

Aiding on Ring a Ding Ding at Mt. Buffalo. Photo John Chapman

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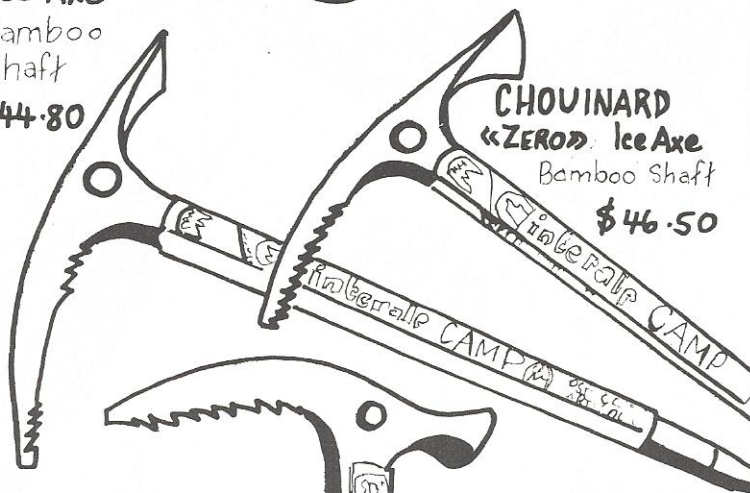
MOUNTAINEER

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THE MOUNTAINEER

MAY 1979

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M.U.M.C. COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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Caving:	Sue White, 123 Manningham St., Parkville.	328 4154
Rockclimbing:	Jim Van Gelder Ormond College.	347 2077
	and Nick Tapp, 19 Terrara Rd., Vermont.	874 1171
Canoeing:	Doug Haig, 157 Berringa Road, Park Orchards.	876 1802
Conservation:	Theo Dreher, 460 Nicholson St., North Carlton.	347 1395
Orienteering:	Bob Dawson, Ormond College.	341 6355 W
Ski-Touring:	Peter Cameron, No. 1/423 Canning St., Carlton.	347 1985 H

The Journal of M.U.M.C.

Correspondence: The Editor, "The Mountaineer", c/o Sports Union,
Melbourne University, Grattan Street, Parkville. 3052.

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS 1979

F.V.W.C. Delegate	-	Howard Cooper
F.V.W.C. Observers	-	Andrew Rothfield & Ross Stephens
F.V.W.C. Search & Rescue Delegate	-	Nik Dow
F.V.W.C. Search & Rescue Observer	-	Richard Serpell
F.V.W.C. Search & Rescue Contacts	-	Sue & Nick White and Harry Schaap
V.S.A. Delegate	-	Nick & Sue White (323 4154)
G.C.V. Delegates	-	Iain East & Theo Dreher
V.N.P.A. Delegate	-	Theo Dreher
V.O.A. Delegate	-	Ron Frederick (870 4033H) (874 8111W)
Auditor	-	(To be Advertised)
24 Hour Walk Organiser	-	
Hut Warden	-	Andrew Walker (860 2568W)
Librarian	-	Mike Henderson (41 0221W)
Dinner Dance Organiser	-	Howard Cooper
Catering Officers	-	Andrew MacLean & Nick Tapp
First Aid Officer	-	Richard Moore (347 4385)
Assistant Stores Officers	-	Peter Robins, Andrew Wilson
Tuesday Evenings	-	Paul Kennedy, Jim Bland, Richard Moore.
Duplicating Officer	-	Andrew Rothfield

EDITORIAL

As my first duty as President, I would like to welcome all new members to the Club, and to remind all members that they are always welcome at the Clubrooms at lunchtime or on Tuesday nights. It is your job if you have any enquiries or problems to seek out a member of the committee and pass your problem on to us. The members of the committee are listed at the front of the Mountaineer, and I would stress that enquiries to sub-committee convenors are always welcome if you wish to try one of the Club's activities.

Recently there has been much comment and criticism of the Club with regard to the level of activity with M.U.M.C. I feel there is no need for gloom or prophets of doom and would like to point out a few facts to our critics.

1. Bushwalking is no longer in vogue. The people walking now are the dedicated few rather than the trendy many, and in conjunction with this older members of the Club no longer use van trips as social weekends and reunions as they seemed to do in the boom period up to 1974.
2. A general decline in popularity of van trips does not necessarily reflect a general decline in Club activity. At least three private trips are being organised this Easter in addition to the organised Club trips. There seems to be a trend amongst the current active walkers to prefer smaller trips with fewer people and private transport. There is nothing wrong with this, provided sufficient opportunity is available for beginners to go walking. Many present members dislike van trips because of the expense, time involved in travelling, lack of flexibility and additional organisation required. It must be pointed out however, that there are many benefits of van trips including no need to drive back after a long walk and the social benefits of meeting other members.
3. Bushwalking has suffered, especially in winter, with Club members preferring other activities. Ski-touring particularly is very popular and tends to replace snow walks and other walking activities in winter.

