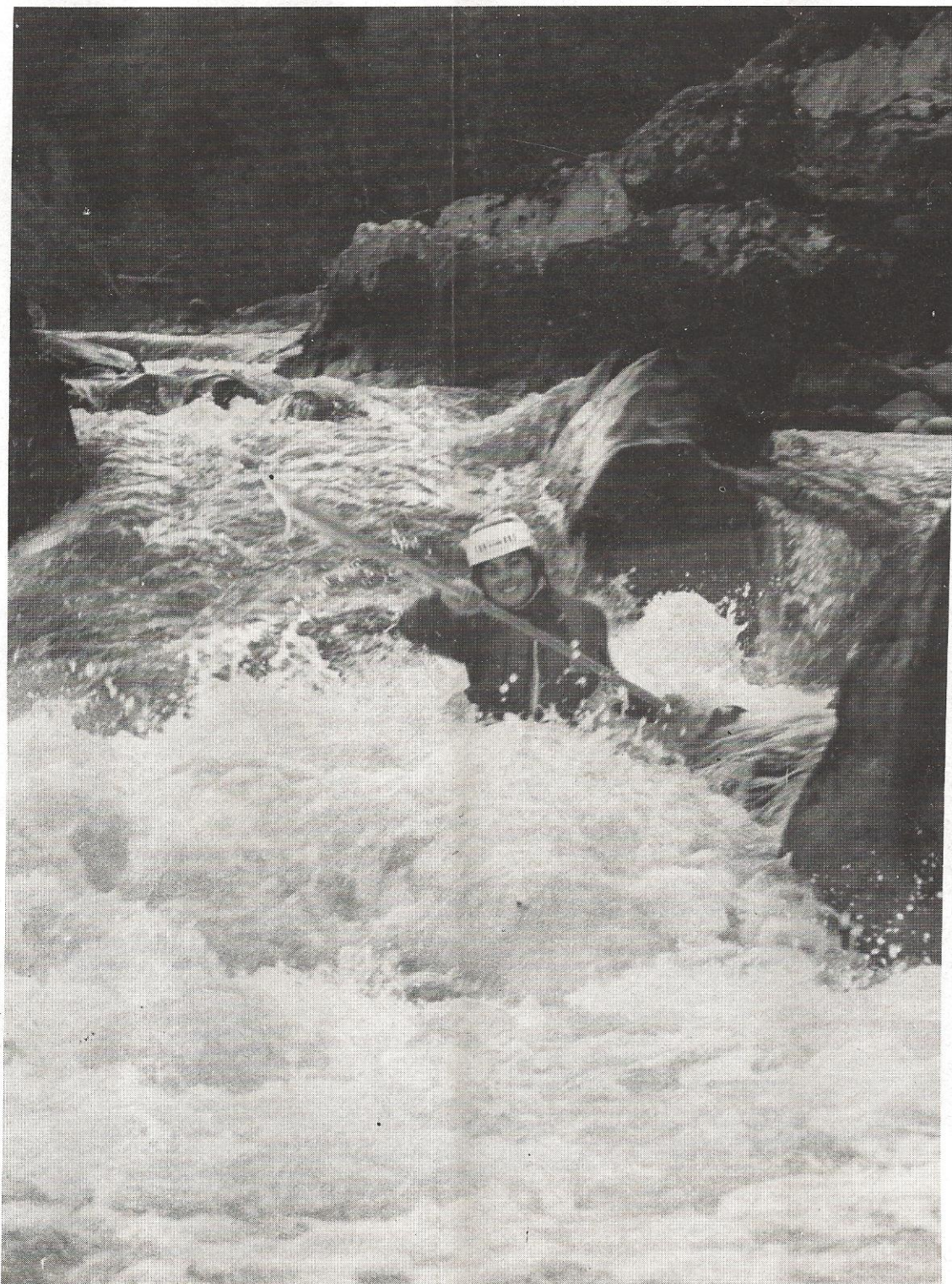


the
MOUNTAINEER

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
c/o BEAUREPAIRE CENTRE,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE,
PARKVILLE, VICTORIA, 3052



SHARKS TEETH RAPID, MITTA MITTA RIVER
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* * * * *

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* * * * *

The New Bureaucrats

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Skiing	: Andrew Rothfield	19 Devorgilla Ave., Toorak	208500
Caving	: Sue White	123 Manningham Rd., Parkville	3284154
Orienteering	: Tony Kerr	5 Beleura Ave., Vermont	8742726

* * * * *

EDITORIAL

Nearly everyone of you who reads this Mountaineer is in some way involved in mountaineering activities. The question as to why we are "mountaineers" is not often considered although it is an important one.

