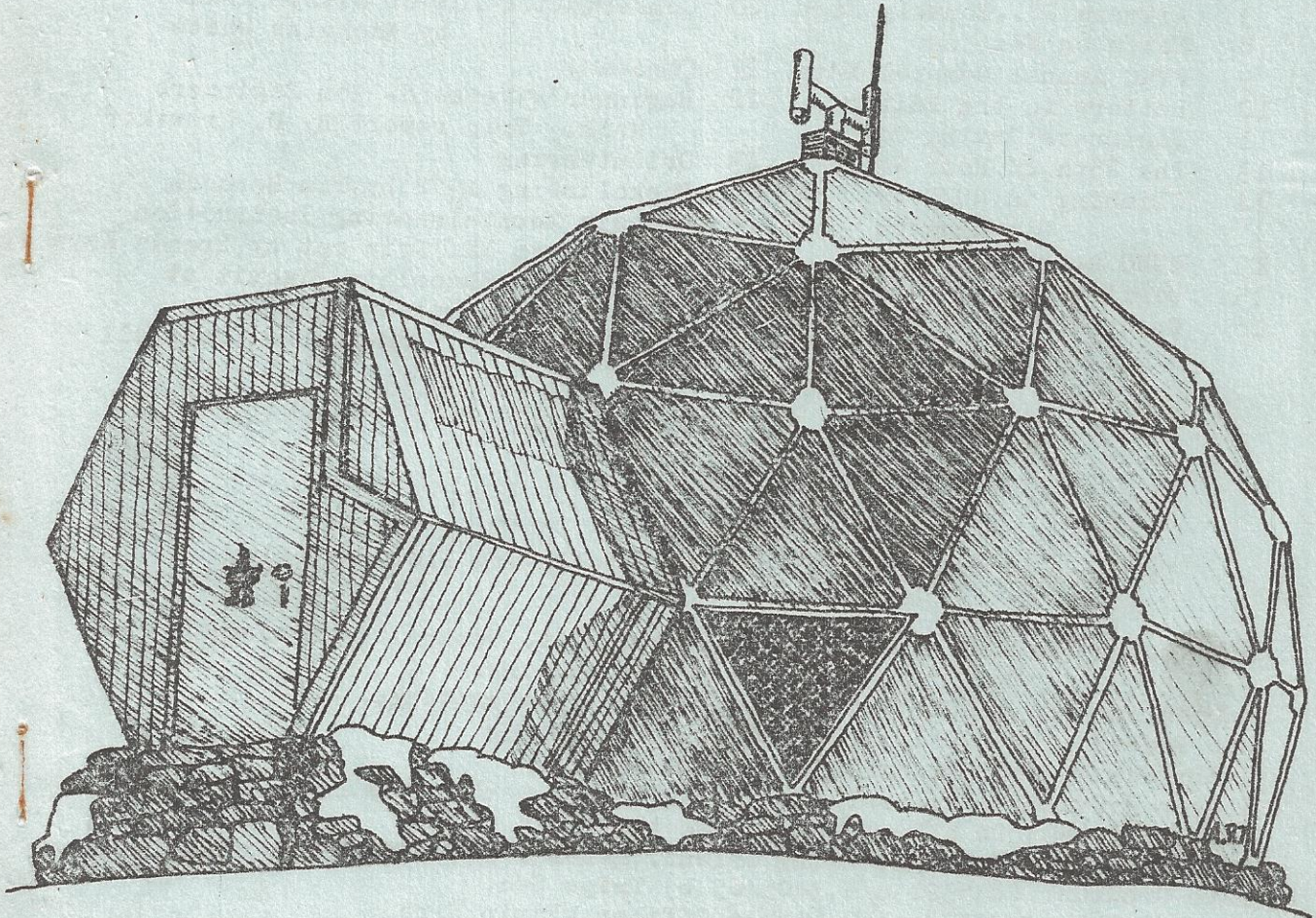


# the mountaineer



**No 2**

**APRIL**

**1972**

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL



1	Editorial	16	Feathertop Under Attack (part 2)
2	Trips Program	17	A Place in the Mountaineer
3	Aikmans Rd..Monthly Mtgs	20	Conservation Action Within MUMC by Nicholas White
8	Notes on Meetings		
9	FVWC Annual General M'tg	21	Canoeing
10	Letters to the Editor	22	Beginner's Weekend- Non Beginners Walk. Trip report by D. Crewther
11	Beginners Caving Course	23	Orienteering
13	The 25th 24 Hour Walk	24	Rockclimbing 1972 by Tim Hancock
14	Climbing in MUMC by Tim Hancock	28	A Basic Mountaineering Instruction Course in NZ. Trip rpt by Brenda Kaye
15	MUMC songbook	32	Heaven is a Ghocalate Biscuit at 8:23. Trip rpt by GLay.
15	Vigil at Lke Pedder	34	Report on Lake Pedder. Les Southwell
16	Guide to Vic Alps 3rd Edit		

WHO'S WHO

If you have any queries, then the following list may help.

Rod Tucker (3472186 a/h, 3406688 b) President. General inquiries,  
and canoeing.  
Martin Wardrop (3472877x7 a/h) V.Pres.. Conservation.  
Ros Escott (508609 a/h) V. Pres. Orienteering  
Harry Schaap (803581 a/h) Sec. Club contact.  
Alison McCready JCH. Asst. Sec. Caving and membership list.  
Geoff Lay (693824 a/h) Treas. Basketball and trips.  
Tony Kerr (3298040 a/h) Edit. Orient., general inquiries.  
Dave Crewther (835301 a/h, 3405465 b) Trips Sec.  
Tim Patrick (3297738 a/h) Stores Officer. Equip Hire  
Robyn Fraser (851261 a/h) Gen Com. member.  
Robyn Flint (831602 a/h, 3472573 b) Gen. com. mem.  
Tim Hancock Aikmans Rd lunchtimes. Climbing Convenor.

Garry Whipp Canoeing convenor, can be found at canoeing work parties.  
Nick White (304154 a/h, 386997) Conservation sub-com convenor.  
Bob Cannon (3406406) General inquiries  
Max Corry (3382306 a/h) Search and Rescue.





# The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.

Number 2, April 1972

Price : 10c

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

-oXo-

## MUMC Mt Feathertop Memorial Hut

This issue's cover shows our club's hut at Mt Feathertop. Built mainly in the summer of 1965/66 as a memorial to two club members who lost their lives near Mt. Cook in New Zealand, its unique design is extremely functional and essentially maintenance free. The hut site was chosen to provide a safe base for winter alpine training activities, two of the criteria being that the site should allow an uninterrupted view of the main face of Feathertop, as well as providing a quick route to below the snow line. The statistics in the last Mountaineer showed that the hut has seen a lot of useage which has involved use as an emergency shelter as well. It is used each year for its designed function as a base for Alpine Instruction Courses.

The views from the hut are of the best in the state but, unfortunately, with its approximate spherical covering of aluminum, the hut can be seen from many points in the N.E. Alps. One elderly tourist at Mt. Buffalo was heard remarking to a ranger about the 'beer' can on Mt. Feathertop. This visual pollution by the hut was unforeseen during design and building (which in 1965 was before the current conservation awareness), but has since caused MUMC much concern. Painting has been considered and rejected, at this stage, mainly because of uncertain guarantees about the lifetime of the paints under the conditions experienced on Feathertop.

All that MUMC can do is apologise for the visual pollution in the knowledge that the hut is providing a useful service for those who enjoy recreating in the Alps.

## Basic Alpine Instruction Course - New Zealand

It is disappointing each year to here of some MUMC members who go to New Zealand during the summer vacation without going on the Alpine Instruction course run in the Mt. Cook National Park. The cost is only \$40 to \$50 for a weeks tuition, accomodation and food on the snow and crevasses, slopes and minor peaks in the shadow of Cook. If you reasonably fit and have attended our snow walk and Alpine Inst. Course at Feathertop, you will be well fitted for the NZ course. Most NZ trippers from MUMC do take this course; if you are going to NZ this year, dont just become another hitch hiking 'Aussie', spend a few weeks on the snow and ice in the South Island,

Tony Kerr



### 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 Street between 9 and 9.30 a.m., and normally returns by 6.00 p.m. For longer trips, the van leaves the car park immediately north of the Union Building at 6.30 p.m. on the night before the first listed day of the trip (i.e. normally on Friday night). The van normally returns to the Union before 10.00 p.m. 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 Road (1 to 2 p.m. weekday lunchtimes, after 7.30 p.m. Tuesdays)
- (ii) Ringing the trip leader
- (iii) Ringing the Trip's Secretary, Dave Crewther (340 5465 Bus, 83 5301 a/h).



