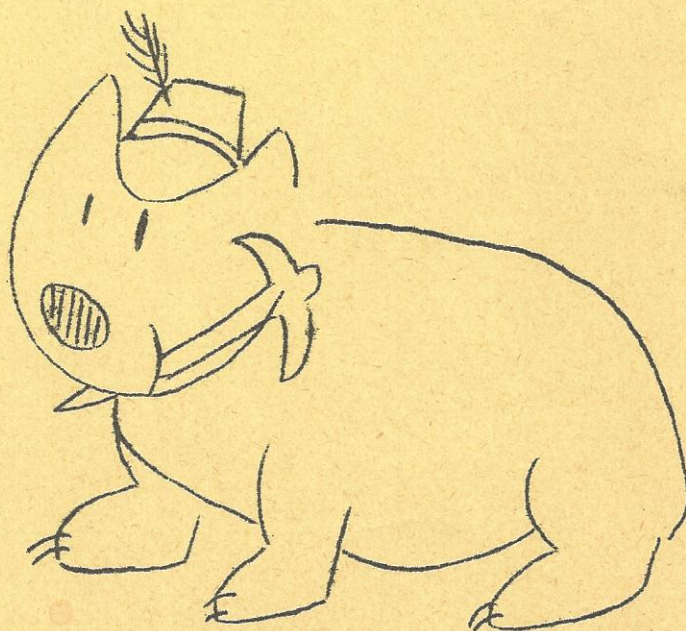
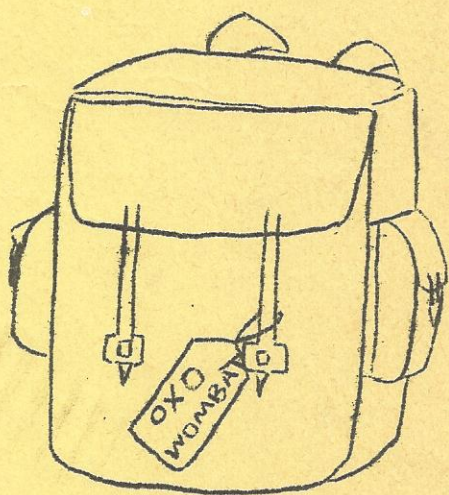


April

Mountaineer



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Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical
Category B

April 1950 MOUNTAIN



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Category B

COMMITTEE POSITIONS 1981

President	Jonathon Miller	Whitley College <u>PARKVILLE.</u> 3052	347 8962
Vice President	Jo Richards	744 Drummond Street, <u>CARLTON.</u> 3053	347 5135
Treasurer	Peter Smillie	7 Miller Street, <u>WEST MELBOURNE.</u> 3003	328 4019
Assistant - Secretary	Michael Vaughan	209 Pigdon Street, <u>NORTH CARLTON.</u> 3054	387 2553
Secretary	Roger Hatten	9 Pine Ridge, <u>DONVALE.</u> 3111	842 1403
Publications	Mark Forbes	295 Scotblamere Street, <u>FITZROY.</u> 3065	416 176
Stores Officer	Tim Hatten	9 Pine Ridge, <u>DONVALE.</u> 3111	842 1403
Editors	Andrew Wilson	27 Sunnyside Avenue, <u>CAMBERWELL.</u> 3124	842 665
	Janet Rice	54 Maidstone Street, <u>ALTONA.</u> 3018	398 2549

CONVENORS

Bushwalking	Andrew Garvey	2 Grosvenor Court, <u>TOORAK.</u> 3142	207 411
Canoeing	Andrew Danks	88 Curtain Street, <u>CARLTON.</u> 3053	347 8151
	Tim Beriman	4 Cremin Court, <u>ROSANNA.</u> 3084	459 3478
Climbing	Craig Nottle	1 Kerferd Road, <u>GLEN IRIS.</u> 3146	254 809
Orienteering	Peter Turner	20 Craithie Avenue, <u>PARK ORCHARDS.</u> 3114	876 1128
Ski-touring	Peter Robins	13 Lucerne Street, <u>VERMONT.</u> 3133	874 1630
Conservation	Tim Entwiste	19 Rushall Crescent, <u>NORTH FITZROY.</u> 3068	489 8414

COMING EVENTS

Bushwalking

April

Leader:

4,5	Wilson's Promontory	Jo Richards	347 5135
4,5	Jamieson area	Andrew Danks	
11,12	Melville caves	Richard Moore	
17-20	Bluff, Sheepyard Flat area (five trips)		

See trips book for other trips.

