divorced A. Speckels II. Kathleen was a beautiful blonde with a sparkling wit. She lived in Beverly Hills with her two children: Bunker, who was six, and Joanie, four. They were both darlings and Clark became very fond of them.

This time it was no surprise when Clark came into my office and said, "I'm going to marry Kathleen. I think I can be happy together."

"Wonderful!" I said. "You'll have a family."

"Yes," he replied. "I really love the kids of hers. It'll be great having them."

The rank was an ideal place for children. Clark got rather but for the one Grace Kelly given her after *Sambo*, so both children could read. Even at the evening at five-fifty Buick and a few of their deark on the in the in work. I've seen a few children's hour of it if it is a work. I've seen a few children's nurse, Dody, and Clark settle the children's vision; thei cottage with thei

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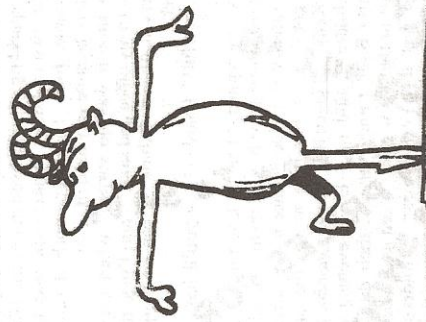
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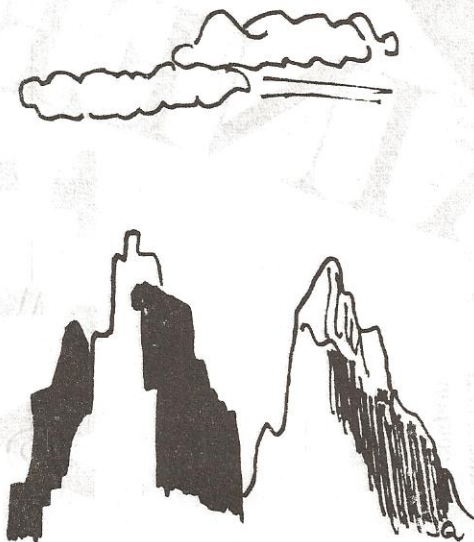
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"Big Deal"



# THE MOUNTAINEER

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.  
Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission through the post  
as a periodical.

All correspondence addressed to Union House, University of Melbourne,  
Parkville. N.2.

No. 5. 1965.

Price 6d.

## TRIPS PROGRAMME

- August 13th - 16th Mount Feathertop. Up Bungalow Spur and down N.E. Spur weatherpermitting. Van leaves Union 6.30 Friday 13th. Fare £2.19.0. + £3.10.0.  
Standard. Medium. Some instruction in snow technique will be given.  
Equipment. Tent, mittens, overmittens, puttees, snow goggles and "chuffer", air mattress.
- August 20th - 22nd Mt. Arapiles. Private trip to Mt. Arapiles for rock climbing. Contact Jim Newlands for transport (38 1553) and book at Aikmans Road.
- August 27th - 29th Work Party on Mt. Feathertop Track.  
Transport : Private  
Booking : Nicholas White 34 3986 or Aikman's Road.  
Work Programme : 1. Continue track. Mattocks, axes, picks and shovels will be necessary. Also a chain saw. 2. On-site Party (10 people). To build a reservoir for water for use during building of hut.
- August 27th - 29th Mount Eccles Caving Trip. This is a volcanic cave. The trip is in conjunction with the geology club. Transport is private. See notice board for full details. Booking at Aikman's Road.
- September 3rd - 5th Walkerville. Annual bludge and hibernation to get fully relaxed for the start of third term.  
Transport. Van leaves Union 6.30 p.m. Friday Sept. 3rd.  
Fare : £1.12.0. to 2.8.0.



Trips Programme (cont.)

- September 3rd - 5th      Caving trip to Buchan. Transport - private.  
Contact Andrew Spate at Aikman's Road, or  
International House.
- September 10th          Personalities Slide Night and Miss Oxo Quest in  
aid of Hut Appeal. Supper afterwards. Friday  
September 10th, 7.30 p.m. Trophy Hall.
- September 24th          Friday. Special General Meeting  
7.30 in Trophy Hall Beaurepaire Centre.  
Subject - Feathertop Hut.
1. Constitutional changes to allow borrowing  
of money.
  2. Approval of site.
  3. Approval to spend money.
- Followed by slides of Feathertop and New Zealand by  
Dave Allen and supper.
- Club Contact - 34 3986.      Nicholas White.

\* \* \* \* \*

PIE NIGHT

PERSONALITIES SLIDE NIGHT

MISS OXO QUEST

Friday, September 10th at 7.30 p.m.  
Trophy Hall, Beaurepaire Centre.

Slides are wanted of club members in typical or not-so-typical poses.  
Please forward any suitable slides to Dave Hogg, via Club letter box,  
Aikman's Road or Room 403, Biochemistry Building, by lunchtime, Thursday,  
September 9th.

A "Miss Oxo" Quest will be held during the evening. All oxometric beauties  
and other single, female club members are eligible to enter. Contestants  
must appear in traditional oxometric costumes. (If this is not fit to be  
worn in public, you can change in the Beaurepaire changing rooms). The  
winner will be decided by penny votes, so bring all your rich admirers  
along.

A donation will be payable at the door to cover pies, coffee and other  
expenses. All profits will go to the Memorial Hut Fund.

\* \* \* \* \*



## GOSSIP COLUMN

Mr. and Mrs. John Cayley have left for overseas. We are sorry to lose our Convenor of Climbing Sub-Committee but no doubt he will get more rock-climbing experience in Great Britain.

Mawson gossip :- Don Allison has taken up playacting. Greg Martin is his usual destructible self and helped chop the radio control cable. Maybe he just likes isolation. Mid winter was the time for parties. We also hear Don is doing fine cartoons for the magazine down there - (Ed: thinks....) We hope John Bennett's twisted ankle is on the mend.

