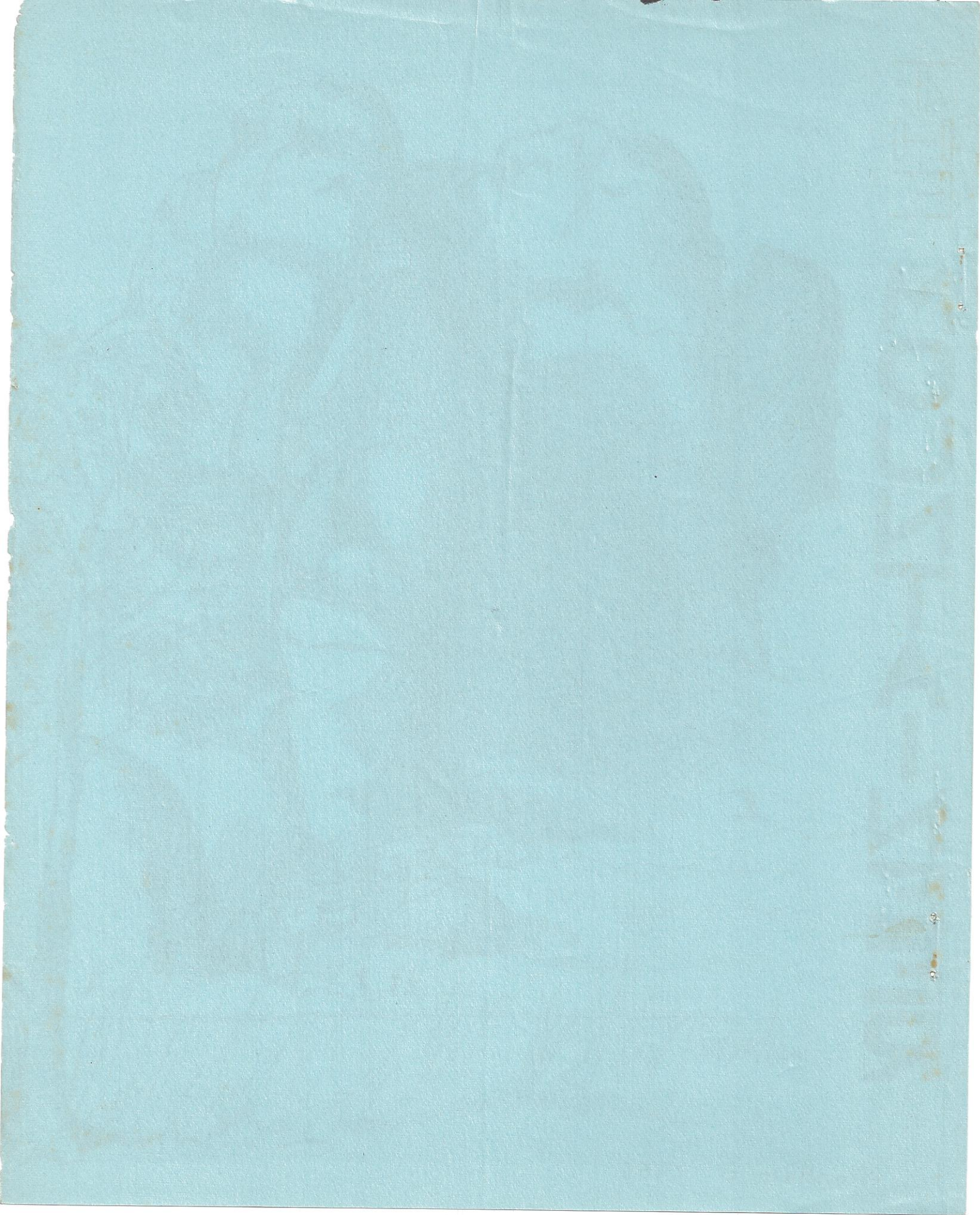


# THE MONTHLY ZUCOM



Number 3 1966.







# THE MOUNTAINEER

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## Editorial

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

One oft hears such statements as, "I regard mountaineering as consisting of both bushwalking and rock climbing." or, "give climbing a rest for a weekend and try some real mountaineering." Most people in the club (given the title 'mountaineering' for want of a better name) call themselves climbers, bushwalkers, cavers, or a bit of each, but some prefer the grander title of mountaineer.

