


# the mountaineer

No. 1

February  
1972



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WHO'S WHO

If you have any queries, or just want someone's ear to bash about any aspect of MUMC, the following list may help:

Tony Kerr (President)	Stores opening a/h, orienteering, canoeing and general inquiries	3298040 a/h
Rod Tucker ( V-Pres)	General inquiries and canoeing	3406688 bus
Martin Wardrop (Sec)	General inquiries	Ormond C'ge
Bob Cannon (Treas)	Gen inq., trips, orienteering	3406406 bus
Garry Whipp (Trips Sec)		3405665 bus
Harry Schaap (Stores Officer)	Club's trip contact	803581 a/h
Judy Hill (Asst Sec)	Subscriptions	Mail c/- MUMC
Ros Escott and Graham Oakes (Gen C'te Members)		" " "
Tim Hancock Climbing	Fl 11/11 Haines St., N. Melb	
Max Corry Search and Rescue		3382306 a/h
Ron Frederick Orienteering and Hut Warden		2882136 a/h
Rudi Frank Caving		3975336 a/h

-oXo-

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is a must for all who have an interest in our National Park system in Victoria. Formalities will be kept to a minimum to allow maximum time for our guest speaker,

Mr Don Saunders, Senior Technical Officer of the  
National Parks Service

who has recently completed a six months study tour of National Parks in United States, Canada, Great Britain and Thailand as a recipient of a Churchill Fellowship.  
See page 12 for details.





# The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

Number 1, February 1972

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Correspondence; The Editor, c/- M.U.M.C.,  
Sports Union, University of Melbourne,  
Parkville, VIC., 3052

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## New Members

Welcome to the 200 or so who have just joined MUMC. Unfortunately, as normally happens, most of you won't avail yourselves of the facilities for meeting students from other faculties over the coffee urn at various meetings, for ski-touring on the Bogong High Plains or marvelling at the geological formations in the Buchan caves, or just bludging on the beach at Waterloo Bay. Those who do overcome the inertia of plugging into their first canoeing or bushwalking trip will add a new dimension to their University life. Where better to forget the academic pressures and the grime of Melbourne than on one of the many ledges on the cliffs of Mt. Arapilies, or on a testing orienteering course?

## Older Members

Subscriptions are due; only \$1-00 for Sports Union members and \$1-50 for others. Many members will not renew their subs and one wonders if this means they are leaving 'mountaineering' behind. Perhaps they join the bulk of the population in their sedentary jobs, spending weekends washing the car and spending leisure time in front of TV with buttocks ever spreading beneath them. It does take an effort to get away on trips, but active enjoyment of the outdoors should last a lifetime and not be just a passing phase.

## Cradle Mountain Tragedy

Late last year a member of a school walking party lost his life in the Cradle Mt. Lake St. Clair Reserve. Why? The organisers thought that they were sufficiently experienced to lead such a group, and so did others up the line who signed the various approval forms. Obviously they weren't experienced in the conditions they met. What is the backlash? Who is to approve or disapprove of similar school trips? It appears that a leader's assessment of his own abilities is not sufficient as he is unaware of his reactions in situations he has not encountered. The Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership course provides training for leaders of such groups, however its facilities are stretched at the moment and, as the course is two years long, there is no



hope of it providing sufficient qualified leaders for a number of years. Consequently it is good to see the usually slow moving FVWC acting to disseminate pertinent information to schools.

Tony Kerr

-oXo-

### TRIPS PROGRAM

Meetings, bushwalking and orienteering trips are planned well ahead whereas the more specialised activities, rock-climbing, caving canoeing etc., which generally cater for smaller groups, are subject to variations with trips being organised (or sometimes cancelled) at short notice. Those interested in these activities should keep in regular contact with the appropriate club members (as listed on the front page).

#### Standards of Trips

Bushwalking trips are classified according to the following:

- EASY considered easy for those who are moderately fit but not necessarily experienced.
- MEDIUM fair for fit people. Some previous hiking experience is desirable. Hard for the unfit or inexperienced.
- HARD difficult for fit experienced walkers. Impossible for others.

#### Transport

Transport to and from venues of club trips is by picnic van or private car. For van trips, it is essential to know numbers as early as possible. The van for day trips departs from Batman Ave. near Swanston St. between 9 and 9:30 am, and normally returns by 6:00 pm. For longer trips, the van leaves the car park immediately north of the Union Building at 6:30pm on the night before the first listed day of the trip (ie normally on Friday night). The van normally returns to the Union before 10:00pm on the last day of the trip.

Any club member wanting to run his own trip using a club organised van may do so provided there is sufficient room on the van.

#### Bookings

There are three ways of booking for a trip, the first being the most preferable.

- (i) Place your name and other details in the 'Trips Book' at Aikmans Rd (1 to 2pm weekday lunchtimes, after 7:30pm, Tuesdays)
- (ii) Ringing the trip leader.
- (iii) Ringing the Trip's Secretary.



- Feb 12-13 Bushwalk Lake Mountain: Keppel's Falls, Mt. Margaret.  
Leader: Geof Lay (693824), med standard,  
private transport.
- Feb 19-20 Work party MUMC Memorial Hut Work Party: Mt. Feathertop.  
Organiser: Ron Frederick (2882136), trans priv.  
Work parties are usually pleasant social week-  
ends. See article on Hut elsewhere.
- Feb 26-27 Bushwalk Otway Ranges:  
Leader: Ros Escott, med standard, priv. trans.  
The Otways presents some quite rugged country  
involving a diversity of scenery from sea level  
(swimming) to Mount Cowley.
- Feb 28- Orientation Week.  
March 2 As usual, MUMC will have a display to inform  
freshers and freshettes of our activities.  
Help in manning the display would be apprec-  
iated. See article elsewhere.
- March 5 Day walk Moomba Day Walk: Mt. Dissapointment State  
Forest  
Organised by the Walking Club of Victoria for  
the FVWC. There will be three walks of vary-  
ing standards. Transport: train leaving  
Spencer St. station for Wandong at 9:30am.
- March 9 Meeting Leader's Evening: S.U. Activities Room, 7:30pm.  
Organiser: Rod Tucker. Supper provided.  
An informal meeting of those who are, or would  
like to lead a club trip. If you would like  
to lead a trip, please come along. See  
article elsewhere.
- March 11-13 Bushwalk Castleburn, Crooked River, Mount Kent, Moroka  
Gorge.  
Leader: Ron Frederick (2882136), standard, hard  
t'port, private. The Moroka Gorge and environs  
is one of the few less accessible regions of  
Victoria. It was discovered by Alfred Howitt  
in the 1860's and rediscovered by bushwalkers  
in the 1960's.

"TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOS, LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS"



- March 14 Meeting Introduction to MUMC for new members and social evening for older members. Also, talk for those going on beginner's bushwalk to the prom. Venue Sisalkraft Lecture Theatre, Architecture Bldg. Begins at 7:30pm. There will be short talks and slides on bushwalking, rockclimbing, skitouring, orienteering, caving and canoeing. Supper provided. Bring your Xmas slides.
- March 18-19 Bushwalk Beginners Walk to Wilson's Promontory  
The Prom is magnificent for views, swimming, clean beaches, fern glades etc.. There will be many trips of varying standard. Beginners are requested to attend the meeting on March 14. See article elsewhere. Transport, van.
- March 23 Meeting 29th Annual General Meeting: Thursday, 7:30pm  
Venu: Sisalkraft Lecture Theatre, Architecture Bldg.  
Adagenda: Presentation of reports  
Election of office bearers  
Guest Speaker Mr. Don Saunders,  
Senior Technical Officer,  
National Parks Service.  
See article elsewhere for more details.
- March 26 Daywalk President's Opening Day Walk: Powelltown  
Leader; the new President; standard, easy; t'port, van from Batman Ave leaving 9:30am. A pleasant walk along disused timber railways near Powelltown, beyond Warburton. Attractions include trestle bridges and remains of old saw mills.
- March 28 Meeting Orienteering: an informal meeting of MUMC orienteers to decide the direction in which orienteering should move within MUMC. Aikmans Rd., 7:30pm.
- March 31 Bushwalk 3 Day Easter Trips Medium Trip  
April 2 Bryces Gorge, Snowy Plains, Kelly's Hut, Bennison Spur, Wellington River.  
Medium-hard Trip  
Mt. Darling, Wonangatta Station, Dry River, Bryce's Old Hut, Bryces Gorge
- March 31 5 Day Easter Trips Medium  
April 4 Bryce's Gorge, Conglomerate Creek, Caledonia River, Bennisons Plain, The Long Hill, The Crinoline, Wellington River



March 31- Bush walk  
April 4

5 Day Easter Trip Hard Limit of 8 - 10

Doolan's Plain, Moroka River, Snowy Bluff,  
Stanly Hollow, Mt. Kent, Moroka Gorge,  
Mt. Wellington, Tarli Karng, Wellington River

Transport for all Easter trips is by van.