Jim Newlands has been hogging publicity again ..... However he did a fine job of publicity for the University Anti Cancer Campaign with his ascent down the west wall of the Redmond Barry Building (150').

Sir Edmund Hillary gave two interesting talks (20th July) on his work building schools for sherpas. It was very enjoyable, although at question time at the night lecture one earnest teacher rose to his feet asking, waht syllabuses were to be used!

Congratulations to Sue Bail and Rob Tayler on their engagement. Rob is seemingly enjoying England, especially a week long trip to the Cuillins of Skye, which he likened to parts of S.W. Tas. "but without the scrub and snakes." Climbing has been limited a bit in Cumberland where he is working but he hopes to go to Europe in July.

\* \* \* \* \*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sue,

I would like to reply to the article "Hints on Snow Trips" by Anonymous published in issue No. 4 of The Mountaineer. I agree with most of Anonymous's article, but beg to differ on the following points :-

- (i) Snow goggles, sunglasses, etc. are used primarily to protect the eyes against snow blindness on glary days. Protection from "howling blizzards" is best found inside huts or tents, from which one should not stray more than a few feet in really foul weather.
- (ii) Puttees, snow anklets, stop touts, etc. are worn to prevent snow from getting into boots, rather than to retain body heat around the calves and ankles (the fact that puttees do the latter as well is of not great importance). Snow inside boots rapidly melts, wetting socks and boot liner, and thereby greatly increasing the rate of heat loss from the feet (wet wool is a much better conductor of heat than dry wool). The feet therefore get colder with attendant uncomfortable feeling and greater risk of frostbite attack. Cheap puttees may be made if a small group buys an army blanket at a Disposals store and cuts it into 6 inch wide strips, approximately 6 feet long. (Sew two-way tapes about 3 feet long to one end for securing).



Letters to the Editor (cont.)

(iii) Boots should be well treated with a good waterproofing agent before each trip. Thoroughly warm both the agent and the boots before applying with an old toothbrush, rubbing well into seams.

I feel it should also be mentioned that woollen trousers are far superior to cotton, and can be obtained quite cheaply (about 35/-) from Disposals stores. A woollen shirt is less important if a good parka is worn, but cotton shirts, although far cheaper than wool, become very cold and clammy if resting after considerable exertion. Army woollen jackets are worth considering as a cheap alternative, as they range from about 35/- to 45/- at Disposals stores (e.g. Mitchells). They are, however, rather short.

Further, approximately double the quantity of shellite must be carried on snow trips than on ordinary trips if it is intended to melt snow for cooking purposes. About three billies of packed snow must be melted to obtain one billy of water, and it is a slow process.

Finally, I would like to thank Anonymous for pointing out why, for over 8 years, I have always felt a "general sluggishness" at the start of every trip. It's that wretched air layer next to my skin not circulating. Perhaps chicken-wire singlet and dungas are in order?

Ah well, it's all a matter of heat transfer.

Yours faithfully,

Whirling Pill.

. . . . .

Dear Madam,

We would like to reply to the articles in the last edition, evaluating our products, and appreciate this opportunity to have the record "set straight."

Venturer Packs. The leather used for the straps is the choicest quality chrome butt belting hide, especially treated with natural oil for out-door wear.

Canvas. The medium and large Venturer packs are made of 12 oz. Warden. The light-weight Venturers are made of 6 oz Kordux. Both these materials are waterproof, rotproof, mildew proof and fadeless. These properties are the result of a special process of manufacturing. This kind of material is greatly superior to any ordinary proofed cloth.

Weight. We are conscious of the importance of reducing weight to a minimum, and are continually making improvements and reductions. There is no material, other than Vinyl, for the inner throat, which is as serviceable, and which does not raise the marketing price.

It was suggested that "people who would carry over 100 lbs. would buy the Large Venturer." This does not necessarily follow, for the important consideration is to have a H frame pack with dimensions closely identical with the size of the wearer's back. The benefit of this is that the pack can be worn high on the shoulders. Consequently the weight is equally distributed and may be carried with the greatest ease and comfort. What weight people carry in their packs is quite optional. During a recent scientific



Letters to the Editor (cont.)

expedition from Adelaide University, heavy equipment amounting to 120 lbs., including a generator, was carried in a Lightweight Venturer.

Additional Keepers. We shall conduct a survey and if the result is in favour of having them, subsequent products will be fitted with them.

Tepper 111. Dimensions :- 7'6" long, 5' wide, 4' high, and 18" walls. Cloth : 100% pure cotton, siliconized, water-proofed Japara. Slight or even moderate wind does not affect the water repellant quality of the material. The claim that the tent, when touched from the inside allows the water to penetrate, is common knowledge. This property is synonymous with all lightweight cotton tents, due to the cloth, weaving and proofing. (The alternative is waxing, which cracks at folds; or using synthetic materials such as nylon or terylene, which sweat excessively due to condensation). Nor is it of advantage to have the ridge cord sewn in, and the present tape is adequate. The tents are rigidly constructed and are well reinforced on all stress points. All our reports from users of this tent have so far been favourable. Often, our tents have been subjected to the heavy weather conditions of Tasmania.

Tubular Rivets. We were astounded to read of the trouble with rivets, as ours are specially reinforced. We can only suggest that they were part of a faulty batch. However, all our products are fully, and unconditionally guaranteed.

We are always pleased to hear of customer's reactions, criticisms and suggestions.

Yours faithfully,

A.J. Steiner, Manager, Flinders Rangers  
Camping Gear, 298 Gilles Street, Adelaide.

Dear Madam,

We would like to add a few points to the trip Secretary's comments about trip leaders and trip organization in Mountaineer 3.

First, the standard of trips should be clearly stressed. People who cannot keep up find out when already on the bike.

