



MOUNTAINEER

AUGUST

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BUSHGEAR ML



**SUPPLIERS OF BUSHWALKING,
ROCKCLIMBING, CAVING, SKI-
TOURING AND OTHER
OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT
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1. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

On 21st June 1978 a Special General Meeting of M.U.M.C. was held to consider deficiencies in the Club's accounts and constitutional amendments.

Neil Blundy gave his report on the year 14/3/77 to 15/4/78 stating that the system of accounting has been radically changed upon the advice of the auditor. Neil commented upon expenses which will be incurred in the coming year, in particular the production of Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering, Guide to the Victorian Alps and Mountaineering '79. Overall the deficit for the year was \$1800. There was some conjecture as to the causes but the audit disclosed no errors of book-keeping as such.

The auditor, George Raitt, went through his report to the meeting. In general his suggestions were for a new system of accounting incorporating a much tighter rein upon income and expenditures. His suggestions have largely been implemented by the Treasurer, Ross Stephens, who outlined these measures and expressed satisfaction with the system so far.

An election was called to fill the position of Secretary left vacant by the resignation of Andrew Rothfield (to take over the Presidency of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs). In the absence of any other nominations Debbie Tyler was duly declared to be the new secretary, a position she had previously filled upon an interim basis.

Certain constitutional amendments were made, the effects being:

- (i) M.U.M.C. has adopted a uniform accounting year to end on 25th February each year.
- (ii) the Committee is to appoint an auditor annually
- (iii) the Bushwalking Convenor will in future be elected by sub-committee and not the A.G.M.
- (iv) the Publications Officer will be elected to Committee by the A.G.M.
- (v) should only one nomination be received at least seven days prior to an A.G.M. for any position then nominations shall be called for that position at the A.G.M.
- (vi) Committee appointments of editors for Club publications shall be subject to the approval of the A.G.M.

2. THE NORTHWEST SPUR APPROACH TO MT. FEATHERTOP

On 28th July Nicholas Reeves, acting on behalf of M.U.M.C. appeared before the Town and Country Planning Appeals Tribunal to appeal a determination of the Shire of Bright permitting Mr. A.T. Harrop to develop a trout and deer farm (and other tourist attractions) at the base of the Northwest Spur.

M.U.M.C. was represented by Graeme Anderson of Council and a report was prepared on our behalf by Dianne Morrison. Both the Shire of Bright and Mr. Harrop appeared before the Tribunal also. Whilst listening to the M.U.M.C. submission with some sympathy, the Tribunal seemed to consider that our objections to the nature of the development were ill-founded.

The conditions expressed in the permit issued to the Harrop's covered most of our objections and the Tribunal considered that it was not its function to ensure that the conditions were observed, merely to see that they were adequate.

The Tribunal reserved its decision due to time restrictions. However, it would seem that the best M.U.M.C. can hope for is the imposition of more rigorous conditions covering the development, particularly as regards landscaping of the site. Whilst the result will have a disastrous impact upon the bushwalking and scenic values of the area, M.U.M.C. has established itself as a watchdog over developments in the Feathertop area. The Shire of Bright also seems to have adopted a more positive approach realizing that certain tourist developments are inappropriate to the area. M.U.M.C. owes a considerable debt to Nick, Graeme, Dianne, Mike Feller and others who invested considerable time and effort in this case.

3. CLIMBING WALL

Peter Martin is at present conducting a survey of climbing walls with a view to creating one on the back of the squash courts on the University campus. Any information or helpful suggestions would be gratefully received.

THE FRANKLIN RIVER

"The Franklin is a remarkable wilderness. In 1977 only two dirt roads had reached the lip of its (middle) valley, while in its upper reaches it is perfunctorily crossed by the oblivious Lyell Highway. No one lives anywhere by its banks, there are no grazing or arable lands in its basin, no black-berries or willows have rooted in its soil.

It is a wild and wondrous thing; and 175 years after Tasmania's first European settlement, the Franklin remains much as it was before man - black or white - came to its precincts.

However in the next 25 years we may see it utterly destroyed. The Hydro-Electric Commission has advanced planning for a Lower Gordon dam which will completely flood the lower Franklin, and a Franklin dam which will flood the middle Franklin (including the Great Ravine). The Commission has also made a preliminary study of an upper Franklin dam site, immediately below the Irenabyss; a dam here will flood the upper Franklin back beyond the Lyell Highway.

Meanwhile the Forestry Commission has proposed that Crown land north of the Lyell Highway, including the upper Franklin Valley, be taken over as State Forest.

Despite such plans, no government department or politician has called for the whole Franklin Valley to be protected and dedicated as a living museum of our Earth as it existed before the evolution of technological man. Sadly, governments work in the selfish way of providing only for those whose vote in the present, but no other use of the Franklin Valley would be more gratefully applauded by our numberless progeny."

"Do you understand the alternative schemes to develop the power potential of these rivers? After well over a decade of investigations the HEC have come up with two main alternative arrangements.

One scheme is to integrate the King, Franklin and Gordon catchments and process their total flow via the Gordon River. This depends on the success of continuing exploration to find a watertight dam on the Gordon below the Franklin junction. It would appear that attempts are desperate: On top of already heavy exploration costs, extra cost could be involved here if poor rock had to be replaced before dam construction could be a feasible proposition.

The other scheme is to combine the flows of the King River and the upper Franklin (upstream of Mt. McCall) for development down the King River at a Sailor Jack power station with separate and independent development on the Lower Gordon upstream of the Olga River junction.

Both schemes stand to destroy the Gordon, the Franklin and tributaries of both. They have been described by the HEC as follows:-

HEC ALTERNATIVES

A Integrated Development

In this arrangement the King River would be diverted into the Franklin River basin by a dam at Tofft near Crotty. The combined flows of the King and Franklin Rivers would then be developed through a dam and power station on the Franklin River just below the junction of the Andrew River to produce an average of about 1170 million kilowatt hours of electricity per annum, and forming a lake with a possible full supply level about S.L.225.

On the Gordon River, a Lower Gordon dam, constructed a short distance downstream of the Franklin River junction, would back up the combined waters of the Gordon and Franklin Rivers to an elevation of about S.L.76. The power station at this dam would be capable of generating almost 1800 million kilowatt hours annually from the total flows of the King, Franklin and Gordon Rivers.

Further increments of power that would be possible with this arrangement include the construction of a small dam and power station at Albert Rapids, below the junction of the Serpentine and Gordon Rivers and the diversion of the Davey River into the Lower Gordon via the Olga-Hardwood Saddle. The Albert Rapids scheme would harness the 34 metre difference in elevation between the Gordon Stage I scheme and the Lower Gordon dam to produce an average output of 245 million kilowatts per annum. The Davey diversion could add 236 million kilowatts to the average annual output of the Lower Gordon station, and forming a lake at about S.L. 76 within the Davey Catchment.

B Separate Development

The alternative form of development would be to divert the Franklin River into the King River valley and generate power on the King River. The height of the Franklin dam would remain virtually unchanged, but the combined flow of the Franklin and King River catchments would now be discharged into Macquarie Harbour via the King River. Electricity would be generated at a dam and power station on the King River near Mt. Huxley, with a full supply level of about S.L. 225 and at a second dam around S.L. 91 and power station further downstream at Sailor Jack. The combined average annual outputs would be almost 1740 million kilowatt-hours.

On the Lower Gordon River a dam and power station just upstream of the Olga River junction would back the water right up to the Gordon Stage 1 power station to a level of about S.L. 110 metres, and thereby dispense with the need for an intermediate scheme at Albert Rapids. The annual output of the Olga power station would be almost 1070 million kilowatt-hours.

A sub-alternative to this arrangement would be to move the scheme further upstream and replace the single dam at Gordon-above-Olga, with a dam across the Gordon River at Splits just upstream of the Denison River junction and a dam and power station on the Denison River. The water would be returned to the Gordon by way of the Denison River. The annual output of this scheme would be 175 million kilowatt-hours less than with the single dam at Olga."

Extracted from "The Franklin : Tasmania's Last Wild River"
published by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

Donations should be sent to:

Tasmanian Wilderness Society,
102 Bathurst Street,
HOBART. 7000.

Cover Photo: Canoeing through the Black Forest on the Franklin River
by Jol Shelton.

THE PHOTO COMPETITION AND PIE NIGHT

Jane Landman

Despite the torrential rain, folk from all over the photographic art world gathered at M.U.'s footy pavilion for one of the year's most eagerly awaited events.