Finally there are a number of encouraging signs. The canoeists have had in excess of 30 beginners in boats this year, and it looks as if ski-touring will continue its boom. Last November, 26 orienteers helped organise an M.U.M.C. event in inclement weather conditions.

So rather than criticising the Club's lack of activity, look at the facts, and if you're still unconvinced why not lead a trip.

IAN EAST.

1. Melbourne University Marriage Club strikes again! Neil Blundy and Mary Egan were married recently as were Peter Megens and Cathie Seccombe. George Kuczera is to be married later this year to a girl he met in the VSA. Congratulations to all these people.
2. The librarian of the Club is Mike Henderson. He proposes to spend the library grant some time in the near future. Could all those people who have suggestions to make regarding prospective purchases please leave a note in the librarian's envelope. Without any such suggestions he will buy what he likes!
3. Club member John Chapman has recently published a bushwalking guide to South-West Tasmania. It appears to be well produced and comprehensive. A worthwhile purchase if you intend walking in the South-West next summer.
4. All people are requested to search their houses and find for return to the Club store any sleeping bags, tents, packs and parkas which have been borrowed and are overdue. The club would like to see them come back and no questions will be asked.
5. The following Club members have moved and would love to hear from anybody passing their way.

Lyal Harris,
c/o Ph. Matte,
Laboratoire de Geologie Structurate,
Academie De Montpellier,
Montpellier. 34060.
France.

Roger and Cheryl Barson,
R.M.B. 2034 Jervis Creek Road,
Old Tallangatta.

(This is just off the Wodonga-Corryong Road, 50 km. from Wodonga, not far from the end of the Mitta Mitta River.

6. The Club will be open most Tuesday nights.

Persons responsible are:

Jim Bland	509 4786 (H).
Richard Moore	347 4385 (H).
Paul Kennedy	347 4695 (H).

6. FOR SALE - Ring Chris Baxter - 51 1926 (H).

2 Dead Boy snow flukes \$8

3 Warthog ice pitons \$12

1 med. ice screw \$4

20 posters (mostly on climbing) \$7

1 Kernmantle rope 9mmX45m (not for leading) \$5

1 pr. RD friction boots size 11 (good condition) \$20

1 pr. " " " " 6 (ex. ") \$20

1 pr. EB " " " 4 (good ") \$15

1 pr. RD Super Guide " " 11 (poor ") \$ 7

1 Bushgear H-frame pack in ex. condition. \$45

1 green nylon Rannock parka (med.) hardly ever worn \$30

- 20 approx. hero loops and nylon tapes \$2
 2 long wire slings with swaged ends for threading \$2
 10 nuts (loose) \$5
 7 " (wired) \$9
 15 " (on rope/tape which may need replacing) \$12
 2 double length Supertape 1" slings \$4
 2 tape 1" etriers \$1
 1 nylon camera bag (for Rollei) on 1/2" tape \$2
 1 Jumar \$9
 1 padded gearsling \$2
 1 climbing pack (needs repairs) \$3
 2 Bashies (unused) \$1
 1 Stubai piton hammer \$3
 12 steel karabiners (3 with screw) \$11
 1 PA alloy karabiner (for racking only) \$0.50
 1 Stubai alloy karabiner (screw) \$2
 1 pr. belay gloves \$0.50
 1 pulley \$1
 13 soft steel pitons \$1
 42 chromemoly bongs, angles and leepers (some damaged) \$50
 14 steel bolt brackets \$2.50
 1 hammer holster and 1 drill holster \$1
 1 guitar (ex. condition) \$70

A lot of this gear would be a good buy for clubs, groups etc.

Phone Chris Baxter - 51 1926 (H). or write to 58a Lewisham Road, Prahran, Victoria. 3181.

8. Have you bought your Club Journal yet?????

The Club Journal is a publication of the Club which is published quarterly. It contains news, reports, and other information of interest to the members of the Club. It is a valuable source of information and is a must for every member of the Club.

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CONSERVATION

1. MT. BOGONG HUTS

Three of the huts on Mt. Bogong have recently been burned down; the derelict Summit Hut supposedly on October 18th 1978 and Bivouac and Maddison's Huts soon after. In the short time since these huts were burnt there has been much high level government activity to decide to rebuild Bivouac and Summit Huts before the coming winter.