- April 29      Canoeing      Yarra River Leader:      transport  
Sat.      private. Details of trip will be worked  
out at the canoeing work party on Thur. 27th.
- April 29-30      B'walk      Marysville Area Medium. Transport, van.  
Sat-Sun.      Leader Ros Escott (50 8609)
- April 30      O'teering      Organised by Alex Tarr. Transport private.  
Sun.      Details at Aikmans Road.
- May 2      Caving      Meeting Compulsory meeting for all those  
Tues.      going on caving beginners weekend at  
Buchan, May 6-7. Sisalkraft theatre,  
Archi Bldg., 7.30 p.m. Supper.
- May 3      Social      Occasional Dinner 7.30 p.m.  
Wed.      Venue: Private Dinning Room (above sand-  
wich Bar, Union).  
Cost: \$4.00 which includes drinks  
Speaker: Dr. Geoff Moseley of the Aust.  
Conservation Foundation who will  
talk and show slides on his walk  
along the Tri State Track last  
Dec. and then discuss conservation  
and bushwalking generally.  
Bookings: At Aikmans Road or in exceptional  
circumstances, with Dave Crewther  
(340 5465 B, 83 5301 a/h),  
Bookings close on Friday April 28.
- May 6      Canoeing      Details to be arranged at work party on  
Sat.      Thursday night.
- May 6-7      Caving      Beginners Weekend at Buchan in Eastern Vic.  
Sat-Sun      Leader Pudi Frank (729 0421) Attendance at  
the May 2nd meeting compulsory.
- May 6-7      R'climbing      Grampians - introduction to Mt. Rosa,  
Sat-Sun      Bundaleer, Attendance at the climbing  
course Arapalies weekend in essential for  
new climbers. Leader Tim Hancock.
- May 6-7      Work Party      Mt. Feathertop work party will concentrate  
Sat-Sun      on the FVWC Hut. Bookings at Aikman's  
Road or with Tom Buykx (49 3877 a/h).
- May 10      Slide night      Featuring that blonde loquacious sherpa  
Wed      Harry Schaap in a Tasmanian extravaganza.  
Areas covered include Cradle Mountain,  
Western Arthurs, Federation Peak, Frenchmans  
Denisons. 7.30 p.m., S.U. Activities Room.



- May 13-14 B'walk Murrindindi River Area Medium Leader  
Sat-Sun Robert Jang; transport private. Black Spur Range, Yea Rock, Murrindindi Falls, Wilhelmina Falls, Mt. Despair, Murrindindi.
- May 13-14 Caving Beginners Caving - Buchan Easy to impossible  
Sat-Sun Leader, caving convenor. Attendance at the May 2nd meeting compulsory.
- May 13-17 B'walk Nunnang Plateau or Reedy Creek Gorge.  
Sat-Wed Medium-hard. Leader, Bob Cannon (3406406B) Transport private.
- May 18 Monthly Informal slide evening. Bring slides. Hope  
Thur. m'tng. to feature that great 8mm movie photographer Bernie Wendlandt with film of the epic stretcher carry off Feathertop.  
Venue: Graduate Lounge, Union, 7.30 p.m.  
Supper.
- May 21 O'teering Organised by Ron Frederick. Details at  
Sun. Aikmans Road.
- May 18-25 B'walk Wollybutt Saddle, stirring, Cobbler,  
Thur-Thur Speculation, Viking, Howitt, Bluff, Buller.  
Hard. Leader, George Kuodera. Transport, private. Full snow gear, ice axes, ropes required.
- May 27-28 Social Bludge at Upper Beaconsfield. Barbecue,  
Sat-Sun w'end barndance, world instant pudding mixing contest, daywalk. There could be an orienteering contest as well. BYO food and refreshments. Book at Aikmans Rd if you want transport.  
Directions:- take the Princess Highway to just beyond Berwick. Turn to Upper Beaconsfield. Pass through U.B., turn left at the first fork to the Pine Grove Hotel. 100 yards further, turn right into Stoney Creek Road and look for an identifying sign 0.8 miles later.
- June 3-4 Work Party MUMC Mt. Feathertop Memorial Hut. Work  
Sat-Sun parties are fun. This fun trip will be lead by the Hut Wardens, Dave Crewther (835301a/h) and Robyn Fraser (85 1261). Transport private.
- June 4 Daywalk Cathedral Range Easy-medium. Leader?  
Sun. Transport van from Batman Ave (near Swanston Street) at 9.30 am.



June 10-12 B'walk  
Sat-Mon

Grampians: Queens Birthday Walks

a. Medium Easy, leader: Geof Lay (693824)

b. Medium Hard Leader: Graham Oakes

Transport Van.

June 10-12 R'climbing  
Sat-Mon.

Mt. Arapalies: A hard trip for those who are very keen only (does not preclude those who went on the beginner's course and want to continue). Leader: Tim Hancock.  
Transport: private. Note This is usually the weekend of the V.C.C. annual pig roast. Those wishing to attend must pay the entrance fee to Tim Hancock at least two weeks prior to the trip.

June 10-12 Caving  
Sat-Mon

Buchan More details later.

June 13 Slide night  
Tues.

Informal get together. Discuss past and future trips. Bring your slides. Supper provided. Venue: Raymond Priestly Room, Union 7.30p.m.

June 22nd 24 Hr. Walk  
Thur. Talk

Come and get some clues on the 24 hour walk. Strongly recommended that all beginners to 24 hr. walking attend. Venue: Sisalkraft theatre, Archi Building 7.30 p.m.

June 24-25 24 HOUR  
Sat-Sun WALK

Somewhere within Victoria. Organisers, Tony Kerr (3298040) and Harry Schaap (803581)  
Transport: Van Entry fee approximately \$6.00  
This is the event of the year in the MUMC calender. See article elsewhere for details.

July 5 Meeting  
Wed.

Snow Walk Talk Come and find that you can comfortably camp in the snow. This talk is a necessary prerequisite for the beginners snow Walk. Venue S.U. Activities Room 7.30pm.

July 8-9 Snow Walk  
Sat-Sun

Beginners Snow Walk Baw-Baw Plateau. Medium transport, van, leader

July 8-9 R'climbing  
Sat-Sun

Mt. Arapalies - suitable for those who have done some climbing, but a few beginners could be accomodated. Leader Tim Hancock, transport, private.

July 17 Meeting  
Mon.

Monthly Meeting Informal slide showing (bring your slides) supper eating etc.

July 19 Meeting  
Wed.

Beginners Ski Touring Instructional Evening



- July 22-23 Ski Touring Beginners Ski Touring Mt. Buller, skirling  
Sat-Sun Area. In order to accomdate unmbars, the  
group will be divided with ea half skiing  
for one day, and doing a daywalk the other.
- July 28 Dinner  
Frid. Dance Wattle Park Chalet The social event of the  
year. More details next issue. Organizer  
Robyn Fraser (85 1261).
- Aug 5-7 Snow & Alpine Instruction Course at MUMC Feathertop  
Ice Hut. Instructors to be arranged.  
Transport private.
- Aug. 5-12 R'climbing Blue Mountains Hard. Leaders and competants  
Sat-Sun only. Transport either private car or train.  
This could be a joint trip with the Univ. of  
N.S.W. Leader Tim Hancock.
- Aug 16 Meeting Monthly Meeting.  
Wed
- Aug 18-19 I/V 24H Intervarsity Twenty Four Hour Orienteering.  
This years contest will be hosted by the  
University of New England. MUMC will field  
a male and female team. Travel costs will be  
subsidised. The teams will be selected on the  
basis of 24 hour walk performance.
- Aug 25-27 Adv. Snow Annual Ascent of Mt. Bogong Medium Hard  
Walk Leader Glay. Transport private.
- Spt. 10 Day Walk Strath Creek Gorges and Waterfalls Medium  
Sun Hard Distance  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles with plenty of  
climbing. Leader Arnold Wheeler (4899761).
- Sept 12 Meeting Slide Competition Categories: personalities,  
Tues. activities, scenes, Slides must be submitted  
by Friday September 1st.

-oOo-

In addition to the above program, there will be more langlauf trips, canoeing, day walks, caving, rock climbing and orienteering organised. For more complete information, see the trips book at Aikmans Road.

If you wish to lead a trip and/or have a good place to go, please see the trips secretary, Dave Crewther either at Aikmans Road 1 p.m. -2 p.m., or ring 340 5465 during the day, or 835301 at night.



Van Fares

The following are the approximate fares for van trips. Shown in brackets are cancellation fees which will be extracted if you cancel without reasonable excuse, within two days of the trip departure.

April 29-30	2.00 - 2.50	(50c)
June 4	2.00 - 2.50	(50c)
June 10-12	5.00 - 5.50	(1.53)
July 8-9	4.50 - 5.00	(1.53)

-oXo-

AIKMANS ROAD

Opened from 1pm to 2pm weekdays and from 7:30 pm on tuesdays. Bring your slides on Tuesday evenings - come and use the library, package food or collate the Mountaineer.

-oXo-

MONTHLY MEETINGS

These are back again, following popular demand, in the third week of each month. The particular evening will rotate from Tuesday to Thursday. These evenings will consist of informal evenings, slides suppers, perhaps movies, possibly guest speakers. Watch the trips program and the notice board at Aikmans road, Enquiries about coming monthly meetings may be directed to Glay at 693824 after hours.

*"That'll be them hot pants we keep hearing about."*





NOTES ON COMMITTEE MEETINGSAnnual General Meeting

March 23

7:30 pm

The reports that were presented at the AGM appear as a supplement to this Mountaineer.