Of the various entries the slides attracted the most interest - offering the greatest range and scope. However, more Club photographers are getting into printing with very worthwhile results.

Of the three sections (personality, open and photo-journalism), personality, without necessarily needing to display as much skill, certainly gained the greatest response. Ross Stephens yet again demonstrated his peculiar magnetism by occupying more slide space than any other single subject. Winning the vote for "popular appeal" was John Chapman's unforgettable slide of Ross in his well-known "Noble Savage" pose. Slides of Cathy and Peter lent an air of naive romance to the evening, whilst ones of Wendy and Jex reflected Neil Currie's differing perspective. All sections were of a generally high standard and Les Southwell was hard put to select winners amongst them. Our thanks to Les for coping admirably with the difficult job of judging, and to Prue Dobbin for catering.

The results were as follows:

SLIDES

Personality: (Les' choice) - "Wet & Muddy" - (Lyndee Beatie).
and (by popular demand) - "The Noble Savage" (who but Ross Stephens) by John Chapman.

Open: "Morning Light in the Franklin Gorge", Jol. Shelton.

Photo-journalism: "Buffalo Rack", Hugh Foxcroft.

BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS (These sections were rather muddled as Les found difficulties in judging by section).

Personality: "Jane" and "Concentration" (Matt Taylor) by John Chapman.

Also a prize went to Jol. Shelton for: "Black Forest" and "It Never Rains at Arapiles but on the Franklin . . ."

A further prize went to Robert Jung for: "The Viking" and "Bark".

COLOUR

Finally, the prize for the Colour section went to Neil Blundy for a print of Roger Barson on Trapeze entitled "Reach for that jug".

BUSHWALKING IN THE VICTORIAN ALPS

Neil Blundy

As indicated at the last A.G.M. work has commenced on the next edition of the guide book. Anyone interested in helping co-edit the next edition please contact me. There is plenty of work to be done. The main task to be undertaken is to get up-dated track notes for many areas in the alps. Obviously the editors cannot be expected to walk all the routes for themselves. Therefore could anyone going on trips to the Alpine area please check the notes. Photocopies of relevant pages of the guide are available from me on request.

The following points about checking notes should be noted. Much of the guide suffers from continual re-checking of the notes with little fresh input. There is a strong tendency to do a trip, read up the notes later and say that they seem about right. To check notes properly it is necessary to check them as you go. Do not do your own censorship of the notes. Include all information that is relevant. It is better for the editors to be able to cut down notes for use. Particular items to note are:

Huts:

Condition, how much bunk space, fireplace?, availability of wood and water, nearby camping potential. It is probably best to note these details as an addendum to the notes.

4WD Tracks:

Undoubtedly the majority of out-of-date notes will be due to the continual proliferation of these tracks. Areas where current logging and roading activities are occurring could also be noted.

Signposts:

It is best to quote the actual wording on signposts.

Routes:

New walking routes are most welcome. The current guide reads very much like a guide to 4WD tracks.

Finally, when you have your updated notes, either post them to the Club or drop them in the envelope for that purpose on the Bushwalking noticeboard. All assistance with this would be most appreciated.

It's 6.30 p.m. on the Monday of the June weekend and the phone rings:

"Does Dave Caddy still live there?"

"Yes."

"This is Harry Schaap . . ."

Having heard the news of a man lost in the Lerderderg Gorge, I know why Harry is calling - he doesn't ring me often. He can't tell me much about the search, except that the Police only want us for one day (to add to the work done by Police, locals and volunteers on Sunday and today) and that nothing significant has been found yet apart from a dented thermos.

As I haven't been on a search for years, I have forgotten to tell my new boss that I am even in Search and Rescue, so have to find his home number and ring him there to make sure I can go - yes. I spend the rest of the evening sorting gear and packing two packs for tomorrow - a day pack with essential items I will carry searching, and a large pack with most of the rest of my gear in it - it may come in handy! (For two days in March one year I searched on the Baw Baw Plateau in hail and sleet, soaked with ice-water, and didn't even have a change of clothes, or my wool trousers, because I had packed as I would have for a March bushwalk - never again!)

Tuesday morning - 5 a.m.

Out of bed and it's quiet, cold, grey and rainy. A hot shower and breakfast improve things a bit, then follows a surprisingly busy drive to Dawson St., Brunswick (I didn't know so many people drove around at 6 a.m.!) In the yard there full of cars, landrovers and the bus which will carry us, bushwalkers arrive in ones and twos to shelter from the drizzle under the verandah. Police check in and out and ignore us - life goes on, searches or not. Inspector Bill Brand (Police S & R) and Eric Quinlan (F.V.W.C. S & R Police Liaison Officer) arrive about the same time, discuss details, then we all stand around and wait - as Theo later remarked:

"Why don't we do something?"

From someone else:

"This your first search? ..."

Finally at 7.15 we leave, with sirens being tested in the garage to farewell us.

The bus trip up is uneventful - a briefing by Max Corry on how Bill Howell was lost (carrying refreshments alone to long-distance walkers coming down the gorge on Saturday afternoon, when the river rose at one-metre/hour), and the areas searched up to now. Mike Tegg (sharing the Field Organiser job with Max) puts us in groups of four or five - I am with Craig Devlin, Theo Draher (MUMC), Graham Mascas (MBW) and John Mulligan (WCV). After all these formalities people doze, speculate on what could have happened, swap trip stories (or search stories - "Were you at the search for . . .?") or get information from those who were there yesterday. In Bacchus Marsh, four more walkers from Geelong get in - we're now just about sitting on each other's knees, which makes my donning of boots and final shuffling of gear between packs a bit of a juggling act.

It's still drizzling as we leave the bus at 9 a.m. for a muddy 4 km. walk along a track to our starting point. One sweep down the west bank of the gorge and back up takes from 10 to 12 - we have to continually shift our line of five

across the slope as other groups converge on us from both sides. Minor "border disputes" and fine-detail navigation provide some distraction for our minds as our bodies half walk, half slide down the steep loose and very wet hillside.

Back up on top we have lunch on the track as the cloud lifts and the rain stops. Max passes on his way to speak to groups further north - we are to return 3 km. along the track and search an area not covered the previous day. We search this valley by contouring around it from a steep walking track down a spur - much of the time the adjacent searchers are more above and below than beside me in the line. Craig finds a quick way down one scree gully (which doesn't do his shorts any good!) and the rest of us wait while he climbs back to where we have grouped. We are entertained by trying to work out what the large number of S.E.S. searchers on the opposite bank are doing by listening to their calls. A last sweep down a very scrubby ridge finishes our search area for the day - 3 p.m.

As we are still 3 - 4 km. upriver from search H.Q. at Darley Ford, we have to walk down. On previous days the river and banks had been exhaustively searched and probed, so there is little we can do except check anything unusual or interesting - very little, as it turns out!

At Darley Ford there are several vehicles and caravans (Police, S.E.S.), the Salvo's mobile kitchen trailer, and many of Bill Howell's relatives. His wife, her parents, his sister and her husband and others of his family and friends are sitting around a fire, as they have done for three days now, waiting to hear anything. In talking to his sister for a while I find out that although he was not an experienced bushwalker, he knew the area very well, as he had taken horse-riding parties on the tracks around and above the gorge. No-one says much about his chances of being found alive - after three days of intensive searching only the thermos has been found, and that was on Sunday!

By 6 p.m. the other searchers have been driven back, fed and had time to change, so we leave for Melbourne. People doze again or talk, but it's quieter than on the way up - tiredness and probably disappointment at not having found anything. By 7.15 we are in Dawson St. again. It and Melbourne are busy, and it's just another wet winter night for nearly all of Victoria - except the Howells.

P.S. A few weeks later, Bill Howell's body was found in a pool in the river, just upstream from the point where he entered the Gorge, and where Search H.Q. was located.

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Membership of S. & R. is open to anyone who:

1. is a current member of M.U.M.C.
2. is reasonably fit.
3. owns their own equipment.
4. can take up to three days off from studies or work on short notice (usually overnight; call-ups can be refused if inconvenient).
5. is recommended by the Club Committee - there are guidelines laid down by the F.V.W.C. S & R Committee setting minimum standards (these amount to having bushwalking experience in all weather and terrain, the ability to navigate - who wants searchers who become lost?! - and the ability to camp out while searching for up to three days).