Secondly, leaders should be screened more thoroughly, the leader of our first (and last) trip showed complete lack of responsibility for his 'charges'. When it was found, on the second day that we couldn't keep up with the pace, we were told to walk across snow-covered, mountainous country to a road, hitch hike and catch a train back to Melbourne. The only provision made for our safety was the assurance that two members would follow and 'catch up' an hour or two later. Admittedly, we agreed to turn back but considering our inexperience and the exceptionally bad weather, the leader should have realized the implications of such a hike with only snow poles as our indication of the track. If we had lost our bearings and been unable to reach the road the leader would have known of this only on returning to Melbourne some four days later. Fortunately, we ran into two experienced members of another group who diverted from their own party to accompany us



Letters to the Editor (cont.)

to shelter. Luckily we had their assistance, for one of us was taken ill on the slopes.

We feel that the responsibility for our welfare lies entirely with the leaders of the hike. We were the lucky ones. This attitude might result in more serious consequences if inexperienced hikers are sent back by themselves. They may not meet assistance.

M. Karel, L. Dobrotworsky.

Dear Sue,

It is regrettable that the Bogong Easter trip distressed 2 members of the Club. However it is obvious that these 2 girls are not in full possession of the facts of the occasion which has brought the present criticisms.

Unfortunately the weather is something that none of us can do anything about. Under normal conditions the Bogong High Plains trip is easy with an escape route to Falls Creek on the third day. The weather conditions this Easter were the worst I can remember for this time of year and had there not been a heavy snow fall they would have found the going easier.

The authors would like to see leaders screened more thoroughly. As far as this goes may I say that had this trip been led by someone less resourceful than myself the whole party may have pulled out and everyone may have gone dismally back to Melbourne without even getting near Mt. Bogong. The girls were told after a long deliberate consultation with several other members of the Club and 2 committee members to proceed back to Dibbins Hut (two thirds of a mile) via the well defined track which they had just come up and wait until 1 p.m. and then proceed slowly up to Mt. Hotham. Two other members of the Club who were going back to Mt. Feathertop arranged to follow them up and accompany them to Mt. Hotham. These girls agreed to this and it seemed the only practical solution.

However they decided that the judgement of 2 other men whom they met to be wiser than ours and who talked them into proceeding on the trip. Thus our 2 members returning to Dibbins found them once again on the track to the High Plains, attempting something that was far more difficult than going back to Mt. Hotham. Our 2 members returned to Dibbins at 11 a.m. which meant that had they waited at there as instructed the only time that they would have been without our assistance was in the easy walk back to the hut along a well defined track. Thus they would have been accompanied all the way to Mt. Hotham and driven back to Harrietville where they assured us that they would take care of themselves despite the van being in Harrietville at a good camping ground.

Yours faithfully,

Donald G. Thomas.



Letters to the Editor (cont.)

Dear Sue,

As trips secretary and as one of the two people who was to escort these two girls to Mt. Hotham I would like to add a few remarks.

Don Thomas is one of the most experienced people in the club and knew the Bogong High Plains from previous trips. It is for just such reasons that he was selected as leader. When the two girls found the going difficult, they were asked to turn back a matter of half to two-thirds of a mile. Myself and another member were to escort them back to my car and then down to Harrietville where they could wait for the van. Any suggestion of hitch-hiking was on their behalf and I made it clear that I would not be responsible for them after depositing them in Harrietville. The previous letter has answered most of the other relevant facts. We were negligent in letting them proceed down to Dibbins hut alone, however I do not consider this as gross negligence, since it was a short distance downhill on a well defined track. They were to set off at 1.00 p.m. to Mt. Hotham alone if the two of us had not returned. Our concern was so great that we in fact arrived back at 11.00 a.m. Their decision to return up onto the High Plains in the company of two other gentlemen was in total disregard of repeated instructions and except for the fact that we met them going up the track I would have been forced to organize a search.

As for stating the standard of trips it is very hard to judge weather conditions. After such an instance as this I will be very discriminating as to who goes on a trip of such a duration as Easter or on snow trips.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas White. (Trips Secretary)

. . . . .  
\* \* \* \* \*

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The club delegate to the F.V.W.C. Search and Rescue sub-committee has recently been changed from John Cole to Ian Thomas. We would like to thank John for the work he has put into this section over the past years.

In a later edition of the "Mountaineer" a summary of the Search and Rescue insurance scheme will be given. As this insurance scheme only applies to those who are financial members of M.U.M.C. the membership list has been revised.

The leaders list has been extended. The new leaders list being :-

<u>A</u>	Bill Bewsher	Peter Morgan	<u>B</u>	Ron Abbott	
	John Cole	John Retchford			
	Max Corry	Ross Smith	<u>Reserve</u>	Don Allison	Rowan Webb
	Ken Eldridge	Don Thomas		John Bennett	Nick White.
	Reg. Henry	Ian Thomas		Lindsay Hackett	
	Dave Hogg	Mark Tweedale		Tony Kerr	
	Peter Kneen	Phil. Waring.			



Search and Rescue (cont.)

Any enquiries should be directed to either :

Ian Thomas - 9 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn. Phone 81 2611  
(club delegate)

Ross Smith - 36 Central Park Road, East Malvern. Phone 50 6784  
(club observer)

\* \* \* \* \*

M.U.M.C. LIST (1965)

Leaders : Ian Speedie  
Bruce Hocking  
Mike Stone  
Jim Newlands  
Ross Smith  
Peter Kneen  
Ian Guild  
John McLean  
Bill Melbourne  
Bill Bewsher  
Peter Smith  
Chris Davis  
Peter Morgan  
David Thompson  
John Cayley  
Richard Salt

Competent Climbers :

Roger Caffin  
Jenny McMahon  
Lindsay Milton  
Tom Hain  
Alan Marsland  
Richard Schmidt  
Don Thomas  
Tony Kerr  
Nick White  
Rowan Webb  
John Kavanagh

\* \* \* \* \*

MT. FEATHERTOP WORK PARTY - July 9th - 11th

Following several preliminary trips into the area of Feathertop by Dave Allen, John Retchford and Anton Cook, the hut site had been surveyed and the best winter and summer routes to the site decided. The time was now right to run a large work party having as its aim the completion of the lower portion of the all weather route to the hut site.