The following people were elected to 1972/3 committee

President	Rod Tucker
Vice Presidents	Martin Wardrop
	Ros Escott
Secretary	Harry Schaap
Treasurer	Geof Lay
Trips Secretary	Dave Crewther
Stores Officer	Tim Patrick
Assisstant Secretary	Alison McCready
Edit. of the M'eer	Tony Kerr
General Committee	Robyn Fraser
	Robyn Flint

By reason of being convenor of the climbing sub-committee, Tim Hancock is also on the 1972/3 committee.

The constitutional ammendment as proposed by Nick White, which would have deleted the clause requiring there to be at least one woman on the committee was not passed by the meeting.

Nick White and Les Southwell proposed the following motions that were passed by the AGM:-

- (i) That a conservation sub-committee be formed within MUMC.
- (ii) That the terms of refernce of this subcommittee be flexible and left in the hands of the committee and sub-committee.

Mr. Don Saunders, Senior Planning Officer with the Victorian National Parks Authority gave a very informative and well illustrated talk on National Parks. He discussed the aims and needs of a National Park and reviewed the faults and good points of National Parks ih the USA where the automobile is the menace, to Canada where development of towns inside Parks is allowed, to Britian where lack of crown land has produced a system of privately owned and managed parks, to Thailand where a large portion of one of their national parks is virtually closed to all people to preserve it in its widderness state. The talk was well received, and Mr. Saunders answered many questions about National Parks in general, and Victoria's current problems with a lack of national parks and alienation of some of those that we do have.

The meeting was closed by the new president, Rod Tucker.

-oXo-



Committee Meeting 29 March 6:30pm

Tim Hancock put forward a plan to revitalise climbing within MUMC. The various non committee positions that are necessary to keep MUMC active were filled. The list of the people accepted is on page 2 of the membership supplement that accompanies this Mountaineer.

Nick White presented a report from the first meeting of the conservation sub committee recommending that this committee has the following officers:-

Convenor, to co-ordinate the sub-committee's activities.  
Secretary, to assist the convenor.  
Research Officer, for handling submissions to various bodies  
Publicity Officer  
Protest Officer, for handling specific conservation issues,

The report and recommendations were accepted by the committee and Nick White was appointed convenor.

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.

-oXo-

FEDERATION of VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on April 18th. About 30 people were present representing most of the clubs affiliated with FVWC. Reports were presented by the President, Harold Peterson; Secretary, Eric Quinlan; Treasurer, Vic Moss; Alpine Track and the Bogong Snowpole Line Sub-committees, Alan Budge; Tracks and Huts Sub committee, Tom Kneen; FVWC Feathertop Hut report by Tom Buykx.

Elections were held with Ken McInnis (YHA) and Harold Peterson standing for President, and Eric Quinlan (YHA) and Pat Miller (MUMC) standing for secretary. Ken was elected President, and Pat automatically became Secretary as the FVWC constitution prevents more than one executive position being held by members of the same club.

Eric Quinlan had served on the FVWC since at least 1956, and had carried the burden of the Federation for many years when no-one else was prepared to stand. As one of the Federated clubs, MUMC would like to thank Eric for all the work he has done for the cause of bushwalking and conservation over these past years and hopes that he continues to be active in these fields.

-oXo-



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Conservation is our new catchry. Lake Pedder is our traditional target. The combination is irresistible.

Yet how many vociferous enthusiasts know why they want to conserve anything, let alone Pedder?

The fact that the cause has popular appeal should be irrelevant. Emotion has no place in a properly prepared debate on this subject. Our only hope is that supporters will turn off their mouths, engage their brains, and start seriously considering the problem in all of its aspects. Otherwise our opponents will be quite justified in branding us as a bunch of noisy unprogressive ill-informed kranks.

Marg James.

Dear Sir,

The first edition of The Mountaineer each year has the predictability of a school speech night. I am getting particularly sick of things like your editorial page in which you bemoan the fact that some people's backsides are spreading. So what? They don't read The Mountaineer and in any case are probably not very worried about their backsides. The purpose of the club is climbing mountains and its about time we got on with it. Incidentally I know several people who have been put off the club by remarks like those in your editorial.

On one point made in the last issue I must agree. Until a few years ago the major problems in mountaineering concerned what could be done. I think this is changing. The major problem now is where can things be done. We are going to have a continual fight to retain places suitable for outdoor adventurous unmechanised recreation, and mountaineers and others must become more involved in this in future. However we should be careful not to become absorbed in this to the exclusion of other activities. The most important thing for the club is still to be active in the mountains.

With this in mind I'd like to see more trip reports, preferably not written by

Tom Kneen.



BEGINNERS CAVING COURSE

This will be held at Buchan in East Gippsland. Buchan offers many opportunities for all types of caving, from the Gravel Grovel to abseiling to cave diving, with trips ranging from the purely tourist to the almost impossible.

There will be a preliminary evening on Tuesday 2nd May at 7:30 in the Sports Union Activities Room and everyone on either or both of the weekends (6-7 May, 13-14 May) are asked to attend. A talk on caving equipment and techniques will be given and Graeme Wilson of the VSA will show some of his slides. Transport for both weekends will be private and arrangements will be made at the meeting. If it is absolutely impossible for you to attend, please ring Alison McCready before Tuesday 2nd of May.

-oXo-

BEGINNERS TRIP AT BUCHAN

Report of a trip on  
Feb 12-13 May, by  
Alison McCready

Most of the party having duly assembled at Buchan on Saturday morning, we set off for Honeycomb cave and soon 6 people were belowground. Things went very well until the newcomers to Honeycomb came to the Bottomless Pit, which has to be traversed and which looks very deep and black (but it is only 19 feet deep). However, nobody fell in (I hope he was recovered - Ed.) and we were soon in the main chamber.

Here we were joined by Martin, Dede and Peter, who had been held up by car trouble. Small parties of people went in all directions from the Main Chamber, looking at the many examples of decoration and in particular the Helictite Wall. One interesting find in a short passage off the Long Column Chamber was a rock completely covered with a thin film of calcite with a bluish tinge.

Some people also went and practised chimneying an a passage leading down a mud slope next to the Bottomless Pit. Others preferred to use their chimney skills to reach the surface by a way that avoided re-crossing the Bottomless Pit!

In the afternoon we were joined by Fraser and Fiona Shaw and set off for Mabel Cave, and some drier trogging - we thought. The first section of the cave was very dry and the mud banks in the first chamber were only just slippery enough to make Martin fall on his face twice. On reaching yhe Main Chamber we found that the level of the second sump was very low and about half of the party piled in



to explore it. The mud got deeper and softer and more clinging until it gave way to a couple of feet of very cold water. The intrepid (?) leader submerged feet first and explored, but did not feel intrepid enough to dive an unknown sump. No end was found and no evidence of further air pockets, so everyone had to reverse out and return to the entrance. A few people wriggled through a squeeze as an alternative to the main route, and found the others swimming in the river.

The party then adjourned to Buchan for further swimming, but Fiona McCready and Gary decided that they had had enough and set off to walk back to the hut. As they passed through Buchan, they were stopped by the Law - someone had reported two blackfellows walking into town!

On Sunday we were joined by Rudi Frank, Phil Bunce and Daryl Carr and went to the Potholes for some ladder pitches. Some went to Hades, but most people went to Baby Pierre (named after Pierre St Martin, a deep pothole in France) and soon everyone had been down to the first level and had had a turn at belaying. Some of the party then decided to go to the bottom, and the expedition proved useful in many ways. The need for a whistle on ladder pitches was clearly demonstrated - shouting simply could not be heard over 80' of echoing depth. Also, sandshoes have no place on muddy ladders - you are liable to find your feet slipping off or through the rungs, neither of which is very pleasant. However, everyone reached the surface quite safely, having learned something about ladder work.

All in all the weekend was very successful in achieving its aims, which were to introduce beginners to caving and to give recent beginners more experience. The conditions ranged from very dry to relatively wet and the caves chosen provided elementary examples of chimneys, squeezes, traverses, climbing and even sumps. Expert teaching in ladder work was given and some of the basic requirements were taught by the best possible method - making an error the first time. All the party found that if simple safety rules are followed, caving can be a fascinating and very enjoyable experience.

-oXo-

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Tenders Called: With the retirement of Lady Kerr, a new FIRST LADY is required. Interested females (preferably single) should see ROD TUCKER immediately, or by appointment.

-oXo-



THE 25th ANNUAL 24 HOUR WALK

Instigated by Bill Bewsher in 1947, the 24 Hour walk has become the most popular event on the year's walk's calendar. It involves up to 24 hours of "running, walking, crawling through scrub, across paddocks, over creeks, under fences in search of those elusive check points. Then just when the torch batteries are dimming, the feet aching, and the nerves are fraying, around the corner is seen Harry Schaap and his merry band of cooks with a much appreciated hot, steaming, three course dinner served by beaming miniskirted waitresses."