Do you qualify?

All ski-tourers should be proficient in the construction of igloos as they provide the most effective shelter from blizzard conditions. They eliminate wind completely and retain heat far more effectively than any tent or hut. They are extremely comfortable to live in and require only one candle to keep them very bright inside.

Equipment Required: A snow shovel or snow saw or both. It is far more effective if each person helping with the construction has their own implement.

Number of People Required: An igloo can be constructed by one skilled person working on his own but two or even three people will do the job more efficiently.

Snow Conditions: Well packed, deep snow is best - icy snow is hard to cut and results in very heavy and hard to handle blocks. Powder snow can be used but it must first be compacted and allowed to refreeze before blocks can be cut from it.

Cutting Blocks: It is best to establish a quarry from which a large number of consistent quality blocks can be cut. It is worth spending a little time excavating the quarry from which the blocks can be cut. For the cutting and trimming of blocks a snow saw (SMC has a very good lightweight design) is much better than a shovel. Do not attempt to move blocks until they have been completely freed from the quarry.

Size of Blocks: When starting construction it is best use blocks as large as can practicably be managed. The maximum dimension should not exceed 36" long x 18" high and 9" deep. Try to keep the height and depth the same, vary only the length. As construction proceeds the blocks will probably have to be smaller enabling easier placement.

CONSTRUCTION

1. Select a sheltered site, away from direct sunlight and close to a good supply of snow for construction.
2. Inscribe a circle (about 8 feet in diameter) in the snow and lay blocks on the outside of this paying attention to achieving a neat fit between adjacent blocks.
3. Having laid the first layer, trim the blocks so that construction may proceed in the style of a tapering helix. i.e.

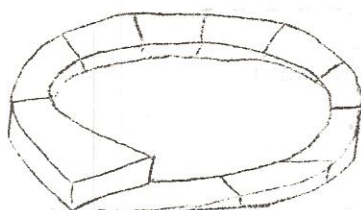


Figure 1. Commencing the Helix.

4. When placing each block, take care to trim the edges to ensure a neat fit. It is important that the block being laid be supported at the three points indicated in Figure 2. If this is done, each block, as it is laid will be stable and the preceding structure will be self-supporting and very stable.



Figure 2. Support Each Block at Three Points

Tapering the Igloo

When first constructing igloos, one of the more difficult tasks is tapering the walls correctly. This must start as soon as the second row of the helix commences. To help with this tapering, all blocks should be placed from the inside and the top face of the blocks should be angled toward the centre of the igloo. (See Figure 3). This will enable the igloo to taper well without causing thin spots in the wall (Figure 4).

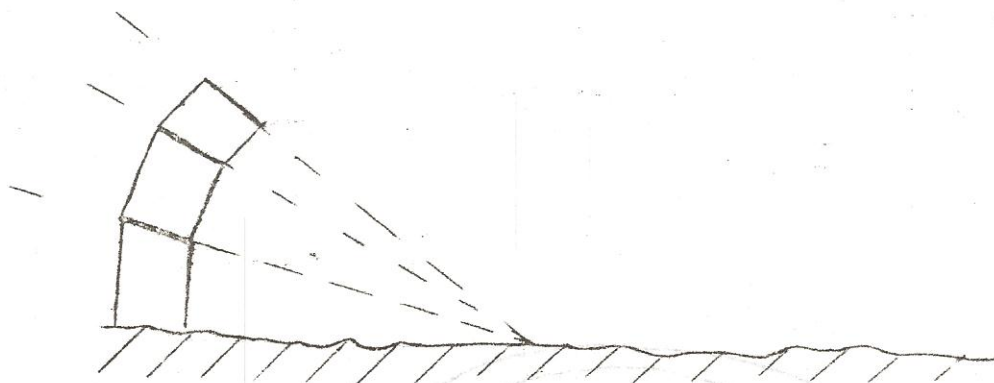


Figure 3. Angle the top face of the blocks.

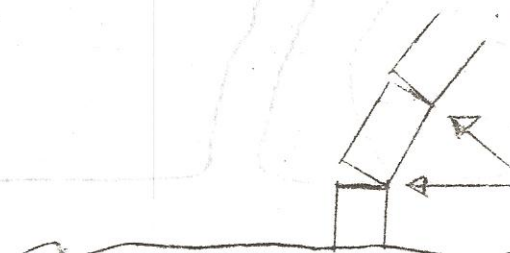


Figure 4. Thin spots caused by top faces not being angled.

As the degree of tapering required with each row gets larger (as the top is approached) considerable trimming of each block will be necessary to get the right degree of overhang and still have the block supported on the three points of Figure 2. At this stage it helps to use smaller blocks. It is probably best to hold the preceding block as each new block is placed. If properly placed each block will hold its place even when almost horizontal. (Experiment with a book if you don't believe it).

The last block, can be shaped and gently lowered into place (like a keystone) or a slab can merely be pushed over the hole.

Finishing Off

All cracks should be blocked with snow, both inside and out, thus sealing the structure- Snow can then be shovelled over the igloo. To quickly strengthen the igloo, the inside can be softened with a choofa, and then allowed to freeze.

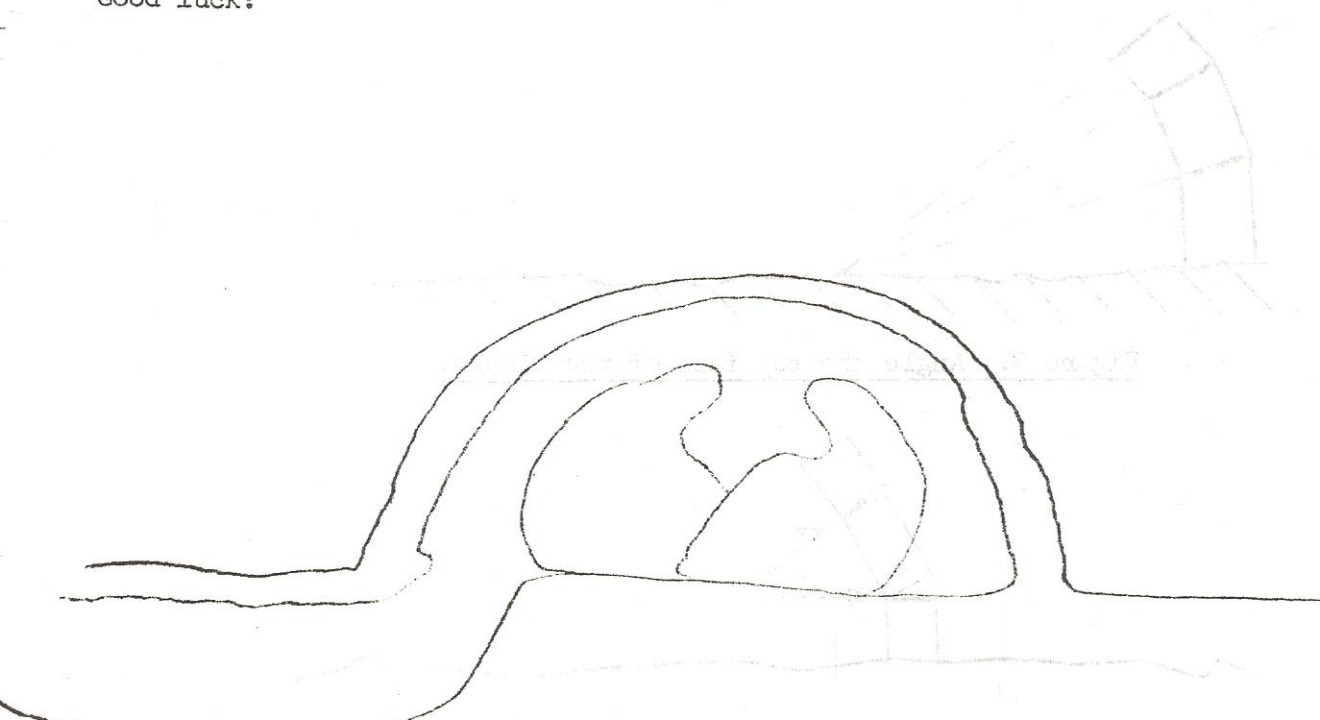
To provide access to the igloo (and to let the other person out) a tunnel should be dug under the wall. This tunnel should be placed crosswind and roofed over so that snow will not build up in the tunnel. To totally eliminate draughts, a bend should be incorporated in the tunnel.