Why do we go bushwalking, canoeing, climbing or caving? For everyone there is the enjoyment of the natural environment and the escape from a routine existence. In bushwalking we enjoy the scenery and the solitude. In climbing and canoeing there is fear and excitement coupled with a sense of achievement. In skiing there is the thrill of steep slopes and the beauty of a white world

But a danger lies in the fact that society, as a whole, can control, and in controlling restrict and inhibit our activities. The time for concern is when the interests of society actually conflict with our basic enjoyments. As evidence of this is the continual competition between nations in climbing the world's highest peak. The climb itself has become simply the means to an end. The aim of the Chinese expedition was, for example, "to plant the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung on the top of Everest". The reports of most Everest expeditions pay little attention to the enjoyment and personal satisfaction encountered in the climb or even to the beauty of the mountains. Mountaineers themselves must be blamed for succumbing to the political interests of their countries.

On a different level governments control our activities directly through legislation and regulations (which may mean, for example, prohibitions on camping or climbing in certain areas) and through the destruction of wilderness areas for power, wood, minerals, etc. Where there is good justification for restrictions we should observe them, but where there is not as, for example, in the banning of climbing in Nepal for political reasons in the past, we must fight to protect our interests. To do this we must be able to justify our mountaineering activities to others as well as ourselves.

We should all be conscious, therefore, of why we are mountaineers. The personal sense of enjoyment and self-fulfilment gained from our activities must never be overcome by feelings of competitiveness or political considerations. Nor must we allow the physical destruction of areas which are "the inspiration and replenishment of man's spirit".

Photos on page opposite by John Chapman

NEWS and OTHER ODDS AND ENDS

1. Those who attended the A.G.M. and have read the Secretary's report will know that we are soon to be evicted from Aikman's Rd. The Criminology Department wants the basements for storage, and so the club has been forced to make negotiations with the Sports Union for new accommodation. The Sports Union have offered us the use of the old Meteorology building until 1982 (this is situated on Tin Alley between the Sports Union building and Newman College Lane).
2. (i) Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering is to be re-edited this year by Nick Reeves, Jol Shelton and Tina Buckland.
(ii) The club needs an editor/co-ordinator for a new edition of "Guide to the Victorian Alps".
3. The store is to go metric as soon as possible. As this task is in the hands of a Stores Officer known to oppose such a change, it is questionable how soon the task will actually be completed!
4. Both the NSW Ski Association and the A.S.F. have set up recreational committees. The NSW recreational committee, with an allocation of only \$20, set up the first NSW non-commercial snow report. The national committee has broader aims and hopes to co-ordinate and promote the interests of recreational skiers in all states, particularly in the areas of communications.
5. Avalanche Plea. The International Commission on Snow and Ice is still seeking information on avalanches in Australia. The commission hopes to hear from skiers who may have information on avalanches in their country, regardless of whether they cause destruction of life or property.

Information should be forwarded to U. Radok, Meteorology Dept., Melbourne University, Parkville, Vic., 3052.
6. The rockclimbing guide to the Warrumbungles came to Melbourne recently. A tatty publication for its high price, it is certain to be another controversial publication. However, one inexcusable act is the advice given in the camping notes page 64:

"A well secreted gun may come in handy for a likely feast of wild goat or pork if you are lucky."

We always thought that National Parks were for the protection of wild life and where you could go without guns going off all around you. One Melbourne store has sent its copies back due to that recommendation.

News and Other Odds and Ends .. (cont'd)

7. Gretel Lamont is now living in America. Her current address is:

305 Cascadilla St.,
ITHACA, N.Y., 14850.

She would appreciate any letters or news.

8. The Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs will be held on Tuesday, 3rd May, 1977 at 8 p.m. at A.C.F. Headquarters, 364 Albert St., East Melbourne.

"Exactly how many forests have you saved?" Tony Marian replying to a censure motion moved against him by Mike Feller.

Notes from the A.G.M.

As only 80 people attended the A.G.M. on March 31st, it was decided to reprint some of the information given in the reports to the meeting.

Firstly, thanks go to the 1976 committee for their hard work. They were:-

President	: Jol Shelton	Editor of Mountaineer	: Nick Reeves
Vice President	: Gretel Lamont	Stores Officer	: Tony Marian
Secretary	: Robert Jacobs	Canoeing Rep.	: John Templar
Asst. Secretary	: Tina Buckland	Climbing Rep.	: Peter Megens
Treasurer	: Neil Blundy	Caving Rep.	: Sue White
Trips Secretary	: Ian Moore	Orienteering	: Tony Kerr
Conservation	: Mike Feller	Ski touring	: Andrew Rothfield

Summary of Trips: April, 1976 - March, 1977 (1975 figures in brackets)

	<u>No. of Trips</u>	<u>No. of People</u>
Bushwalking	80 (53)	738 (449)
Rockclimbing	48 (43)	363 (231)
Canoeing	22 (26)	141 (197)
Ski-touring	37 (16)	169 (74)
Caving	12 (4)	39 (30)
Alpine Climbing (Aus.)	2	31
Conservation	1 (0)	6 (0)
	202 (142)	1487 (981)

At the end of 1976 MUMC had 750 members. It was considered that our contact with the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs was important enough to warrant the appointment of the Vice President to the position of FVWC delegate. The exchange of ideas between MUMC and F.V.W.C was benefitted by this move. MUMC involvement in FVWC matters has also increased this year with the election of Andrew Rothfield to the Treasurer's position and Michael Feller as conservation convenor of FVWC.