- (a) An interdepartmental committee chaired by the Lands Department and including representatives from the SEC, Soil Conservation Authority, National Parks Service and Department Youth, Sport and Recreation met on 20th March. Two members of the Bogong Club, Ian Parfitt and Mick Hull who are avidly in favour of huts, were present at the meeting and steam-rolled a proposal for urgent rebuilding. No other user groups (bush-walkers, ski-tourers or wilderness lovers) were present nor were they asked for submissions.
- (b) The Decisions: It looks as though Bivouac Hut will be replaced at its present site before the coming winter with an ANARE style aluminium insulation sandwich construction, probably prefabricated and helicoptered on to the spur. The plan is likely to involve some clearing of surrounding snow-gums.

The committee will meet again soon to decide on final plans for a new Summit Hut. The Bogong Club's original submission was for an igloo-type survival shelter within the summit cairn (the old Summit Hut was located on the northern slopes of the peak, not on the very top).

Our objections:

- (i) The committee was heavily lobbied in its decision-making by fanatical pre-hut interests, but heard no submission from other user groups. Mt. Bogong is one of Victoria's best roadless wilderness areas. Huts are incompatible with wildernesses and we are strongly opposed to construction of any hut on or near Mt. Bogong summit. Our opinion should be heard as part of a rational consultative planning process.
- (ii) Deciding on Mt. Bogong Huts is only the first stage of the committee's activities. Later it will decide on huts in all of the Victorian Alpine areas and the same objections will apply: will conservationists and ski-tourers or bushwalkers get a say, and are more and better huts necessary?
- (iii) This committee is typical of the government's fragmented approach to planning recreational land-use in the Alps. Instead of one body or one interdepartmental council deciding on all the various issues (huts, snow poles, road closures, snow-mobiles and commercial over-snow tours, location of logging) there is a different one for each issue. Each rarely knows what the others are doing and very rarely is there any input from conservationists or bushwalkers. By making independent decisions at the moment they are making the LCC's attempt to manage the alps impossible.

Urgent: We need to write letters to the Premier and Minister for Lands demanding a moratorium on hut rebuilding until other users of Mt. Bogong are consulted. It is probably too late to stop Bivouac being rebuilt, but we must try to prevent a hut on the summit. M.U.M.C. has already sent letters.

Please write letters putting your objections to:

The Premier,
Hon. R. J. Hamer,
1 Treasury Place,
Melbourne. 3002.

ex. Minister for Conservation,
Hon. W.A. Borthwick,
240 Victoria Parade,
East Melbourne. 3002.

ex. Minister for Lands,
Hon. W.A. Borthwick,
2 Treasury Place,
Melbourne. 3002.

2. The LCC's Final Recommendations on the Alps have been cynically delayed until after the coming elections. Leaks have indicated that there may be some Alpine National Parks but that almost certainly there will be certain areas designated for "once-only logging". We cannot accept this compromise of a national park. If the recommendations come out before the next Mountaineer and if there is "once-only logging" in National Park areas, there will be a huge need for urgent letters to the Premier, and to the Secretary, Land Conservation Council, 464 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. 3004.

3. M.U.M.C. members more active in Conservation are not always the most mobile Club members and therefore often miss out on first-hand observation of activities against our interests in the various places we walk, ski, climb or canoe. Club members need to be VIGILANT and to keep an eye out for new logging roads, current logging activity, unregistered trail bikes, bikes or 4WD's off roads, snowmobiles or any other activities against our interests. Your vigilance is most important. If you do see something please leave a note in the Clubrooms or let a committee member know.

For instance, in January this year cattle graziers on the lower slopes of Mt. Bogong built a wire fence which cuts across the open ski-slope leading down to Cleve Cole Hut. Correspondence with the Soil Conservation Authority has informed us that this fence must come down every winter. Can members check that this happens and so make sure we can ski down to Cleve Cole. This is probably the best non-icy slope on Bogong in winter.

4. OTWAYS POWER LINE

The Conservation Ministry has completed its assessment of the Environmental Effects Statement of an SEC 66 kv Transmission line from Colac to Lorne. The construction was found to be justified and the route we favoured in our submission to the EES has been found most suitable. It is noteworthy that the commendable and elaborate process of EES digestion is carried through for such relatively uncontroversial issues but is ignored in so many instances affecting our use, especially of the Alps.

5. COLO WILDERNESS, NSW.

Conservationists in NSW are also facing problems - the Colo Wilderness in the northern Blue Mountains is threatened by pollution from a power station planned on Newnes Plateau. The Colo Committee is actively

fighting this planned station and has suggested a viable alternative site which will leave the wilderness intact. MUMC has recently obtained for its library a book with superb black and white photographs outlining the values of the wilderness (Colo Wilderness, by Henry Gold and Peter Prineas, Kalianna Press, 399 Pitt St., Sydney) and the Colo Committee February 1979 report arguing against the Newnes Plateau power station.