Points For Your First Few Igloos

1. Do not attempt to build too large a structure - you probably will have difficulty in tapering it early enough. A two-man size is quite big enough for a first igloo.
2. It is best not to use the base of the igloo as a quarry as the person on the inside will need all the height he can get when the roof comes to be finished.

Your first igloo should take between two and three hours to construct (with two people) but with practice you will be able to considerably shorten this time (1 - 1½ hrs).

Good luck!



NOT JUST ANOTHER CANOE TRIP

SNOWY CREEK & MITTA-MITTA RIVER, JUNE 4TH AND 5TH

Bill Cruickshank

With the rain pouring down across the state, a small M.J.M.C. contingent sped up the Hume Highway and after a long drive arrived at Mitta-Mitta, the nearest town to the Snowy Creek slalom site. Noticing several cars with canoe racks outside the hotel we quickly agreed that a counter tea was infinitely preferable to attempting to cook in the rain.

Several hours (and drinks) later we had met up with many of the slalomists and so decided to retire, for the night, to the camping ground where most competitors were camped.

Next morning the rain was still falling and the campsite looked decidedly miserable as we hastily munched what was to be later known as "breakfast".

Arriving at the slalom site we were met with the normal mad rush for practice runs which we quickly joined, discovering again the joy of paddling in slaloms on a decent rapid. The course of 21 gates was very nice to paddle and included several tricky turns requiring the inevitable undercutting.

The event was quickly underway as soon as each judging position had built up a fire and it was satisfying (although not very warm) to watch many of the top competitors being deflected off course by a particular rock thus gaining a 50 second penalty.

As the slalom continued the rain did also, until the site became a quagmire, with many paddlers toasting themselves by a large fire, which appeared to be floating in a big mud-puddle.

With the main events completed, but the weather worsening, the slalom was halted at about 4.30 p.m. and we spent the next 10 minutes rushing about attempting to get a car shuffle set up (by someone else of course). This achieved we paddled off down the Snowy Creek to Mitta-Mitta accompanied by many other paddlers.

After a semi-leisurely meal on a borrowed campfire, during which the legendary Mark III "Gorilla" (Griller) was unveiled, we decided to drive across the Omeo Highway to the Bundara River and paddle down the Upper Mitta River on the next day.

With this in mind seven of us set off across the highway. Neil's Subaru with extension canoe racks, looking 10 ft. wide, was a sight to behold as he left the campsite.

I set off in pursuit and just a few cassettes later arrived at the Mitta, where the driving lights revealed a surfeit of water, much to our pleasure.

Looking around the Bundara River campsite we found the shattered remains of several kayaks busted the previous day by another group of canoeists.

The next day the gauge was read at 1.25 m. an all-time high for us, and after clambering into our wet suits (wet of course) we had an impromptu game of tennis with an indestructible plastic sausage and a not so indestructible paddle as we persuaded Prue to paddle against her will.

Off to a flying start in our low cut slalom boats we soon discovered their much decreased buoyancy in big water, as the decks were continually awash in even the small rapids.

The size of the first rapid astounded us all and we paddled down, crashing through the stoppers to the cheers and click of cameras from the cliff-tops above. Unfortunately the several large stopper waves temporarily blinded Prue and she went in for a swim. Soon after this she decided to retire from the trip since in her slalom kayak the rapids were simply too big.

The current rushed along at an incredible pace and we soon reached the next main rapid, a tight staircase of drops and much turbulence amid very large boulders. This rapid was done successfully by all despite plenty of expletives and awkward manoeuvres.

The size and number of pressure waves and stoppers was amazing, the turbulence unparalleled and minor tailstands occurred regularly.

The appearance of yet another of the notable rapids containing a huge cork-screw stopper wave heralded more exciting (but cold) moments as we dove down the incline and into the wave, exiting like submarines from the back.

Whilst stopping to empty our kayaks, which were continually underwater, I practised my telemark turns on the previous rapid, but encountered an unexpectedly vicious eddy which flipped me in. After two attempts to roll the cold was too much and I bailed out, to the cheers of the others ("Life wasn't meant to be easy"!).

Paddling on we soon reached the infamous gorge section and the river steepened, with all rapids merging into a single horrendous confusion of huge stopper and pressure waves, wicked eddies and whirlpools.

We paddled fast in single file down this section, each of us continually bracing in the turbulent water. Approaching the most difficult section we could see the position of the 6' drop, but surely it could not be too bad after the previous rapids. Without slowing we paddled on over the drop and into the wildest water I have ever paddled. A huge stopper loomed up suddenly and we dived over a drop into it and then straight into the next rapid containing two even bigger waves. The paddling was instinctive, there was no time for thought as the turbulence grabbed at us. David Danks capsized in the first wave, quickly rolled up and continued, colliding with Tim in the second wave.

Emerging unscathed but freezing cold, we caught our breath and continued on out of the gorge, the memory of that incredible series of rapids lingering on.

Soon the normal flat-water finish was encountered but the current even here was swift, and exhausted and cold we finally reached the finish.

We were all freezing cold due to our continual dunking by the waves and it was with relief that Neil, David and I leapt into my car, turned the heater on full and went to find Prue who had not yet arrived in Neil's Subaru.

After nearly collecting Prue on a hairpin bend as she took the inside, blind, we returned to the others and loaded up the gear.

The fantastic day's canoeing finished with a drive through flood-damaged Gippsland and a prayer for (you guessed it) more rain to ensure a top canoeing year in 1978.

The speed of the current on the Mitta could be judged by the fact that the 16 km. stretch of river was covered in under two hours compared with the normal time of 4 - 5 hours, including several stops to empty our kayaks and ensure Prue could not be persuaded to continue.

The river standard was high Grade 4, in the final gorge section and it was undoubtedly the highest continuous standard I have encountered in Victoria.

The paddlers:

Jol Shelton
David Danks
Neil McGilp
Bill Cruickshank
Prue Dobbin
Tim Wood
Mick

During the weekend before this weird and wonderful event Ian Moore was extolling the virtues of the 24 Hour Walk. He used some very poetic language to describe the wonderful feeling you experience when at 7 a.m. you get to the top of a hill and look towards the East and see the brilliant red sky surrounding the rising sun. Soon afterwards the adrenalin begins to surge through your body and you feel as though you could conquer the world. Somehow from this I gathered that it would be worthwhile if I went . . . I must have been out of my mind.

After copying down the checkpoints on the map (and collecting the life-giving chocolate bar and jelly beans) we all piled into the vans bound for the Gisborne Road. We were to start the course near to the Lerderderg Gorge.

The starting champagne bottle popped and we all rolled, bounced and slid down the hill to the first checkpoint, Mark Moorhead and I armed with daypacks, Andrew Rothfield with map and compass. Already the sheep had been separated from the goats and Andrew, Mark and I had begun to show our supremacy. The only opposition we encountered for the first few checkpoints was a team made up of Jo Richards, Rod Gregory and Simon Loudon. We gave them a seven minute lead when we found ourselves about half-a-mile off the track having to explain ourselves to an eight-foot high kangaroo and then getting the cold shoulder from some cattle!

This lapse in accuracy and speed was only temporary and at the next checkpoint we had overtaken our "opposition". At the next checkpoint we were still in touch with the other team and our relative positions did not change.

Between the eighth and ninth checkpoints dark began to descend upon us (and the rain). Andrew's navigation was to be put to the test. We had adopted the policy of following the tracks and roads in preference to bush-bashing when the distances were comparable. This seemed to pay off as we rarely had to look very long for a checkpoint: once we were in its vicinity. One very helpful navigational aid was the loud croaking of frogs in the numerous dams: you could not pass one without immediately being able to pinpoint your position.

With the thought of the first hash-house ahead of us the pace began to quicken. Some comic relief was provided by Mark with such profound remarks as, "Stop: there's someone over there with a torch". What he failed to realize was that the "torch" he was remarking upon was merely the lights of distant Melbourne!

We arrived at the first hash-house, stuffed ourselves full of food, dried off some clothes and were off again forty minutes later. After, one or two checkpoints we were still holding the lead. As we approached the miner's hut we kept strictly to the tracks as we did not really feel like disappearing down some disused mine shaft.