Other Activities

Thursday nights:

- Canoe Polo, leader Tim Beriman

Most Wednesday nights:

- Eskimo rolling practice (Beaurepaire Pool), leader Tim Beriman

Future Events

May vacation:

- Canoeing IV (Nymboida, N.S.W.), leader Pete Freeman

June 20, 21

- 24 hour walk, leader Rod Costigan, 370 6987

Don't Let the Franklin and Gordon Go Under!

Public Meeting - 2 p.m. Sunday April 12, Kew Civic Centre.

Do you have any ideas about social events for the club?
Would you attend a dinner dance if we had one this
year, or a bush dance, or a night out somewhere?
Let your feelings be known. Discuss it in the clubrooms
with or within earshot of committee members because we
want to know your opinion.

Presidential Conversation

March, 1981

Firstly, I would like to welcome all the members new to the club this year. The 1981 committee is one of the most energetic and dedicated in years, and this augurs for a busy year. The clubrooms are open 1-2 p.m. weekdays, and 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings and you should feel free to make use of the facilities provided there. We receive a wide range of periodicals related to our activities, have a good library of bush and mountaineering literature, and a comprehensive map library.

The club is primarily concerned with getting away to the bush on trips; mostly for weekends, but also for daytrips and for longer periods over the vacations. You probably joined with the intention of participating in one or two particular activities. The sub-committees for each activity organize trips, but contact the appropriate convenor first. I would also encourage at least trying the other club activities. It doesn't matter if you have neither equipment nor prior experience, as the club hires out gear very cheaply, and expert tuition is available on 'beginners' or 'easy' trips. Easter is a particularly busy time for the club, and is an excellent opportunity to get away for several days.

An integral part of the club year is the social calendar, and their events are a good way of meeting people with similar interests and renewing acquaintances made in the bush. Lunch time slide showings are planned again this year.

The best way of finding out what is happening in the club is to read the trips books and the notice boards around the clubrooms. Also in the clubrooms will be a number of 'heavies' mouthing off about the epic trips they have just accomplished. I advise you to interrupt their tiresome monologues with any questions you may have. You will be surprised to find they are only too happy to help you and discuss the sport you are interested in. Further inquiries should be directed to the appropriate convenor, or the other committee members. Their telephone numbers should be listed at the front of this copy of the 'Mountaineer'.

This brings us to another major source of information, the 'Mountaineer', which appears every two months or so and you can pick this up from the clubrooms. This year's dynamic editorial combination promises a top class publication, and they will be looking for trip reports or any other contributions. The annual journal, 'Mountaineering 81' will be available later in the year, and is free to club members. Back copies may be bought at reduced prices.

I should stress at this stage that all running of the club depends on members giving up their time willingly and for no financial gain. The trips are not cheap package tours, so please make the leader's job easier by contacting him or her and finding out what you will need, and when and where to meet. We are trying to break down the 'them and us' syndrome which can develop in a club our size, and this is best done by communicating with other club members, both old and new. The club has a great deal to offer, and assistance is freely provided, but it is up to you to make the first, easy moves.

Finally, everyone involved in outdoor recreation should be aware that the unspoiled regions we cherish are rapidly disappearing. South-West Tasmania is arguably Australia's premier wilderness area and it is threatened once again by a both unnecessary and devastating power scheme, this time to flood the Franklin and Lower Gordon rivers. On Sunday April 12 at 2.00 p.m. there will be a public meeting in the Kew Civic Centre to express opposition for the scheme. Senator Chipp and Bob Brown, amongst others, will be present and a packed hall is essential to show the media, and the Tasmanian and federal governments that this proposal is unacceptable. I expect each and every club member to be there.