SKI - TOURING

Peter Cameron

All signs this autumn are for a long cold winter. So, while suburbia shivers, we can enjoy what we all hope will be a bumper snow season!

We have decided to revamp the Club ski equipment available for hire so that more beginners will take part in Club trips. This season we will have five new sets of skis. These will all be waxless and will include the proven Trak Mountain, the new season's Plenk fishscale and the new mica-based Epoke 1100. The new boots will again be Alpha as they appear the most suited to our use. We are moving towards having virtually all rat-trap bindings as the old cable types fall further out of vogue.

So MUMC will now have 16 pairs of fibreglass skis (plus 3 wooden), with a range of both waxed and waxless types. This should be sufficient to equip several club trips each weekend.

Beginners trips will be preceded by a talk and slide night. Potential ski-tourers should regard this night as compulsory as we will discuss the principles of ski-ing and hiring equipment as well as the essentials of snow camping. And remember; all ski-touring equipment must be booked in advance. A new booking book will soon appear in the Store - Use It! Also, people booked on club beginners trips have preference for the use of club skis and equipment.

Good skiing.

CANOEING 1978 - 1979

Doug Haig

Last year saw a good year for canoeing, with good rains coming just before Easter and continuing throughout the year providing many months of good water for those interested. Successful trips were undertaken on most of the notable rivers and reports were of very enjoyable times had by all those participating.

This year has seen a remarkable interest in the sport by beginners with over 50 people enjoying 'life on the river' during the first three weekends. The first two trips were one-day events on the Yarra River near Wonga Park. The last trip, to the Goulburn River, was totally booked out, with quite a few people being unable to come - purely due to lack of boats. A considerable quantity of materials has been purchased and these will hopefully solve the boat problem, providing sufficient willing helpers appear to build the boats.

Eskimo rolling in the Beaurepaire Pool has also become a very popular part of canoeing, providing a warm environment for one to learn canoeing skills from paddling a straight line to hand rolling a canoe. Let us hope that all those involved will be able to apply these skills when needed.

This year's Inter-Varsity looks like being a most successful contest, with a lot of talent now existing in the club, but plenty of practice will be needed in the coming months.

With the interest that has already been shown the rest of the year should be good fun for all those willing to brave the worsening weather. The large number of interested beginners will allow us to run trips for various standards throughout the year, provided we have enough experienced people willing to lead the trips. Other trips planned for 1979 are a Swampy Plains and Indi River assault, a one-week Snowy River trip at the end of the year, day trips on the Thompson and Delatite Rivers and many other weekend trips to be decided as the rain falls.

CANOEING THROUGH GLENALADALE

Jolyon Shelton

The Mitchell is one of Victoria's major rivers. The Dargo, Wonnangatta and Wongungarra rivers drain some of the roughest and most inaccessible parts of the Victorian Alps. They meet near Waterford forming the Mitchell River. For the fifteen miles to Tabberabbarra the river meanders through undulating well-grassed grazing land.

Below Tabberabbarra the river is markedly different. The river snakes its way through the unique country of the Glenaladale National Park. Red sandstone bluffs tower overhead, small 'jungle pockets' line the river; the last remnants of the rainforests common along the NSW and Queensland coasts. A mild warm climate has encouraged the survival of many subtropical trees. Dominating the forest is the Kanooka or Water Gum. Growing to 20 metres high with smooth pale brown bark, these trees develop buttresses which engulf riverside boulders. Such is their grip that they are rarely uprooted by a flood. Overhead, their dense dark green leaves shade the river. Alongside grow Lilly-pilly trees and Sweet Pittosporum which themselves are host to a multitude of ferns, vines and mosses. Back from the river, removed from its moist micro-climate, a dry open eucalypt forest dominates with an occasional Kurrajong clinging to the cliffs.

This extraordinary vegetation makes the Mitchell one of Victoria's most interesting rivers. Its other attractions are waterfalls, wildflowers and an abundance of riverside campsites well supplied with firewood. The rapids along the river are amongst the most enjoyable there could be. Canoeing down the river is an ideal way to visit this country.

We put in at the end of a rough bush track, a few miles below Waterford. For most of the day we just drifted and enjoyed the sun, there being few rapids before Tabberabbarra.

Once cleared for agriculture; this country appears long neglected. Wattle grows thickly beneath the bleached remnants of ringbarked forests. Thick banks of blackberries line the river. A derelict footbridge, its plans dangling loosely marks the end of an overgrown track. Beside it, a primitive bark hut, empty but for a seat lined with wombat skin. Outside, a few desiccated rabbit skins hang from rusting wire hooks. The river flows on, oblivious to all this.