TRIPS PROGRAMME .. (cont'd)

April 24 Event : Orienteering - Shelly State Forest

April 27 Event : Victorian Orienteering Association A.G.M.
 Location : Sisalkraft Theatre 8 p.m.

April 31- Event : Bushwalking - Moroka Gorge
 May 1 A very rugged and beautiful gorge, with
 many superb waterfalls.
 Leader : Ross Seedsman (83-4497)
 Standard : Medium

May 21-22 Event : Intervarsity 24 Hour Walk

MUMC is hosting the I.V. "24 Hour" this year. As well as people to compete in the two MUMC teams, many others will be needed to help organize and run the event, in particular - numerous officials and helpers will be required on the weekend of the event.

People wishing to help should contact John Stone (347-7905)
SOON! Competitors should contact Dave Caddy (528-3840)

* * * * *



Nick Reeves
President



Prue Dobbin
Vice President



Daren Fawkes
Secretary



Ross Seedsman
Ass. Secretary



Neil Blundy
Treasurer



Cathie Seccombe
Editor



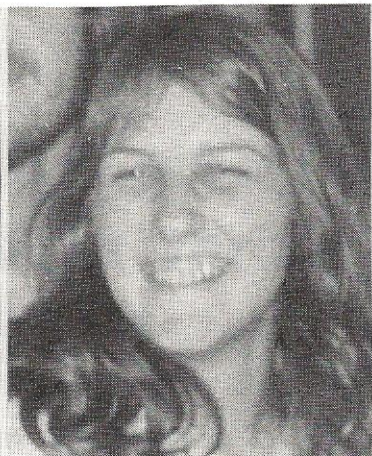
David Caddy
Bushwalking



Tony Marian
Stores Officer



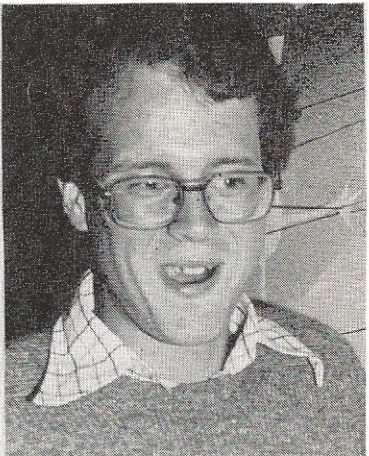
Michael Feller
Conservation



Karen Roberts
Canoeing



Sue White
Caving



Hugh Foxcroft
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Andrew Rothfield
Ski-Touring



Tony Kerr
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CONSERVATION NEWS

- Mike Feller

1. LCC MELBOURNE STUDY AREA.

The Final Recommendations for this study area appeared in February 1977. They are basically the same as the Proposed Recommendations which appeared last year. Boundaries have been changed slightly in some cases, usually to the detriment of conservation, in that areas for pine planting are slightly larger and some parks are slightly smaller. In general, however, these changes are rather slight.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Final Recommendations is their emphasis on compromise. Some of the simple colouring of the Proposed Recommendations maps has been replaced by dual colouring or lines over colouring indicating more than one land use is of top priority. Thus, some previously "brown" Hardwood Production area in the Thomson Valley now has a touch of yellow indicating that the forests are to be logged in such a way as not to destroy the habitat for Leadbeater's Possum. Another example is the northern part of Westernport Bay which has been designated a Wildlife Management Co-operative Area which means that it is important for fish and birds but also for recreation, commerce and industry. Thus, the Fisheries and Wildlife Division as well as the Ports and Harbours Division of the Public Works Department are responsible for managing the area.

Perhaps the major example of compromise, which was manifest also in the Proposed Recommendations is the designation of part of the Upper Yarra Valley as a multi-purpose park. This is defined as an "area of public land set aside to provide recreation and education in natural surroundings, in which other activities such as water production, hardwood timber production, stone extraction, hunting, or grazing, are permitted where these form part of, do not substantially conflict with, or supplement the primary object.