BEGINNERS NOT ALLOWED ON EASTER TRIPS, unless  
they have been on the Wilsons Prom trip.

April 7 Meeting

Orienteering Instructional Evening: Friday 7:30pm

Sisalkraft Lecture Theatre, Architecture Bldg.  
Primarily for novice orienteers. Films will  
include the film on orienteering in Sweden,  
'Thomas the Orienteer' and a BP conservation  
film. See article elsewhere.

April 9 Orient'ng

Orienteering contest on the Headwaters of the  
Werribee River.

Organiser, Tony Kerr et al (3298040). Beginners  
to orienteering are advised to attend the meeting  
on Friday 7th. T'port, van from Batman Ave.,  
9:00am. See article elsewhere.

April 11 Meeting

Rockclimbing Instructional Course (i)

Sports Union Activities Room, 7:30 pm.  
Instructional talk organised by Tim Hancock.  
See article elsewhere for composition of  
rockclimbing course.

April 13 Meeting

Canoeing Instructional Course (i)

Sports Union Activities Room, 7:30pm.  
See article elsewhere.

April 15 Rockcl'ng

Instructional Course (ii)

Day trip to Hanging Rock, approx 50 miles  
NW of Melbourne. Attendance at meeting on 11th  
necessary for beginners.

April 15-16 Canoeing

Instructional Course (ii)

Somewhere on the Goulburn River. Attendance  
at the meeting on the 13th necessary.

" " Bushwalk

Den of the Nargun: The Glenaladale Natnl Park,  
north of Bairnsdale.

Leader: Martin Wardrop; standard, medium; t'port,  
private. See article on the 'Den' elsewhere.



April 22-23 Rockcl'ng Instructional Course (iii)

A weekend on the mighty cliffs of Mt Arapilies in western Victoria. Attendance on the earlier phases of the course necessary.

- " " S&R Practice All members of MUMC's S&R group should attend. Any prospective member of S&R should also attend. Details of the practice venu will be sent to S&R members at a later date, and also posted in Aikman's Rd. See article about S&R elsewhere.

April 25 Daywalk ANZAC Holiday Daywalk to Werribee Gorge:

Leader: Harry Schaap; standard, easy; t'port, van from Batman Ave leaving at 9:30am. This will be the year's most notorious daywalk and connoisseurs and beginners are invited to attend. Werribee gorge is a unique piece of Australiana, and your noble leader has been unable to find it on three previous expeditions to the area. However, we feel confident that it shall be found this time.

April 29-30 Canoeing Venu and leader to be discussed at the preceeding Thursday night work parties.

" " Bushwalk Cumberland River: Marysville

Leader: Ros Escott; standard, medium.

May 3 Dinner Occasional Dinner: 7:30pm

Venue: Private Dining Room (above sandwich bar, Union)

Cost: \$3-00 to \$3-50.

Speaker: yet to be arranged. Possibly a representative of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Bookings: at Aikman's Rd., or by mail to Martin Wardrop.

May 7 Canoeing Day Trip: venue and leader to be arranged at the Thursday night work parties.

May 10 Meeting Slide Night: 7:30 pm, S.U. Activities Room.

Will feature a tour, led by that blonde loquacious sherpa, Harry Schaap, through the wids of Tasmania featuring (a) no more than 13 boxes of wide angle shots of Lake Pedder from Les,

(b)trips sec. Garry Whipp covering the Cradle Mt. Reserve and his entourage,



(c) Leigh Sutherland's epic along the Denison Range and other unheard of places visited with a (Monash) party.

(d) Federation Peak starring Dave Crewther and supporting cast of 5 (or was it 4? or 3?)

(e) picking secretary's non pike trip to Mt. Anne and the Western Arthurs.

If you are thinking of going to Tas. next Xmas, do not miss this meeting. Supper provided.

- May 13-14 Bushwalk Medium Standard Weekend walk:  
Venue undecided. Leader Robert Jung.
- May 20-24 Bushwalk Nunniong Plateau:  
Leader: Bob Cannon, Med hard; transport, priv. Bindi, Mt. Bindi, Nunniong Plateau, Ready Ck. Gorge, Mt. Deception, Mellick Mungi Falls.
- May 27-28 Social Weekend. Barbeque, day walks, instant pud inversion contest etc.; at Upper Beaconsfield. More info next issue.
- July 24-25 Bushwalk 25th Annual Twenty Four Hour Walk:  
Organisers: Tony Kerr, Harry Schaap et al.  
If you would like help in organising this event, please contact Tony (3298040) or Harry (803581).
- July 8-9 Snow Walk Beginners Snow Walk:  
More info next issue.

#### VAN FARES

The following are the approximate fares for van trips. Cancellation fees, which are extracted if you cancel, without reasonable excuse, within 2 days of the trip, are in brackets:-

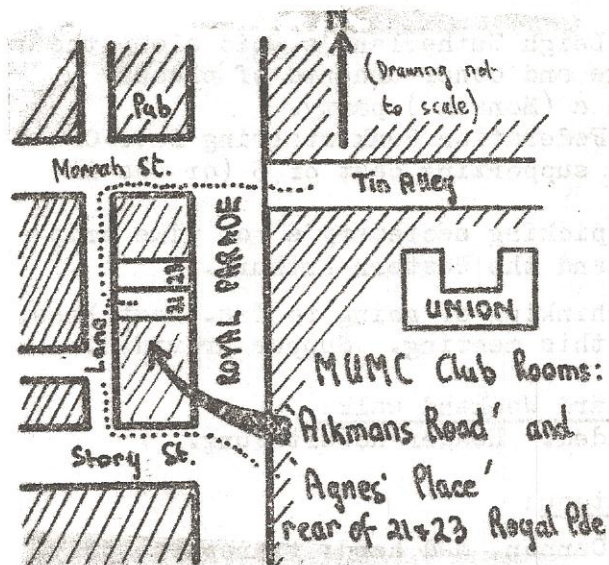
March 18/19 \$4-50 (\$2-00); March 26 \$1-50 (50c)  
Easter trips \$4-70 to \$6-00 (\$2-00)  
April 9 \$2-00 to \$2-50 (\$1-00)  
April 25 \$1-50 (50c)

#### CAVING INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE

As with the other activities, this includes a compulsory evening meeting followed by two practical weekends, normally at Buchan in Eastern Victoria. Dates are

Meeting, Tues 2nd May, 7:30 pm, SU activities Room and the weekends of 6-7 and 13-14 May.



AIKMANS ROAD AND AGNES PLACE

The club rooms, Aikmans Road and Agnes Place will be open between 1:00 and 2:00pm every weekday (although equipment hire and food purchase must be completed by 1:30) and on Tuesday nights from 7:30 pm. Note that this replaces the previous Thursday night openings. It is hoped that the Tuesday nights become more social. There will be a projector for slides and possibly coffee making facilities. Come and browse through the library, or plan the next action against the wheels of 'progress'.

-oX -

ORIENTATION WEEK DISPLAY

Robert Jung.

Members will be aware that every year the club puts on a display so that suitably interested first year students and others might be stimulated to join in MUMC activities.

This year the club will be manning a display on the concrete lawns, with the possibility of occupying Wilson Hall if the weather turns foul. The display would be manned between about 10:00am and 3pm from Tues 29th Feb to Frid 3rd March, and possibly also the Thursday night of that week. The display will include photos of activities, equipment and a climbing exhibition. Members are needed in order to keep an eye on the equipment, but mainly to chat to prospective members about the club.

In order to carry this out, we will NEED YOUR HELP, so that if you can give a few hours during 'O' week, could you please let me know. This can be done (in preferred order)

- (a) Seeing me at the club rooms during any lunchtime (most likely around 1:30pm)
- (b) Writing name and phone number on the list at Aikmans Rd
- (c) Ringing 379 2545

-oXo-

Faith can move mountains, but would you want Kanchenjunga in your home?