To a large extent our club has based itself on British mountaineering and the tradition of the university mountaineering clubs there. In Britain they have Fell and Moor walking, our equivalent being bushwalking and rock climbing. These they regard as training for their mountaineering in the European Alps or elsewhere, not as mountaineering in themselves. They regard mountaineering as using their skills, learned and practised on the moors and faces at home, to conquer a peak.

Is a walking trip across the Bogong High Plains mountaineering? The V.M.T.C. have a different name for it. Does one become a mountaineer by spending a weekend at Wilson's Promontory followed by a Sunday doing some pinnacles at Hanging Rock, thus combining bushwalking and rock climbing? Who is more of a mountaineer, the tourist and his wife and family who walks along the track to the top of Mount Rosea, or the climber who descends the track after a Severe climb without walking along to the summit? Where does bushwalking become mountaineering, and mountaineering climbing?

While the term mountaineering is used loosely to describe the outdoor activities undertaken by the club, it is quite adequate. When it is used as "I am a mountaineer rather than a bushwalker or climber," it requires further definition.

oomooloo oomooloo oomooloo oomooloo

Heresy, I say, heresy, burn all heretics, the work of the devil. I say excommunicate him, pure and utter heresy.



### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yes, it's time for subs. again. If you have a line across the front page then you have not paid your subs. and will have to fork up or forego your membership in this magnificent club. What is more, you will not receive another copy of this cultural and intellectually provocative magazine. I know that would make up your mind. Now just fill in the form at the back and send it in with the appropriate remittance, or call personally at Aikman's Rd. any lunch-time and you will be entitled to - six more copies of "The Mountaineer," use of the club's equipment hire service, a vote at next year's A.G.M., and all the other privileges unique to M.U.M.C. Members.

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### TRIPS AND MEETINGS PROGRAMME

- June 10th - 13th. Queen's Birthday weekend. The Grampians - Fixed camp with day walks and/or climbing, or a three-day walk (standard medium), probably in the Victoria Valley. Transport - private or van. Van leaves Union Car Park 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.20 to \$7.70 Cancellation fee: \$2.00.
- June 16th. Thursday Informal climbers' meeting - Poynton's (see later).
- June 10th - 13th. Mt. Arapiles. Climbing trip to celebrate the publication of the Mt. Arapiles Guidebook.
- June 17th Friday. Meeting, Old Arts Building, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Norm. Linton-Smith, the equipment officer for A.N.A.R.E., will give a talk illustrated by slides of his recent trip to Canada and Greenland. A variety of specialized equipment, developed for extremely cold conditions, such as in Antarctica, will also be displayed.
- July 1st. Friday - Film night or slide night. Watch club notice board for details.
- July 3rd. Sunday - Day walk, Sugarloaf - Mason's Falls - Kinglake West. (standard medium) Leader: Rex Harris. Van leaves top of Batman Ave. 9.00 a.m. Fare \$1.20 to \$1.80. Cancellation Fee \$0.60.
- July 7th. Thursday, Informal Climbers' meeting + Poynton's (see later note).
- July 8th - 10th - Caving trip to Narracorte. Leader: Andrew Spate (34 3986) Private transport. Proper caving equipment is essential.



July 15th - 17th. Mt. Erica - Mt. Baw ~~Law~~ Baw. Snow trip with instructor in snow-camping: (standard medium) Leader: Tom Kneen (81 1346). Van leaves Union Car Park, 6.30 p.m. Fare \$4.00 to \$6.00. Cancellation fee \$2.00. Recommended particularly to anyone thinking of going on later snow trips who has not had experience in snow-camping.

July 21st. Thursday. Informal climbers' meeting - Poynton's (see later note).

July 22nd. Friday. Club Dinner Dance at "The Cuckoo", Olinda. Commences 7.00 p.m. \$3.00 per head. B.Y.O.G. Bookings may be made with Dave Hogg or Andrew Spate and money must accompany bookings. BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY, 24TH JUNE.

July 29th - 31st. Snow trip - Mt. Timbertop - Mt. Buller (standard Medium-hard) Leader: Mike Feller (20 2232) Van leaves Union Car Park 6.30 p.m. Fare \$4.10 to \$6.20. Cancellation fee \$2.00.

August 4th. Thursday. Informal climbers' meeting - Poynton's (see later note).

August 5th. Friday. Slide competition. Grand showing of winning slides and presentation of prizes. 7.30 p.m. Old Arts Building. See details of the competition in accompanying supplement.