JONATHAN MILLER,
Club President.

As mentioned above, we need your contributions for future editions of the Mountaineer. Any trip reports, equipment reports, book reviews, or anything even vaguely relevant will be much welcomed. Hand over the goodies to Andrew Wilson or Janet Rice (both at the clubrooms most lunchtimes, or drop them into our file.

THE SAGA OF THE SNOWY

- being an account of a Snowy River trip, November 16-21, 1980.

Sunday November 16 was hot. Very hot in fact. Not perfect weather for travelling five hundred kilometres into Northern Victoria, but the Snowy River was waiting at the end. What better way to recover from tension, lack of sleep and writer's cramp, trauma, textbook phobias and Exhibition Building blues; in short to recover from exams, than to go canoeing?

Perhaps it was the combination of the heat and the brain strain that caused a ten minute search around the Moe shopping centre at Sunday lunchtime for keys that were happily in the very car door where they belonged. Or perhaps it was the lunch - greasy fish and chips, greasy hamburgers, Big M by the megalitre...

It got hotter. The automatic transmission on Tim's Holden was doing strange things necessitating a stop whilst it cooled down. And another stop not much later on whereupon we decided it was time to eat. Nothing like a cooking fire virtually in the middle of the road!

That night was spent at Monaro Gap which was at the peak of Decent hill and not really our destination at all. Willis was somewhat further down the road, but with Tim's brakes now malfunctioning and Chris' Austin's exhaust line no longer in one piece we decided Monaro Gap was far enough.

Come morning the brakes had recovered from their heat exhaustion and the exhaust was soon wired up, but we decided to drive to our scheduled Monday night stop, McKillop's Bridge rather than Willis. So Monday we swam a bit, paddled a bit, ate lunch perched on rocks in the middle of the river and generally enjoyed the warm waters of the Snowy. Because of the white sands and rocks the river consistently runs over from its source at Kosciusko, the water is surprisingly warm, even overly so we felt at times.

Roger, Doug and Al arrived late that night as planned, having been delayed in Melbourne for a day because of the trifling problem of an exam, so it was at a suitably delayed hour on Tuesday morning that we set off. During our four days on the river the water was virtually at the minimum paddling level which meant less frequent opportunities for the more experienced amongst us to really test their skills on powerful water. Still, getting wet was eminently possible as I and a few others discovered during the week. Tuesday's paddling had its highlights in a number of grade two to three rapids. A rescue was required in one of them; Stephen's boat being pinned against a rock quite firmly by the pressure of the water. Fortunately Stephen escaped quite unscathed, and damage to the boat was easily repaired.

As it is to be expected after a day's paddling, we arrived at our campsite that evening in states of lethargy, fatigue or exhaustion. The effect upon us then of having the river valley fill with dense smoke was hence quite amazing. Tents and all matter of supplies just unpacked were repacked with incredible haste, woollen clothing was donned, and we moved back down to the river to energetically discuss just what we would do if a bush-fire did bear down upon us. We had tea, followed by fruit cake and port (without great limitations on weight you eat well on canoeing trips) and eventually the smoke did seem to be lifting slightly so we retired somewhat uneasily for the night. It was with relief we found the sky was blue, not yellow/grey the following morning.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

MUMC has survived yet another year with significant activity on most fronts. Canoeing and climbing have enjoyed relatively enthusiastic followings and bushwalking, whilst still "in irons", has shown that a planned bushwalking program can have a desirable response. Skitouring, as usual, proved a popular winter pastime and caving and orienteering received the usual patronage from small keen groups.

Attendance at social functions in 1980 were certainly no worse than the year before. However again, unfortunately, the annual Oxo Ball was given a miss for want of support. Once again Andrew Walker and team did a commendable job organizing the 24-hour walk and the alpine instruction course and annual mid-night ascent of Mt. Feathertop also proved successful.