Your \$6.00 entry fee provides for van transport from the Union at midday on the Saturday, and return about 6 p.m. Sunday, map, and most importantly, hot meals at each of four hashhouses set up along the course. You enter in a group of two more in either the male, mixed or female sections (scratch, six and twelve miles shorter courses) and your aim will be to get as far along a prescribed course as possible within twenty four hours. Besides Harry and his waitresses, the large fires at each hashhouse provide the greatest temptation to while away a few hours waiting for the sun to rise.

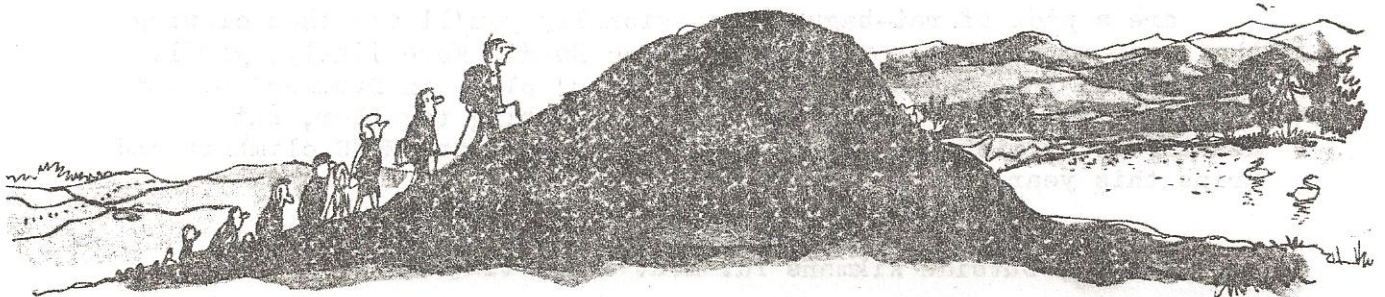
There will be an introductory meeting on 24 Houring in the Sisal kraft theatre on Thursday June 22nd and all first timers are advised to attend.

This year, bookings will not be accepted unless accompanied by a booking fee of \$2.00 which, incidentally, equals the cancellation fee. So phone bookings are out, however mail bookings will be accepted. As the 24 is the most popular event of the year, you are advised to book early. Bookings close on Tuesday 20th June.

Hash house staff and course setters.

See the 24 from the inside, and for free. Join Harry's hashhouse staff or Tony's course setting staff. Book for these positions at Aikmans Road, or with Harry (803581 a/h) and Tony (3298040 a/h).

*"Unless my map-reading's at fault,  
just over here we should strike  
the A20."*





CLIMBING IN M.U.M.C.

An article by climbing  
convenor, Tim Hancock.

1. Organisation

There are two recognised classes of climbers in the club: Leaders and Competents. The rest are, for all intents and purposes, Beginners.

To become a Competent, a beginner must show the Committee of Leaders that he is capable of handling a rope correctly, and knows the fundamentals of climbing. In short, he must display a sound basic knowledge, and have made himself known to the Leaders. A Leader will propose a particular person in a committee meeting, and the meeting will then decide whether to place that person on the Competents' list.

Once made a Competent, that person is entitled to borrow Club gear for his own climbing purposes, with the permission of a leader. He may also instruct beginners.

Leaders are those climbers who have established themselves as very competent and sound climbers, and have been accepted as leaders by the Committee. The Leaders Committee forms the M.U.M.C. Climbing Sub-Committee, the Convenor of which is automatically a Club Committee member. The Convenor is elected annually.

2. Equipment

The club has a substantial amount of climbing gear which is stored in the back of the Club Store. Only Leaders and Competents may handle the equipment. We have 8 ropes including a 300' Viking Perlon rope. We also have about 40 karabiners 50 pegs, and much other assorted useful junk. You can learn about its use on the Climbing Course. Any gear borrowed must be signed out in detail (i.e. each article carefully noted) in the loans book. There is no hiring fee, but any lost equipment must be replaced at the owners' expense. All borrowed equipment must be returned immediately after the trip for which it is borrowed.

3. MUMC Climbers In General -

are a pack of rat-bags. Occassionally you'll see them clawing their way up the brick walls at Aikmans Road. More likely, you'll see them at Naughton's or Andrew Thomsons' place in Drummond Street downing a few ales. Sometimes they go climbing together, but usually it is with the V.C.C. We hope to see more MUMC climbers and trips this year.

The convenor, Tim Hancock may be consulted on his throne (rubbish tin) outside Aikmans rd. most lunch times.



M.U.M.C. SONGBOOK

The first meeting of Songbook Editors was held on Wednesday 12th April and progress is at last being made. Several printers are being approached for an estimate of cost, and also information on types of print, paper and binding.

Previous Songbooks have been revised, and it is planned to leave out some of the songs contained in these. Envelopes have been put up in Aikman's Road and in Agnes' Place and anyone who wants a song included in the songbook - whether it is a song already in Club Songbooks, or a completely new song - should write it out in full and put it in one of these envelopes. Variations and additions to old songs are also asked for.

-oOo-

VIGIL AT LAKE PEDDER

A very important aspect of the continuing campaign for preservation being waged by Lake Pedder Action Committees in Melbourne, Sydney and Tasmania is the maintenance of a vigil at Lake Pedder itself.

This is regarded as a symbolic action - it signifies that people are prepared to brave the rigors of the climate of South-west Tasmania to keep watch over the threatened lake.

So far only a moderate amount of publicity has attended the vigil, but it is anticipated that this will increase as time passes. It seems that flooding of Lake Pedder from water backing up behind the Serpentine Dam will not affect the Lake until about mid Spring (October) - close to the time of the Federal elections.

The vigil was established early in March and it is planned to sustain it through the coming months IF enough "vigilantes" can be found.

A comfortable, sheltered campsite has been established on the southern side of Maria Creek, equipped with tents, a wide range of camping gear and food and fuel supplies - the last being replenished regularly.

We are appealing to members of walking clubs in Melbourne as those best equipped to maintain the vigil to volunteer for a contribution to the vigil. Please canvass as many bushwalkers as possible for their active support in this specialised phase of the fight to save Pedder.



To ensure coordination of the manning of the vigil, please ask interested people to contact SANDRA BARDWELL at 88 4878 before making definite arrangements.

### GUIDE TO THE VICTORIAN ALPS

How About Those Track Notes You Said You'd Write.

The third edition of the "Guide to the Victorian Alps" will be printed in third term and we need all information by the start of June. We want any comments on the information in the Guide Book. Were the notes correct? Do any points need clarification? Are there any areas/routes not covered for which you have notes? We also want comments on the format of the guidebook, e.g. should we have separate booklets for each section as we have now; would a size like "Snowy Mountains Walks" be better etc?

Give any information to

Bob Cannon  
(Pat Miller or Dave Hagg).

-oXo-

### FEATHERTOP UNDER ATTACK (Part 2)

Further to the Conservation Supplement published with the previous Mountaineer, a search of the Companies Register has revealed the following

Mt Smyth Development Company  
Incorporated October 8th, 1971  
Director, Don Handely (Trinity College)  
Nominal Capital, \$35,000  
Registered Office and Solicitors:-  
Hillards, 71 Deakon Ave.,  
Mildure.

Objects: these were very general and included those of acquiring land, erecting buildings etc..

Mt Smyth is a mountain in the Hotham area. That the company is called Mt Smyth does not mean that Mt Smyth is the area in which the company is interested.

-oXo-



A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINEERCongratulations

to Judy Hill and Brien Cohn. Their engagement was announced in The Age on Saturday 15th April.

Living on jellies?

Ron and Judy Frederick are happily married and it is rumoured that Ron is being made guinea pig for Refresh jellies. It is pleasing to note that their honeymoon involved some mountaineering activities - a certificate from the W.A. Forestry Department has been received certifying that "Mrs Frederick of Burwood Victoria climbed Gloucester Tree (212 feet) on 4/4/1972 with courage and dignity" signed by K. Baines (Forestry Lookout officer).

Classics from the hard Easter Trip

Our Lawyer: "Guilty of lighting a steak within a mile of forestry land."

and "I feel great, but if you put a pack on me I'd collapse."

"Glave Driver"

"We stopped because we had a Laurie blocking the way."

"I've tried to get to Maroka twice before."

"Why haven't you been to the gorge?"

"Because I go with Frederick!"

The Year of the Lemming

Perhaps for the Mountaineering club, this year should be called the year of the Lemming. There has been an unprecedented rush on practically all trips so far. One hundred and seventy oxo lemmings managed to squash themselves onto Wilson's Prom for the Beginners weekend. The Easter trips (five of them) were booked out well over a week before the trip left. There were fifty-five rock-lemmings trying to commit suicide on Hanging rock. The indications are that this plague has not been brought under control by exterminating exams. The morals of this story are that:-(i) Not everyone can go on the same trip.

go on a trip you must book early

(ii) If you want to

and want to pike, please do so as soon as possible to give other lemmings a chance. If there is an early indication that there is going to be a rush on a trip, either more vans can be booked, or new trips can be produced out of a bottomless hat.