To ensure that the correct tools were taken, a briefing night was held on the previous Tuesday night and during the night several inspiring slides were shown of approaches to the site and also of climbing on the East Face.

Saturday morning saw the party of 36 split in four and working on several sections of the track up Stony Creek. Throughout the weekend there was a tremendous atmosphere established - a good job of the track was required and we were there to work. Such an attitude achieved a rapid rate of progress - so rapid that at times the track markers had trouble keeping ahead of the diggers.



Mt. Feathertop Work Party (cont.)

Every few minutes Herb's chain saw was heard roaring up the valley and another log was removed from the track. The girls in the party were kept busy clearing braken, tidying up the track and campsite and did a good job of everything undertaken.

Sunday saw the track pushed up to the saddle and down to the creek. This means that another large work party could clear the remainder of the track to the site without having to waste time getting to the start of the work.

Work needs to be done on the site to establish our temporary water supply to give us water during construction. This involves clearing snow and scrub and building a hollow and lining this with a polythene sheet.

The summer access from the site across to the razor back north of Feathertop has to be marked and cleared. Excavation at the site for latrines, grease pit and water tank are to be done as well as building foundations. The majority of the work at the site will have to be done immediately after the exams this year so that we will require many workers throughout December 1965.

P.W. Kneen. 13.7.65.

\* \* \* \* \*

FEATHERTOP HUT

To date £330 has been raised towards this end.

An appeal is being made to the Zoology Department where Douglas Hatt worked for donations and also at the V.C.C. of which both Doug and Russ were members. A letter asking for donations is being sent to the other walking clubs and also to ex-members about donating it would be appreciated.

Further donations should be addressed to : Richard Schmidt,  
Treasurer Hut Sub-Committee,  
C/o Union House,  
Parkville, N.2.

Building Programme during Summer.

The whole of December will be busy with a large programme of work. Work will also extend into January in all probability. There will be four phases :

1. Assembly in Melbourne.
2. Summer access track and transport of materials to site.
3. Foundations.
4. Building.

A lot of work will be necessary and many people needed. Anyone willing to work should think about dates and then notify Nicholas White (34 3986) as to when available as it is imperative that we have an indication of the work strength available as soon as possible.

Nicholas White.

\* \* \* \* \*



DONATIONS TOWARDS THE MEMORIAL HUT APPEAL.

The following people have donated towards the memorial hut appeal. Thank you.

Hobart Walking Club

John Cole

Elen Davies

Andrew McCallum

Lindsay Crawford

Don Thomas

Dave Hogg

Tom Kneen

Michael Feller

Sandra Barnes

Tony Kerr

Julie Debrett

Richard J. Schmidt

Cath Milvain

John Wolters

Phil Waring

Val Underhill

Jeff Toll

Heather Jones

Helen Sare

Ross Smith

Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. R. Hawthorne

Wendy Bisset

Roger Caffin

Anne Hartnett

Helen Wood

J.W. Hudson

Julian Nayar

Leanne Jurss

T.M. Cherry

Jennie McMahon

Robert Hall

T. Falkiner

Jim Rose.

Dr. A.S. Cameron

Anton Cook

R. Fox

G.R. Brown

Sue (yeti) Quilford

Herb Girschik

I. Sudholz

R. Little

Fred Mitchell

Suzanne Cory

Cliff Judge

Jim Newlands

Don Mackay

A. Tuft. and brother G.

V. Sarafis

Bruce Jones

Ross Davidson

Sue Wilcox

Micheal Meszaros

Rosemary Thompson

Elizabeth Hamilton

Richard Myers

Ian Bowie

Bernice Kelly

G.M. Knight

Les Southwell

Diane Nankerville

Rosemary Arnold

Andrew Arnold

Dave Woodruff

Alex McEwan

J. McLean

Monash Bush Walking Club

A. Pogany

Also many people have supported the money raising functions e.g. Oxion, raffle, "Dr. Strangelove" well and have helped make these a success.

\*\*\*\*\*



### SOME FEATHERTOP TRIPS IN 1964

We knew that Feathertop was a good mountain - the closest thing to an alpine peak that Victoria can offer. Many people visit Feathertop every winter but of these few venture onto the steep eastern side facing the West Kiewa Valley and the Bogong High Plains beyond. The eastern slopes of Feathertop seemed shrouded in mystery. The "East Face" of Feathertop had almost become a legend in some circles - a steep 70 degree face overhung by large dangerous cornices. We wondered if this was true. At least the idea of becoming more closely acquainted with this side of the mountain appealed, and the prospect of some enjoyable snow climbing was present.

Feathertop is a long trip for a weekend, so the main problem seemed to be that of quick access to the east side.

The first trip was on 4th - 5th July, the party consisting of Dave Allen, John Boyd, John Bennett and myself. This has already been described in The Mountaineer under the title of "A Winter Traverse of Mt. Feathertop".

The trip commenced on a cold and wet winter Friday evening. The pleasant campsite by the Ovens at Harrietville, always welcome after the long trip, was reached in the early hours of Saturday morning. It only took us two hours to reach the hut. Deeper snow later in the winter was to increase this time considerably.

Continuing on from the hut, we travelled along the Razorback to the Diamantina Spur, then down this into the deep West Kiewa Valley, where we wearily made a later camp. The weather had been windy and misty and the snow was hard.