A sad occurrence last year was, of course, the death of Nick Reeves on the Annapurna expedition. MUMC lost more than just a member in that avalanche, it lost Nick's tremendous enthusiasm for the club. The work and ideas he put in provided a great boost for MUMC. Hopefully the "mountaineering" magazine will survive as a lasting tribute to him.

On a different tack, it seems that MUMC has failed lately, to respond to the changing state of outdoor activities in Victoria. Gone are the days when MUMC counted itself as one of the few organized bushwalking/climbing clubs in Victoria. Today it competes with myriads of outside clubs for active members.

With a membership list approaching 500 and only about a 30% participating in club activities (witness the B.B.Q. and Pie Night attendances) it would appear MUMC might be loosing out to other organizations.

A cause for this may be the club's rather slack, easy going character. This has tended to instil an almost apathetic attitude amongst many members, a reluctance to commit oneself for leading, or being led on, trips. Organization of trips and social events is further retarded by the difficulty of effective communication between club members. Too often there is an air of confusion about the club rooms concerning the running of trips, the organization of the club, where the club authorities are and so on.

Last years office bearers tried hard to remedy this situation. Along with those who put in so many hours organizing and running activities, they deserve a great deal of gratitude. Hopefully this year's committee will do a similar or better job.

BUSHWALKING REPORT 1980-81

Rodney Costigan

It was pleasing to observe a resurgence of interest in Bushwalking over the last twelve months. Club trips were taken on almost every weekend between late February and the end of June in 1980 and some weekends saw as many as three trips (Easter aside).

Organization:

Although the first pre-organized programme was a success in that most of those trips went as planned, a second programme for the Winter and Spring months was, in short, a failure. The reasons for this failure were:

BUSHWALKING REPORT (Cont'd)

1. That insurmountable barrier of bungling in MUMC which defeats most enterprise and which is beyond the sub-committee's control. (Re distribution of printed information.)
2. Inability to coerce people into leading trips during Winter or Third Term.
3. Reluctance of members to risk poor weather.
4. That trips outside the Alpine Region are, for whatever reason, not crowd-pullers.
5. Ski-touring.

The third and current programme has suffered from slow response by potential leaders and several trips to date have been cancelled for lack of leaders or lack of followers. This programme catered for two or three walks on each weekend and may have been a little too ambitious. Lack of followers does not reflect general interest and probably results from the regrettable absence of B/W S-C members including the Convenor, during O-Week.

The Convenor and Sub-Committee wish to thank all the leaders who have done their bit to help with these programmes.

Van-trips:

The 1980 Easter van-trip was up the Tamboritha Road and was accompanied by several car-loads. Approximately forty people spent the four days in the Snowy Plains area and were blessed with fine weather. For the second year running, plans for a second van (for three-day trips) were abandoned because of low interest, but last-minute recruiting of washed-up canoeists, together with the driver's sudden re-interpretation of his maximum legal load, necessitated the use of cars. A large loss was made (see Treasurer's Report) mainly because of a new, unexpected and high nightly-rate which was charged for the van.

This year's beginners' van-trip was reduced to a single private transport walk.

Sub-Committee:

From the March meeting of the S-C came the following requests or recommendations:

1. Every leader on campus will be asked to hold a meeting at lunchtime on the Wednesday before a weekend trip to arrange transport and to brief participants.
2. Leaders will be asked not to remove trip-sheets from the Trips-Book unless cancelling the trip.
3. The practice of splitting petrol costs between everyone including drivers is considered by the S-C to be unfair. Until the pros and cons of a standard maintenance charge by drivers has been more widely discussed, the least a passenger should expect to pay the driver on a B/W trip will be his/her share of petrol costs as divided between passengers only.

The most important development in the past year was the re-emergence of a cohesive sub-committee of five who have been aided irregularly by two or three other club members. Furthermore, all of seven people were present at the March S-C meeting when Andrew Garvey was nominated as the new Convenor. With this sound backing, Bushwalking is expected to fulfil its central role in club activities over the next year.

Statistics: The club's "Used Trips List File" went walkabout sometime last year so that most of the B/W records are lost. However the number of walker trips in 1980/81 is estimated at over 200.