From the second hash-house there were three loops of the course. As we started off on the first of these loops I had the only inspirational thought I think for the whole of the twenty-four hours: I suggested that we take the track around the river. Andrew thought it may save some time so we took it. Soon afterwards lethargy, as I have never known it, began to set in. We blundered slowly up a spur. To say that it was hakea-infested would be a gross understatement. From then on conversation ground to a halt, and the walking virtually did likewise: in the three hours between 4 and 7 a.m. we covered about one mile only. At one stage I was sitting on the side of a hill while Mark and Andrew were down by the river. In between my nodding off to sleep,

I could hear the others splashing around in the water, I could not figure out what they were up to. I found out later that Andrew had consumed about a dozen salt tablets.

The consensus of opinion (between the hallucinating and groaning) was that none of the organizers had walked this section of the course as it was meant to be walked and therefore had not seen how bad the track around the river was.

We decided to retrace our tracks and although we ended up walking about twice as far as we should have done, we completed the loop ahead of anyone else.

So that we did not visit any checkpoints unnecessarily we waited around for a few hours at hashhouse 2. As one other team completed the loop, we made a full-scale effort and added one more checkpoint to our tally so that we could clinch victory.

Tired from almost twenty-three hours walking and full with barbecued lunch we piled into the van to fall asleep. I think it will be a long while before anyone talks me into doing the "A" course.

Our team:

Mark Moorhead
Andrew Rothfield
Richard Serpell

THE 1978 LERDERBERG GORGE 24 HOUR WALK, 24 & 25 JULY.

Andrew Walker

After months of preparation and secrecy, seventy-two lucky people journeyed out along the Bacchus Marsh-Gisborne road to the start of the 1978, 24 Hour Walk. The starting knoll revealed a glassy smooth green 60° slope descent of 200m., leading to the wilds of Lerderberg Gorge Forest Park.

Braced by a biting wind, blue skies and a rain of champagne, the participants set off at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The farmer who had opened his gate for us to enter his property thought that there were really thirty-six people heading down that hill, only somebody who was half there would indulge themselves in a 24 hour walk.

The organisers were left to polish off the champagne during their first bit of relaxation for 3 weeks. A few questions remained: would Lawford and Gray make the first Temporary Field Kitchen before the organisers, could David mis-set checkpoint 10, when would Dave Caddy get lost, how good was the navigation of the marathon runners and would Peter Cockerill's left leg hold out for 24 hours?

Ten non-union labourers arrived at the first T.F.K. site and within moments the two tents were erected, gear unloaded and the intricacies of the pie-warmer and the copper explored. Both devices turned on to be boomers - water was soon boiling and pies were soon burning.

The second T.F.K. was erected just on dusk at O'Briens Crossing - a popular spot on Sunday. At sunset the weather had turned to unpleasant with light rain falling. This was to get steadily heavier to midnight before stopping at about 4 a.m. Also we were a bit short on lanterns so things were looking a little gloomy as we sat, cooked, ate and waited for the first arrivals.

At 6-24 p.m. Lawford & Gray (A) arrived at T.F.K. 1 followed shortly after by Burrow & Livingstone (B). Seven other teams had arrived by 8 p.m. This first leg had a few strenuous sections which were steep but fairly open. Many teams missed out controls because of the time involved looking for some of the earlier ones. Taking nine hours for the leg with pies, stew and soup for a midnight feast is what it's all about though.

Horrid tales of being lost for hours in hectares of hakea were spun - the yarn-spinners were certainly lost, I had managed to avoid much of the hakea when course-setting. Finally at 6.30 a.m. Theo's worried look lifted when team 24 staggered in after Adrian & Julian had taken a record-breaking 16½ hours for the first leg.

The second A course leg although not very long allowed the B course people to forge ahead, thus gaining an advantage they were to maintain for the duration of the event. Undaunted Lawford & Gray set off on their third leg 4½ hours behind the B course. Hall & Dixon, Rumpff & Edmonds and Blundy & Cockerill were in pursuit, leaving Moore a man deserted by his team in T.F.K. - and Jacobs, Caddy & Co. too stuffed to be competitive.

Meanwhile on the B course the pace was being set by Rothfield, Serpell & Moorhead, followed by Burrow & Livingstone, Scott & Albrecht, Richards, Gregory & Lowden with Grelis & Kelcher starting to make their charge. Checkpoint 17 was causing some difficulty although enough teams found it to reassure the organisers that it was correct.

A new day dawned and the rain stopped. This provoked a few teams into starting again and raised the spirits of the leading teams. By dawn the leaders were bushed down in the Lenderderg River where the route was a succession of 200m. climbs and descents, all of which were steep. This leg took eight hours even in daylight for most teams that completed it.

Finally, 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon rolled around. At this stage Rothfield, Serpell and Moorhead had reached Checkpoint 28, fourth leg of the B course, with Burrow & Livingstone and Grelis & Kelcher both at T.F.K. 3 after getting to checkpoint 27. Lawford & Gray were well ahead, easing up, on the A course, having got to checkpoint 27. Rumpff & Edmonds and Blundy & Cockerill both got to checkpoint 23.

Some teams thought they would go on a 25 hour walk and were late back. This severely penalized Hall & Dixon (6o 25), Trotter, Trotter & Piercy and Scott & Albrecht as the rules have been rigorously applied when working out the results.

The final placings at 2 p.m. on Sunday after 24 hours of sustained activity were as follows:

1978 24 HOUR WALK PLACINGS

A COURSE

		Score
1	G. Lawford & R. Gray reached 27	27
2 eq.	P. Rumpff & R- Edmonds reached 23	23
2 eq.	N. Blundy & P. Cockerill reached 23	23
4 eq.	I. Moore, E. Brown & R. Harboud reached 15	15
4 eq.	R. Jacobs, D. Caddy, D. Guest & A. Spurrirt reached 15	15
6	T. Sherwood & J. Challacombe reached 10	10
7	S. Key & E. Neve reached 7	7
8	G. Thorpe, A. Tyrrell & M. Coventry reached 6	6
9	D. Busby & R. Emolie reached 10 not 8 & 9	4
10	M. Hall & A. Dixon reached 25 not 17 + LATE	3
11	L. Wilson & H. Edmonds reached 10 not 6 - 9	-2
12	A. Benstead & J. Harrison reached 18 not 9 & 11 - 15	0

B COURSE

1	A. Rothfield, R. Serpell & M. Moorhead reached 28	17
2 eq.	J. Burrow & G. Livingstone reached 27	16
2 eq.	J. Grelis & K. Kelcher reached 27	16
4	T. Kiddle & G. Stevens reached 27 not 17	13
5 eq.	P. Elliott, S. Kennett, F. Polgraine & P. Rienks reached 20 not 17	8
5 eq.	K. Liley, M. Jordan, A. Bult & G. Miller reached 20 not 17	8
5 eq.	R. Gregory, J. Richards & S. Lowden reached 20 not 17	8
5 eq.	J. Christie (& G. Stevens) reached 20 not 17	8
5 eq.	H. Godfrey, N. Byrne & S. Ferry reached 16	8
10	C. Walsh, D. Pool & A. Demicheli reached 20 not 16 & 17	5
11	D. Trotter, M. Trotter & K. Piercy reached 26 + LATE	3
12	B. Iser, J. Skillen & D. Bennett reached 20 not 7-10	2
13	J. Harbert & T. Dowell reached 20 not 8-10	-1
14	D. Scott & B. Albrecht reached 23 not 17 + LATE	-7
15	A. Garnham, P. Constable & P. Burns reached 26 not 5,6,8,9 and 21 + LATE	-10

Scoring was based on the following rules:

- a) One point for each checkpoint reached.
- b) Two points deducted for each checkpoint missed
- c) Two points deducted for every five minutes late back after 24 hours

The Lerderderge Gorge map proved to be quite satisfactory, form lines and creeks were generally reliable and a few extra tracks existed. The country is very steep in places which makes for slow progress. The forest itself is quite open except for isolated areas of hakea on flat ridges. Overall the area was very suitable for a 24 hour walk, especially as the event could be held entirely on public land. Improvements could have been made by using the more northerly areas of the map which were less rugged and more open and by having shorter legs in the southern area.

I would like to thank all those people who participated in the 24 Hour Walk. I would like to thank particularly David Bayliss, Theo Dreher and Iain East for their work in helping to set the course and also George and Fiona Raitt for their food organization.