While one can not argue too strongly against these various compromises, certain reservations must be expressed. In theory these compromises are not too bad but in practice they are unlikely to be looked at favourably by people with a genuine concern for the environment. This is due very simply to the fact that conservation interests nearly always lose out to commercial development interests due to the narrow economic thinking which pervades our government and society. A department managing land for conservation purposes is usually considered to be bringing in no income (e.g. maintaining the habitat of Leadbeaters possum) whereas a department managing land for commercial purposes, (e.g. timber production) is usually considered to be helping employment and bringing in money. Although this is often not true, this type of thinking characterises our government. Consequently, when there is a clash between conservation and commercial interests, the commercial interests usually win. In our society political influence appears directly proportional to income or wealth. So, coming back to our compromise land management areas, when 2 authorities are managing an area, the authority which is managing for commercial purposes is usually more powerful and influential than the conservation authority with the result that management of the area may become a one sided affair in which case there is little point in having more than one (the more powerful) authority in charge.

CONSERVATION NEWS .. (cont'd)

In the case of the multi-purpose park, the recommended zones appear to be little more than a rationalization of the status quo. They will probably do little to change current land use, certainly within the next decade. There will probably not be too many problems in this region. However, the precedent of a multi-purpose park has been set and this is something no member of MUMC should treat lightly. Later this year (currently around June) the LCC will be releasing their Alpine Area Report and it will probably be very tempting to declare a multi-purpose park in the alps. This could be potentially tragic if activities such as logging, which are completely incompatible with most bushwalking in the alps, are allowed in the park. Most club members would be seeking a change in the status quo in the alps. A multi-purpose park there which does not change, but rather rationalizes and perpetuates the status quo could rightly be considered a fraud because it would give the illusion that outdoor recreation is being adequately considered by the government, whereas in fact it would not.

2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT THE FOOT OF MT. FEATHERTOP.

It was reported last year that Mr. Harrop had purchased land at the foot of the Northwest Spur from Mr. Jack Keating. Mr. Harrop planned to raise deer, build a fish hatchery and put up an "early settlers cottage" and build a bridge across the Ovens River from the highway to his land. He obtained a permit to divert part of Stoney Creek across his land for the fish hatchery although the fish hatchery channel has been dry all of this summer. Before he goes ahead with his other developments for his land he had to get permission from Bright Shire. In a letter from the shire, dated 17th January 1977 it was stated that Mr. Harrop's "historical park" development had not proceeded past the preliminary drawing stage and no permit related to the development had been issued. However, an area has been fenced off with a high wire fence. This is presumably for the deer.

To build a bridge across the Ovens, permission is required from both State Rivers and the Lands Department. By mid March 1977 no permission had been given but after discussions with officers of those government departments, it seems that permission is almost certainly forthcoming. There will probably be a car park on the FeatherTop side of the Ovens, perhaps with barbecue fire places. The route currently taken by bushwalkers through the gate and across Mr. Harrop's paddocks to the track up Stoney Creek is actually an unused road for which Mr. Harrop has a licence from the Lands Department which requires him to allow pedestrian access. The licence will probably be terminated by the Lands Department and the "road" will then become crown land.

We should still shed a few tears for FeatherTop, though.

3. A submission was sent to the Ministry for Conservation concerning the Environment Report, Merrimu Reservoir Project Stage 2, Lerderberg Division Weir which was an environmental impact statement for a dam

CONSERVATION NEWS .. (cont'd)

across the Lerderderg River. In our submission we requested a longer time to prepare submissions (we were given only 2 weeks). We pointed out that since the dam was already a fait accompli, tunnels already having been drilled, it was rather pointless to comment on its environmental impact especially since the E.I.S. was a very superficial and shoddy document. What we should have been given is the opportunity to comment on was whether or not the dam should have been built in the first place. With this in mind our other comments were to the effect that the water levels of the Lerderderg River below the dam should be maintained sufficiently high so as not to lower the value of the river for its various uses.

4. The L.C.C. recently released their Final Recommendations for East Gippsland. These differ from the proposed Recommendations in one extremely significant way - gone is the proposed wilderness and in its place is a national park along the Snowy River ("This will enable a wider range of people to enjoy its scenic grandeur and high nature conservation values") and uncommitted land in the Gelantipy plateau - Bowen Range area where there are productive forests. This uncommitted land is not to be logged or roaded except for fire access tracks, until land use is further reviewed by the L.C.C.

This means that we have lost a potentially very valuable wilderness area - one of the few left in Victoria. It means that wilderness advocates in Victoria have very little political clout. It should, however, cause us all to fight harder and more actively for what we believe is balanced use of land.

In this respect, the Final Recommendations now have only 9% of the total volume of timber in East Gippsland in reserve. Thus, 91% is potentially available for timber production, 4% of which is unavailable at the moment pending further review of land use in the area. It would seem very difficult to prove that allocating 9% of East Gippsland's timber volume to reserves, with 91% or 87% available for logging, represents balanced use of the land.