August 12th-15th. Alpine Climbing Course. Mt. Feathertop. Leader: John Retchford. Instruction will be given in snow and ice climbing techniques. Van leaves Union Car Park 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00 to \$9.00. Cancellation fee \$2.00.

August 18th. Thursday. Informal climbers' meeting. - Poynton's (see later note).

TRIP BOOKINGS. At "Aikmans Road" any lunch-time, at Club meetings, or phone Dave Hogg (87 1630+).

CANCELLATION FEES. Must be paid by anyone withdrawing from a van trip without reasonable excuse less than one week prior to its commencement.

RESTRICTED SNOW TRIP. Nick White is planning a trip to Pine Valley and/or Frenchman's Cap (Tas.) from 25th August to 4th September. This is not an open club trip and previous snow experience is essential. Contact Nick if interested - phone (business) 38 6997.



INFORMAL CLIMBERS'S MEETINGS - held on the first and third Thursday of each month from 7.30 p.m. onwards at Peter Poynton's Hotel, cnr. Gratton and Cardigan Streets. Just ask at the bar for the Climbers' meeting and you will be directed to our exclusive room. An enjoyable social evening and a chance to keep up with what is happening in Victorian climbing.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It has been a long held philosophy in the club that walkers and climbers in particular are a sharp cut above the tourists, who tend to mingle with us during our visits to such beauty spots as the Grampians and Mt. Arapiles. Yet, to my mind, the similarities between the two are rather more strikingly obvious than their differences. Both drive about in cars, rarely travelling any distance without them, both carry cameras and sunglasses, wear outlandish clothes, talk fast and hard, scatter papers to the four winds, and build mountains of cans. I feel rather strongly that this situation should be remedied drastically if we are to retain our old philosophies. If not, in a few years time, the accumulated scum (members and rubbish) will deter the best of brave new members.

signed PIUS.

Dear Sir,

I should like to publicly thank all those people concerned with the M.U.M.C. display on Open Day for their help and support.

Thank you,

(Signed) Rowan Webb.

Dear John,

Recently I deliberately took the chance of being called a 'once a year climber' by cancelling a booking to the Arapiles climbing course. There are probably others who have done the same thing and I feel I can speak for them by saying that we did not do this because we don't like climbing. On the contrary, there are few things I want to do more than become a climber of reasonable



standard. This is born out by the fact that I have purchased some slings and crabs and am in the process of buying a pair of P.A.'s. Surely this indicates a keen interest in climbing.

We did not just cancel Arapiles, but instead booked for a Feathertop work party. The main reason for doing this is that work on the hut has reached a critical stage (keeping the time of the year in mind) and an all out effort is needed to complete it as soon as possible. If this is not done a lot of work will be wasted. This would not only be a financial loss but would be a grave injustice to those, especially Peter Kneen, who have given all they can to bring the hut project to a successful conclusion.

Obviously not everybody going to Arapiles could, or even should, come to Feathertop, and this letter is not intended as a criticism of anyone. Its purpose is mainly to point out that I personally, and some others, feel that our responsibility lies in the first place with the hut and only secondly with other aspects of the club.

Note, that after this Anzac weekend I will not go on any trips, hut or others, till the beginning of second term because first responsibility will lie in my studies.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Bill Ostemeyer.

In reply to the letter by 'bushwalker' in the last Mountaineer. -

The climbing course and club climbing trips are not a service to the club. The Climbing Leaders are not paid guides, but club members with an active passion for rock climbing. Their interest in the sport is sufficiently great that they give up weekends to instruct others so that they too may become climbers. The so called "once a year climbers" have no intention of becoming climbers and become a hinderance on a course supposedly run for beginners. The majority on this years course were absolute beginners with a genuine desire to continue climbing. By the end of the long weekend most of them were leading V.Diff. or better. If the course had been crowded with people on their third or fourth climbing course expecting to be guided up climbs that appealed to them the beginners would not have received the personal attention that has allowed them to finish the course with reasonable competency.

ED.



## MOTOR INSURANCE

(An article of interest to all drivers of their own cars)

Due to the number of private cars used by club members on club trips, both to Feathertop and elsewhere, which carry passengers, I have been asked to write a short note on insurance available for cars.

The intention of this article is to give car drivers an idea of how they will be indemnified and to what extent in case they are sued as a result of injuries to persons or damage to chattels arising out of an accident in which a vehicle under their control is involved.