We hadn't been able to see much of the slopes of Feathertop. On Sunday we walked downstream along a jeep track, and crossed Feathertop Creek where it joins the West Kiewa. Here we followed up a long spur which intersected the main ridge somewhat to the north of the top. The surface on the ridge was icy and the scale of heights and distances was distorted by the mist. We had no crampons, so carefully cut steps and travelled roped up to the summit. On the other side the snow was softer. We hurried down to the hut for a late lunch, then down to the car at Harrietville for the sleepy trip home. The weekend had been enjoyable; we had crossed the range twice with packs heavy with more food than could possibly be eaten in a weekend and we had learnt a little more about Feathertop. It seemed that the east face proper, if such a thing existed, had been missed, for nowhere were we on particularly steep ground. The jeep track found in the West Kiewa valley was interesting - where did it begin? It seemed that if one could get into the valley on the east side without the long tramp over the range from the Ovens valley, a lot of the precious weekend could be saved.

The Broadbents map seemed to suggest that the jeep track left the Harrietville road somewhere back towards Wangaratta, so another trip was planned for the 1st and 2nd August.

Perhaps, considering the shambles that this next trip degenerated into, "planned" is hardly a suitable description.



Some Feathertop Trips in 1964 (cont.)

On the Friday of the trip I discovered another map which showed a road running up the West Kiewa from Mt. Beauty. I hurriedly telegraphed Dave in Benalla to change our rendezvous from Harrietville to Mt. Beauty. This time the Melbourne party consisted of Graham Hirst, John Bennett and myself. We travelled up in Graham's Holden Ute. We couldn't see Dave at Mt. Beauty on Friday night, but we thought he would probably show up next day. After a fruitless Saturday morning search in Mt. Beauty, it seemed that perhaps Dave had missed the telegram and gone to Harrietville. So into the car and over Towonga Gap to Harrietville we went. We found Dave's tent there, with a note saying that he was travelling back towards Wangaratta looking for us. So we sat and waited and before long the Allen Peugeot came bounding across the paddock towards us. Still thinking that we were onto a good thing as far as the road up the West Kiewa was concerned we travelled in convoy back over Towonga Gap to Mt. Beauty. Unfortunately the road up the West Kiewa went only as far as a small weir, leaving us still 6 or 8 miles from Feathertop. Setting out to walk we found progress slow. The valley is steep sided and heavily vegetated and much of the day had been already wasted motoring.

We hadn't really got far when it was time to look for a campsite. The best we could find was a small piece of flat ground at a bend in the river and adjacent to the swiftly flowing white water. Even this piece of ground was scrub and rotting tree trunks. A bit of violent work produced two small clearings just sufficiently large to accommodate the tents. The rain poured down and the river roared as we cooked and ate in the comfortable confines of the larger tent. The sun shone brightly the next morning and we cursed the fact that we were not in a position to climb the mountain. There was nothing to do but retreat to the cars. Then we decided that if we hurried, it might be possible to drive once again to Harrietville and climb up the usual track, and take advantage of the fine weather for some photographs. So over Towonga Gap for the fourth time and back to Harrietville. Coming up the Ovens Valley towards Harrietville we saw some fine views of Feathertop. I had never seen these before as on all previous trips I had travelled during darkness. After lunch at the campsite at Harrietville we set off. The heavy snow cover made the track up to the hut much slower, and by the time we reached the hut the cloud was down. It seemed pointless to go on, so it was back down the track again, and even then we didn't reach the cars until after dark.

Before our third trip which was a fortnight later, I obtained some information on the road up into the West Kiewa. It leaves the Falls Creek road above Mt. Beauty and it is controlled by the S.E.C. and has a locked gate across the entrance. I wrote to the S.E.C. requesting permission to use the road, but received a most ungracious and curt reply simply saying no.

It seemed that our original approach from the Harrietville side had been the most successful so far, and on the third trip we decided to follow this up.



Some Feathertop Trips in 1964 (cont.)

The third trip was on the 15th - 16th August. This time the Melbourne party was comprised of Phil Waring and Shirley Madigan, Janet and Anton Cook and John Bennett and myself. Again Dave Allen came across from Benalla and met us at Harrietville. This time the snow on the track was deeper than ever and the slog up to the hut took 4 hours. Phil, Shirley, Janet and Anton camped near the hut, intending to climb Feathertop from the usual side on the next day. Dave and John and I continued on to find a campsite higher up. We camped near the signpost below Little Feathertop. Fooling about attaching Dave's patent floor to the walls of the tent was cold work. The shelter of the tent and the pleasant warm fug produced by the primus were welcome.

Next day, after a not very early start, we left the tent and walked out along the ridge some of the way towards Feathertop. The weather was reasonably fine but very cloudy. As the cloud blew across the slopes momentary glimpses of the surroundings were available.

We roped up and carefully broke through the cornice and moved down onto the eastern side. We dropped diagonally downwards, keeping an eye on the large cornices above, and hurrying over parts showing evidence of past snow slides. Ahead through breaks in the cloud we picked out a ridge or buttress running at an angle of 40 to 45 degrees directly to the summit, where the cornice did not overhang greatly. Climbing onto the foot of this buttress we followed it to the top. The snow was soft and heavy, and the crampons we had brought were not at all necessary. As I climbed up over the cornice I saw that the 4 from the hut had also arrived at the top almost simultaneously with us. After a few photographs we took a quick run northwards down the summit ridge to inspect the spur we had climbed on the first trip. The soft snow and the absence of mist had completely changed the nature of the mountain. We saw that our spur was broad and unexciting and henceforth decided to call it "Pakcing Spur". So then it was over the top again, down to break camp and hastily pack before another stop down at the hut where the girls brewed cups of coffee whilst the tents there were taken down. Feathertop hut was sagging badly under the huge weight of snow on the roof. The weight of snow had caused the walls to spring apart, and a couple of the rafters had fallen out of position. It almost looked as though the surrounding snow was all that prevented the hut from completely collapsing.

A weekend trip with a large well organized party to renovate this hut during the summer would be a most worth while undertaking for the M.U.M.C. The Harrietville Progress Association are also interested in the hut and could be expected to cooperate in any such venture.