Another change in the Final Recommendations is that the area of land allocated to agriculture has almost doubled - from 4500 ha. to 8200 ha. In times of surpluses of agricultural products, the increasing bankruptcy of small farmers, and an increasing need to conserve and set aside areas of native vegetation, this represents another disturbing change to the Proposed Recommendations.

In summary, the Final Recommendations for East Gippsland have little in them to make club members happy. Perhaps it is about time we all asked exactly what is going on at the L.C.C. Exactly how do they decide what constitutes balanced use of the land?

* * * * *

CLIMBING REPORT

- Peter Megens

Well, this is it. The last climbing report submitted by the present (and possibly impeached) climbing convenor.

The summer months saw a flurry of activity as the big trips were organized. On Boxing Day the "Phoenix" and the "Silver Bullet", (a panel van and Toyota in disguise) crammed with passengers, set off on the surf, sun, slabs, etc., trip to N.S.W. and Queensland. The first stop was Mt. Victoria, N.S.W., where we were met by Reg Marron in his slightly overheated Blue Streak.

At Mt. Victoria. Hugh Foxcroft successfully tackled Eternity (19). Reg Marron followed in similar (eventually) successful style. Reg also succeeded on Gemini (20), while yours truly nearly skewered himself attempting Genesis (16). Peter Watson with Peter Martin tackled, and conquered, Sodom (20). But, unfortunately, for Watto's ego he overextended himself on Janiceps (21). In the meantime, Julie West and Cathie Seccombe, with technical advice from John Chapman, threw themselves at Hope and Charity. Later they were caught by John (I've got the pictures) Chapman sunbaking rather rudely on the belay ledge.

The trip proceeded to the Wolgan valley, where everyone except Peter Martin managed to become well and truly ill on the polluted river water. Here Hugh Foxcroft successfully tackled Cactus (19) before succumbing to illness. Your impeached climbing convenor attacked Go Cat (16) and Xarathrusta (12) before succumbing to illness, fatigue, laziness and every other imaginable excuse. While we were recovering Peter Martin decided to become a grade 19 leader on Knuckle, only to find himself screaming through the air. In addition he managed to chop Hugh's new rope nearly in half.

Peter Martin and Keith Edgerton teamed up and conquered the fabulous Excalibur (17) which has three crux pitches and a vertical all the way. While it is only 400 ft. in length (we refuse to go metric) it has 1500 ft. of exposure. Seagoon, West and Chapman also did the magnificent Diafrohea Chimney (9) while Reg ("I'll never get sick") Marron decided to tackle every hard route he could find. He succeeded on every one, including the magnificent Ishtar (19) before succumbing to illness and having to return to Melbourne. Tony Marron, while under the influence of an unusual attack of climbing competence and sheer nerve, managed to successfully conquer Grunter (16).

Then it was on to Queensland and Frogs Buttress where Peter ("I love jam cracks") Watson did Infinity (19) and Odin (20). Peter (anything he can jam, I can jam better, I think") Megens struggled up Materialistic Prostitution (17) while Seagoon and West, in true lemming style, mercilessly threw themselves at the cliff and conquered Doctor Pat's Crack (12) and an unknown (13).

A week later we were at Buroomba Rocks, Canberra. Here Peter Megens and Peter Martin managed to do Roy's Creek (14) before being washed off the cliff by a typical Canberra downpour. Everyone divided (literally) into the cars and headed off on a merry 600 mile jaunt, via Melbourne, to Arapiles where Peter ("I'm not going any

CLIMBING REPORT .. (Cont'd)

further unless we pick up Wendy") Martin, led Maximus (17) and Fang (17). Then, after being rained off Arapiles, we returned home.

Then for a day trip to Werribee Gorge with Rob Storer successfully doing Marcus Shaevala (15) and teaming with Seagoon to do Cicero (14). Andy ("I want to be a head man") Rothfield successfully tackled Androcles (16) and Hugh ("I'm sick of living") Foxcroft eliminated the aid from Slave Girl, which is now free at 19. Hugh also did the new route, Ebony (17).

Soon after a trip to Little River Gorge was organized with Nick Reeves, Hugh Foxcroft, Peter Martin (all of whom eliminated aid) and Peter ("I'm gripped") Megens doing the first free, and only the second ascent in five years, of the Grand Old Duke of York (17). Reg Mannon, Keith Edgerton and John Croker also tackled Blade Ridge (now grade 18) on Mt. Federation in S.W. Tasmania. Reg and Gaims also did the new route "Knocking at Heaven's Door" (M5) at Mt. Buffalo. Other new routes were "Dag" (14) at Buffalo done by Nick Reeves and Robyn Storer and Mediumness (18) (which is a classic line, immediately obvious as the last great outstanding problem at Arapiles) done by Matt Taylor, Peter Martin and Peter Megens on the Plaque Area at Arapiles.