As we approached Tabberabbarra, the river suddenly dropped away with the water boiling and surging in giant eddies. The current swept into rock walls increasing the danger. Adrenalin surged through our bodies and our hearts beat faster as we paddled in. The chill of the water had us gasping for breath. One by one we burst through the pressure waves and made it to the bottom to await the others.

Unfortunately Sandy didn't quite see the last rock; his boat rode high out of the water, he was spun around and dumped unceremoniously in the river. In the cold water his buoyancy vest was of great value.

With dusk approaching, we neared the Slalom rapid, the site of numerous championship events. We wanted to stop there but other people were camped there beside their cars, having come down what must be one of the roughest two wheel drive tracks in Victoria. In search of solitude we paddled on through the rapid.

I had been there the previous weekend competing in a slalom. The poles had been removed but I tried to repeat the course; the poles positions still being fresh in my mind. It was fun dropping my boat into eddies, paddling against the current and drifting sideways and backwards down the rapid. At the finish I was quite exhausted. Slalom certainly is a test of fitness and canoeing skills.

Camp was made beneath some lilly-pilly trees a mile or two further on. We soon had our tents pitched and a fire alight. We ate well; jaffles, steak, fresh vegetables, plum pudding and cream. With the river doing the work we had not worried about the weight of food. Dehydrated food may be tasty and light, but it will never match a fresh juicy steak.

The next day brought us to the "Amphitheatre". This is unquestionably the most memorable of the rapids on the river. Situated at Billy-Goat Bend, the "Amphitheatre" presents a grand impressive sight. The river sweeps around beneath massive red cliffs from which scree slopes fan out, spreading tongue-like into the green luxuriant rainforest which thrives along the riverbank.

The river roared its appreciation; our hearts thumped a little harder as we got out to look. Through the rocky labyrinth, the water rolling and foaming in all directions, we chose a route, memorising every rock, every pressure wave and every current. From water level things were different; the water was too powerful to fight, we had to go with the river. It had us in its grasp. We let it have its moment . . . over a rock, . . . caught by the jaws of a stopper wave . . . some quick support strokes return our balance . . . spun around to be met by a towering wall of white water crashing all around. A few more support strokes and we are through. Luck certainly played a part!

No so for Roger - he, a little inexperienced, couldn't control his boat in the turbulent water. He capsized and swam for the bank; his boat continued on down the rapid to wrap itself around the largest boulder in the river. With the full force of the river pinning it there it took three of us ten minutes to drag it off. Fortunately the boat was strongly constructed: a split join and some other minor cracks were repaired over lunch.

The dangers of the Mitchell river are at their greatest at the Amphitheatre: very many boats have been lost by people unaware of and unprepared for its difficulties. However this should not deter those less experienced on white water from attempting the river. Unless the river is in flood, in which case no one should attempt it, all the dangerous rapids can be easily portaged.

Beyond the Amphitheatre the river continues in its gorge, flowing quickly with much exciting and exhilarating water. There was rarely a dull moment as our boats crashed through the stopper waves to ride the eddies below.

The heart of the Glenaladale National Park is the 'Den of Nargun'. a large cavern carved into the red sandstone by Woolshed Creek. It is only a twenty minute walk from the river and well worth the effort. The massive sandstones of the region have been eroded by the creek creating a series of cliffs, caverns and waterfalls. The Den lies at the head of them all. A fallen stalagmite identifies it, lying in a pool of water surrounded by the dense sub-tropical vegetation. The creek cascades from the cliffs above, glistening in the sunlight. Behind the waterfall is the Den itself, undercut some twenty feet into the rock. Standing in that cavern it is easy to imagine it as the resting place of Nargun, the mythical serpent, creator of all watercourses. The sandy floor of the Den has been pushed into gentle curving mounds; very comfortable to rest on. In fact, floodwaters pouring from above and swirling around the cavern created the sandy floor. But the illusion is real.

We returned to the river and pushed out again into the current and down another rapid. Then, a very long haul through flat water with hardly a hint of current. After the excitement of the rapids upstream, this stretch was dull, boring and thoroughly tiring.

The flat water ended at the old Glenaladale Weir. Built earlier this century to supply water to the town of Bairnsdale, the weir never lasted long. Construction was hardly completed when an enormous flood washed away part of the massive basalt wall. The weir has never been repaired. The rubble from the collapsed wall has formed its own rapid. The boulders are sharp and angular; not very kind to boats. Scouting along the bank showed us the way through but still we had a very bouncy ride.