Insurance companies are of two types:

(1) Tariff companies.

(2) Non-tariff companies which includes all government insurance offices, R.A.C.V. insurance and some others.

The tariff is simply an association of insurance companies. All tariff companies charge the same premiums and give the same cover so it doesn't really matter which one you deal with as no tariff company will give you a better deal than another tariff company.

Non-tariff companies charge whatever premium they like which is not necessarily more than that charged by members of the tariff group.

The insurance available on cars is of two types:

- (1) Third Party only.
- (2) Comprehensive.

(1) Third Party Only: This insurance cover is compulsory for every vehicle registered in the State of Victoria and the premium is normally paid each year when the registration charges are paid.

It covers liability in respect of any third party and so excludes accidental damage to your own car and any personal injuries to yourself.

The charge for this cover is \$15 with an excess of \$20. For drivers under 25 years of age there is an extra excess of \$50 making a total of \$70!! The \$20 excess is not compulsory and can be removed on the payment of an extra premium of \$2.25. The \$50 excess is compulsory and cannot be removed.

Note "Excess" and "Franchise" are not interchangeable terms. With an excess of e.g. \$20 you pay the first \$20 of any claim.



and they pay the rest. With a franchise of e.g. \$20 you pay the full amount of any claim up to \$20 and they pay the full amount of any claim exceeding \$20. Excess is common in Australian motor insurance - franchise is not.

Meanwhile back to third party: This covers you to the extent of \$200,000. It can be made an unlimited cover on the payment of an extra premium. I do not recommend that this extra premium be paid as I consider it a waste of money.

(2) Comprehensive Policy: As well as normal third party cover it includes damage to your own car.

This type of policy carries the same excess as a third party policy. This can be removed on payment of an extra \$10.70. As in third party the compulsory \$50 excess for drivers under twenty-five cannot be removed.

Some examples of premiums on comprehensive policies are:

Where sum insured is \$400 or less - premium is \$57.40.
" " " "\$1,000 " " " " \$75.20
" " " "\$2,000 " " " " \$88.80

These are if bearing a \$20 excess. As stated above this can be removed on the payment of an extra \$10.70.

Note (1) Volkswagens and sports cars can normally only be insured at state insurance offices or with the R.A.C.V.

(2) If a vehicle is the subject of a Hire-Purchase agreement the comprehensive rates are very much higher, e.g., if the sum insured is \$400 or less the premium is \$87.40. This means that you have to write off your car at least once every  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years to get your money back.

(3) Neither third party nor comprehensive insurance will cover you in the event of damage or injury as set out hereunder:

(a) You are not covered in the event of death of, or bodily injury to, any relative or friend of the insured ordinarily residing with the insured.

(b) You are not covered in the event of damage to property belonging to any relative or friend of the insured ordinarily residing with the insured.

(c) The policy will not cover loss, damage, liability, and/or compensation for injury caused by earthquake, subterranean fire, riot or civil commotion or for any damage caused as a consequence of war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, etc., etc., ad infinitum.



(d) You are not covered while the vehical is being used for the conveyance of passengers for hire fare or reward. This should be specially noted.

(4) As you may gather from the above, insurance is a swindle.

(5) Insurance indemnifies, i.e. it will put you back in the same position that you were in before the accident. This means you can't make money legally out of insurance.

(6) Just because the accident is your fault doesn't mean that you can't recover. This is one of the main reasons for having insurance - to protect yourself (at a very high cost) from your own mistakes.

As stated earlier (note 3(a) and 3 (b) you are not covered in the extent of injury to, or damage to the property of, persons normally resident with the insured. You can get insurance cover in this area by means of a public liability policy. A discussion of this type of insurance is beyond the scope of the present article.

I do not accept any responsibility for the statements made in the foregoing article. However, to the best of my knowledge all information given is true and correct. The rates quoted are for tariff companies. The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect club policy.

Brendan Holland.

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#### IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE EDITOR

At present The Mountaineer is trying to serve two purposes: a club magazine and a club newsletter. It is felt that it is lacking in the latter. Means to overcome this failure are being looked into. One suggestion is that The Mountaineer be reduced to four copies a year and a monthly newsletter be introduced. It takes four weeks from copy deadline to have a Mountaineer in the post. Consequently much of the news and trips programme is dated before a member reads it. With a newsletter this could be reduced to one week. If this was done it is hoped that the standard of The Mountaineer could be improved, cover photos, etc.