Well, that takes care of the Christmas period. More recently we had the two climbing beginner weekends at Mt. Arapiles. On these we had so many people that Arapiles experienced overpopulation. Even the locals were forced into a corner of the Natimuk pub, on Saturday night. With over 30 beginners this year we hope that many will stay on as climbers and continue going on club trips.

Anyhow, that's it. The next climbing report will be written by Hugh ("I'm the climbing convenor now, thank you") Foxcroft.

* * * * *

"THE Secret Climbing Report 1976/77 of Walter Mitty Megens"

Under the banner of advancement, held proudly aloft by our glorious, great chairman, Mergs, climbing went from height to height. With a song in their hearts and gear on their belts our glorious cliff troopers braved ever harder leads, inspired always by our glorious, great chairman, Mergs. Our glorious, great chairman, Mergs, provided gear, which we humbly accepted for our use, a testament to his unyielding devotion to his flock. The fact that this gear was abused, means that the sheep will have to learn better manners from our glorious, great shepherd, Mergs. New rules, a product of his wisdom, will be promulgated directly. All had a successful year, product of the glorious endeavours of chairman Mergs.

Upward, glorious, great chairman Mergs.

This our battle cry, we, M.U.M.C. climbers report to you.

* * * * *

HOW THE SOUTH-WEST WAS WON

- Eileen O'Meagher

A damp departure from Melbourne late on a Friday night is an excellent way to quell any eager feelings when starting out on a trip. Especially if you happen to be flying to Tasmania, eventually heading for the South West. And we were.

Due to hitching hassles, we eventually started from Junction Creek after lunch on Sunday, hoping to get to Cracroft Crossing that night. I did say hoping! In fact, we had no hope (certain trip members implied that this was due to the extreme slowness of one party member, but said party member insisted that even the "greyhounds" would have been pushing themselves). We finally reached Cracroft the following morning and after sharing a snack with the flies, went on our merry way to lunch at Pass Creek. And the weather was ---- fair.

Up Luckman's Lead (and at all as horrific as describe) that afternoon and bedding down at Stuart's Saddle. It drizzled most of the night, and we woke to a fine mist obscuring our view of the Needles. Much um-m-ing and ah-h-ing ensued as the weather slowly improved. Carefully the party crawled through the Needles (after hearing about earlier parties' epics in this area.) The dismal weather by now had been chased away - so it was Goon Moor for lunch and Thwaites Plateau by mid-afternoon. And Federation seemed just a breath away.

Wednesday we awoke to a rather superb day (this was the fifth fine day in a row!:) and we set off early (so eager) towards the peak. As we drew closer along the rocky ridge, the peak revealed itself in various inviting poses. And we felt warmed inside as we moved our way up the back of the peak. Somehow we got off the route and frightened ourselves with a tricky move around a corner on a vertical wall extending 100 ft. below us. On and up we climbed, encountering no further obstacles.

We reached the summit in full mid-day sun. The cameras came out, also lunch, and we wined and dined amid superb scenery. Much later, and noticeably quietened, we started off for Hanging Lake where one adventuresome lad (Jonathan by name) decided to go for a 'swim'. The water was freezing, but, oh, so invigorating.

Late Wednesday afternoon we returned to Thwaites, tired and happy. Up early again on Thursday and out to Pass Creek. Somewhere along the way Jonathan picked up a nasty little beastie that caused him to feel not very well at all (and visit nature a lot more .. Mmm). Friday saw us again slogging across the Author Plains, on a scorching day. By the time we had reached Seven Mile Creek and lunch, tempers were frayed, and people feeling quite ill. With relief we reached Wuliyawa Creek for the night.

Once settled on the plane home, you could not help but feel sad and wonder which trip to tackle next summer.

An account of a trip undertaken by Nick Dow, John Stone and Eileen O'Meagher in early march.

* * * * *

CLIMBING AT MT. GRAMPILES

- Jenny Van Staveren

Andy, from Tasmania, rolled up at Bushgear one day. "Anyone around to go climbing with this weekend?"

Around the same time John, from New South Wales, strolled into the MUMC clubrooms (come around one-thirty they told him; if you come on time no one will be there). "Anyone want to go climbing this weekend?"

Both were greeted with the same response "Come climbing with MUMC at Mt. Difficult"

Arrived at Mt. Arapiles around one in the morning. (I thought we were going to Mt. Difficult in the Grampians? We were). Being new to MUMC I watched in amazement as four of its members raced to the nearest boulder and pawed all over it with the sort of desperation that one feels when deprived of something for too long; and all this in the pouring rain. (Now you know why we were at Arapiles).

Morning arrived too early (quiet mumble from Hugh here, something about bringing a lilo next time he slept in the picnic shelter. The tables apparently aren't the most comfortable.) The climbers hit - Peter, Hugh and Neil headed off for a successful climb on "Ejaculation", although I did hear of Neil having epics and I've since heard it is not unusual and no cause for concern.