(iii) If you have booked



Tubellarians

MUMC's "Guide to the Victorian Alps" has a warning regarding the existence of parasitic nematodes in the water at Macalister Springs. Investigations by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission have disclosed that the "wogs" are actually Tubellarians and that it is very doubtful that they represent a human health risk. This has been confirmed by Dr. W. D. Williams of Monash University, author of "Australian Freshwater Life", in which Tubellarians are described as 'soft-bodied elongated flattened or more or less cylindrical animals ranging from less than one fifth of an inch to about three inches in length.'

It should be noted, however, that in view of the popularity of Macalister Springs as a campsite, and the fact that the spring drains a considerable area of the surrounding slopes, it would be prudent to boil drinking water there in any case (VMTC Newsletter, March 1972).

FVWC Hut Work Party

There will be a work party on the Federation of Victorian Walking Club Hut at Mt. Feathertop on the 6th/7th of May. If you would like to attend, contact Tom Buykx. 419 1944; 49 3877 home. (FVWC news, April 1972).

"More Pollution"

An official notice has been placed at Chalet Creek crossing on the Mt. Buller road, warning that the water is unfit for human consumption (due to drainage from the Mt. Buller village). This means that the water in the Upper Delatite is also suspect, and in fact parties who have recently camped along it have suffered stomach ailments afterwards. (VMTC newsletter, March 1972)

Dangerous Sleeping Bags

The December issue of the Australian Boy Scouts Magazine "Scouting", warns that dry cleaned sleeping bags should be thoroughly aired before being slept in. They cite the case of a 16 year old boy who died from an overdose of dry cleaning fumes by sleeping in an unaired bag. Particular care should be exercised if you have cleaned your bag in a coin operated drycleaning machine, as these use perchlorethylene solvent which gives off poisonous vapour for about 24 hours in hot weather and two or three days in cold. The presence of this solvent cannot always be detected by smell so be careful when you have your bag cleaned. (VMTC newsletter, March 1972)



Victoria's Lake Pedder?

An issue of comparable proportions to the Lake Pedder controversy is developing within Victoria. "If present plans are allowed to proceed, the Mitchell River Gorge will be flooded and so obliterated to provide irrigation water. The Mitchell River has been claimed to be one of the two remaining wild rivers in Australia and the Gorge is a spectacular piece of landscape within an area proposed as an extension of The Glenaladale National Park". VNPA Newsletter, April 1972.

Victoria's 24th National Park

A total of 162 acres  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of the Calder Highway beyond Keilor including the Organ Pipes was gazetted as a National Park on March 1st 1972. At the MUMC ACM, Don Saunders, chief Planning Officer for the National Parks Authority stated that to preserve the Pipes, rockclimbing would probably be banned.

Membership List and Mailing Wrappers

Bob Cannon is to be thanked for the work involved in computerising MUMC's membership list. The system he has produced necessitates punching membership details onto cards. Various programs sort the data alphabetically for membership list purposes and according to post code for mailing wrappers. It is rumoured that for a random visit to Bobs room in the Stats department, there is a probability of .847 of finding him working on Mountaineering business. It is also rumoured that in true Orienteering style, he needs only 153/2 double step paces to get from his desk to the University's new Cyber computer.

Competition from LUMC

LUMC recently organised a successful orienteering contest. They are now planning to hold a 24 Hour Orienteering event as a warm up for MUMC's 24, and I/V orienteering in August ('Crapon' Vol3, No 1)

Another OXO Overseas Bound

It is rumoured that Geof Fagan is being attracted by the snow slopes in Europe. He is possibly leaving within a fortnight.

'South Australia Bound' is the 'Sleuth JB'

Afterrrrrturning from three months mountaineering and scientifically experimenting in the glacial regions of West New Guinea, John Bennet may soon be heading towards Adelaide for a senior demonstrating position.



What Did Happen at last Year's I/V 24 Hour Walk?

Macquarie University Mountaineering Societies 1971 year book comments incredulously about the 'Melbourne Uni Mens Team who ferried the girls team across ... a flooded river.. piggy back style.' No mention of this in the report handed into the committee last year.

Beechworth Invaded

Prior to receiving 'Tickets of Leave', Kaye Paton and Robyn Rattray Wood are working out their bondage to the Ed. Dept at Beechworth Highschool

-oXo-

CONSERVATION ACTION WITHIN MUMC

It became obvious to me that MUMC did not have the machinery to enter into meaningful dialogue on matters of conservation. Apart from the actions of a few individuals, MUMC as a whole has just paid lip-service to conservation. MUMC is associated with a number of conservation bodies but in no instance has it been at the forefront of any conservation action and nor has it done anything but lend its name to actions of others.

Most conservation action in this state has been preservationist. It is not the trees of Linacre Rd Hampton which should be of concern to us; it is the forests and roads in our walking areas which are of prime importance. Since its inception the VNPA has had a policy of an Alpine National Park but despite 20 odd years this has not become a reality. It is areas such as these which we should be concerned about both as individuals and as a body.

The legislation setting up the Land Conservation Council is one of the most forward pieces of conservation legislation in the world. It is at the present time formulating policies of land usage which will shape development of unalienated land for many years to come. The recognition of walking and other outdoor activities as a legitimate form of recreation and the planning necessary to make this possible for all time in something approaching natural surroundings should be one of the prime aims of MUMC. The LCC can only formulate policy when it is given information representing our views.

It is for reasons such as the above that I moved the motions setting up a conservation sub-committee within MUMC. This committee needs a formal structure to provide a continuing basis for its existence. I envisage it having 5 members viz:-



Convenor, Secretary, Research Officer, Publicity Officer, and Protest Officer.

Within this framework there would be room for as many other people to help with the many facets necessary to make the contributions of MUMC valuable in the area of conservation.

There has been an interim meeting of interested people and discussions have taken place with the committee. The only real question to be answered is how heavily committed we should become and if there is a complete committee just how far this should be taken publically bearing in mind clause 37 of the constitution which prohibits the Club taking part in controversy involving politics without the express approval of a special general meeting.

I would welcome any comments on these matters and anyone willing to actively take part in the functioning of this sub-committee should contact me, Nicholas White (304154 home, 386997 work)

-oXo-

#### CANOEING

The canoers are active at work parties and on trips, however they are a little lax at writing articles for the Mountaineer.

If you would like to go to I/V canoeing in first term vac, or would like to keep in contact with the canoers, please attend their work parties held every Thursday night at the rear of 59 Chapman St., North Melbourne, 7:30pm.

-oXo-

#### SPECIAL.....SALE

Australian Woolen Shirts.

Size 'M' (and others if there is a demand.

Superior to the NZ shirt,

Cost \$7-00 or \$7-50 if posted.

Contact the Stores Officer if interested.



THE BEGINNERS WEEKEND - NON BEGINNERS WALK - WILSONS PROM.

Report of a light-weight scrub bash along the Vereca Range, March 18-19, by Dave Crewther.

Lead admirably by Pat with taxi service provided by Carla van M. we escaped from Melbourne on the Friday evening by about nine o'clock only stopping to pick up five gallons of shellite (cheaper that way) and also stopping when we realised that Pat had left his boots at home. Fortunately, Pat's feet and Arnold's gym boots are compatible so we did not have to turn back.

Half-past midnight saw us at the first gate on the five-mile beach road, with the glorious prospect of three hours sleep to follow. By sunrise we were to be seen racing along the Vereker range with daypacks on our backs weighing less than forty-five pounds between the three of us.

To our surprise we came across an old road benched with 25' trees growing in it (perhaps timber-getting) which led to the top of the first big bumps on the range. Our progress slowed somewhat when we were confronted by areas of eight foot high unpenetrable scrub. Adopting legendary "south-west" techniques, we threw Pat on top of the bushes and walked over him, the process being repeated with the other members of the party.

At last we reached the top of another big bump and had lunch wondering where we were. In front of us, rising like a citadel above five mile creek was Mt. Latrobe, but Mt. Vereker was nowhere to be seen. Mt. Vereker should have been the next hill about 200 feet higher than we were, but after taking back bearings on five-mile peak and Mt. Leonard we decided the contour map was wrong by about 100 to 150 ft. vertically. Another hour saw us on top of Mt. Vereker surely one of the most unimpressive mountains on the prom. We then set off into the valley of five-mile creek, and set up camp on a small tributary, amid a forest of eucalypts about 150 ft. high. The groundsheet was abdulled and the fire kept alight for most of the night by anyone who woke up and felt cold (no sleeping bags). The next day was a pleasant creek bash, watching the native trout and foot long blackfish. The forest continues almost all the way down the creek to five-mile beach, but it changes in character including mixed eucalypts, lilly-pillies and the occasional beech.

About a mile from the beach, in order to avoid the swamps we headed on to a ridge to the south and by magnificent navigation picked up a taped track leading out to five mile beach.



A swim, lunch and a three hour rock-hop saw us at (4.30 p.m.)

Arnold, having been affected by the lurgi or perhaps the dreaded spon was a little slow, so we were overtaken by darkness at Windy Saddle. Here the twelve boxes of matches we carried came in handy. Pat went out for a torch and Carla, and we finally reached Oberon car park at about 8.30 p.m. - certainly a trip well worth doing - once.