Another hour's paddle brought us to the 'Final Fling' a difficult grade 4 rapid at the start of the river's floodplain. The rapid is aptly named; it is the last rapid on the river - the last chance for one to prove one's ability on the river. For many it is their final fling into the water, a fitting finale for what is usually a very wet but thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

ROCKCLIMBING

Climbing has become a very popular club activity during the last few months. The beginners course was extremely well attended and many beginners are climbing well. Craig Nottle has led Siamese Crack (15) and Beautiful Possibilities (15) and seconded Missing Link (17), Mari (17) and Claw (18). He also swung leads on the Watchtower Crack (16). Richard Moore has led Piccolo (9) and D Minor (13) and seconded Androcles (16). Janet Robertson and Jo Richards climbed Piccolo and D Minor amongst other routes. Richard Serpell and Russell Paul have climbed Trapeze (10), Kestel (12) and Arab (15). Glen Donaghue climbed Kestrel (12) and since the beginner's course has led Giero (14) and Brutus (13). Richard Thwaites with Peter Darby has climbed Watchtower Chimney (11), Megalomaniac (13) and Siamese Crack (15).

Arapiles has succumbed to the activities of a new hard contingent in the club. Jim Van Gelder has led Tannin (19), Electric Warrior (20), Strangers Eliminate (2) and Kachoong Left Hand (22). Mark Moorhead has led Little Thor (20) and Christian Crack (20) and both these climbers mixed leads on The Good, The Bad and the Ugly (20) and Quo Vadis (20). John Stone has led Bam Bam (20). Peter Newman led the first crux of Electric Warrior (2) and has seconded many of the routes mentioned above.

Robyn Storer and Graeme Oakes have been climbing well. In the Grampians they climbed Barometric Pressure Rising (17) and Decree Nisi (17) and at Arapiles Lamplighter (14) and Yo Yo (15). Robyn also climbed Libretto (15) with Paul Kennedy. Lamplighter was also climbed by Nick Tapp with Timothy Van Gelder and Bill Cruickshank. Nick also climbed Brolga (16) with Joe Lynch.

The old guard plod along. Hugh Foxcroft with Peter Megens climbed Coeur de Lion (19) and those two, with Nick Reeves climbed Snorkler Direct (19) and a new climb Butternut Snap (18) at Campbell's Kingdom. Joe Lynch with Nick Reeves climbed Missing Link (17) and both climbed Electric Warrior (20) with Ed Neve after a good lead by Joe.

New climbers are always most welcome. Contact any of the climbing enthusiasts at the Club or the two Convenors. Better still, come with Jim for a climb on Trinity Wall.

NEW ZEALAND CLIMBING 1978/1979

Few M.U.M.C. climbers visited the southern alps this last summer. However those who did generally managed some fine climbs.

Very successful were Andrew Rothfield and Mark Moorhead. They climbed the west face of Hardinger from Pioneer Hut and later traversed Mount Tasman via Symes ridge. Two eventful days were spent on Mount Cook. A west ridge Grand Traverse was climbed and the next day saw them wandering back to Gardiner Hut via the East Ridge.

Andrew Walker and Tom Millar had a good season up the Tasman Glacier. Amongst peaks that they climbed were Green Walter and Elie de Beaumont. Mike Henderson with Gary Wills climbed the West Face of Hardinger.

Nick Reeves, with Ed Neve climbed Nazomi by the McInnes Route hoping for yet another crack at the South Ridge. They made good time upon the left-hand buttress of the South Face of Hicks and later climbed a couple of routes in the Darrans including Moir's Mate.

All in all a good season for those who could manage the time and expense. It is to be hoped that more make the pilgrimage this next summer. The usual M.U.M.C. alpine instruction course will be held at Feathertop later this year.

IMPRESSIONS OF BEGINNER'S CLIMBING TRIP

Richard Thwaites

The beginner's climbing trip coincided with a weekend of cloudless skies and a full moon, and my first sight of Mt. Arapiles was of enormous ghostly shapes sticking up above the plains in the moonlight. "Do we really have to climb that?" We spent a few hours scrambling around on the lower faces in bare feet, always looking up and wondering how we would climb back down. I eventually went to bed with visions of huge shapes in the sky towering over the campsite without really knowing how big they were.

We found out soon enough, with a beautiful red sunrise, the rock faces really were big. The beginners were all up early and excited at the prospect of starting climbing. The more experienced members of the party however were slower to react and much time was spent trying to coax leaders away from cosy sleeping bags and steaming jaffles dripping melted cheese and half-cooked eggs.

After some basic instructions at the bottom of the climb, we eventually started up the cliff. I was surprised at how safe I felt tied to the bottom on a tight rope. I had expected to be terrified, but I was so busy clinging to the rock that I had no time to be frightened. However any person with a normal healthy instinct for survival is sure to get the feeling of gut fear at some time or another, but there is nothing better than standing at the top of a climb looking across the plains to the Grampians having overcome that fear and completed a difficult and strenuous climb.