We are asking you, as members, to let us know your feelings on this and any suggestions are welcome. With the present system you can help speed things up by co-operating in writing out wrappers, stapling, etc. at Aikman's Road when a Mountaineer is being prepared for the post.



BOOK TALK

The following books have recently gone into the club library -

Mount Everest 1938	H. W. Tilman
Two Mountains and a River	" " "
The Ascent of Nanda Devi	" " "
Again Switzerland	Frank S. Smythe
Climbs in the Canadian Rockies	" " "
Over Tyroloese Hills	" " "
Kamet Conquered	" " "
Everest 1933	Hugh Ruttledge
Annapurna	Maurice Herzog
Tirich Mir	Norwegian Himalayan Expedition.
You've Got It Coming	James Hadley Chase
That Hideous Strength	G. S. Lewis
Told In The Dark	
The City And The Stars	Arthur C. Clarke
Great Mother Forest	Attilio Gatti

Gerry Jacobson has recently purchased a book which may be of interest to club members. It goes by the title "Exploration Medicine," edited by O. G. Edholm and A. I. Bacharach, and may be obtained from the publishers, John Wright & Sons Ltd., 44 Triangle West, Queen's Rd., Bristol, 8, Great Britain.

The price is 47/6 sterling plus 5/- postage.

The book is intended as a practical guide for those going on expeditions. Anyone wishing to inspect the book is welcome at Flat 8, 521 Royal Pde., or could ring 50 8511 ext. 362 by day to arrange.

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DANCING - The vertical component of a horizontal desire.



CLUB STORES

At Orange Gate next to Aikman's Road.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Stores Officer</u>
Monday	1.00 - 1.50 pm.	Phil. Seccombe
Tuesday	1.00 - 1.50 pm	John Campbell
Wednesday	1.00 - 1.50 pm	Richard Schmidt
Thursday	1.00 - 1.50 pm	Peter Barnes
Thursday Night	5.15 - 6.15 pm	Andrew Spate
Friday	1.00 - 1.50 pm	Roger Gaffin.

At lunchtime, the store SHUTS AT 1.50 P.M. SHARP.

Equipment (Packs, tents, sleeping bags, carbide lamps) may be hired at moderate prices with \$1 (one) deposit.

Deposits will be refunded ONLY during Store Hours.

A range of DEHY food, chocolate, glucose, egg powder, CARBIDE (available at Flophouse), raisins and sultanas are available at reduced prices.

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CLIMBS FOR THE CONNOISSEUR.

By J.C.

A new addition for The Mountaineer. The climbs selected for this column are not chosen for their difficulty, rather for excellence of line, character or technique.

MICKEY FINN (Mt. Arapiles) This short exhilarating climb on the Eastern Wall of Castle Crag is a superb example of exposure on a very short climb. The final chin-up over the chockstone at the top can be guaranteed to set the adrenalin pumping through the system.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tea of the month: "Twinings Darjeeling" \_\_\_\_\_

GREG'S DIRECT (North Jawbones) This is a high grade climb in which strength plays practically no part. It is an easy angled smooth slab with delicate holds and now well protected with a bolt. One of the



big steps forward in Victorian climbing, it is now deservedly becoming a popular classis.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rumour has it that a good, reasonably cheap \_\_\_\_\_  
Port is the 1962 Yalumba.

THE CATWALK (The Temple) A must for any climber at the Temple is the Catwalk finishing up "The Flying Dutchman. An excellent route ppsteep but easy rock which finishes with some delightful bridging in exposed positions up the wide chimney. The main feature of the climb is, of course, the stomach crawl constituting the second pitch.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Lindemans 1958 Claret is hard to beat \_\_\_\_\_

#### REMEMBRANCES OF THE CLIMBING WEEKEND

Wild were the parties,  
Late were the nights,  
Hell were the mornings  
That were always too bright.

Strange were the drinks  
Of rhubarb and parsnip,  
That left one remembering  
The hell in one sip.

Bad were the headaches  
That struck one next morn,  
And anguished the cries  
Of "Why was I born?"

Donated by one who dared  
Dedicated to those who attempted.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tigriss of the cliffs, Jenny Mc Mahon became Jenny Cain on 17th. of May. She and her husband Nelson are now living in New Zealand.

asterick astericke asterick

Mike Stone has recently left our fair shores for England where he will try his hand on British rock. He may also attempt the Liverpool Beat and the Go-Go.