-oXo-

### ORIENTEERING

Tony Kerr

Although the day of the event was the one wet day sandwiched in a fortnight of fine weather, the MUMC organised contest at Korweinguboorra on Sunday 9th April was a good success. Periods of rain interspersed with sunshine did not deter the many novices, over 50, from enjoying the course which was set in undulating state Forest twelvemiles north of Ballan.

The instructional evening on Friday 7th was attended by over 120 who were introduced to Orienteering with talks on map and compass work - Tony Kerr, navigation - Alex Tarr, Orienteering in Sweeden - Sture Lantz, and course setting - Tom Andrews. The evening was supported with two good Orienteering films and a third on the great Australian past-time of dropping litter.

### Coming Events

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 27 April   | VOA Annual General Meeting, Sisalkraft lecture theatre at 7:30pm. |
| 30 April   | Alex Tarr <sup>+</sup>  |
| 21 May     | Ron Frederick <sup>+</sup>  |
| 18 June    | Ian Baker   |
| 24-25 June | 24 Hour Walk <sup>+</sup>   |

<sup>+</sup>These events are MUMC organised events.

Details of venues will be at Aikmans Road the week before the contest. Transport is in private cars and there will be a list of car drivers at Aikmans for you to ring if you require transport.

### Queens Birthday Orienteering

Dave Hogg and his Canberra Orienteers are setting a number of contests in Canberra to which Orienteers from Melb. and Sydney will be going. Contact Tony Kerr if you are interested in going.

-oXo-



ROCK CLIMBING 1972

Climbing within MUMC,  
past, present and future  
by Tim Hancock.

Introduction

For many years, MUMC was predominantly climbing club, and was responsible for the beginnings of climbing in Victoria. In fact, the V.C.C. began around 1952 as an off-shoot of MUMC. Many climbing trips in the late 1940's and 1950's from MUMC notably those led by Prof. Cherry and Bill Bewsher were responsible for the opening up of the south-west of Tasmania to climbers, particularly in the Federation Peak area. Bob Jones, in the early 60's went to Tasmania with MUMC parties, and climbed the N.W. face of Federation Peak, and the east face of Mt. Geryon both still acknowledged "big" routes. A little later, it was MUMC climbers who were responsible for early ascents on the finest cliffs in Victoria, notably on Mt. Aripilias and in the Grampians.

The last few years, however, have seen a split in the ranks of MUMC as the climbers and bush-walkers have slowly drifted apart. Why?

The blame cannot be laid squarely on the climbers, but a large part of the responsibility must be taken by the fact that rock-climbing has undergone, since about 1966, something that is little short of a revolution.

What has happened all over the world, is that a "technology" has grown up around the sport. New equipment, mainly from America, and new attitudes, originating in England, have made climbs possible that were previously only dreamed of. But this has only been made with some sacrifice, for the increasingly specialised equipment demands a specialist knowledge, available only to those who are prepared to devote a great deal of time to climbing, and those people are those whose personal drive and ambition finds greatest satisfaction in pushing back the realm of the impossible. Climbers have always been natural egocentrics, but lately such egocentricity has become almost a cult and one can see this originating largely from England.

I question the predominance of such values, and many others are doing the same, but it must be realised that climbing (of all types) is an essentially individual sport. To kill the individualism would kill the sport, and something that we, as climbers, value most, but the egocentric, competitive, "I'm all right, Jack", attitude is the least attractive side of such individualism.



History\*

I want to talk for a moment about the history of rock-climbing. During the 19th century, the so-called "Golden Age" of mountaineering saw large numbers of Englishmen climbing in the Alps. However, they could only spend a few short weeks there, and they needed to practise, so what better place to do it than on their cliffs and crags at home in England?

The first acknowledged climb was "Nape's Needle" in the Lake District, about 1893. From that time, all British mountaineers have been foremost as rock-climbers on British crags, among them George Mallory lost on Everest in 1924, and Don Whillans, the best climber on the Everest expedition last year. I don't propose to go into the history of British climbing, which can be gleaned from the referendes to various articles and books at the end. I will move straight to Australia.

British ideas and conceptions about climbing didn't begin to filter through to Australia until the early 1960's, though much basic scrambling, and the odd harder climb had been done in the previous 20 years. Around 1962 there was a sudden explosion of standards, both in the V.C.C. and in N.S.W. where Englishman Bryden Allen, and John Ewbank began climbing seriously and hard in the Blue Mountains.

In Victoria, most effort was concentrated in the Sugarloaf-Jawbones area near Marysville until about 1963, when the Craddock's discovered Arapilies. About the same time, there was a great influx of very young, very keen climbers, who pushed standards sky-high very suddenly, and gave rise to the legend of the 'Arapilies bred Tigers'. Among these were John Moore, Chris Dewhurst, John Ewbank (when he occassionally came south) all very young - around 15 and 16 years old at this time, and also Chris Baxter, Peter Jackson, MUMC climbers Ian Guild, Ian Speedie, Jim Newlands, and Mike Stone, were also to the fore, not to mention John Bennett and Phil Seccombe. All this activity at Arapilies resulted in the publication of the first V.C.C. guidebook in 1966.

It is probably best to speak now about developments which had occurred in America since 1944, and have since had a profound effect on Australian climbing in particular. The Yosemite Valley in California offers the steepest, most solid, and most accesible rock walls in the world. In fact they are so steep and large (around 3000') that a new method of climbing had to be evolved to tackle them. European climbing was of a predominately "free" nature. That is to say, the climber used his hands and feet to climb the rock in much the same way as climbing a ladder, and only resorted to "mechanical" climbing where he bangs pegs and bolts into the rock and hangs off then by using special equipment, where he had to. For this sort of climbing, the Europeans evolved a galvanised peg made of mild steel.



Because the Yosemite walls were so steep and long, they have to be climbed almost totally by mechanical means, and the European system was no good because mild steel pegs can only be used once or twice, so the Americans designed new pegs of very hard steel, and a whole new mechanical climbing technique.

These techniques found acceptance in Australia more easily than in Europe where an ethical practice had evolved about the placement of pegs. This was particularly so in Britain where peg placing has been regarded somewhat as sacrilege. In Australia, we owe our ethical practice of peg placement - wherever you need one, place one - to American influence. It is also these techniques which have made the great walls of the Mt. Buffalo Gorge climbable, resulting in routes like "Ozym'dias". More "names" to know in relation to American climbing are Yvon Chouinard maker of the world's finest equipment and Royal Robbins, developer of Yosemite techniques.

It was in the winter of 1966 that Phil Seccombe and Ian Guild, both MUMC climbers, teamed up with 2 V.C.C. climbers to produce Australia's first long, granite, mechanical climb using American techniques. The result was the classic "Fuhrer" in the Buffalo Gorge. Earlier in the year, Mike Stone and Ian Speedie had been involved in the first ascent of the wall, when the predominantly free route Emperor was climbed.

At the same time as these first climbs at Buffalo were being done, much of the interest had left Arapilies and turned to the Grampians. The whole Grampians - area is predominantly sand stone of a very solid kind, and the Grampians offer some very big cliffs. Perhaps the biggest is Mt. Rosea. It was on this cliff, and the smaller Bundaleer behind it, on which the climbers now concentrated their free climbing. Some classic routes, and some very hard routes resulted. Amongst these can be counted the renowned "Blimp" and "Requiem", both desaterately difficult. Eventually climbers moved throughout the Grampians, climbing on all the cliffs. The one which holds most affection for MUMC climbers must be Mt. Stapylton with its multi-coloured cliffs. Almost every route, with only one exception has been the result of an MUMC rope, and most of the 2nd ascents as well.

At this time, John Ewbank, with various partners, climbed personally, around 400 new routes in the Blue Mountains, published a guide book single handed, and achieved complete dominance of the Australian climbing scene. It is to him that we owe the introduction of American equipment and techniques. In early 1967, Ewbank went south to Tasmania, and the huge quartzite faces of Frenchman's Gap with Dewhurst, Baxter and "Sparrow" - all V.C.C. members. Some mighty climbs, the biggest in Australia resulted, all around 1500' in length on some of the hardest rock in the world. Dewhurst and Baxter also repeated Bryden Allen's magnificent "Sydney Route", first done in 1965, and acknowledged now as one of the classiest climbs in the country.



In 1969, Dewhurst and Baxter climbed the huge Ozymandias in the Buffalo Gorge - a 950' 2 day route, and began the real opening up of Buffalo. Since 1970 all eyes have been on Buffalo, and everyone who is anyone in the country has been there to climb. The Buffalo scene has attracted many MUMC climbers in the last few years, namely Andrew Thomson, Gordon Talbett, Peter Mc Keand and Tim Hancock, but our climbing has been done really as members of the V.C.C. and this has caused an alarming drop in purely MUMC activity.

In the last year, MUMC climbing has dropped away to almost nothing because of this great rush at Buffalo, but although there may still be big routes left there, the activity is going to lessen. In the future there will be more opportunity for MUMC club trips, and a revival of club climbing activity. As has happened in Britain, I believe that the clubs will get stronger as climbing becomes more accepted, and the intense competitiveness of the Buffalo scene dies away.