Peter Griffiths



## BEGINNERS BUSHWALKING COURSE

This course consists of portion of the meeting on March 14th and the weekend trip to Wilson's Promontory, one of the most enjoyable walking areas in Victoria. Although it is an introductory bushwalking course, the camping techniques, basic equipment required etc are common to all of MUMC's activities. Thus, even if you have no desire to continue bushwalking, preferring say, canoeing or rockclimbing, this introductory course will be most beneficial.

This years beginners weekend will consist of about 10 separate trips to various areas of the Prom. It is hoped that by splitting into smaller groups, more instruction can be given and that newcomers to the club will get to know a few of the older members. The trips will range from very easy to very hard.

It is hoped to have about 10 in each group with at least two experienced members. Basic instruction will be given on the Tuesday before. This meeting is compulsory for any new members wanting to go on the trip. The night will consist of a basic introduction to the club, followed by a talk on what to bring, how to pack it in a rucksack, how to use some of it, and how to read a map.

Note. The beginners trip has a reputation for being one of the most enjoyable trips of the year.

-oXo-

## LEADERS EVENING

Thurs 9th March 7:30  
S.U.Activities Room  
Rod Tucker

Most readers of the Mountaineer will be aware of the problems faced by the club in obtaining leaders for trips. It very often happens that the same people (usually committee members because they are 'dobbed in' at committee meetings when planning of the trips program comes up) lead a great majority of club trips. The committee believes that there is a large reservoir of potential leaders in the club and would like to see more of these people running club trips. To this end an evening (which supersedes the previously advertised weekend) has been arranged where problems of leadership will be discussed. It is hoped to give some consideration to planning trips, organising the group - keeping it together etc., and other aspects such as first aid and notification of the club contact.

Obviously we can only hope to skim the surface of some of



these areas and plan to do so in a fairly informal way. We hope however that this will be a chance for you to get some idea of how club trips are run and to perhaps express your views on how they could be improved. You need not consider yourself as a potential leader in order to come along : everyone is welcome.

-oXo-

### BEGINNERS ROCKCLIMBING COURSE 1972



This years course, which consists of the three sections (i) introductory talk in the S.U. Activities room, Tues 11 April at 7:30 pm - this section of the course is compulsory

(ii) a day trip to Hanging Rock on Sat 15 April

(iii) a weekend trip to Mt. Arapilies on 22 - 23 April

is designed to fulfil 2 purposes

(1) To give an accurate impression of what rock climbing involves. This will be done with the introductory talk and one day trip to Hanging rock where elementary techniques will be demonstrated and where beginners may attempt short climbs.

(2) To give a thorough grounding in climbing skills and techniques to those who wish to continue climbing. This will be done at Arapilies and following climbs.

In this way anyone can come to the beginning of the course to see what it is all about. However the later part of the course is more for those who think they are interested in continuing climbing.

-oX -

"He wants to turn back!"

To the Despoilers of our enviroment

"Leave as it is,  
You cannot improve on it,  
The ages have been at work on it,  
And man can only mar it."

T. Roosevelt.



CANOEING

Rod Tucker

Late in 1970 the club's fleet of four canoes was first launched. At present the tally still stands at four with a fifth under repair and hopefully well on the way to being ready for the beginners weekend on April 15 - 16. All of our canoes are 16' Canadians which seat two people and are bought as fibreglass shells. All the woodwork including keels, gunwales, bulkheads and seats is carried out by club members at regular work parties (more of this later).

The popularity of canoeing is demonstrated by the fact that many trips this summer have been fully booked out. In one case, twice the number of available places could have been filled. Trips are usually one or two day weekend trips on rivers closer to Melb.. Standards vary from easy (where calm water is the order of the day and one can practice swimming, fishing and even some canoe techniques such as 'J' stroke and capsize drill) to more difficult and challenging trips on white-water rivers.

Maintenance is a constant problem and many hours of work are often required in order to ready the canoes for a coming trip. For this reason regular work parties are held most Thursday nights at 7:00 pm in a garage at the rear of 59 Chapman St., Nth Melbourne (this is where the canoes live). It is compulsory for all people attending a trip to come to the work party preceeding the trip (reasonable excuses excepted). It may, of course, take more than one Thursday evening to prepare the canoes and thus people who have been to more than one work party are given preference when booking. Details about work parties will appear from time to time on the notice board at Aikmans Road.

Beginners Course

This yaer the club will run a canoeing beginners course on April 15 - 16. The venue is as yet undecided but will probably be on the Goulburn at Lake Nagambi or Eildon. The course will assume no previous knowledge of canoeing and will introduce the beginner to handling the canoe on still water. The course will be followed by some day trips on rapids in order to give further experience. Preceeding the beginners course an evening talk will be given on Monday 10th April at 7:30pm in the S.U. Activities room. As with the work party, all should attend.

Intervarsity Canoeing

For the first time, this year the club is entering an intervarsity slalom canoeing contest. We are planning on increasing the size of the fleet to six in the near future and so all indications are that canoeing is becoming a major activity within M.U.M.C.. Now is the time to take it up - see you at 59 Chapman St. next Thursday night..... Rod.



## 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 23rd March  
7:30 pm  
Sisalkraft Theatre,  
Archi Bldg.

The A M will, as is usual, begin at 7:30 pm (promptly) with the presentation of the secretary's and treasurer's reports followed by the election of the 1972/73 committee.

We are most fortunate this year in having Mr. Don Saunders as guest speaker who will talk on

## 'PARKS, PLANNING AND PEOPLE'

Mr. Saunders recently completed a six months study tour of National Parks in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Thailand as a recipient of a Churchill Fellowship. His talk will be supported by a magnificent collection of slides. There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of the meeting. Mr. Saunders is the Senior Technical Officer of the National Parks Service in Victoria.

Nominations

Nominations for the following Club Officers are now called for and the nominations, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder should be in the hands of the Returning Officer (c/- MUMC, Sports Union, Univ of Melb.) by 7:30pm Thursday 16th March. Don't wait to be nominated, but ask someone to nominate YOU! Take an interest in helping to run your club.

The positions to be filled at the election are

President	Trips Secretary
1 or 2 Vice Presidents	Stores Officer
Treasurer	Editor of the Mountaineer
Secretary	2 General Committee Members.
Assistant Sec.	

Don't hesitate to pester the current committee to find the duties associated with each position.

Ancillary Positions

In addition to the above elected positions, many other people are needed to look after the Club's interests. In order to ensure continuity it is necessary that the following positions be filled at the first meeting of the new committee. If you would like to help by filling one or more of the following positions listed below, please apply in writing to the current secretary and your application will be passed onto the next committee. There will be facilities for applying for these positions at the AGM.



Delegates and Observers are required to pass any relevant information between MUMC and the following organisations. In the main, this involves attending up to 10 meetings throughout the year. In some instances there are no meetings to attend.

Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs;	delegate and observer
F.V.W.C Tracks and Huts sub committee,	delegate
" Mapping sub committee	delegate
" Search and Rescue Section	" and "
Victorian National Parks Association	"
Australian Conservation Foundation	"
Conservation Council of Victoria	"
Victorian Speliological Association	"
Melb. Uni Sports Union	3 delegates

The following positions are internal to MUMC

Map Librarian	purchase new maps as they become available.
Librarian	keep library in order and spend the annual library grant.
Hut Warden	arrange maintenance work parties on the club's Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut.
Publication Sales Officer	look after mail orders for club publications.
Duplication Officer	help in duplicating the Mountaineer and other small jobs.
Catering Officer	arrange coffee and biscuits for meetings.
First Aid Officer	keep the Club's medical kits fully stocked.
Stores Officers (4)	look after the club's equipment hire and food sales section at lunchtimes, on a rotation basis.
Poster Writers (4)	advertise club functions throughout the Uni.

DO YOUR BIT TO KEEP YOUR CLUB ACTIVE

-oXo-

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Unfortunately its here again. Subscriptions fall due on the day after the Annual General Meeting. This is the last Mountaineer you will receive unless your sub is forthcoming.

If you are a Sports Union Member, non S.U. member or constitute a married couple, your annual sub is \$1-00, \$1-50 or \$2-00 respectively. Please forward it to the Assistant Sec. c/- MUMC, Sports Union, Uni of Melb., Parkville, 3052.



NOTES ON MUMC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6:30 pm, Wed 26 Jan  
S.U. Activities Room

In true mountaineering tradition, the meeting opened half an hour late. Apologies were received from Rhonda Jones, Tim Hancock and Judy Hill.

The minutes of the previous meeting were deciphered and in 'business arising' the committee voted to use portion of the Sports Union grant to purchase a 'Thomas' stretcher, a rather expensive but lightweight and extremely versatile stretcher to be based at the Club's Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut.