After bushwalking, ski-touring and other Club activities, going climbing is like living a life of luxury. No need for freeze drieds or dehyds, strictly fresh food and regular visits to Natimuk for other refreshments. If the base of a climb is more than ten minutes from the campsite, then the experienced climber will drive there to conserve energy.

The nights are spent sitting around the campfire cooking endless numbers of egg and cheese jaffles, reminiscing yesterday's climbs, discussing today's climbs and planning tomorrow's climbs.

To anyone thinking about taking up climbing; you will be away from the city, but you won't be roughing it; you might spend a lot of time sitting around yarning and eating but the challenge of climbing will give you exhilaration and excitement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1978/1979

The missing pages of the Secretary's Report for last year have not been discovered. Here for interest's sake is the breakdown of trips made during 1978/79.

Trip Participation

	<u>No. of Trips</u>	<u>No. of People</u>
Bushwalking	36	183
Ski-touring	26	181
Conservation Demo.	1	(C) 50
Snow Climbing (Aust.)	2	34
Canoeing	27	183
Orienteering	7	43
Caving	16	57
Climbing	28	180

It is interesting to note that both bushwalking and climbing have suffered a decline in the number of club trips made. In 1978 there were 80 bushwalking trips upon which 738 people attended. Climbing had 48 trips with 363 people attending. The big increase has been seen in Caving and Canoeing. In 1978 12 caving trips were made with 39 people going and canoeing saw 141 people attending upon 22 trips.

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

PHOTO COMPETITION / PIE NIGHT

SPORTS PAVILION

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13TH, 1979

6.00 PM.

Categories for Entry

Slides - Popular choice
- Personality
- People
- Scenery

Prints - Best Colour Print
- Landscape - Black and White
- People and Action

Judge - John Chapman esq.

- * All entries must reach Howard Cooper or Jon Miller (at Clubrooms) by Monday, June 11th.
- * All entries must be named, and collected at the evening.
- * Club editors may use entries for future club publications.
- * No size limit.

MUMC BALL

The Social Event of the Year

Yes, its the Dinner Dance you've been waiting for!
The Food, Music and Company will be the best ever
and provide a whole swag of memories for future
reminiscing

This year's ball will celebrate MUMC's existence for
the 35TH year (in succession).

VENUE: CHATEAU CLARE, 202 Beach Road, Black Rock.

DATE: JULY 26TH

TIME: 8.00 P.M.

FOOD: FULL 4 COURSE MEAL

WINE: B.Y.O.

MUSIC: THE EARLS

COST: \$12.00

Tickets will be available whenever the Clubrooms are open or ring
HOWARD COOPER - ph. 819 3528

SOME BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Club has an extensive collection of books and magazines available for borrowing and reference. Two of these are discussed:

Challenge Underground - by Bruce Bedford

This is a fascinating account of the hazards of caving and of the tragedy or triumph that may accompany those who venture underground. The chapters on accidents provide sobering reading; the folly of inexperience or foolhardiness revealed.

One anecdote appeals to any enthusiast of black humour.

"Three students decided to explore the cave, a well known and technically easy one, and were proceeding quite happily until, halfway between the two entrances, their torch went out. They had a supply of matches, though, and were fairly confident of being able to complete their trip without difficulty. As the light lent by a match is at best rather limited . . . they decided to follow one of the walls. As each match went out they were able to grope their way along the chosen wall for a few feet before lighting another.

How long they carried on in this fashion it is difficult to say, but one can assume that as the supply of matches ran down, so they relied on following the wall for longer and longer periods in the dark. The last match was struck, the students darting forward as fast as possible in its feeble glow, then it too, spluttered out. The utter blackness of the cave descended in an instant, and the luckless three had to rely on the knowledge that if they followed their wall . . . sooner or later they would come to one of the entrances . . .

They never did emerge from that oh-so-small cave - at least not alive. Their bodies were found close to the wall in which they had pinned their faith and only a short distance from where they had struck their first match. . . A brief inspection revealed the key to the tragedy . . . the wall which they had faithfully followed belonged to an enormous rock pillar, 150 feet in diameter. And around that pillar, at regular intervals, a trail of spent matches . . ."

Successes feature prominently in the book too. The best chapter of the book tells of the various trips that explored the deepest caves in the world - Gouffre Berger and Pierre St. Martin in Southern France. Eventually expeditions have pushed these caves to below 3000' in depth. One entrance to the Pierre St. Martin is a shaft that drops over 1000' into the cave.