That, in a rather large nutshell, is how climbing happened to Australia, what in part, it is all about, and what I personally would like to see happen for MUMC in the next few years.

Some References: (all are available in the MUMC library)

1. For General Interest:

- The White Spider - Heinrich Harrer
- Rope Boy - Dennis Gray
- Mallory of Everest - Showell Styles
- Annapurna South Face - Chris Bonnington
- Encyclopedia of Modern Mountaineering.
- MOUNTAIN MAGAZINE: No. 4 - Yosemite
- No. 11 - Truckin' my blues away - Robinson
- No. 12 - Article by Tom Frost
- No. 18 - Interview with Royal Robbins
- Tis sa ack Royal Robbins
- Up Against it - J. M. Edwards

2. For Instructional Purposes

- Mountaineering Alan Blackshaw (Penguin)
- Basic Rockcraft (not in library) - Royal Robbins
- V.C.C. Rockclimbing Guides series
- Rockclimbing Guide to the Blue Mountains - J Ewbank



A BASIC MOUNTAINEERING INSTRUCTION COURSE IN NEW ZEALAND

A report on a course in New Zealand that has fitted many Mountaineers with the skills for Alpine Climbing by Brenda Kaye.

Introduction

Australia is a large flat continent providing ample space for hikers and rocks for climbers, but is sadly lacking in mountains if they want to be mountaineers. The snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps of New Zealand are the obvious answer and Australians migrate across the Tasman each summer; they have even formed their own section of the New Zealand Alpine Club. When I decided to go I knew no-one over there, but I could get cheaper fares to Christchurch and Mountaineering Instruction through N.Z.A.C.

From a distance it was difficult to decide which of the three courses - Basic, Intermediate or Advanced - to take. The N.Z.A.C. journal advised to take the Basic Course unless you had experience that reached that standard. My climbing friends considered that the Intermediate Course would be preferable and more challenging (I didn't need to learn rockclimbing for instance) and more-for-your-money. Doubting my standard of fitness I settled for the Basic Course. Later on I found instructors to be of divided opinions also.

The great adventure began with a nightsleeping on the floor of the Spirit of Progress. On arrival at Sydney Central I caught a taxi to Mascot Aerodrome with barely time to weigh in (charter flights don't have a weight allowance I learnt just too late) and clomber into the aeroplane clad in my heaviest clothing and snow boots. Meg and Kerry who were also on my course were on the plane and we met again after a late night shopping spree, spending the night at 101 Rugby Street, the climbers Mecca. Bob arrived in the small hours after his charter flight had been under booked by Quantas and he had to be re-routed through Auckland and Wellington.

On Christmas morning Meg and Kerry took a plane to Mt. Cook. Bob, I, and Kurt who we met on the bus economised and saw the country by road, but we missed the spectacular approach views due to rain and cloud. We stayed at Unwin, the NZAC hut which was two miles walk from the shop, Kurt stayed nearer at the Youth Hostel for 10c. less but we considered the company and amenities superior. Sunday weather remained dreary but in a fit of energy Kurt and I broke in our boots on Mt. Sebastapol for a close look at the rain and mist.



The Course

The course began on Monday at 4 p.m. in front of the Alpine Guides Centre - they run the course. The clear sunshine tempted us to stroll up the Hooker Valley. Tourist brochures are justified in praising its spectacular views. Then we assembled at the Tavern Bar till a big red four wheeled furniture van arrived to transport us the twelve dusty winding miles to Ball Hut.

Our residence was an old rambling ski chalet perched on a 400 ft. moraine wall above the Tasman glacier. We settled in and met the other course members - a motley crew of 9 Aussies, 5 Kiwis, a Canadian and an American all told, but we got on well together. Julia divided us into groups for cooking, washing up and sweeping and oversaw our meal preparations. After tea we had an introductory lecture and were introduced to our instructors - Mike the singing swearing priest, Mike the sexy legged lepidopterist Kiwi and the Canadian "wee Brian". This was the first of regular nightly lectures on equipment, first aid, avalanches and what we had been doing wrong that day. Our equipment list had been appropriately amended and an interesting discussion on the local types of yeti traps ensued.

On Tuesday we braved squally weather for a dash up the hill behind the hut to the snow line. The pace set by our fit instructors was telling on us. Once on the soft slushy snow we roped up and endeavoured to practice self-arrest and belaying, but it was so soft the ice axes flipped out sideways unless the falling victim came to a stop in the porridge first. It wasn't the right conditions for giving confidence at belaying and the occasional breaks in the weather allowing glimpses of the Caroline Fade hardly compensated for the dreary mist and rain; we were soaked and demoralised.

Fortunately our spirits were raised the next day when, although the weather remained fairly consistently bad, we ventured down on to the Tasman glacier for ice work. We were instructed on a fifty foot high steep blue-ice wall (serac) near the tourist path. Chopping steps at first we happily showered each other with ice chips, fell off or drew reprimands from the instructors for going too high. Then we put on crampons and after some adventurous first moves gained confidence and skill in standing sideways on a huge ice-block with just the spike ends for grip. We swarmed over the lower serac, sideways, up, down, turning, traversing and front pointing, and after some ice screw practice and elementary belay practice achieved greater heights. A poor aspect of this was that the de effect of crampon spikes on rope was not explained; in fact an instructor was seen to stand on his rope.

As Thursday was less showery we learned rock climbing on some unrepresentatively solid rock (unlike the usual wheat bix). Instruction was very basic including abseiling and prussicking,



but stressed safety. I found myself unfamiliar with the thick stiff snow boots and climbing in crampons was a unique and useful experience.

Friday's weather was so bad we had a card playing morning. We were beginning to think (rightly) that the fine weather for our promised bivoac and real mountain climb would not eventuate. As rain matters very little when river crossing, that afternoon we braved a branch of the melt water from the Tasman glacier - you can imagine how cold. We sent special orders to the (exorbitantly expensive) TavernBar to stock up for a New Years Eve party.

It was Julia's night off so the cooks had a free hand in the kitchen and turned on a feast. Our 6 course menu was a work of art from the ginger and fresh roasted peanuts to the beer and Bicardi with coke ghasers. We sung and joked till sleep overtook us, only a handful of stalwartssaw the New Year in by candlelight.

I was raised at some unearthly hour of the morning because a hideous coincidence had rostered me for breakfast as well. We were to do our long promised climb - a steep spur of Mt. Waterfield. Climbing up a scree slide is very strenuous I found. But when facing uphill it is easy to dodge rocks dislodged by those above. Undaunted by the occasional shower we pressed on till the way was blocked by a rotten cheval ridge buffeted by gusty strong winds, then we retreated. 18 people descending a loose rocky ridge is no joke, a loose rotten scree chute is even worse and we hadn't been warned to bring helmets. I learnt lots of respect and distrust of the man above and not to stay too long in the probable path of any rocks he launches.

Sunday was appropriately wet and we practiced crevasse rescue from the garage rafters. Our final lecture included suggestions of places to go in New Zealand to apply our new-found skills, for the course did not pretend to be a preparation for climbing in the Mt. Cook National Park which was considered too dangerous for us just yet. Question time enabled me to ask about how to glissade. The instructors on this course considered glissading too dangerous to mention except to dissuade us from it. (unlike other basic courses which did teach it formerly, I have found). This I think was an unfortunate weakness as despite its danger it is often done, everyone I have climbed with since used the technique both in safe and unsafe conditions and it is safer if one has had prior instruction on how to do it. In certain circumstances such as descending by the same route the possibility of falling into crevasses or striking an icy patch can be discounted and often it is a justifiable means of saving vital time. Later on a girl in my party sustained a dangerous fall and severe grazes by stepping onto untested icy snow because she hadn't learnt how to glissade properly and safely.



Discussion

We all enjoyed the Basic Instruction Course, even Mary who had not been on a hike before or since admitted to enjoying most of it. The consistently bad weather reduced our activities in range and distance compared to other courses. All of those other courses I have discussed with participants have had superb sunny weather which gave a magnificent scenic backdrop to their activities, and they could hike up the Tasman glacier, have a bivoac before climbing Mt. Chudleigh or climb some other easier mountain. One consolation, however was that we could have been worse off during that week of bad weather, like those who flew into the high huts and were stranded with dwindling food supplies at \$1.75 per night; at least we were doing something useful.

The \$48 fee covering accomodation, food, tuition and general equipment excluding boots, crampons, axe and snow clothing. It is well worth it unless you can get a willing, patient, experienced, mountaineer friend to go to some trouble teaching you. Unless you have had some experience yourself you don't really know who you can trust, and meeting such people is also difficult. No set standard is achieved on these courses, in fact they would be extremely variable according to the weather, the instructors (whether young, old, experienced or unfortunately less experienced), the instructor to instructor ratio and what you yourself make of it. But it has some prestige in being of some help next time you try to talk a climber into doing the Grand Traverse of Cook with you.

-oXo-





HEAVEN IS A CHOCOLATE BISCUIT AT 8:23

OR

PASS THE CELERY

Report of the intrepid  
ascent of Mt. Wilson on the  
beginners weekend, March  
18-19, lead by Clay.