Bob Cannon is working on a program to computerise the Club's membership list.

Because of other commitments, the leadership weekend has been replaced with a leadership evening.

The committee decided that MUMC should become more involved in Orienteering as a Club rather than on an individual basis.

Much time was spent evolving the trips program. It is disappointing that more non committee members capable of organising trips do not do so.

After a little debate, the President was outvoted on his preference for regular Tuesday monthly meetings, and organised meetings will now occur randomly throughout the week.

It was decided to spend some of the monies donated to F'top Hut on emergency supplies, food, solid fuel stove and medical kit to be placed in an 'emergency only' box in the Hut.

The economics of installing minimal safety signposts on F'top is to be investigated. A debate between varnished wood signs and black on white 'CRB' signs was unresolved.

MUMC is to prepare a submission on the use of trail bikes and snowmobiles within certain areas in Victoria (If you would like to help in its preparation, please contact Tony Kerr 3298040 a/h).

The Meeting finished at 11:30 pm and sheduled the next for 7:00 pm, Sports Union Activities Room, Feb 7th.

7:00 pm, Feb 7th  
S.U. Activities Room

A short meeting which mainly considered the trips program. Tim Patrick and Roslyn Steel were accepted as members of the club's S&R section.

The next meeting was scheduled for 6:30pm March 15, S.U. activities room.

-oXo-

Your University life is incomplete without at least one year sitting on a committee. The image of a group of people at a table discussing logically and lucidly and arriving at objective decisions is illusory. Complete your education, spend a year on MUMC's com'te.



ORIENTEERING

Tony Kerr

Orienteering is now one of the major activities undertaken by MUMC members, and as such it is one that fits in well with study commitments requiring minimal preparation prior to competing. Orienteering is competitive and it is this aspect that is disliked by a few mountaineers. However to those that orienteer regularly, the competition is one between the individual and the course rather than an inter person competition.

For the uninitiated, Orieteering is a sport developed in Sweden where individuals (or groups for novices) have to find various control points in bush country - these may include creek junctions, hill tops, bends in tracks, etc. - in a predetermined order. The aim is to complete the course in the shortest time. There is also an unofficial contest between organisers of events to find the most enjoyable orieteering country.

To be able to read a map and allow for magnetic declination are basic requirements for an Orienteer (and all bushwalkers). There are also many finer points to be mastered before becoming proficient at the sport. To discuss some of these aspects an instructional evening has been arranged for Friday 7th April in the Sisalcraft Theatre (Architecture bldg.) beginning at 7:30 pm. It is hoped to have a 16mm Swedish movie of Orienteering as well various Club members and other Orienteers who will explain the techniques of distance measuring while running through the bush, pre start techniques etc.. The evening will close with a good BP conservation film followed by supper. This instructional evening will form a preamble for the MUMC organised contest the following Sunday.

Meeting of Keen Orienteers

To date, Orienteering events have been organised by individuals. It is hoped that MUMC will become more involved in Orienteering as a Club and to look at ways and means of acheiving this, there will be an informal meeting of interested Orienteers at Aikmans Road at 7:30pm on Tuesday 28th March.

Calendar of Coming Events

Feb 27, March 5, March 19, April 9 (MUMC), April 30 (MUMC) May 21 (MUMC). Meetings: April 7 (see above), April 27 (Vict. Orienteering Association AGM).

Transport is usually by private car however for the event on April 9 there will be a picnic van leaving the Batman Av., Swanston St. intersection soon after 9:00 am. If you wish to travel by van you must book at Aikmans Rd during the week before or with Tony Kerr (329 8040 a/h). Details about the above events are available at Aikmans Road.

-oXo-



ORIENTEERING IN CANBERRA

From our man in  
Canberra, David Hogg

The MUMC played an important role in the early days of orienteering in Melbourne, and likewise the Canberra branch of MUMC has been instrumental in getting the sport established in the A.C.T.

Operating under the name (and funds) of the Canberra College of Advanced Education Outdoor Club, David Hogg, Andrew Spate and Adrian Davey organised the first four events in a regular series of orienteering contests which were held in 1971. In October 1971, the A.C.T. Orienteering Association was formed with Dave Hogg as President and Andrew Spate as Treasurer. The Secretary, John Dunismore, is a member of an active group of orienteers from the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research. Other orienteers in Canberra include a group from Mt. Stromlo, including the 1971 Australian Champion, Bengt Karlsson, and MUMC member, Dick Dale, and his scout troop.

Canberra is ideally suited for orienteering. In contrast to Melbourne where a two hour drive precedes most contests, there are several good orienteering areas in or adjacent to the Canberra suburban area. By travelling  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour, a wide range of orienteering country becomes available. Most of this consists of pine forests or natural bushland.

Contests are currently held every three weeks and while attendances have seldom exceeded 20 people, a rapid growth is expected in the near future. Melbourne Orienteers visiting Canberra are always welcome to compete and can obtain information on events from David Hogg, 9 Darmody St., Weetangera 2641 (phone 54 2325).

-oXo-

THE 'OXO' MAN

The little black man garbed in cape and tyrolian hat, equipped with ice-axe and pack, which adorns hut books in many parts of the world was designed for MUMC by Niall Brennan, the founder of MUMC who convened its first meeting in 1944. The origins of 'OXO' are a little obscure, but according to the history of MUMC, currently being written by Dave Hogg, its origin dates back to a trip led by Prof. Cherry in the 1940's when certain club members had a reputation for talking a lot of 'ox'. From this, 'OXO' developed and is now recognised as the call sign of MUMC - one of its less important uses being to disturb policemen on point duty in Flinders St. as a van of full-throated Mountaineers goes thundering by. It is not known which hut book first received the OXO-man, however the one in the Ropers Hut log book, drawn by Bill Bewsher and party in 1947, must rate as one of the earliest.



MUMC MT FEATHERTOP MEMORIAL HUT

Report from Ron  
Frederick - Co  
Hut Warden.

December 4 - 5th saw another successful Feathertop work party. Although the hut was designed to keep maintenance to a minimum, there are always odd jobs to attend to and occasionally a major one. In the latter category may be included the new pump and sink stand which were recently installed under Tom Kneen's supervision.

If you intend spending some time at the hut, Ron Frederick (work 8745067, home 2882136) would be pleased to discuss odd jobs with you, and after you return, any suggestions you may have for repairs or improvements.

There will be a work party at the beginning of the snow season and I am certain that the Hut Warden for 1972 would be pleased to see many new faces on this trip.

Statistics from  
the Hut's log  
book.

The Hut was available for use from 1966 onwards. Various people have compiled the following statistics. That statistics must be an art and not a science is evident from the two totals below which were independantly derived from the same data.

HUT USAGE (From signatures in log book)			
1966	184	1966 to 1971	
1967	413	No. of MUMC parties	125
1968	258	No. of other parties	291
1969	443		
1970	570	No. of MUMC members	942
1971	534	Other people	1302
	<u>2402</u>		<u>2244</u>

Quotations from Log  
Book

"Hut building is not a satisfactory sex-substitute."

Tom Kneen 28/1/67

"... now we set of on an epic journey to catch the female Bogong Bog Hopper."

"Armed with 4 gallons of contact adhesive, we literally got stuck into the job of finishing the insulation."

Robert Vincent 9/12/67



MAP LIBRARY

Rob Jung,  
Map Librarian.

Since the last report in the Mountaineer (Oct '71), the map library - as observant club members will have noticed - has acquired a new shape; the new metal filing cabinet present in the club rooms.

Purchased under the Club's map grant, the new cabinet houses single copies of all the Club's useful maps in its four drawers, in numerical order as usual. The duplicate copies of some maps now reside in the store.

A number of new maps have been added to the Club's collection. These are

(a) National Mapping 1 : 100,000 , 20 or 40m contours:

202 Rupanyup	255 Whitfield	
212 Charlton	256 Wangaratta	
221 Wedderburn	263 Buffalo	
228 Mitiamo	264 Albury	
234 Echuca	276 Benambra	
241 Sheparton	244 Benambra	) Provisional, not ground checked
248 Dookie	275 Omeo	

(b) 250 II Wilsons Prom. Lands Dept. Provisional 1 : 50,000  
contoured.

(c) Tasmania

1319 Freycinet Peninsula 1" = 1 mile, hatched sketch.  
1392 Freycinet Peninsula 1 : 100,000 sketch.

-oXo-

STORES CORNER WITH L.H.S.O.

