

## THE MOUNTAINEER.

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

### TRIPS PROGRAMME.

8th, 9th October - Climbing at Ariviles.

14th, 16th - F.V.W.C. Track Clearing Weekend.  
Improving the snow shole line from Mt. Baw Baw to Mustering  
Flat. Van leaves top of Batman Av. 6.30 a.m.  
BRING - AXES, PICKS & SHOVELS.

21st, 23rd October - Wynerfield National Park. Standard:--MEDIUM.  
LEADER - Sue Guilford. Private transport. It may be  
necessary to carry water for the whole weekend. So bring  
water bottles.

25th, 27th November - Post-exam bludge weekend.  
LEADER - Bob Channell. More details in next newsletter.

2nd, 4th December - Featherston Hut Work party. Private transport.

TRIP BOOKINGS:---At "Aikman's Rd." any lunchtime or phone  
DAVE HOGG (37 1630)

Letter to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Recently there has been much criticism, sometimes constructive  
but mainly destructive, about the organisation of Club walking trips.  
The common complaints which have been made to me are:--

1. There are not enough Club walks organised.
2. Van fares are too high and an alternative means of transport  
should be found.
3. There is too much tendency to keep to the same areas that have  
been visited by the Club year after year.



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Despite much argument and discussion no real solution to the problem has been reached, but I would like to present to the Club the relevant facts and opinions as I see them.

The reason that more Club walks are not organised is primarily because of the poor attendance on most walks which have been held this year. Several trips have been cancelled because of only three or four people wanting to go, thus making a van trip impracticable. Most of the walks which have been held by van have resulted in financial loss to the Club, or at best, have barely broken even.

Should walks be organised using some other form of transport to cut down on costs?

Investigation of hire rates for buses and Kombi-vans have shown that van travel is definitely the cheapest form of hire transport for a large party. Public transport is not available to the areas where the best walks can be held. The only other alternative is private transport.

There have been many arguments raised for and against private transport as opposed to van transport:--

1. Private transport is cheaper than van. There are two widely differing schools of thought on this question. One is that the fares paid to car drivers on climbing trips and Hut work parties clearly indicate that car travel is cheaper. The other is that the wear and tear on the car, which may not become apparent for several months or even years, costs the driver far more than he would pay to travel by van. It seems significant to me that most people belonging to the first school of thought either do not own cars or have not had their cars long enough to appreciate the wear that can result from long, hard use, whereas those belonging to the second include many of the more experienced drivers in the Club who have been using their cars on trips for several years.

2. Cars are faster than vans and can be taken into less accessible areas. They are certainly more practicable for weekend trips to more distant areas.

3. A trip by private transport requires much more organisation and worry by the leader and/or Trips Secretary. Anyone who has had a hand in organizing transport for Hut work parties will appreciate this point.

Such problems are:--

- (a) Obtaining sufficient transport for all those going.



(b) Making sure that all cars reach the starting point of the trip by a set time. A single car suffering mechanical breakdown en route, with no means of contacting the rest of the party, could result in much worry and wasted time, and might even ruin a good weekend trip.

(c) Making sure that all cars got back safely to the highway after the trip.

4. Third party insurance does not apply if the driver accepts any fare, because of this, many Featherston drivers have not been accepting fares from their passengers. This is therefore a further expense which is borne by the driver.

5. Because only a small proportion of the Club's active members own cars, these people would be faced time after time with the strain of driving, and the high expenses of the trip, while other members sleep comfortably and cheaply in the back seat.

6. Unless some sort of shuttle service is organised, it would be necessary to restrict walks to round trips, often involving retracing steps.

7. There is the safety angle, that a driver who has just completed a hard weekend walk would not be as alert on the long drive back to Melbourne as a van driver who has spent the weekend resting.

8. Is the Club being too conservative in not holding more walks in new and different areas? Admittedly most of the Club walks this year have been to the better known areas reasonably close to Melbourne, but these are recognised as the best walking areas which can be visited for a weekend BY VAN, and trips to more distant areas would necessitate private transport. Another reason is that on most of these trips, the leader has approached me with definite plans for his trip, saving me the problem of thinking up a trip then chasing up a leader for it. As far as I am concerned, leaders who show such initiative deserve first consideration in the trips programme.

It seems to me that these three problems are interrelated and that the best solution is to continue the present system of van transport for the more popular trips to traditional areas, but to intersperse these with trips by private transport to new and more distant areas if there is the demand for them.

I am prepared to run such trips by private transport only if members will come forward and offer to lead them.



I will therefore close this lengthy letter with an appeal to Club members, including those who adorn the sofa at "Aikman's" Rd., every lunch-time, hurling abuse at the Club's organisation, to do something about it. If you want more trips, know of an interesting area, are willing to lead the trip or know someone who is, then come and see me and I will attempt to fit it into the trip's programme. This comment applies particularly to anyone organising semi-private trips in the long vac. Any other remedies to the general situation would also be welcomed.

(SIGNED) 'DAVE HOGG  
Trips Secretary.

#### ENGAGEMENT.

The CAFFIN engaged. The mind boggles. On a more sincere level, the congratulations of the whole club are passed on to Sue Wilcox and Roger Caffin on their engagement. I hate to say "I told you so".

#### XMAS VACATION.

There will be a number of parties going into the South West of Tasmania over Xmas. The overall organization of these trips has been undertaken by the Caffin from whom further details may be obtained. One week's continuous bush walking experience is a desired pre-requisite.

Ken Griffiths is planning a trip to the Eastern Arthurs (S.W. Tasmania) from 23rd January to 10th February, 1967. (Phone 35 1576)

#### CLIMBERS.

The V.C.C. Guide Book to Arapiles is now on sale. Copies may be bought at "Aikman's Rd.". On the subject of publications a new edition of "Safety in the Bush" has just come out.

#### B A T S

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Has any climber seen any bats roosting on the cliffs of Victoria. If so would they let Andrew Slate (34 4986) know the locality, time of year and approximate number.



THE CLUB & DONNA BUANG.

Of the 44 searchers (i.e. "Federations - Search & Rescue"), 18 were from the M.U.M.C. While there, they bought out two of the injured. The only injury sustained by the Club, was when some thoughtless dolt trod on Andrew Spate; as a result of the efforts of the Federation's Search & Rescue Group, a collection has been undertaken by the Jewish Community to aid them in the purchase of equipment.

BUNKUM & BULL SECTION.

All you bludgers who so assiduously avoided helping in the Sports Union attempt at getting funds from post-graduates, outwitted yourselves. The mountaineers who out-numbered the others two to one, did full justice to the free beer that was turned on afterwards.

Mountaineers in the Hotham-Featherton areas, have been asked to watch out for the variety of possum that created such interest in the last few weeks. Now one can't be sure that every hairy, rat-like creature one sees on a trip isn't a mountaineer.

"CONNING COMPETITION".

BRENDAN HOLLAND V THE CAFFIN.

Observe the results at the next oxonetric party or even in the CAF.

Who will be first to get a girl into a dark corner?

Come to think of it, the variety of material the Caffin will be able to work with will be somewhat limited.

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