So what of the "East Face" of Feathertop? It is rather too broken with gullies and ribs to be called a face. Certainly there are vertical rock bluffs on the sides of some of the ribs, but the general angle is more like 40 degrees than 70. The scale is not very big, although it is surprising how misty conditions can exaggerate distances and heights. If icy conditions were ever encountered some quite interesting climbs could be found.

Under almost any conditions the eastern side of Feathertop is worth venturing onto by any properly equipped party seeking some snow climbs.

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## "SURVIVAL"

(Extracts from the talk by Dr. Philip Law at the Club Annual Dinner which was, as usual a great success).

### Observations

1. The ability to survive varies from person to person.
2. It is almost impossible to freeze to death in timbered country in Victoria. Fatalities must be caused by something else.

### Principles

1. Survival depends more on the spirit than on the physique.
2. Fear kills (i) directly, as in bone pointing.  
(ii) indirectly by causing paralysis of thought and action (bird and snake) or by causing blind panic.
3. The unknown causes fear.
4. Optimism and determination are lifesavers.
5. Shelter and warmth are more important than food.

### Precepts

1. Preplan : Visualise all eventualities.  
A difficulty is far less fear - producing if it has been visualised beforehand.
2. Be determined and Optimistic.
3. Force deliberate thinking, so as to overlook nothing.
4. Preplan shelter.
5. Keep food-times regular, to prevent the body from running out of fuel.
6. Do not consume alcohol until sheltered and warm at the end of the day.
7. Clothing should be : a. light enough to avoid sweating.  
b. sufficient to prevent chilling.
8. Do not wrap a chilled person alone in a blanket. Put a warm person in too.
9. Stop and make camp while still warm and energetic.

For brevity the many examples given by Dr. Law in his talk have been omitted from this account.

During the Dinner Dr. Law was made our fifth Honourary Life Member. He has been a member of the club since its inception in October 1944 and has kept his interest in the Club.

\* \* \* \* \*



CLASS. ADS. NOTICES etc. ....

Maps : The club proposes to enter the map making field. Current projects are maps of Mt. Feathertop and the Cathedral Range. If anyone is interested in helping or knows of any places crying out to be mapped contact Tom Kneen.

Outward Bound for Students : Outward Bound courses are available in the long Vacation. Details are on the club notice board.

A.O.S.T. - is now running group bookings to N.Z. (Sydney to Wellington). This is for £54 return plus £2 administration fee. The major trouble seems to lie in leaving from Sydney and only going to Wellington (returns also from Wellington). However plane fare from Wellington to Christchurch is £4.9.0. N.Z. (Single). Which is still cheaper than discount rates groups of 10 can get (10%).

Planes leave Sydney December 12th, 15th and 19th.

For further details see A.O.S.T. (N.U.A.U.S. Storey Street).

EMPRESS TRACK - N.W. Spur of Feathertop. Cars cannot be taken through Mr. Keating's property. We can walk through his land but cars have tended to make a mess of his land.

If anyone has seen a letter from the Bureau of Mineral Resources addressed to Phil Waring could they get it to him as quickly as possible as the letter contains figures for magnetic declination, required for the chapter on maps in "Equipment for Mountaineering".

\* \* \* \* \*

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (V.N.P.A.)

At the first world conference on National Parks held in the U.S.A. in 1962 it was pointed out that no significant opportunities for the preservation of flora, fauna and national parks would remain anywhere in the world by the year 2000. By this time numerous plant and animal species would be doomed to extinction.

Concerned with the urgency of the problem as it affects Victoria, the V.N.P.A. held a special meeting recently, at which M.U.M.C. was represented, and resolved that :-

- "1. We commend the proposal of the Council of the V.N.P.A. to conduct a scientific study of Victoria with a view to preservation of areas which contain features of botanical, zoological, geological or scenic interest.
2. When the plans are finalized we will ask the organisations which we represent to encourage the undertaking and to help it financially."



V.N.P.A. (cont.)

It is of interest that the total area of existing National Parks is only 0.6% of the land area of the state.

The plan was outlined by Dr. Specht of the Botany Department. He visualized a two-stage plan, firstly surveying what is preserved and what is not; and secondly, pinpointing the deficiencies. This would provide a clearer picture of where to set up areas for nature conservation. The study would take two years to execute and would cost £4,000, to be raised from sympathetic bodies and associations.

The Committee of M.U.M.C. has given a club donation. Individuals concerned with this extremely important problem are asked for any financial assistance possible.

For further details see G. Smith.

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ARACHNUS ("....Until it plunged at last to strike the steep rock of Arachus near at hand, our watchtower....." Aeschylus)

Grade V- 1st Climb - R. McQuilkin, I. Speedie.

Description :- A climb in 4 pitches on the watchtower at Mt. Arapiles.

1st Pitch 100 ft. A - D

2nd Pitch 90 ft. D - E

3rd Pitch 30 ft. E - F

4th Pitch 150 ft. F - H (May be Broken)



Arachnus (cont.)

1st Pitch. The obvious crack on the left side of the watchtower is ascended 20 ft. to B, and a traverse made as far as is reasonable to C on the right hand side. A channel piton may be placed with difficulty to protect the next wane, the crux of the 1st Pitch. This wall relies on friction and balance, but the holds are substantial. The climb progresses up the obvious gully to 1st relay point at D on a large ledge (sling relay).

2nd Pitch. A straight forward pitch of no great difficulty bearing towards the left side of the watch tower. The angle steepens as the relay point is approached. There is a profusion of running relay points. The relay point (E) is under a small ceiling and, using a piton relay, is very comfortable.

3rd Pitch. A small ascending traverse. This is the crux of the climb, quite fine, and quite exposed. On leaving the relay ledge, the traverse is started 4 ft. lower. It then progresses diagonally up to the relay point 3 (F) (10 ft. higher than E). This pitch is well protected at start and finish. Relay point F is a very obvious ledge with ceiling. It has a magnificent aspect on the right side of the watch tower overlooking the right watch tower face and the watch tower crack. The relay is by sling above the ceiling on the corner, or by piton in the floor of the ledge.