John and Andy headed off for "Camelot". "Just a warm up to get used to Victorian rock." Lunch revealed that they had also mastered "Fang." A first grade seventeen lead for John.

All of us, except for the last two, headed for Declaration Crag. Triumph for Peter on his second solo ("Sickle" grade 3) and for Neil putting 8 of the 10 runners he boasted he could get on the same climb. The rewards were Natimuk milkshakes, so with drooling mouths we headed toward town "Two vanilla and three chocolate". But everyone's tasted like frothed up milk; sad to say, Natimuk milkshakes will never be the same. (Wilson's Prom. must have the best in Victoria now.)

So with tears in our eyes, or more likely dust, we headed back to camp and later to drown our sorrows at the Natimuk Pub. All this while John and Andy were supposedly climbing "Syrinx", but somehow the only guidebook got left on the first pitch of Kestrel. I know that doesn't quite make sense, but no one was particularly worried, except Neil who owned the guidebook.

The next morning revealed an enjoyable climb on the Bard for Hugh, Cathie and Neil while Peter and Natt Taylor, put forth a new grade 18 route "somewhere around the Plaque".

The Victorians headed for home: John and Andy decided on one more climb, Ejaculation. "Not a good move", said Andy from his Horsham hospital bed several hours later, with a beautifully clean break through both bones of his right shin. "Why couldn't it have been at least a grade seventeen."

Maybe its just as well that Arapiles is way out of nowhere, just imagine the newspaper "CLIMBER BREAKS LEG DOING EJACULATION!"

* * * * *

"MOUNTAINEERING EDIBLES?"

This article is here not as an attempt to compete with the Women's Weekly (as some might think) but because we have noticed the sad lack of cooking ability in many club males. Their imagination often does not seem to extend beyond a tin of beef and gravy or baked beans!

Apologies to those males who can cook, and to those who can't, we at least offer some suggestions to stir the imagination. Jaffles are a good place to start. Most of us understand the basics of buttering two slices of bread and lying them face down in the jaffle iron. Variations in fillings is the next step

1. A certain climbing convenor's favourite: cheese and asparagus. Particularly nice with wholemeal bread.
2. Rumoured to be a creation of canoeists: beetroot and icecream. (Ed. has doubts about practicability of using icecream but has been told that it can be done).
3. "Editor's Special". Tasty cheese, tomato, green pepper, salami or smoked oysters. Onion an optional extra.
4. Tinned baked beans and spaghetti are not recommended for the weak stomachs, while eggs should only be used by those who have the patience to cook them properly, and the skill not to lose half the egg in the fire. Dave Lia's use of three pieces of bread (one with a hole in the middle of it) is not recommended as the result appears to be soggy bread and a raw egg!
5. If you still have no imagination, jaffles can also be used for dessert. Melted chocolate or peanut butter with chopped banana is delicious, as are stewed apricots and blackberries when in season.

Next Issue: Learn how to cook a snake (if you can catch it first).

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WANTED TO BUY, SELL or RENT

- Sell: 1 pair of size 7 friction boots, \$20. Contact Marcia on 306 7482 (B.H.) or call in at 6/311 Royal Pde., Parkville, after 5 p.m.
- Buy: Peter Nielson wants to buy a climbing sack of any size or shape. Ring 94 6193 (A.H.)
- Rent: Jim Grellrs is looking for someone to share a 2-bedroomed flat with. The flat is situated at 18/311 Royal Pde., Parkville. Rent \$16 per week.

* * * * *

"ON A RARE FINE DAY"

- Nick Reeves

As Hendo and I grunted up French ridge, it was a pleasant morning. Blue sky, light winds. After lunch the day became sour. Eamslaw and the Dart Peaks became hidden in cloud. Mist replaced the near sky. The wind freshened, cold, blowing from the west. Across the Bonar Glacier we went, it seemed that we were racing the weather. We won easily, but then the soft snow beat us. As we approached Colin Todd hut, I guess we had the advantage. Gary and Robyn were certainly there, we had followed their tracks. They did not know who the noisy bastards were outside.

Perhaps that was just as well. If they had known they would have locked the door. As it was they did not even get up to make us tea. So we brewed it. We ate their peanuts. Ate their biscuits. Then said hello. As with all Epics Incorporated trips we had timed our arrival perfectly. The hut door was barely closed, with us inside, when the wind increased its velocity twofold, the bracing wires sang, and the weather totally crapped out. Two days of storm later the hut was still there. We had read all our books!