SKI TOURING

George Raitt

So far this season there have been five beginners trips run by the Club, and about 35 beginners have attended. Snow camping was an essential part of each trip. It is hoped that most of these people will be sufficiently competent to go on other Club trips; however, they should contact the leader in each case. Any beginners who still have not been on a trip should try and talk leaders of weekend trips into taking them along, or failing that see me and another beginners trip might be arranged.

People wishing to lead Club trips and who are not known around the Club should satisfy one of their competence to lead a trip, especially an extended trip, before making an entry in the trip's book.

Page Missing

With the continual rise in climbing standards within the club, the climbing report has become (or always was?) an interesting (?) mathematical cunundrum for all but the most well informed to appreciate. Glancing back through past "Mountaineers" I found the hardest climbers to leading grade 15, 16 or occasionally grade 17 routes. This situation no longer exists. Since Christmas four M.U.M.C. climbers have emerged as capable of leading grade 20 climbs. Many M.U.M.C. members of both sexes, including people climbing for their first year, have made ascents of recognized grade 17 and 18 climbs.

The climbing report thus seems to have some historical or interest value. I am open to suggestions as to whether the format of the report should be altered in any way.

TRIPS PROGRAMME

- AUGUST 5 - 13 SKI-TOURING
Snowy Mountains
Standard: Medium/hard
Leader: Andrew Rothfield. 20 8500
- AUGUST 12 - 14 (15?) SKI TOURING
Snowy Plains - Bryces Gorge - Mt. Howitt
Standard: Medium/Hard
Leader: Rob Jung. 379 8948, 479 2550(W)
- AUGUST 13 - 18 CANOEING
North Eastern Safari
Indi (Upper Murray), Swampy Plains and Uppe- Mitta
Standard: Hard
Leader: Bill Cruickshank. 80 3719
- AUGUST 19 - 26 SKI TOURING
Kiandra - Kosciusko
Standard: experienced
Leader: Michael Feller. 383 2653, 341 7170(W)
- AUGUST 26 - 27 ALPINE INSTRUCTION COURSE
Participants must be prepared to bivvy on the
summitt of Mt. Feathertop in a snow cave.
Standard: Easy/medium
Leaders: Nicholas Reeves. 347 6759
Andrew Rothfield. 20 8500
- AUGUST 26 - SEPT. 4 SKI TOURING
Snowy Mountains
Standard: Experienced
Leader: Jim Van Gelder. 347 2077

SEPTEMBER 2 - 3

CANOEING

Victorian Slalom Championships
Mitchell River
Standard: Hard
Leader: Bill Cruickshank

SEPTEMBER 16 - 17

MIDNIGHT ASCENT

Mt. Feathertop
Come on the great annual M.U.M.C. epic
Standard: Medium

SEPTEMBER 20 (WED.)

MOUNTAINEERING

"The Gledhills",
ABC-2. 8.30 p.m.
The Gledhill tragedy filmed in N.Z. last summer.

NOVEMBER 25 - 26

HUT WORK PARTY/BLUDGE

Mt. Feathertop
Standard: As you like
Leader: Andrew Walker. 725 9765, 860 2241 (W).

Other activities:

CAVING

Contacts: Nick and Sue White
95 The Crescent, Ascot Vale. 387 4211(W-Nick)
or Jeanette McLaren,
98 Brunswick Road, Brunswick. 387 1086.

ORIENTEERING

Contact: Tony Kerr
5 Beleura Ave., Vermont. 874 2726

1. ALPINE AREA

For some reason the L.C.C. extended the deadline for submissions on the Proposed Recommendation until July 31st. Currently about 6000 submissions have been received, a majority apparently favouring an alpine national park. Recent activities of M.U.M.C. members on this issue have been:

- a) Distribution of thousands of "tear-off letters". These have been distributed throughout Melbourne giving people several facts about the Proposed Recommendations and asking them to tear off a letter at the bottom and send it to the L.C.C. The letter expresses dissatisfaction with the Proposed Recommendations and asks the L.C.C. to reconsider, giving more emphasis to Park values.
- b) The Big Walk: On the evening of Friday, 9th June, the F.V.W.C. organised what must have been its best attended event ever. About 1000 people gathered on parliament steps, then marched down Bourke Street to the mall where they were addressed by Ian Cathie, the A.L.P. shadow Minister for Conservation (whose party recently adopted as part of its policy - the creation of a large alpine national park in Victoria), Geoff Mosely, of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Andrew Rothfield, the main organiser of the walk and F.V.W.C. President, and Kathy Houghton, V.M.T.C. President. Although well attended and well behaved, the walk got extremely little publicity. It was described on the Channel 2 news that evening, but nowhere else in Melbourne. It rated a few paragraphs in Saturday's country edition of "The Age". The increasing frustration and anger felt by all concerned over the alps appears to be leading to increased militancy.

2. HUTS, SNOWPOLES, SNOWMOBILES, AND A TRAGEDY ON THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

On Saturday, 24th June, a party of two relatively inexperienced cross-country skiers left Falls Creek bound for Fitzgerald's hut on the High Plains. Visibility was very poor due to thick cloud, winds were extremely strong, and it was raining and sleeting for most of the day - conditions were generally very bad. The party was apparently lured on by the presence of a hut. For some reason the hut was missed. This might have been due to the fact that somewhere along the new snowpole line was a sign-post pointing in the wrong direction to the hut. However, competent navigators would have realized this, as did another party of two experienced skiers the same day. When the party realised they had missed the hut they decided to push on to another hut, again lured on by its presence. Then one member developed hypothermia, probably, and threw away his pack (containing a tent). By the time the other person became aware of what was happening and that they were not going to reach the second hut, all he could do was dig a hole to place his companion in, then return to Falls Creek for help - at night.

On reaching the Rocky Valley observation hut and finding the door locked he used his elbow (why not a ski or pole we don't know) to break a window, sustaining some nasty cuts in the process, to shelter inside. This hut is only 15 minutes from Falls Creek anyway. Eventually he reached Falls Creek, raised the alarm, and sent snowmobiles out all over the place on Sunday which had reasonable weather, being a mixture of sunshine and snow flurries, with a strong but reduced wind. Eventually the other person was located and brought back to Falls Creek, still alive.

This incident is of great concern to M.U.M.C. for the following reasons:

- a) At least one of the two people involved belongs to M.U.M.C. and should have known that he and his companion lacked the experience and competence to undertake such a trip in the very bad conditions that prevailed. - Are we doing all we can to stress safety aspects?
- b) The incident gives more weight to the snowmobiles lobby in their efforts to ensure continued access for snowmobiles to all of the High Plains.
- c) The party was apparently lured on by the presence of huts and snowpoles. In the absence of both it is doubtful whether they would have ventured out given the conditions. The presence of huts and snowpoles, then, apparently caused the incident to occur. However, some people will inevitably claim that the incident reinforces the case for having more huts, snowpoles, and signs in the high country, to make it "safe". This is the real tragedy of the incident. Are we to have all our high country littered with these things purely for the sake of a few incompetents, thereby depriving everyone of the opportunity to not only experience wilderness, but also of the opportunity to develop competence?

3. ROAD CLOSURES IN THE VICTORIAN BUSH

The Forests Commission has recently announced several temporary road closures. Although a step in the right direction, these closures are only temporary, for the winter, mainly for erosion reasons. These tracks are not heavily used by F.V.W.C. members during this time of the year so the closures will do little to solve the mechanised v. non-mechanised outdoor recreationist conflict. However, one may (not necessarily though) be able to avoid vehicles on the following tracks:

- i. Grampians freea (from 1/7/78 to 30/9/78)
 - Goat Track and Victoria Range Track in the Victoria Range.
 - Carters Track from Long Point Fireline to Chinaman Track in the Difficult Range.
- ii. Otways area (A from 1/6/78 to 31/10/78)
 - Duck Ponds Track
 - Henderson Track
 - Cumberland Station Tracks
 - Lake Elizabeth Track
 - West Barwon Dam Catchment Tracks
 - Ironbark spur Track

Otways area (B until 31/12/80)

 - Lower part of Cumberland Track
 - Jamieson Track
 - Kennett-Wye Track
- iii. East Gippsland (from 15/6/78 to 15/9/78)
 - Mt. Ellery Track (only the last few km. to the summit)
 - Old Coast Road between Cape Conran and Bemm River Road.
- iv. The Alps (A from 15/6/78 to 31/10/78)

Amongst other less important tracks,

 - Trapyard hill - Mill-rs Hut Track (Avon headwaters)
 - Billygoat Bluff Track (Wonnangatta valley)

- All access roads into the Upper Wonnangatta Valley including the Riley Creek Track, the West Buffalo track and the Wonnangatta Track itself.
- All tracks over the summit area of Mt. Stirling.
- The track between Lake Cobbler and Mt. Speculation Road.
- Howqua Hills Track.
- The tracks to Mitchells from the Howqua River and Wren's Flat.
- The Silvermine Spur - Wrens Flat Track.
- Caledonia River, Butcher Country Spur, and Coleman's Creek tracks.
- Sixteen mile road and track from the Howqua to Mt. Lovick as well as the Lovick-Mt Clear track and the Knobs Track.