Harry Schaap.

The function of the store is to provide beginners with equipment so that after a period of time, members know which equipment to purchase to suit their own taste. Equipment is also available on Club trips when high standard equipment is needed. Equipment available includes tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, climbing, caving and canoeing gear. In most cases a hire fee is charged.

The store also sells food, suited for hikers; the food sold is normally difficult to obtain elsewhere or it is sold at a much lower price than retail outlets.



### New Equipment

The Club has obtained five new packs; one large and one small Flinder's Ranges Venturer, and three Bushgear packs. The Bushgear packs are made of Kordex, a lightweight and strong canvas material with a light aluminum frame. One of the Bushgear packs is a 'high load pack', designed to carry the bulk of the weight high on the back, just the way sherpas carry equipment.

These new packs are available for testing on club trips, and people interested in using them and writing a short report for the Store's Officer should come and see us.

Looking forward to meeting our new members, L.H.S.O.

-oXo-

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Max Corry.

One of the major activities of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs is the Search and Rescue section which in reality operates as an auxiliary unit of the Police Search and Rescue Squad.

Bushwalkers first offered their services to the Victorian Police in the 1950s, long before the Police squad came into existence. Since then, bushwalkers have assisted in quite a number of searches, the last two being for people who wandered off the Buffalo Plateau.

The M.U.M.C. has played an important part in these activities. Bill Bewsher, one of the Club's life members, was for many years the Field Organiser of Search and Rescue and the Club, as one of the largest clubs in the F.V.W.C. has been well represented in searches. The ever changing nature of the Club's population has meant that new members of S&R are always required. Basically the requirements of each member are at least an average amount of bushcraft and camping ability and possession of a pack, sleeping bag and other equipment. Other factors are employer's permission (if necessary) and some means (usually telephone) by which contact at short notice can be made. Two hours is the normal amount of notice given. Attendance on a search is on a voluntary basis. Women as well as men are eligible. Those considering applying to join S&R are advised to attend one of the annual practices.

Many changes have occurred over the past few years. The bushwalkers are now one of several auxiliary groups but obviously are better prepared and equipped for the bush country than



the other groups who have more of a general activity.. Support services, particularly the Land Rover Club and the Red Cross (who provide food, however each bushwalker brings a minimum of 3 days food to each search) have come into existence.

Several members have in the past spoken of long periods without a single call-up. The Police, as a rule, will not require our assistance if the job can be done by police and local volunteers. Usually at least a day elapses between the time the person was reported missing and the time we are called out. As such, Monday night is the most common time. Call-outs are not made if the missing person is known to be dead or is a criminal.

Two of the developments in the future are the use of computers to keep our information up to date and the introduction of members ski equipped for winter searches. It is essential for each member to keep the S&R delegate (Max Corry) informed of any changes or additions in the information supplied to the S&R delegate. Periodically a list of members and details appears on the notice board in Aikman's Road and members are asked to note any errors or omissions on it.

The annual practice is set for 22nd and 23rd April and in addition it is proposed to hold a special winter practice for a limited number of members on 15th July - tentative.

For further details, contact Max Corry, 865321 ext 2373 or 3382306 (after hours). Application forms to join S&R are available from Aikman's Road.



"We can't be far from civilisation—here's part of an article on pollution."



### A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINEER

If any of the names appearing below are unfamiliar to you, perhaps you should be more active with your club.

The winners of the 'Cuddly Couple' Award on the Mt. Anne circuit last summer, Ron Frederick and Judy Whitaker, are getting married on Friday 24th March. It's no coincidence that this year's AGM is on a Thursday night.

Richard Schmidt (the original 'Lord High Stores Officer' of 1963) and wife Lorna, together with a Kombi, three motorbikes, cockatoo and numerous drafts of Richard's PhD thesis have been transported to Van Dieman's Land. Richard has been appointed 'Master-in-charge' of Launceston Grammar School's Alpine Centre. It is rumoured that one of the disciplines he will be imparting to his students will be that of dam (HEC variety) sabotage.

Rhonda Jones will now be settled in Canberre working with the Commonwealth as a geophysicist.

MUMC was well represented on the latest 'Outward Bound' course held in Harrietville with instructors Adrian Davey, Graham Oakes, Arnold Wheeler and course director John Steel. For the first time in Australia, a girls 'Outward Bound' was also held, directed by Roslyn Steel. The courses are character building through outdoors activities and participants who are generally sponsored by their employers, spend a month on the course during which they progress from basic compass work to twenty four hour walks and extended hikes on the Bogong High Plains.

Tony Crapper is joining a select band of OXO's who chase mountaineering beyond Australia and New Zealand. He is currently en route to England.

For those interested in winter sports, The Herald on Jan 25th reported CSIRO and other organisations' studies showing that we could be headed for another ice-age. From 1880 to 1940 the earth appeared to be warming up however since 1940 the trend has been in the opposite direction.

Andrew Thomson is to be thanked again for the cover on the Mountaineer.

National mapping has produced a new 1:100,000 map of Mt. Buffalo.

'Equipment for Mountaineering and Bushwalking' is selling well, at about 100 copies per month.



The Federation of Victorian Walking Club's Search and Rescue section was called out on Tues 18 Jan to help locate the elderly woman missing on Mt. Buffalo. Thanks to those MUMC members who attended. If you have sufficient bushwalking experience and would like to join our S&R section, please contact Max Corry at 29 Henderson Rd. Tullamarine.

Ian Thomas is in his utopia. He is at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he is carrying on the 'auroral' studies he began at Mawson in 1967. Although outside temperatures drop to -20F, the presence of auroras in the sky above the University make Calgary an ideal place for his work.

Were you aware that there are 91 huts in the Kosciusko National Park. Is it any wonder help is needed to maintain them. See the previous Mountaineer for details about the Kosciusko Huts Assn.

As one of the reps at Auski said " 'Guide to the Vic Alps' is selling like hot cakes.". Stocks of the 2nd edition will be sold out in a couple of months. If you would like to help in the preparation of the next edition, please contact the committee.

Ros Escott, who won the senior women's section of the Australian Orienteering Championships is currently enjoying a 'Women's Weekly' cruise of the South Pacific.

MUMC is likely to be represented in the Antarctic next year. John Zmood has applied to go down as a physicist.

After 10 long years, Tony Kerr has finally had to leave Uni and find a 9 to 5 job. He is currently at the Met. Bureau.

It is rumoured that a clause is to be inserted into the Club's constitution automatically debarring owners of trail bikes from membership.

The Kosciusko Huts Association is alive and well! Caretaker groups have been assigned to some huts and are being considered for others. The KHA committee has been working hard on producing a general policy statement, standards and a priority list. Plans are well advanced for producing a kind of information booklet for members. Coming KHA functions are: slide night at Tom Kneen's place at 377 Canning St., Carlton on Friday 25th Feb; KHA work party, March 11-12-13, probably in and around the Geehi Hut; KHA AGM on Sat 15 April at the Kosciusko National Park visitors centre at Sawpit Creek. If you would like to join the KHA, contact Tom Kneen (347 3818 a/h).

A weekend in the bush without packs! Come track clearing with the PVWC on the section of the Alpine Track near the Twins - Mt. St. Bernard. Contact Tom Kneen for further details.



MUMC regularly receives alluring post cards from club members overseas. Those that originate from Canada usually have an OXO-man drawn on the highest peak visible on the card. The following is reproduced from some of the cards:-

"Dear MUMC, unknown to the committee we are running an MUMC trip to Peru - the Andes will again see a few OXO-men and hopefully a few virgin peaks will be deflowered by those strange men.

Recuerdos a todos los oxo hombres - " Michael Feller,  
Rob Taylor, Sue Taylor, Peter Kneen.

Christmas and new years greetings and "good mountaineering to all and a plea to fight for the preservation of the bush against all those who otherwise would destroy it." Michael Feller

"Hola mis amigos! This time I hope to try Popocatepetl as well as 2 others 17-18500 ft volcanoes, all quite close to Mexico city. Being winter, or the dry season, around here, the days are warm and the nights cold, always with clear skys and sunshine.

Mexico city, of 8 million people, is rather awe-inspiring - imagine four Melbournes put together! But, manana to the mountains, the adobe villages, the burrows, and the forrests and snows - yes, Mexico does have pine forests and alpine meadows etc.

Regards " Michael Feller, Dec 19.