Departing immediately the van stopped at the carpark we were away to the saddle which we soon reached after minor scuffles with a snake and a beginners party of Monash walkers. Here Laurie decided it was a good time to have a blister so we waited as the multitude we had left at the carpark began to arrive. Then we were away again; leaving the track for the scrubby ridge that is the Wilson range.

We were soon crawling up logs, scrambling over rocks, and generally doing everything possible to avoid the inevitable - pushing through Wilson's Prom scrub - The prom is the only place in Victoria where the scrub is thickest on the top of the ridges. We soon graded the scrub into two types - less than 6' high and prickly; and over 6' high and growing too close together to fit a pack through. (It should be explained we did find two areas devoid of scrub - these will be mentioned later).

At 1 o'clock we reached a spectacular rocky outcrop commanding outstanding views of the valleys below and the sea beyond. Best of all it received a breeze which was most welcome as Huey in keeping with his 1972 tactics had laid on another sizzling, cloudless day, having found last year that torrential rains or even just heavy rain would not keep CLAY away. After lunching here we passed onto a saddle from which broadcreek valley descended. Here we collected some water to replenish our dwindling supplies. We pressed on to the summit, placing our names amongst the others in the logbook, where the word insane seemed to be particularly prevalent.

Following directions given by a person who shall remain anonymous, for fear of reprisals, we headed SE. Although the terrain was steep it continued to drop away at every step. Finally Dave scouted ahead, and having reached a spot 1' horizontally out from us, having descended 20' to do so, declared we were on top of the cliffs which stretched away, ad infinitum on all sides. Knowing we did not have enough daylight to "walk" around to the end of the cliffs, and the map not telling us which way was quickest, we decided we would have to go back the way we had come.



Sunset saw us still climbing upwards and we stumbled onto the summit in failing light to a scene of magnificent splendour. The sky was pale red and the sea silver, silouetting the black islands and rugged granduer of Mts. Oberon and Norgate. The golden moon was slowly setting below us.

Here I should mention the two clear spots we saw on our entire trip. One was the cliffs, which were too steep to sleep on, and the other was the summit itself, where we now slowly set up camp - the combined effect of thick scrub and hot sun having taken its toll.

Not expecting a dry camp (we had 1" of water left in one water bottle) we scoured our packs for suitable food. Amazing scenes followed. After an entree of dates, Dale's solitary stick of celery was divided five ways and slowly devoured; Laurie's small tin of peaches followed; other small oddments were favourably received, and for the crowning touch GLAY supplied all and sundry with two chocolate biscuits each. Unbelieveable was the spirit of comradeship and joviality evolved in what could easily have been an extremely miserable evening.

Being in such high spirits we decided to OXO all the poor people trapped in their overcrowded and viewless camps below us. To our great astonishment a reply was heard. A Monash party also without water was sharing our mountain; not far, yet too faraway to attempt a visit. In fact even the next day we did not see them; perhaps they are still wondering around the mountain looking for the summit.

After finishing our "huge" meal we lay the tent across us and tried to sleep, but the magnificence of the starfilled sky overhead and the newborn spirit between us swept away our fatigue and we laughed and joked as the milky way turned slowly overhead.

We woke the next morning to see the sunrise far below. (Mountain tops are recommended as the ideal place for such events) We hastily packed, shared what food we had, and set off for "breakfast" minutes later saw us back in the creek valley with three gallons of water, this being all the creek could supply. At 9 o'clock "breakfast" was served - surely the strangest array ever assembled for such an hour. Dale's breakfast was steak, piled high with lettuce tomato and cheese. Dave dined mince steak, Laurie and Glay were unimpressive with farmhouse stew and chowmein but supplemented this with samples from all the others, particularly Jim, who was finding seven sausages a bit much for one breakfast. We all ate and drank too much, such was our delight at our first water in nearly a day, and then stood in awed silence as the excess water was poured onto the smouldering fire. What sacrilege it seemed, having drained the creek dry to have to throw away the last of the water.



After a slight pause we hit a great pade down the mountain arriving without incident at the carpark, whereupon having seen no-one and finding no vans we pushed on to Tidal River to find we were the first back. A refreshing dip in the sea turned into an experience as the water stung our scratches. A quick adjournment to the showers, from where after a powder fight, we emerged looking almost human again; ready though not wanting, to face the noisy, unfriendly tedium that city life entails.

The leader GLAY

The "beginners" Dave Wishart, Dale Jones, Jim Keary

The odd "man" out Laurie Patrick.

-oXo-

#### REPORT ON LAKE PEDDER

Les Southwell

The HEC has succeeded in convincing the public that Pedder is but gone. However, despite rumours to the contrary, the Serpentine is still several miles away from the lake and it is likely that the waters will not rise until winter. Furthermore, if the valve on the Serpentine dam is opened in the spring, Pedder would recover from its soaking with little serious damage. This could be election time and the Federal Labour party has indicated it would offer Tasmania the necessary financial assistance to save Pedder; the issue is far from settled yet.

The new political party, the United Tasmanian Group, arose from this issue; it has a strong conservation and quality-of-life policy. It is fielding 12 candidates, and the future of conservation in Australia over the next couple of years will be strongly influenced by the outcome of the election and of 'Pedder' itself. It could be the turning of the tide.

It is important to continue your support for the 'Pedder' issue. Any enquiries about current action concerning Pedder should be directed towards Bob Desaily (825137) or me (3473206)

-oXo-

COPY DEADLINE, 31st MAY

Short Articles and cartoons wanted.



News for the climber - We expect a shipment of SIMOND 5500 lb. alloy krabs, some plain, some anodised, some screwgate. Not sure of price yet, but \$2.40 or less. We still have PA rock boots in all sizes (and halves) from 6 to 12. We have a very few RD in large sizes. We have the Chouinard Hexentric crackers, as well as Pauligk, Troll/Odin, MOAC and Clog crackers and chocks of various shapes and sizes. In tape we have Troll orange flat  $\frac{3}{8}$ " &  $\frac{5}{8}$ ", Chouinard tubular  $\frac{1}{2}$ " blue; Tigers Web pink flat  $\frac{1}{2}$ " & 1". More Troll & Chou. expected soon. In the peg line, we are out of angles and bongs, but hoping for more in the near future. We have Leepers, RURPS, Lost Arrows, Kingpins, some knifeblades and bugaboos. We have kernmantle cord in 4mm, 5.5mm and 6mm at the moment; still waiting for 7 & 11mm (we have 150' x 9mm) not to mention the Whillans sit harnesses.

For the mountaineer, we have a reasonable selection of Terray Fitzroy high climbing boots by Galibier. These have a stiff 'Jannu' sole and a tough upper in black waterproof leather. We are sure they are the best snow and ice boot currently available in Australia. They are excellent value at \$39.50. We also have sample pairs of other Galibier high climbing boots - the Payot 'Walker' with integral snow cuff (price would be about \$55) and the 'Hivernale' (about \$85), which comes with 2 pair of separate inner boots, 1 felt, 1 leather, and was used on the 1970 Annapurna expedition for example. We have Salewa icescrews plus various ice pegs. We have one only Chouinard-Frost piolet, 55cm shaft, very curved pick. We expect a selection of the new Simond axes later in the winter, along with their new crampons. We have samples of the South Col cagoule and bivi-bag/tent. We have a Point Five (English) 'Elephant Foot' sleeping bag and expect more of their high quality down products (duvets as well as sleeping bags) later in the winter.

For the ski-tourer, we are getting a selection of gear but none has arrived as yet. Patience.

Not a great deal new for the bushwalker, but the shipment of Trámper boots is selling fast. If you want a really solid pack, we have the New Zealand Hallmark 'Everest' which is a replica of the old standard Mountain Mule, but not made by Bevan Napper. The price is \$46.50, but it should last as long as the old Mules. We have a good selection of Twenty Below and Everest sleeping bags, also of the Puradown range.

Cheers, Lock



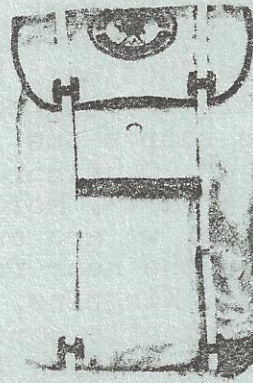
# FEATHERLITE

## KIMPTON'S 'MOUNTAIN MULE' PACK

Weight-Saving Starts  
with the PACK!

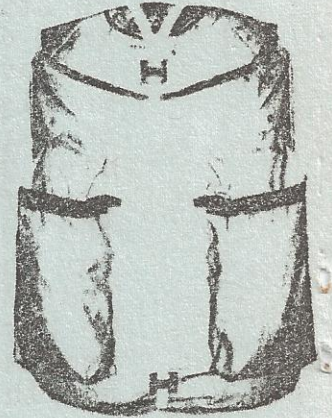


Terylene strapping is used for greater strength, less weight and its non-stretch properties.



Featherlite II has double bag-strapping, 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-strapping 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" nickel 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

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,

ARCTIC



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 389-1239, Adelaide 57-8624, Brisbane 2-2354.