CULTURAL SECTION

The third and final act of our exciting melodrama:

A MAIDEN'S DISTRESS - or - WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE  
BIG, BOLD, BLACK BEARDED BULGARIAN BEAST OF A BARON?

ACT 111

First Voice:

Look there! Our hero on the Missing Link,  
And he's climbing solo, I think.

Second Voice:

Not quite, behind him trails a line,  
But it is a line very fine.

First Voice:

There is no belayer on his fine line,  
And the line so fine twines through the pines.

Second Voice:

Yes, and Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled  
(curtain up) peppers.

Scene: Atop Bluff Major. The B.B.B.B.B.B. of a B. is  
making advances on the Fair Fiona as our hero,  
Rodger the Dodger, comes over the side.

Rodger the Dodger:

How now there Beast, you Big, Bold Baron,  
To rescue Fiona from you is my mission.  
So unhand Fiona, you dastly cad,  
For Rodger is here, and he's quite a lad.

The B.B.B.B.B.B. of a B:

Rodger the Dodger, go back down,  
On your activities, the Sub Committee will frown,  
And as for Fiona, leave her to me son,  
You'd know not what end to start on.

Rodger The Dodger:

Your obscene threats do not frighten me.  
I have soloed up here courageously,  
And I know that I can depend on,  
Your trembling when I tell of my secret weapon.

Two thousand feet of lead from my arm  
Trails right back to the Sultholz farm,  
And in my hand, I do declare sir,  
A most powerful electric razor.



The story is told of the long haired Sampson,  
Without his hair became Simpson in the hansom,  
And you are similar, I have heard,  
Your virility is contained in your beard.

(Rodger the Dodger moves in and after a short tussle begins shaving the Big, Bold, Black Bearded, Bulgarian Beast of a Baron)

The B.B.B.B.B.B. of a B:

Oh please cease, I do beseech thee,  
I will let you and Fiona go free.  
It is too late, what great despair,  
Floating off in the breeze is my facial hair.

Rodger the Dodger:

Come Fiona, wee'll abseil to ground,  
To ponder his remissions, we'll leave this hound.  
Virtue and honour show profit still,  
Once more good has victory over evil.

(Curtain)

Rodger and Fiona come out front. Rodger stands proud  
and true under the admiring gaze of the Fair Fiona.

Rodger the Dodger:

My Fair Fiona, I have rescued thee,  
From the Sub-Committee's immorality.  
We'll pitch our tent in quiet seclusion,  
Far from disturbance and drunken intrusion.

Fair Fiona:

We'll set the example for serious climbing,  
For those who off the top are aspiring.  
For we have the virtues, that a climber's should be:  
Sobriety, honour and celebacy.

FINIS.

Editor's Note. Rumour hath it that this melodrama is  
based on real people. This is entirely  
untrue. No such plot or persons could  
possibly exist.

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Please note - Subscriptions are now due.



N. W. FACE OF FEDERATION

At an ungodly hour, the morning of December 26th, six figures staggered under the weight of their private luggage on to a plane bound for Hobart. Reg. Williams, Jim Newlands, Chris Baxter, Chris Dewhurst, John Moore and Mike Stone were on their way to attempt the Blade Ridge and the N. W. face of Federation Peak. At the Hobart airport we were met by two members of the Tasmanian Film Unit, who were hoping to film the attempt, and they drove us to the end of the Arve Rd. at the start of the track to Blake's Opening.

We wandered down the rapidly deteriorating jeep track to Blake's where we camped the night. The next day was of course hot, and we slowly made our way to Pass Creek, from whence we moved the following day, in foul weather, arriving at Goom Moor in driving rain and high winds. The day after was beautiful, and the only unusual thing was the sight of a helicopter landing at Thwait's Plateau to unload two cameramen plus gear.

A base camp was established at Beshevaise Plateau, where we sat in our tents for the next four days waiting for the rain to clear. On the fifth day the helicopter flew in and picked up the cameraman on Lower Beshervaise leaving the one on Thait's Plateau.

On the sixth day the weather was clear at 4 a.m. so we breakfasted and started climbing what we thought was the Blade Ridge at approximately 7 a.m. After three pitches of vertical scrub it began to rain. At this point John made the classic suggestion that we bivouac and wait for the weather to clear. However we climbed on and after another four pitches discovered that we were on the Gendarme immediately to the left of the blade. The gully was crossed in two long traversing pitches and Chris Baxter led the only rock pitch of the day, a particularly good lead.