A truly entertaining and informative book!

Gerrasutti's Climbs - by Giusto Gerrasutti

Recently reprinted in paperback, this is one of the best climbing autobiographies ever written. Gerrasutti was a leading climber of the 1930's and climbed such routes as the North and East Faces of the Grand Jorasses and the Right Hand Pillar of Freney. But many a bookshelf is full of dull tales about great routes. This book's appeal and quality lies in the nature of the author revealed through his tales. It is a book, written with verve, about climbing and the need of one man to climb. It makes compelling reading.



"VANGO FORCE TEN, I presume..."

If you're shopping for lightweight camping gear, bush-walking or rockclimbing equipment, canoes or bicycles we've got the range and experienced people to advise you.

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BUSHGEAR PL



Mt. Geryon, Cradle Mt. Park — John Chapman

**SUPPLIERS OF BUSHWALKING,
ROCKCLIMBING, CAVING, SKI-
TOURING AND OTHER
OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT**

46 HARDWARE ST. MELB.

PHONE: 67 3354

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Social Events

Tuesday May 29. Film - "Death of a Guide".
(Supper provided), 50c admission.
7.30pm Activities Room, Sports Union.

Wednesday June 13. Photo Competition & Pie Night
6.00pm, Cricket Pavilion.

Thursday July 26. MUMC Ball

Wednesday September 26. End of Year Barbeque.

For details of social events, ring Howard Cooper - 819-3528

Trips and Miscellaneous

26th May 2nd June	Rockclimbing	Arapiles	Jonathan Miller Ph: (059) 75-4307
26th/27th May	Canoeing	Thompson River	Grade Doug Haig 2 & 3 Ph: 876-1802 (Easy/ Med.)
26th/27th May	Hut Work Party	Mt. Feather Top.	Med. Andrew Walker Ph: 380-1395 Contact - Darren Fawkes
28th May 3rd June	Bushwalking	Hattah Lakes Wyperfield Little Desert	Easy Jim Keary Ph: 557-3860
1st-3rd June	Bushwalking	Snowy River	Med. Rod Costigan Ph: 347-2077 or 370-6987
3rd June	Canoeing	Delatite River	Grade Chris Lloyd 2 & 3 Ph: 729-2321 Med.
(8th June	Caving - V.S.A., A.G.M.)		
10th June	Caving	Observation Car Rally	Dave Smith Ph: 25-4074
16th/18th June	Caving	Narracoote	Dave Smith Contact S. & N. White Ph: 328-4154
17th/18th June	Bushwalking	Hattah Lakes	Ross Stephens Ph: 347-8283

23rd/24th June Bushwalking Grampians Med. Alan Molloy
Ph: 376-8081

7th/8th July 24-Hour Walk

This list is by no means complete up to July 8.
For up-to-date trips list, consult the "Trips Book" or ring the
appropriate convenor.

This is a correct and complete list of all trips appearing in the
"Tips Book" on 21/5/79.

7th/8th July 24-Hour Walk: Course - Setters,
Nash-House Staff,
Caterers,
Food Organizers, needed.
Phone: Jon Miller - 347-8062

STOP PRESS

Mountaineering FILM NIGHT

Including "Fitzroy" by Chouinard

"Right Wall of Cenotaph Corner"

and others

Admission \$2.00 - proceeds to Australian Annapurna III Expedition

Wednesday 18th July, Public Lecture Theatre, 7:00

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

24 HOUR WALK

24 HOUR WALK

7 - 8 JULY, 1979

Teams consisting of 2 to 6 persons are invited to enter this event. It will be held on fairly open country, with little scrub. Train transport will be provided from Melbourne to the area on the Saturday morning and must be used (except in special circumstances where permission is given by the organizers to travel privately). The train will return to Melbourne on Sunday afternoon after the event.

Equipment required - Compass, biro, torch, spare bateries, stout footwear, warm and waterproof clothing, sleeping gear and tent. An unmarked map is supplied.

Cost - covers map, transport, and excellent food and drink.
\$12.00 per person for entries received at M.U.M.C. before Tuesday 3 July.
Entries received on or after this date - \$15.00 per person.
Get your entry in early.

Contact - Andrew Rothfield 341-8549 work
Andrew Walker (057) 98-5290
(057) 92-1277

ENTRY FORM M.U.M.C. 24 Hour Walk 1979

Team contact Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Names of other team members

- i).....
- ii).....
- iii).....
- iv).....
- v).....

SEND TO:

The 24 Hour Walk Organizer
M.U.M.C.
Sports Union
University of Melbourne
Parkville 3052

Enclosed find cheque/money order for \$_____ made payable to M.U.M.C. For final instructions, include a stamped self-addressed envelope.