"The mysterious sometimes happens. Here I am having a holiday free in these delightful mountains. I'm guiding a party of English Ramblers through the Julian Alps (Yugoslavia). Please contact me if you come to London, oxo." Bob Jones.

"To all MUMC members, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, oxo." Bob Jones.

-oXo-

#### SOLUTIONS TO LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD

##### Down

- |            |             |               |             |              |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 Hope     | 2 Dunn      | 3 Wills       | 5 Thackery  | 6 Freezeout  |
| 7 Stirling | 10 Margaret | 11 Loch       | 14 Tabletop | 15 Bindi     |
| 17 Kent    | 19 Emu      | 20 Latrobe    | 23 Tyers    | 25 Buffalo   |
| 26 Tempest | 27 Baldhead | 29 Wellington |             | 30 Crinoline |
| 31 Abrupt  | 32 Erica    | 33 Fainter    | 41 Cowley   | 42 Buller    |
| 43 Thorn   | 44 Sabine   | 47 Rosea      | 48 Murphy   | 50 Razor     |

##### Across

- |              |             |                |                |               |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
|              | 1 Hotham    | 4 Hart         | 7 Speculation  |               |
| 8 Arapilies  | 9 Sentinel  | 12 Matlock     | 13 Delusion    | 14 The Nobs   |
| 16 Viking    | 18 Blue Rag | 21 Beauty      | 22 Difficult   | 24 Buggery    |
| 28 Baw Baw   | 30 Cobbler  | 33 Feathertop  |                | 34 Billy Goat |
| 55 Bogong    | 36 Jim      | 37 Macedon     | 38 Twins       | 39 Skene      |
| 40 Typo      | 44 Sunday   | 45 Oberon      | 46 Sarah       | 49 Clear      |
| 51 Roundback | 52 Ewen     | 53 Snowy Bluff | 54 Eagles Peak | 55 Misery     |



HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN A BUSHFIRE

The following is part of an article that appeared in The Australian on Jan 5th, 1972

'Experiments carried out by the forestry and timber bureau of the Department of National Development have confirmed that people in cars caught in bushfires should remain in their cars.

The tests have proved findings from studies of some of Australia's worst bushfires that the safest place for a person whose car is trapped by a fire is to remain in it with all windows and vents closed. The best place to shelter is beneath the seat level, preferably with a covering such as a blanket pulled over the body.

The worst part of the heat and radiation from a large bushfire which passes around and over a car lasts for only three to five minutes, and a person who has remained in his vehicle until the fire has passed can get out of it and walk to safety.

Even fierce fires would not cause petrol tanks to explode, the findings showed. Investigations of 1200 cars burned in the Hobart fires in 1967 had shown that no petrol tanks had exploded.'

-oXo-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I am appaled at the apparent lack of concern for the environment shown by bushwalkers. To me they seem to get as much as possible out of bushwalking, and other mountaineering pursuits, in our rapidly wilderness areas, and yet they do little to preserve or conserve. To me, there appears to be little difference in spirit between them and commercially interested despoilers who reap as much from the environment as possible; the only difference is that the former's gain is emotional and personal while the latter's is material. It is possibly only fortuitous that a bushwalkers enjoyment does not despoil on the same magnitude as does commercially motivated despoilation. This difference alone is not sufficient for bushwalkers to call themselves conservationists; one should be active in the field, protesting about the loss of Lake Pedder, the coming assault on Feathertop, the possible siting of a military transmitter in the Cradle Mt. National Park, the extension of the lease on Mt. Buffalo to Tatra Developments, the invasion of wilderness areas by noisy two-stroke trailbikes and snowmobiles, etc., etc..

Have you written to your local member of parliament, your most effective and least time-consuming form of protest? Written any letters to the editors of papers? - the Mountaineer? Discussed your views with friends? Don't be selfish. Be active to conserve what we have so that others will be able to share in your enjoyments.

Tony Kerr



THE FACT OF LIFE MEANT DEATH ON CRADLE MOUNTAIN

Harry Schaap  
Peter Griffiths

From the Sunday Times, London, Nov 28th, 1971;

"The fact of life meant death on Cairngorm -

The death of six young people in the Cairngorms last week was due to a combination of four major factors, according to the experts who have studied the disaster:

1. The age of the party.
2. The leader's failure to appreciate weather warnings.
3. The late start.
4. The position of the shelter they planned to reach."

The article then goes on to describe a terrible tragedy, almost a carbon copy of the Cradle Mountain disaster. In brief, the children were between 14 - 16; the party leader proceeded despite warnings about the weather; the party had a late start, leaving the party out in the open for most of the night.

To make sure that this situation will not arise in the Mountaineering Club, it may be worth while to quote a few passages from the 'Lake District Mountain Accident Association' pamphlet on Safety in the Mountains:

1. Find out all you can about your intended route. Maps, guide books and local advice should be consulted. In particular, know the safest way of the mountain in bad weather.
2. Take notice of weather forecasts, but treat predictions with caution. Mountains make their own weather and you should learn to interpret weather signs which can give some warning of the approach of storms, fog, snow and rain.
3. Have at least 2 companions (There are strong arguments for having at least 3 companions. If there is an accident and consequent need to split the party, 2 groups of 2 are preferable to a 1 and a 2 - Ed)
4. Practise using your equipment - maps, compass, ice axe etc. in a safe place. Make sure that you can use these things as your life may depend upon them.
5. Think hard before venturing to take parties, especially young people. When children are exposed to extreme cold and become exhausted, the consequences multiply more rapidly than with adults. Because they often have less fat on their bodies the cold affects them more intensely, and they shiver more.



While shivering can be a useful protective measure which helps warm the body over short periods, it only serves to exhaust under periods of prolonged exposure. It makes it impossible to sleep. The mind becomes disorientated and sleeplessness combines with physical exhaustion to induce coma.

6. Turn back if overtaken by bad weather or fatigue.
7. don't panic in emergencies.
  - (a) If lost, keep together.
  - (b) If benighted, shelter from wind, huddle together for warmth.
  - (c) If you have a casualty, make him as warm as possible and leave someone in charge of him.
  - (d) If going for assistance, mark the position of the casualty both on the map and on the ground. Memorise your route as you go down.
8. The international mountain distress call: Six long whistle blasts, torch flashes or other signals in succession repeated after a minutes interval. So, CARRY A WHISTLE.
9. Always wear good boots.
10. Suitable clothing, brightly coloured packs, loose fitting trousers - preferably woolen-, warm underwear, and no tight jeans or shorts.
11. Take suitable energy foods.
12. Leave information about intended route with a reliable person (In our case, the no. 1 club contact)

Just one final quote from the Sunday Times

"The party leaders have described the conditions they experienced as unexpected. But according to the secretary of the Mountain Rescue Committee 'It was the sort of weather you would expect in that part of the country at that time of the year. No young party should have been up there.' "

-oXo-

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Education Department has had a school Camps Committee which for many years has concerned itself only with the allocation of camping grounds to various schools. Warnings of what could happen to school groups with inexperienced leaders largely went unheeded by the Education Department and the Camps Committee. However, the Cradle Mt. tragedy has led to an awareness of the need of skilled leaders which has resulted in the formation of a Safety Sub-committee attached to the Camps Committee. Bill Bewsher has been appointed as its chairman, and as such, it should become a most effective body for outlining safety standards for school bushwalking groups.



DEN OF THE NARGUN

Martin Wardrop, leader of trip to the 'Den' on April 15-16.

Glenaladale National Park is one of Victoria's smaller parks, but also one of its most interesting. It is 30 miles NW of Bairnsdale on a tributary of the Mitchell River and has as its outstanding feature the 'Den of the Nargun'. In the weekend trip of 15 - 16 April I want to have a look at this geological curiosity and then walk up the Mitchell River to the gorge at Billygoat Bend. Both of these features were discovered by Alfred Howitt when he was police commissioner at Bairnsdale in the 1870's. In the 'Geological Survey of Victoria' of 1876 he gives a description first of the gorge and then of the 'Den'. I don't know the gorge from first-hand experience but I do know that the Den of the Nargun has changed little from the description first given by Howitt. The whole area is orange-red sandstone and the Mitchell and surrounding creeks have cut deep narrow courses through it. Bands of harder rock have caused steps in the bed of Deadcock Creek, the stream in Glenaladale Nat. Park, and at each one the softer rock underneath has been worn away leaving a recess.

Howitt describes this 'Den of the Nargun' as follows:

"As before, a soft bed of reddish shale had been worn away by the back-wash of waters falling over a hard ledge, but here the cave was higher and deeper.