A few pitches further on, when the weather had really closed in, the attempt was abandoned and the party abseiled down into the large gully to the right of the Blade. We walked up this to the top and then around the Southern Traverse to Behewaise Plateau. The continual climbing through Scapari and other unpleasant scenery, led the group to unanimously decide against the attempt on the Blade and to concentrate on the N. W. Face.

The seventh day was poor and the other cameraman started to walk out. This was a great pity as the next day was perfect and he could have got all the shots he needed.

On our last possible day we climbed the N. W. Face by traversing in from the couloir on the left to the top of the Blade. This superb climb was done by the whole party,



climbing as three ropes of two, each rope working alternate leads - a tribute to the strength of the party.

The climb can be thoroughly recommended as an excellent climb in a position unlikely to be equalled anywhere in Victoria.

The rock is generally sound and gives good friction, however, the majority of the climbing is on steep walls using small, and sometimes awkwardly placed mechanical holds. The climb, from the top of the Blade, is about 800' and was graded by the party as Hard Severe, although it was also the opinion that no pitch on it represented more than a good Severe.

The next day we started our walk out, heading for the South Pictons. We made it to the end of the Arve Rd. in two and a half days where two members of the group hitched in and sent out a taxi for the others to finish off an excellent and successful trip, during which more dirty songs were sung, and more dirty jokes told than by any other party in South West. If any party wishes to challenge this would they kindly let me have a full list of the songs sung and jokes told on their trip.

MIKE STONE.

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EASTER IN THE GRAMPIANS  
or

What are the Koalas doing when they make that noise?

Easter was spent by some keen, not so keen, and plain lethargic persons in the general vicinity of Hall's Gap. Not in Hall's Gap, mark you, only in the vicinity - The squalor of 100 square feet per family (tent, caravan, car kids, and all) is a little too much! The Rosea camp site was occupied to almost maximum capacity, and from it ventured visits to Rosea, Redman's Bluff, Bundaleer, and a guided tour of the Northern Grampians (!) Some big routes fell (and not only routes), and a deal of recognized climbs were pounded. Two notable firsts were Debutante (Rosea), and Narcotic (Bundaleer), the latter being even more notable for the notable beginner who led the first pitch. This same beginner displayed notable Koala like propensities and claimed the first route up the large overhanging tree at the campsite. Prussiker who did it the "hard" way has claimed a 110" abseil from the only VS tree belay in Victoria. Rather interesting photograph taken from this point shows just how horrible someone's breakfast really looked.



For the area the weather behaved remarkably well - only the Friday being at all damp. So, a general visit was made to the new areas of Redman's Bluff and Barbican Rocks. A great convoy of VW the monotony being broken only by a Frenchman ...

Saturday saw a visit to Redman's Bluff on which two routes were climbed, and one descended rapidly! The area has very good potential, but suffers from a long walk in, and the prickles take a month to extract.

Saturday night was performed at the local hostelry. Plenty of liquid, but difficulty was experienced with two commandos who

1. can stand on a matchhead in their nails.
2. will produce climbers equal to or better than our best.
3. can go anywhere in rubbers that we can go in rubbers - and further.
4. wear rubber soled boots to the foot of the climb and then CHANGE INTO NAILS....!

Biggest problem was that they were boozed and ten times bigger than us!

Sunday saw a return visit from one group whilst others tackled Rosea ..... Three guys found themselves on the top of the Tourist Buttress waiting for the moon to come up. Weren't cold, they said, had a tremendous fire (someone thought it was probably Aurora) but did a moan about the "rescue" party. Came up to the parking lot, shouted, got replies that light was required, and then the rotten .....s went back to the camp. However, it's a great buttress .....

Monday came upon the scene with an onslaught on Rosea with Debutante alling to the intrepid partnership of Guild and Stone. Result was some excellent tete photographs taken by that aforementioned intrepid beginner.

Monday was also the day that a certain person took off with assorted women for a pleasant Monday afternoon drive. Trying to find Mt. Difficult, he claimed.

Tuesday found the venue shifted to Bindaleer and that overhanging horror, Narcotic, went free. A fine climb for a beginner - Roland Pantich. Ian Guild completed the climb, and assistance was given by Mike Stone, John Moore and various other bodies.