Cynics will note that many of these tracks will be under snow anyway.

(B until 31/12/80)

- The road from Mt. Speculation to Catherine saddle

(C until 31/12/78)

- The Riggall Spur Track from Wellington River to McFarlane Saddle
- The short track to Macalister Springs.

The following tracks are listed in the order of their importance to the hiker. The first track is the most important and the last is the least important. The tracks are listed in the order of their importance to the hiker. The first track is the most important and the last is the least important.

1. The first track is the most important and the last is the least important.

2. The second track is the second most important and the last is the least important.

- The second track is the second most important and the last is the least important.

3. The third track is the third most important and the last is the least important.

- The third track is the third most important and the last is the least important.

4. The fourth track is the fourth most important and the last is the least important.

- The fourth track is the fourth most important and the last is the least important.

5. The fifth track is the fifth most important and the last is the least important.

- The fifth track is the fifth most important and the last is the least important.

A pair of feet crashing to the floor from two bunks up mere inches away from my ears woke me from my dreams. Assorted scuffling and rattling as climbers donned clothing and prepared breakfast ensured that I could not drift back off to sleep.

Jex, who was already up and doing, shuffled past my bunk clutching a saucepan headed for the water tank situated outside the hut. Dimly I remembered braving the elements only a few hours earlier to ensure that we had water for our porridge and remarked upon this fact. Upon being advised that a member of another party had snaffled the water I launched into invective which unfortunately stung Jex more than the thick-skinned perpetrator of the crime. Perhaps this was for the best as the Kiwis were bigger and larger in number than us anyway.

After dressing rapidly and choking down some porridge I felt more agreeable. A cool breeze was blowing outside and there was no moon, but tracks leading across to Ilie de Beaumont promised no difficulties with route finding. The fact that there was no freeze didn't really mean that much to any of the Australians present; this was our first season and almost our first climb! The lack of moonlight led to a frenzied search for spare batteries for headtorches, none appearing. A brief dispute as to how many packs to take and who would carry them was disrupted by Kiwis disappearing out the door. The need to get a move on stopped all further dissension. Despite the lack of a freeze the other parties had exited wearing crampons. Deciding quickly that they had been at this game longer than us prompted us to do likewise.

We roped up inside the cramped ante-room: anything to stay out of the cold wind for a moment. Jex and Neil moved out first, followed a little later by Tim, Neil and me. Headtorches switched on we followed the footsteps winding into the unseen distance. Tim took the lead by virtue of unspoken seniority and off we trudged with 35 feet of nylon rope separating us.

Neil and I ambled along behind, often alongside one another; wordless. The pace was too slow (yet to learn that caution is the better part of valour) or so it seemed to me from time to time as I stopped and waited for the unseen end of the rope to pull tight again: the command to move on.

Ahead the occasional glint of torchlights in the distance was seen. Looking up was a mistake as the hood of my anorak was filled with wind and fell from my head. Shivering it was replaced rapidly with a mental reminder not to make the same error again only to have it occur ten minutes later.

Those torchlights were getting further ahead, must move more quickly. Beside Neil again. Walking in step. The thought of Tim stumbling into a crevasse stopped me and I let Neil walk away leaving him to his own thoughts. Skirting slots the trodden steps wound into the darkness. Playing games, I walled carefully, determined not to let my crampons break through the delicate crust; counting steps, this side that side. Breaking through - too soft - so I returned to the steps that weightier climbers had plugged. Lifting each foot became monotonous so once more I carefully tried the smooth surface. Ahead Neil's form outlined by his torch jinked from side to side. He was probably playing the same game. I followed his crampon marks and tried to avoid stepping in exactly the same spot lest my boot disappear into a hole in the stressed place. As I watched my crampons I almost walled into Neil who was having trouble with his crampons. The strap kept flipping over the toe of his boot leaving him with a crampon flapping uselessly around his ankle.

Suddenly the rope went slack in front of me: Tim and Neil were talking to somebody. I strolled up and found Jex and Neil seated on the snow bank beside the steps. They were heading back for the hut as Neil was not enjoying it, couldn't say I blamed him: a bit of a slog in soft snow. Still I wanted to climb this mountain. They said that it was well worth the work; I wouldn't know, this was my first. Blundy thought the same way. Twenty minutes of talking didn't help the situation. Black clouds gathered high overhead but Blundy reckoned they were harmless. He should know I reasoned to myself; he is the meteorologist.

Jex and Neil disappeared behind us as we proceeded slowly along the steps which led towards the base of Mt. Walter. The track swung northwards and we descended a little. The moon appeared for a moment and lit up the snow, revealing a buttress ahead. Steeply upwards we battled. Tim was wallowing knee and sometimes thigh deep in the steps of previous travellers that night. Neil and I were still trying our luck on the slightly crusty surface but the steepness meant too much pressure was placed on each step and it was easier to follow the steps. After a little while it became obvious that we were skirting the buttress to the east and so gaining the lower edge of the Anna Glacier.

Ahead the lights could no longer be seen: they had already traversed the first barrier of cornices and were crossing beneath the second, hidden from our view. If anything the wind was getting up even more and there seemed to be more purpose to the movement of the clouds.

Quickening my pace a little I plodded up beside Neil and asked him what he thought of the weather. All I got in reply was a noncommittal grunt before the rope, tugged at his waist and he had to move on. Tim was more concerned with the steps he was following which collapsed almost every step with wearisome predictability. There seemed no consistent means of consolidating the steps: a preliminary movement pushing more snow into the hole before stepping fully into it merely reduced the depth to which one inevitably sank.

My inner thoughts were abruptly terminated as Tim shouted that he thought that he had reached a bergschrund. As I peered beyond the fading circle shed by my torchlight I could make out a depression running across the snow in front. Looking further away to the right I could see what might be mist closing in over the Main Divide. For a second time I voiced my concern over the weather to Neil who communicated this to Tim. The answering American drawl indicated that he was preoccupied with the 'schrund. Blundy sank the shaft of his axe into the ground and proceeded to belay Tim across a smallish snow-bridge which looked none too strong. I made sure that the rope between Neil and myself was taut just in case Tim should disappear into the inner confines of the slot. Tentatively he moved forward and upon ascertaining where the upper edge lay, quickly stepped across and up the slope several paces preparatory to belaying Neil and me across.

Neil moved away from me. Cautiously I let out some rope and Neil was soon across. Comforting to think that two people, both heavier than myself, had already crossed what seemed to me a very fragile bridge. Trepidation crept in as I in turn approached the edge - perhaps the weight of the others had weakened the bridge? No, I stepped across easily and moved towards the others. Stopping short whilst Neil took in the rope I once again looked towards the heavens. The Main Divide to my right had disappeared behind an ominous bank of cloud.

The others had already noticed it so that it was with unanimity that we decided that a retreat was in order. We carefully reversed the delicate procedure of crossing the 'schrund and as I set off in the lead we were enveloped by cloud. Visibility dropped to about twenty feet. Fortunately day was dawning and the tracks were still traceable. No time for mind games now I thought as I angled my body toward the ever rising wind and quickened my step.

The trip back to the hut remains a blur of moving grey punctuated by occasionally dipping a leg into the slots which constantly await the unwary. The last grunt up a very slight incline saw us back inside Tasman Saddle Hut. Jex and Neil gazed at us dreamily from the confines of their sleeping bags as we abandoned our damp clothing, smug in the realization that fate had smiled upon them when they elected to turn back. Our reaction was to wonder whether we had wasted our time; or had we?