Generally weather outside climbing hut bunks is bad. Occasionally it clears slightly. One may then play the climbing heavy. Mike, Robyn and Garry were, of course, lazy, still in bed reading. The "frustrated" heavy walks up and down the hut, moaning about unused good weather. He ignores the wind blasts that make the hut shudder. The wind, well, it isn't that bad. There is, he says, climbing possible, at this instant just outside the door. But the others are too shrewd. They realize that Nick has read all his books. Bunks are comfortable. He will most likely channel his energy into making tea.

But the frustrated ploy can be overplayed. Someone else finished a book that afternoon. So we meandered through crevasses, strolling (as it was) up Rolling Pin. A minor peak, it seemed, a plod. An easy wander out of the stuffy hut. A first peak for Robyn! Give us an appetite for de-hy! So we thought, hands in pockets. Then we hit the short, steep summit rocks. Ice covered. Big drops below. Adrenalin surged for an instant, but then came the top.

The peak we had all come to climb was Aspiring, mighty mountain of Otango. We were prepared to wait for a few days to climb it. The fine day came but in disbelief we stayed asleep. Towards seven o'clock on a perfect day the hut was shattered by Mike's agonized yell. Gary mumbled shamefaced apologies concerning his broken alarm clock, as pillows were hurled. Somehow, with only a cold breakfast, we were up, packed and away in an hour.

The north-west ridge, like other routes on Aspiring, is a fine climb. It is an easy alpine route but the rock gendarmes lower down demand some nerve, or they become time consuming. They are easy moves made, but there are big drops. The rock is stable enough, when it is rotten, for there are big ledges to wander along. It is a few thousand feet from Colin Todd hut to the top. Easy, but it has the atmosphere of a big climb about it. This is possibly because Aspiring towers above the surrounding peaks. Most of those that fringe the Bonar look like pimples. Aspiring itself is a real live mountain. No New Zealand Feathertop.

On a Rare Fine Day in the (Cont'd)

The last fifteen hundred feet is steady cramponing. Even with our late start there was still a freeze. The crunching sound which comes from crampons biting into firm snow is a pleasant thing to hear. Equally pleasant is the sight of your tracks far down below. Mika and I reached the summit first. Both of us had been there before by other ways. But the sharp top is a place to revisit. The world drops below you, literally beneath the pack you are sitting on. With the chocolate disappearing, Gary and Robyn appeared. Robyn characteristically blustering accused Reeves of wanting to leave for home already.

Like the rest of the climb the descent had its moments. The snow accumulating in your crampons, with the sudden heartrending slip. The odd pebble kicked by someone whirrs past. Descending the slug like buttress on the ridge is slow, and with everyone tired, a little more demanding. The easy ridge above the hut, which one romps up in the morning, becomes a pain to descend. Not hard, but the going is awkward, especially when all you are contemplating is a hut brew. Finally the hut. After two days of threats, and conniving, Robyn and I managed to lock the others out of the hut. The Aspiring climb ended with great hammering on the door, delighted chuckles inside, with a sourpuss, Henderson, chairman of the morals committee, looking through the window, making sure nothing untoward went on.

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STOP PRESS !

The 24-hour walk has
been set for July 2 and 3.

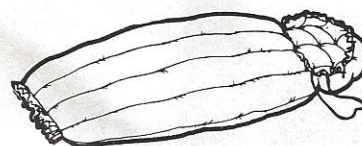
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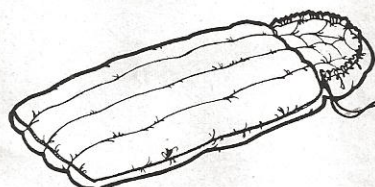
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted with a draw tape and permits most complete envelopment of the sleeper except for a small breathing aperture. When tied, the end allows no heat loss, however, in hot weather, the down can be compressed to the bottom and the end left open for ventilation, this makes the Arctic a dual purpose bag.



Filled with 2½lb. superdown.

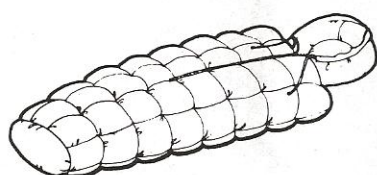
Body of bag cut 6'6" long x 32".
Total weight of bag 5½ lb.

walled, hooded combination bag



Walled construction, the same as our Arctic bag. This hooded bag unzips to open into a blanket. Or, you can zip two bags together to make a double bag. Superdown filled

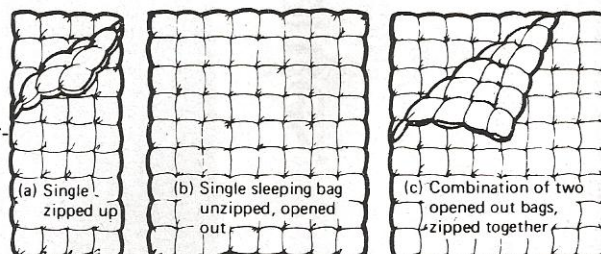
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