4th Pitch. Note: There is difficulty in verbal communication above this relay point. This pitch of 150 ft. may be broken into 2 pitches if necessary, of 90 ft. (to G) and 60 ft. The angle is quite sharp with large plate like holds. Running relay points abound. The route ascends and crosses to the left side of the watch tower. It then continues on the left side to the top of the climb (H). The relay is good and escape gives no difficulty.

\* \* \* \* \*

RECIPE    Steamed Pud

Mixture :- Butter, water, sugar, dried fruit, salt - heat till boiling, add mixture of S.R. flour, crushed biscuit, and anything else around and mix to suitable consistency. Pour into greased billy and cover. Put this billy into another larger billy with some water and steam for a couple of hours (i.e. until cooked, or you lose patience). A couple of crossed sticks in the bottom of the big billy will keep the small billy off the bottom. Be careful not to let the water boil dry.

Variation :- The above mixture is in rather large quantities as a rule. For 1 - 2 people use a batter (medium thick) made of S.R. flour, pinch egg powder, milk, water, raisins, sugar in small quantities in an M. & B. tin. Screw lid on very tight and steam till cooked ( $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 hour).

\* \* \* \* \*

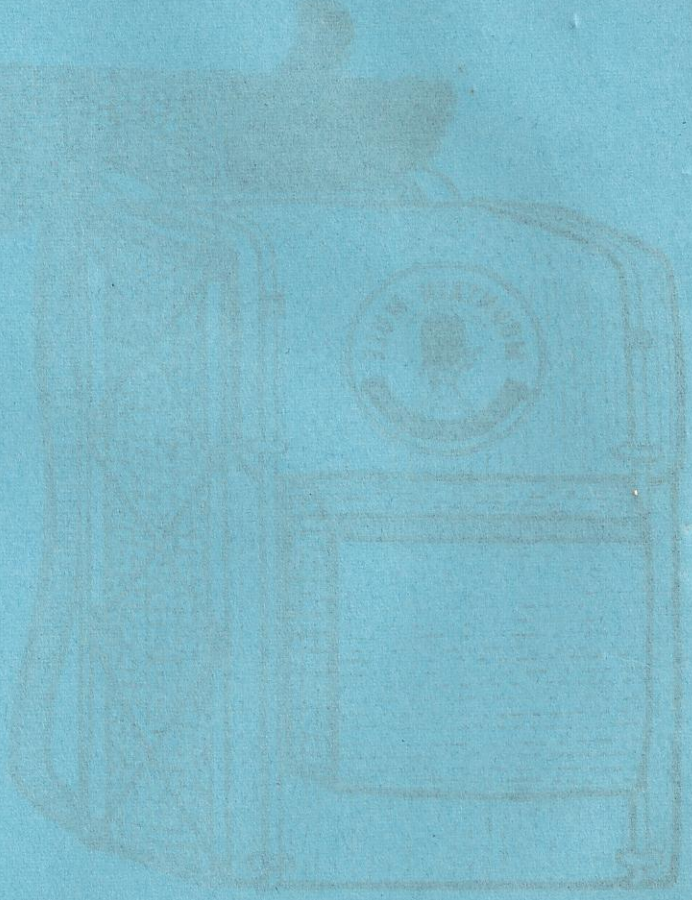
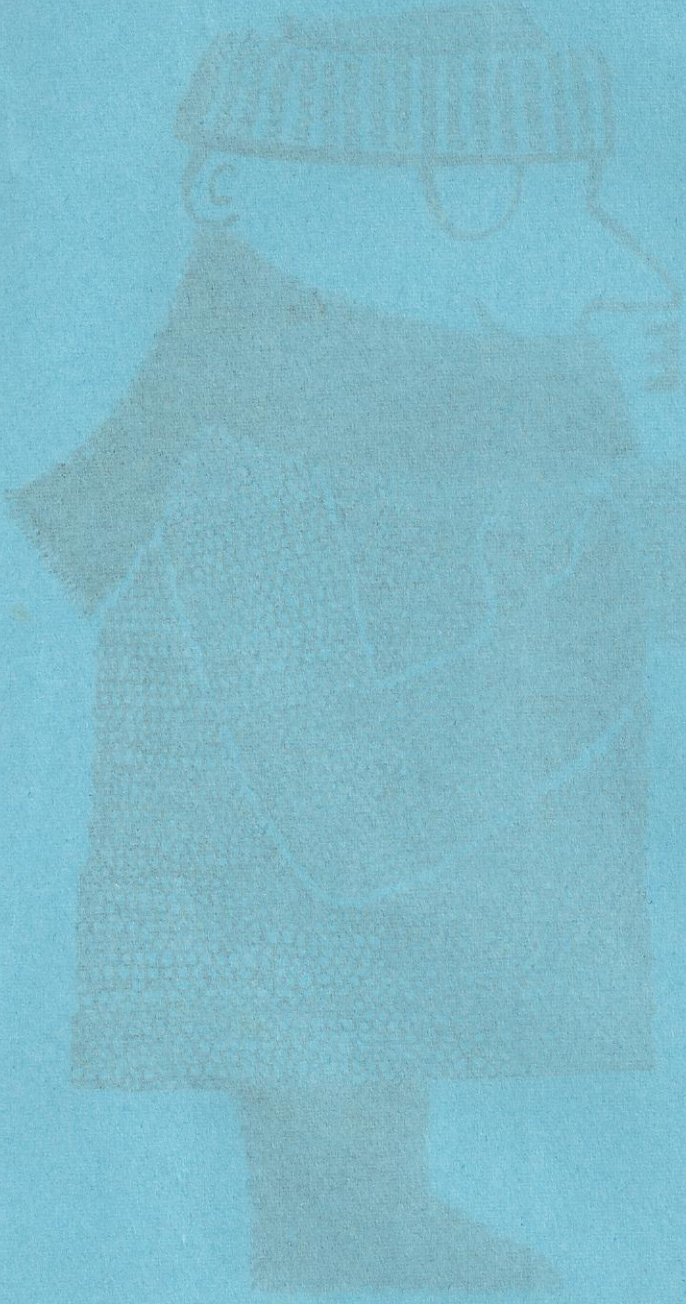