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An account of an attempt on Mt. Elie de Beaumont in December 1977 by two parties comprising:

Peter 'Jex' Martin
Neil Currie
Tim Keliher
Neil Blundy
Hugh Foxcroft

NON - COMMITTEE POSITIONS

F.V.W.C.	Observer:	-----	Ross Stephens
	S. & R. delegate:	-----	Nik Dow
V.O.A.	Delegates:	-----	Ron Frederick
			Geoff Lawford
V.S.A.	Delegates:	-----	Nick and Sue White
A.C.F.	Delegate:	-----	John Stone
C.C.V.	Delegates:	-----	Evelyn Smith
			Iain East
V.N.P.A.		-----	John Stone
			Howard Cooper
24 HOUR WALK ORGANIZERS		-----	Andrew Walker
			David Bayliss
FEATHERTOP HUT WARDENS		-----	Andrew Walker
			Chips O'Beirne
LIBRARIANS: General		-----	Adrian Benstead
Maps		-----	Jolyon Shelton
PUBLICATIONS SALES OFFICER		-----	Neil Blundy
DINNER DANCE ORGANIZER		-----	Jane Landman
CATERING OFFICERS		-----	Lyndee Beattie
			Howard Cooper
COMPUTER PROGRAMMER		-----	Nik Dow
DUPLICATING OFFICER		-----	Andrew Rothfield
ASSISTANT			Prue Dobbin
FIRST AID OFFICER		-----	Dianne Coon
OFF- CAMPUS ADVISOR			Michael Henderson
ASSISTANT STORES OFFICERS		-----	Rod Gregory
			James Pitt
			Howard Cooper
			Prue Dobbin
			Nick Tapp
TUESDAY NIGHT ROSTER		-----	Chips O'Beirne
			Nick Reeves
			Hugh Foxcroft
			Louise Giffedder
			Jenny Vanstaveren

The first part of the report is a summary of the work done during the year. It is followed by a detailed account of the work done in each of the four main divisions of the Department. The report is then followed by a list of the names of the members of the Department and a list of the names of the members of the various committees and sub-committees. The report is then followed by a list of the names of the members of the various committees and sub-committees.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN 1917 BY THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT

JOHN W. L. BROWN
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A. W. L. BROWN	2. J. W. L. BROWN	3. J. W. L. BROWN	4. J. W. L. BROWN	5. J. W. L. BROWN	6. J. W. L. BROWN	7. J. W. L. BROWN	8. J. W. L. BROWN	9. J. W. L. BROWN	10. J. W. L. BROWN	11. J. W. L. BROWN	12. J. W. L. BROWN	13. J. W. L. BROWN	14. J. W. L. BROWN	15. J. W. L. BROWN	16. J. W. L. BROWN	17. J. W. L. BROWN	18. J. W. L. BROWN	19. J. W. L. BROWN	20. J. W. L. BROWN	21. J. W. L. BROWN	22. J. W. L. BROWN	23. J. W. L. BROWN	24. J. W. L. BROWN	25. J. W. L. BROWN	26. J. W. L. BROWN	27. J. W. L. BROWN	28. J. W. L. BROWN	29. J. W. L. BROWN	30. J. W. L. BROWN	31. J. W. L. BROWN	32. J. W. L. BROWN	33. J. W. L. BROWN	34. J. W. L. BROWN	35. J. W. L. BROWN	36. J. W. L. BROWN	37. J. W. L. BROWN	38. J. W. L. BROWN	39. J. W. L. BROWN	40. J. W. L. BROWN	41. J. W. L. BROWN	42. J. W. L. BROWN	43. J. W. L. BROWN	44. J. W. L. BROWN	45. J. W. L. BROWN	46. J. W. L. BROWN	47. J. W. L. BROWN	48. J. W. L. BROWN	49. J. W. L. BROWN	50. J. W. L. BROWN	51. J. W. L. BROWN	52. J. W. L. BROWN	53. J. W. L. BROWN	54. J. W. L. BROWN	55. J. W. L. BROWN	56. J. W. L. BROWN	57. J. W. L. BROWN	58. J. W. L. BROWN	59. J. W. L. BROWN	60. J. W. L. BROWN	61. J. W. L. BROWN	62. J. W. L. BROWN	63. J. W. L. BROWN	64. J. W. L. BROWN	65. J. W. L. BROWN	66. J. W. L. BROWN	67. J. W. L. BROWN	68. J. W. L. BROWN	69. J. W. L. BROWN	70. J. W. L. BROWN	71. J. W. L. BROWN	72. J. W. L. BROWN	73. J. W. L. BROWN	74. J. W. L. BROWN	75. J. W. L. BROWN	76. J. W. L. BROWN	77. J. W. L. BROWN	78. J. W. L. BROWN	79. J. W. L. BROWN	80. J. W. L. BROWN	81. J. W. L. BROWN	82. J. W. L. BROWN	83. J. W. L. BROWN	84. J. W. L. BROWN	85. J. W. L. BROWN	86. J. W. L. BROWN	87. J. W. L. BROWN	88. J. W. L. BROWN	89. J. W. L. BROWN	90. J. W. L. BROWN	91. J. W. L. BROWN	92. J. W. L. BROWN	93. J. W. L. BROWN	94. J. W. L. BROWN	95. J. W. L. BROWN	96. J. W. L. BROWN	97. J. W. L. BROWN	98. J. W. L. BROWN	99. J. W. L. BROWN	100. J. W. L. BROWN
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Paddy Pallin

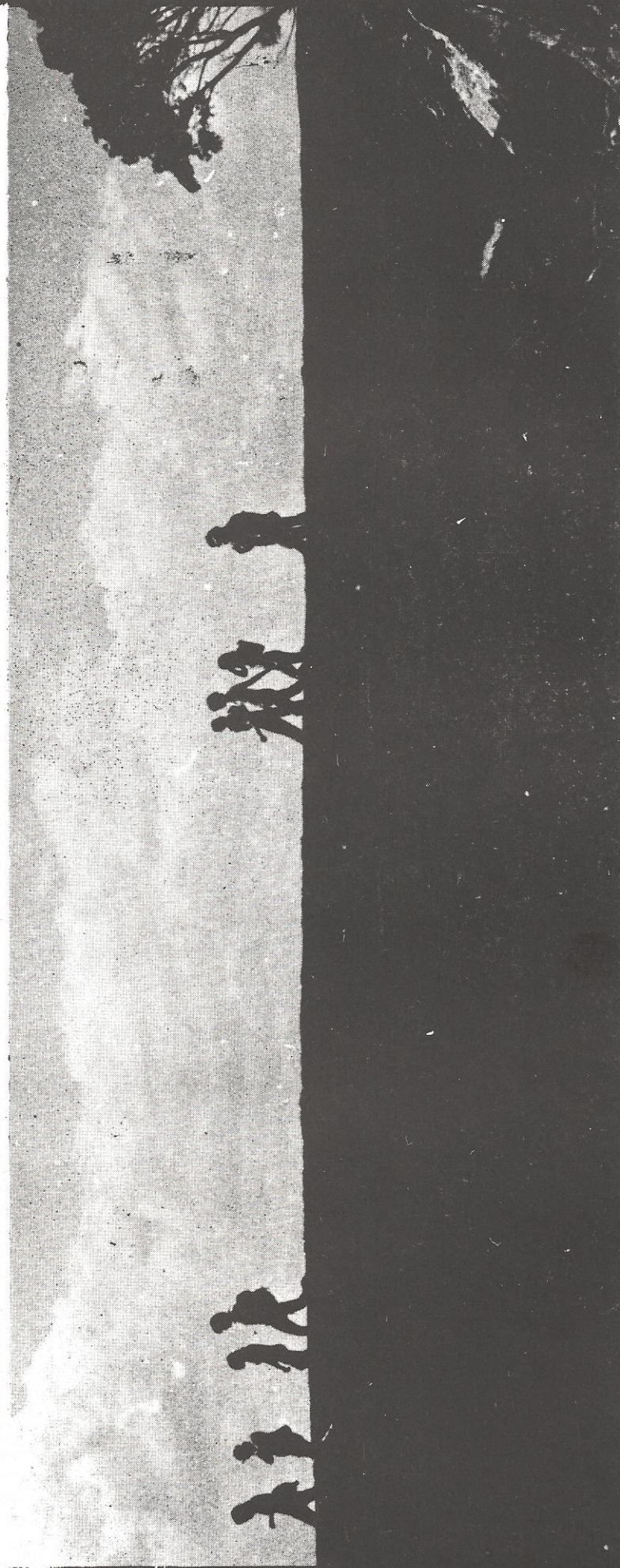
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