In front was a pool of water looking black and smooth under the dense shade of the lily-pilies. Stalactites fringed the rim of the cavern and hung in pendant rows from the roof. A large stalactite mass at one side joined the roof to the floor so as to partly screen the cavern, and on either hand the rocks rose up almost perpendicularly for, I think, not less than 400 to 500 feet."

He is in similar enthusiastic vein in describing Billygoat Bend:

"In the afternoon the river valley was most beautiful. We were gliding slowly down a wide, calm extent of river; a high ridge, perhaps 900 ft. above the water, swept around in a curve, seemingly closing in the valley a mile or two in front. Scattered trees clothed its steep slope among the high waving grass. Rude crags and precipices jutted out here and there ..... The narrower strip of level ground between the hills and the river was over grown by huge evergreen trees... over 60' in height and some bound together by a network of creeper and climbing vines. Even my blackfellows were struck by the scene.... Our pleasant voyaging on smooth waters was too good to last. The dull roar of rapids which I now so well new came up the calm reach and grew



even louder as we proceeded. Gradually the river opened round the bend and the view was far from reassuring. Although the valley was not contracted, an island of huge boulders, clothed with bushes and fringed with reeds, blocked our way, and round this the river roared and charged among the great smoothed rocks. On the west side of the river the cliffs from Cobbanah Creek are continuous, and here they rise up into a towering precipice."

While Howitt is given to a little exaggeration, the scenery is certainly spectacular. If you are interested in this sort of country and find a nargun fascinating, book early as there will be room for about 12 people only.

For more information on the area:

'Naturalist's Diary' by

Norman Wakefield

VNPA Newsletter No. 83

-oXo-

### THE BARMAH FOREST

Report on a canoeing trip  
Feb 5th-6th, Tony Kerr

The Barmah Forest, a Forests Commission Reserve, some 30 miles east of Echuca on the Murray River is a haven for wildlife, particularly water birds that live on and around the lakes at the western end of the reserve.

To travel by canoe proved the ideal way to visit the Barmah Forest. The birds were in profusion and our lack of knowledge about them was frustrating. Our visitor from New Zealand, Bernadette Evers, had heard much about but had not then seen an Australian snake. Of course, Graeme Oakes and David Whipp, who live near Barmah when not at Uni, convinced us all, and particularly Bernadette, that the Barmah was the home of the Tiger Snake; "they are good swimmers too!" Late on Sunday morning there was a shriek, and Bernadette was staring wide eyed, teeth gnashing on her paddle; a 'snake' had just surfaced by her canoe - which on closer inspection turned out to be a Cormorant returning from its foraging for food under the surface.

The Barmah Lakes were only a few feet deep and very warm - very good swimming until it was discovered, the usual way, that they housed leeches, 4" x 3/8" , unfed!

A hot fine weekend with much swimming and enjoyment of relatively undisturbed nature - a most enjoyable trip.

### CANOE WORK PARTIES ARE FUN



ALL TO OURSELVES

by Tom Kneen

A report of a winter  
trip from Buller to  
Tamboritha Saddle

I am pounding along the road, the long long road we have been on most of the day. The snow is deep and soft, too soft for the skis to glide, and every step I must force my feet down on the yeilding snow. Head down, knees aching, counting to keep up the pace, I look ahead and decide to keep going to the top of the rise and rest there. Maybe we'll get a run down the other side, although it would have to be steep to run in this stuff. John and Malcolm follow a little behind, following exactly to gain a little rest after their turns at breaking trail. Two long furrows stretch back along the road. Around us the snow is swirling lightly, obscuring the distant scene, draining the colour from rocks and trees, and filling the air with greyness. Eddies of swirling snow and fog rise from a dimly seen valley. There is little sense of time for there is no sign of the sun's movement and no shadows. There are no sounds other than the voices of we three plodding down the road.

Legs in top, mind in neutral; road bashing is almost always boring. You tend to occupy your mind with minute recollection of earlier parts of the trip or composing literary passages for the trip report you hope to write one day, until you realise that you will never remember them when the time comes.

Mt. Buller seems a long way away. We left there on Sunday morning, farewelled by friends who half wished they were coming with us, despite the customary jokes. New snow hung on the trees as we ran down the Stirling jeep track. Oh, we had our share of falls on the narrow track, especially before we got used to the packs again; sometimes it it's the safest thing to do. Soon we were at Woollybut Saddle and could run easily down the Stirling ring road until the snow ran out. We followed the road for the rest of the day and arrived at the King River Hut in light rain in the late afternoon; glad to rest and eat some of the weight out of our packs.

Next day we left, later than we should have, and climbed slowly to the Cobbler Plateau. We followed the logging road south, eventually putting on skis when the snow got deep enough. The cloud was low and there were few views from the featureless plateau, except once when the Razor showed its snow-clad cliffs below the cloud. About two-thirty we had a hurried lunch at Speculation campsite. It was beginning to look as if we would not get to Macalister Springs that night, but we decided to go on to the saddle north of Mt. Buggery and decide there. The cloud had come down and the wind had come up as we climbed Speculation and there was nothing to see of the route ahead.



Malcolm swished to a stop a few feet from the edge of a cliff. 'A few quick telemarks down this and we're there,' he said. 'There' was the bottom of Terrible Hollow and since we didn't want to go 'there' we took off skis and started kicking steps over and around the bluffs along the ridge. The cloud covered the top of the ridge but we could see down into the darkening Terrible Hollow and every now and then the wind would rise and the cloud lift enough to give a tantalising glimpse of Macalister Springs. We reached the saddle before Mt. Buggery in appropriate condition but decided for no good reason to go rather than make camp. Buggery was somehow steeper than usual. We pushed on in the cloud, following the ridge as much as possible. The wind had dropped and the Terrible Hollow was filled with a faint orange light. We were all very tired and realised that it would be a long haul to Macalister Springs.

I was leading, kicking steps across a steep snow slope, listening to the dislodged snow scabble into the darkness. 'You must be joking if you think we can go on,' yelled Malcolm. 'You're right. We'll go back to those rocks and camp.' 'Those trees look better, they'll give us some shelter.' They didn't. They were growing on a steep slope and their only use was to stop us going far if we rolled over during the night. John and Malcolm kicked out two platforms for the bivvy bags. I gave the choofer a super prime and started making the soup, stacking packs and snow and me around the stove to shield it from the wind.

It was, as Malcolm described it, a character building night there on the side of the Crosscut Saw. The bivouac bags condensed water like fury and the outside of our sleeping bags were wet by morning, though we were still warm and dry. It snowed lightly and we couldn't put our heads out, so we lay with our faces against the fabric of the bivvy bag while the cold condensate ran down our cheeks. Daylight came stealthily, almost unwillingly, but we were ready and soon packing. Breakfast consisted of lukewarm lime jelly, hardly the health-food of a nation, but enough to get us on our way.

Back to the top of the ridge, and if anything the weather had got worse. In the mist we found that the only thing to do was to follow the faint line of the cornice, a technique that can have its interesting moments. But eventually we came upon places we recognised and after three hours we arrived at Macalister Springs, rather glad to find the new hut where we could dry our sleeping bags.

We lit a fire which quickly filled the hut with smoke. Caught between the smoke and the storm, we were finding things rather uncomfortable until the storm eased and we could open the door. Later we went for a run on the deep new snow. We climbed the hill to look back at the Crosscut Saw but it was still under



cloud, so we amused ourselves with long fast runs through the trees, and then prospected the track for the next day.

In a way the weather had improved the following morning. It had stopped snowing and patches of blue sky were heading southwest at high speed. Our tracks of the previous day had long since vanished and we made our way through the trees with skis and boots completely buried in soft snow. It is quite alarming to watch the skis bend as they sink into very soft snow. While crossing a snow plain we saw Snowy Bluff and further on had a spectacular view of the Viking surrounded by swirling cloud. As we worked our way south, Mt. Howitt and Mt. Magdala appeared, and Mt. Clear, and then were lost again. We came on the road suddenly and were surprised by its width. A long smooth white expanse, it stood out strangely from the snow covered trees. And so started our long road bash.

Once this was one of the remotest places in Victoria. It was three days from almost anywhere to here. The forestry road has changed all that, many think for the worse. But in winter snow closes the roads and some of the old feeling returns, though the road removed most of our navigation problems. About 1952 another group tried a similar trip but had to turn back when they failed to find the correct ridge. The snowgum country can be very difficult to navigate.