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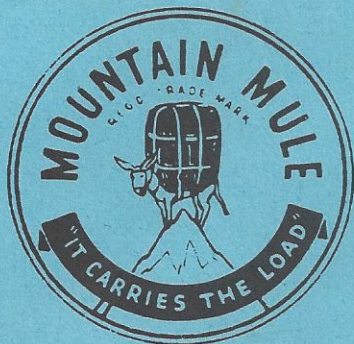


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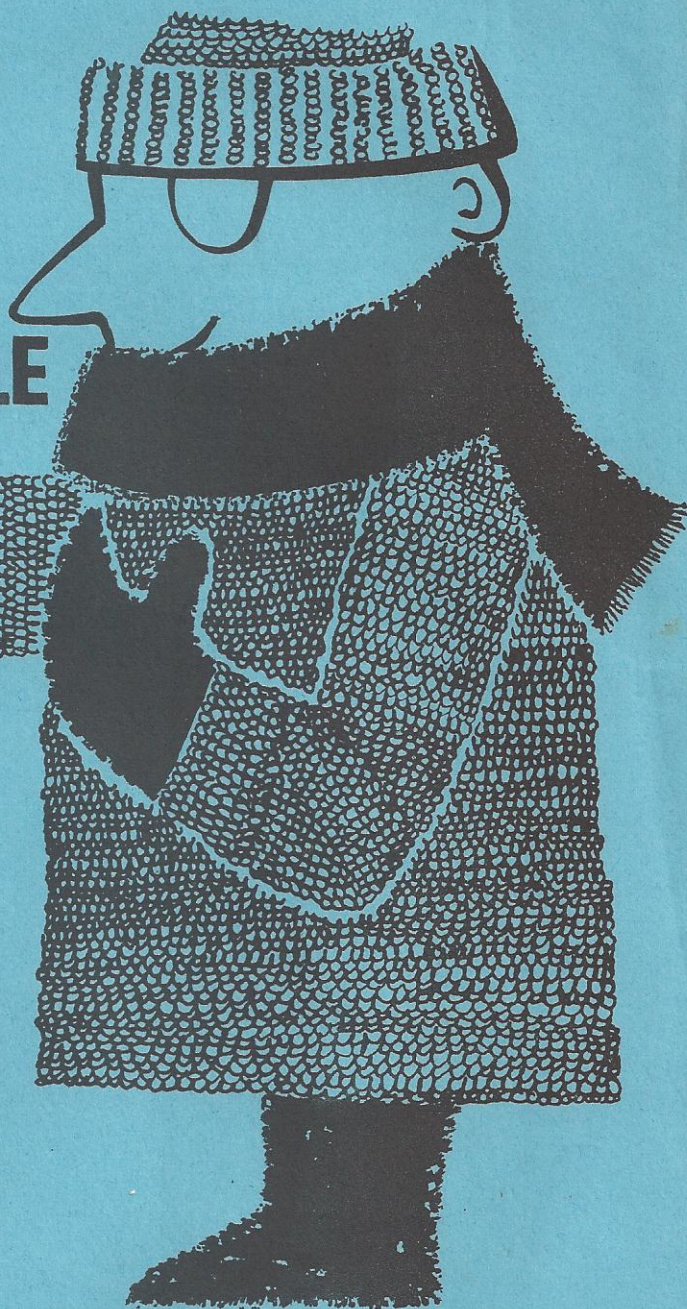
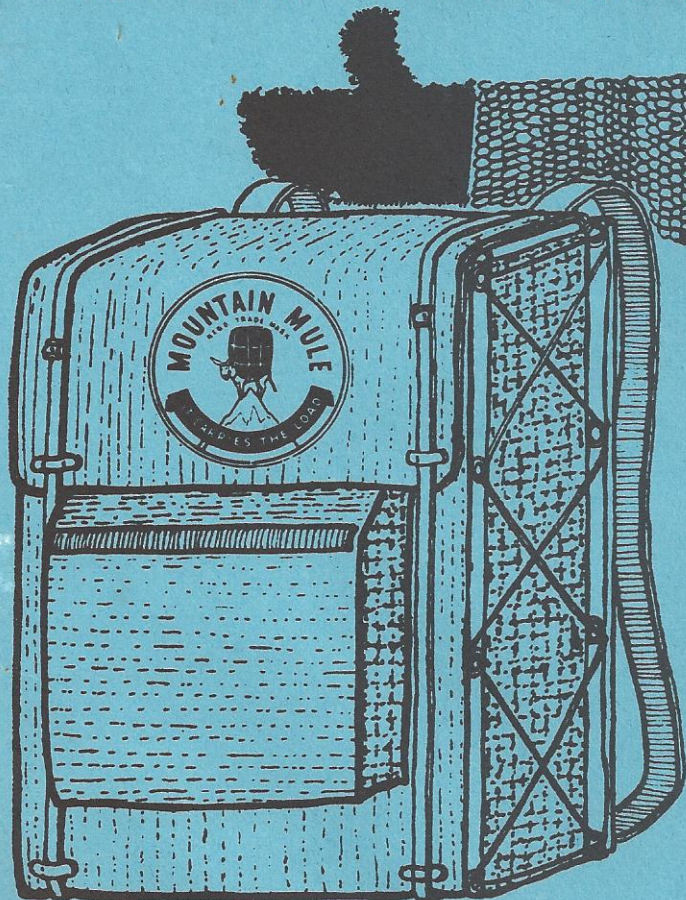
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