A fine Easter and most rewarding climbing. Among the present were Chris Davis, Bruce Hocking (we keep our health in mind), Ian Guild, Garry Kerkin, John McLean, Ian Speedie, Mike Stone, appearance by Roger Caffin and Phil Sec.?, sundry women, koalas, kangaroos, V.C.C. and pests - like tourists. Contact was also made with the Rosanora Climbing Club (Italian) some members of which were on Rosea.

GARRY KERKIN.





## ★ EASTER CLIMBING

Not so very long ago if a climbing party did not return to by shortly after dark there would be concern and preparation for a possible rescue. It would be the topic of conversation for weeks. Now days gambolling around in the dark on cliff tops and torch lights flashing all over cliffs have become an integral part of M.U.M.C. Climbing trips. When only an occasional rope was caught by the dark it could be regarded as interesting and adding to experience. With the present rate of occurrence (six M.U.M.C. ropes in a month) it must be regarded as dangerous and a bloody nuisance. It is time to look at why these incidents are occurring and how their number may be reduced.

Weighing up the climb. There is a tendency for climbers to overate their abilities and under-rate a climb's difficulties when planning a climb. One-upmanship undergrading does not improve matters. Before beginning a climb a party should weigh up the length, the number of difficult pitches and their climbing ability with the time available. They must also descent, which can become quite difficult in the dark.

Route finding. Poor route finding has been the cause of a number of benightments. When possible, a climb should be thoroughly surveyed from the ground and the route and belay noted. The lengths given in a guide should not be absurdly adhered to. When the guide says "traverse left at 60" and at 45' there is a definite traverse line, with the rock above smooth and steep, it is obvious that the length given in the guide is incorrect.

Rope handling. The cause of most slow parties. Slack should be taken up in a hand over hand fashion, and only with the "That's me" call should the rope be placed in the belay position. Where possible the rope should be neatly coiled beside the belayer and not draped all over the cliff to snag and jam.

Undercertain conditions, for the sake of faster climbing, rules may be broken. When the leader indicated that he is



in a safe position and is preparing a belay, then if the second is also in a safe position he should begin untying his belay and be ready to move on when the leader has taken in the slack. The rule of at least one man tied on at all times should be adhered to if either of the belays requires dangling from a piton, or the like.

Protection. In late '65 (the height of the bolt era) we saw the absurd situation where piton, and even jam nut, cracks were ignored and bolts put in. Although the bolt is undoubtedly the safest belay, it is also the most time and strength consuming to place. This is all right on 100' tiger climbs but could be costly on a big cliff.

Size of parties. Two on a rope form the fastest party. Parties of more than two should only climb as such if there is sufficient rope to form a continuous line, i.e. three on two ropes, four on three ropes, etc., or if the pitches are short the middleman may tie on to the centre of the rope. The method of leaving a number of seconds tied on to a ledge and throwing the rope down to them one at a time is dangerous and time consuming.

Psychological effects. Many climbers suffer from requiring time for a psychological build up, ranging from a few seconds to many minutes, before attempting a difficult move when leading. He should try to overcome this, or at least reduce the time required, so that his only stops on a pitch are to rest after a strenuous action or to work out a difficult sequence of moves to follow. The second, except when traversing, should have confidence from the rope and has no excuse for dallying on a pitch.

To sum up, if yours is not a fast party, you cannot start late.

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#### FURTHER LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In recent months the climbing group of the M.U.M.C. has justly become the laughing stock of Victorian climbing. Club trips are regularly featuring potentially serious falls, and parties being benighted on the cliff.

The kindest excuse is lack of experience. Other harsher and usually truer reasons are shortsightedness and lack of judgement, aided by the old delusion of immortality. An over competitive approach, usually caused by a low ego rating, is yet another reason. Whatever the cause, these



situations are most undesirable and should be eliminated. The basic safety of climbing, so often cited, presupposes a balanced approach and a knowledge of personal limitations in both ability and experience. The climber without these qualities is indulging in a lethal pastime.

When climbers are inexperienced it is partly the duty of the trip leader to ensure they do not climb in potentially dangerous circumstances. As they gain experience, the onus falls on their own shoulders, and, if they do not heed the danger signs, solo climbing is all they should attempt. They have no right to subject others to unnecessary danger.

Ridicule is the most effective weapon in straightening out these climbers and it should be used liberally, as they constitute a real danger to others and the sport in general.

(Signed) IAN SPEEDIEZ

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