The snowstorm came again as we reached the Howitt plains and we stopped at Howitt Hut for lunch. It was a long stretch to Guy's Hut with the skis balling up and a broken stock at Minogue's Lookout. We arrived very tired at Guy's late in the afternoon, only finding it because of Malcolm's knowledge of the area. Guy's hut is a traditional log hut and very dark, but with a fire going and mugs of soup in our hands, the strain of a long day is soon forgotten.

The next day was more of the same. We had hoped to photograph each other beside the 'Danger - Low Flying Aircraft' sign at the FCV airstrip but the sign was not to be seen. Very little else could be seen through the fog either. We came at last to Mc Michael's Hut, which is cold and lacks the character of the older huts.

A cold clear night gave way to a warm clear day. No Fog! And the sun shining through the trees. Have you ever crossed a post and rail fence with skis on? They don't teach that in the French ski schools. It was an easy day. We wandered along on very thin snow, stopping to visit huts and yards. At Tamboritha saddle we ran out of snow and knew we were almost finished. A long and pleasant downhill walk, with lunch at a lookout to Mt. Wellington, the straight down the steep and eroded Bennison Spur with its dry and prickly scrub, till we came to the Wellington river.



In a way it seemed rather strange; green flats along the river, reddish rock, blue sky, warm sun, and no snow. Journey's end. Nothing to do but sit and wait for Judy and Lorraine to pick us up the next day. I went down to the river and sat on a rock and watched the water flow by. The snow returns to the ocean, now leaping the rocks, and little by little changing the face of the land. I looked up; John and Malcolm were standing a few yards away. They too watched the river in silence.

-oXo-

#### OLEGAS TRUCHANAS

Last Christmas, Australia lost Olegas Truchanas, highly esteemed as all-round mountaineer, photographer and champion of what is left of our natural heritage. He knew Tasmania's magnificent wilderness intimately and was the first man to traverse the fearsome Gordon River by canoe to the sea; he was a leading figure in the fight to save the upper Gordon at Pedder from the HEC's tender care and so it was ironic that the Gordon should, in the end, take his life.

He worked assiduously to make Tasmanians aware of their land "the prime source of revelation of the grandeur of our wilderness through the mastery of his camera." said one. His 20 minute audio visual epic of Lake Pedder filled the Hobart Town Hall to overflowing eight times. It has been called 'the best argument for saving Lake Pedder.' Yet he managed to do all this whilst still remaining a respected employee of the HEC

He was the sort of man who when the going got rough was prepared to stand up and be counted; the sort Australia can ill afford to lose. His presence will be keenly and widely missed.

Les Southwell

-oXo-

"To make every effort to ensure that the land and waters of the Commonwealth and its Territories are used with wisdom and foresight and that competing demands upon them are resolved in the best long term interests of the nation"

From the constitution of the  
Australian Conservation Foundation.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MOUNTAINEER IS THURS MARCH 30th



We have to announce a change of address from 66 Hardware St. to

1st floor, 46 Hardware St.

This is in the building on the northeast corner of Hardware and Little Bourke Streets and we are above Clive Fairbairns Sports Store. The entrance is in Hardware St. between the Antique Shop and the Chinese Food Shop, which is handy if you are feeling hungry. Our phone number

will remain as 67-3354 but until the P.M.G get around

to transferring it to the new place you may at times get no answer to your ringing. The new place does not have as much atmosphere as the old, but you will have more chance of seeing what we have for sale.

We sell packs, tents, sleeping bags, boots, parkas, wool shirts & socks, compasses, camping gear, dried foods, maps and books, in fact we try to supply everything of interest to the bushwalker.

We also sell rockclimbing and mountaineering gear, caving ladders and lamps, and are introducing canoe gear into our range. In the winter we will have cross-country ski gear.

We have more of general lines these days also - they include gym and desert boots and will soon include

JEANS

SHORTS

and

KHAKI SHIRTS

In everything we sell, but particularly with gear that will be used in the mountains, we make a real effort to supply articles of sound quality and suitability for the purpose intended for them. We are always trying to improve both range and suitability of our stock but are always hampered by a chronic shortage of funds, which is usual with expanding businesses. We will continue to do the best we can and hope you will understand when we do not always have everything you happen to be looking for.

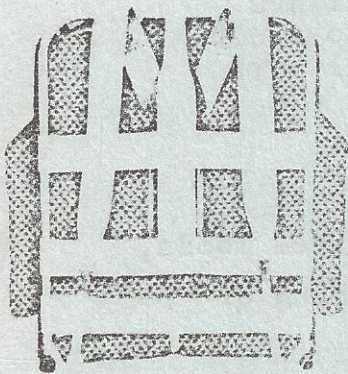
Cheers, Loch.



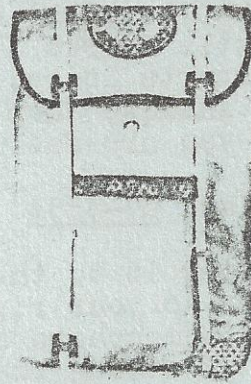
# FEATHERLITE

## KIMPTON'S 'MOUNTAIN MULE' PACK

Weight-Saving Starts  
with the PACK!

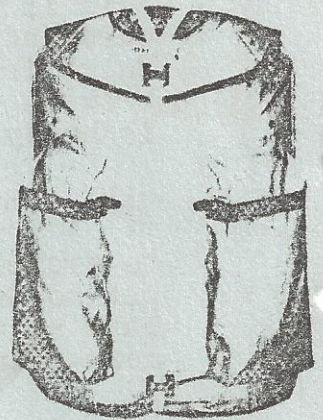


Terylene strapping is used for greater strength, less weight and its non-stretch properties.



Featherlite II has double bag-strap, one outside pocket, and a waterproof nylon plastic outer double bottom. Map pocket under the flap. Weight approx. 3lb. 4ozs.

Price:

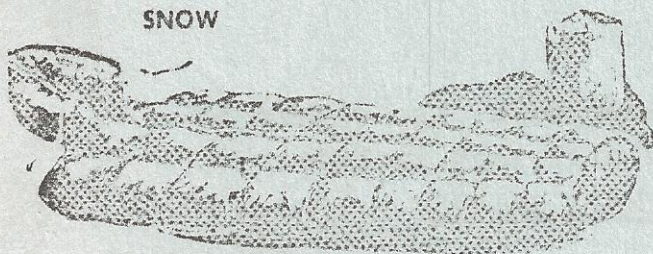


Featherlite I has single bag-strap and two outside pockets and waterproof nylon plastic outer double bottom. Weight approx. 2lb 14ozs.

Price

## KIMPTON'S "EIDERLITE" SLEEPING BAGS

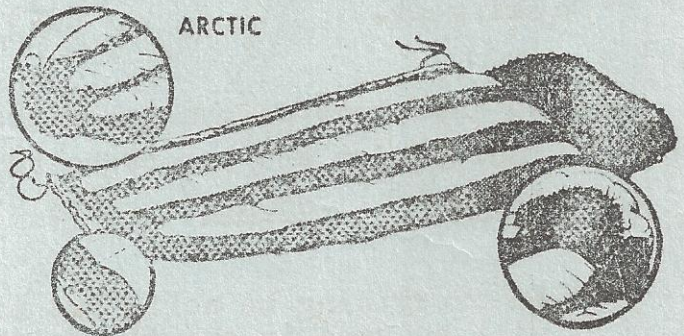
SNOW



**Snow:** Tailored hood - 36" neck chest zipp. Circular insert for feet. Cut 6' x 30" plus hood filled with Super down, Feather down.

**Combination quilt** - Sleeping bag: Designed for all-the year use as either an eiderdown quilt, or sleeping bag. Simply fold in half and zipp the bottom and side and presto! your quilt becomes a

ARCTIC



sleeping bag. A double sleeping bag can be made by zipping two of these quilts together. Super down or Feather down filled.

**Arctic:** FOR SUB ZERO TEMPERATURES. Cellular walls form length-wise flutes top, bottom and at the side joins,

thus a complete cell of super down gives the sleeper warmth all-round. When tied the end allows no heat loss, however in hot weather the down can be compressed to the bottom of the bag and the end left open for ventilation. This makes the Arctic a dual purpose bag. Cut 6'6" x 30" plus hood filled with super down.

Obtainable all good sport stores and scout shops - if not contact -  
KIMPTON'S FEATHER MILLS, 11 Budd Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066  
PHONE: Melbourne 41-5073, Sydney 333-1239, Adelaide 57-3624, Brisbane 2-2354.