



The Mountaineer March 1983

Official Journal of the

Melbourne University Mountaineering Clobau IATHUOM 3HL"

Contents the war to DAM ? 1982 Committee Positions 2 Assissant News 3 A Brief Rundown on MUMC - Janet Rice 5 Details of Trips Scheme - Jonathan Miller 7 Leader's Responsibilities Trip to Tarli Karng - Mark Durre & Nick Hallebone 9 24 Hour Walk Report - Paul Sharp 11 The Wombat and The Man - Daniel de Nong 13 Trips List 15 Banat Hice "THE MOUNTAINEER" SEPTEMBER 1982 noddad mil

COMMITTEE POSITIONS 1982

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Bushwalking	Tom Kapitany	52 Joffre Street Noble Park 3174	793 2226
Canoeing	Tim Hatten	9 Pine Ridge Donvale 3111	842 1403
Climbing	Steve Howden		
Orienteering	Peter Turner	20 Crathie Avenue Park Orchards 3114	876 1128
Ski-touring	Peter Robins	13 Lucerne Street Vermont 3133	874 1630
Conservation	Ben Gawne	4 Belmont Avenue Balwyn 3103	80 5741
Caving	Ian Houshold	61 Hoddle Street Richmond 3121	41 6268

NEWS

* The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 April at 7.30 pm in the Sisalkraft Theatre, Architecture Building. Slides will be shown, and tea and coffee served afterwards.

Nominations for all committee positions are now open. Nominations must consist of the names and signatures of the nominator, a seconder, and the nominee, and of course, the position.

Come along on the night, and be part of the democratic process of throwing out the old committee, and electing a new.

* 'Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering' as you are probably all aware, is now available. This long awaited for edition is packed with useful information. The previous editions were rightly recognized as a valuable aid to choosing and buying equipment, and this latest edition lives up to their reputation.

It is available in all good bushwalking and outdoor shops (with the definition of good being that it is stocked, of course!) for \$7.95. It can also be bought from the clubrooms for \$6.00 (\$7.95 p&p)

* The club seems to be in a boom phase so far this year, with lots of trips in the book, and beginners trips in bushwalking, caving, canoeing and climbing already having gone and been enjoyed. More begginers trips are also planned.

However, we are always in need of leaders for trips. It doesn't take much at all - see Jon Miller's article on page 8.

Remember also that gear will only be hired out for use on club trips, so putting your trip in the book and opening it up for others to enjoy helps you as well as the club.

- * The club has recently acquired quite a lot of new gear, including new internal frame packs and a Black Ice brand snow tent. If you have any ideas on what equipment the club needs, express your view to the appropriate incoming convenor, and/or the incoming stores officer (who will probably be Tom Kapitany).
- * We have been asked by Sports Union to paint our clubrooms. They will supply all materials, we just provide the labour. A date has not yet been firmly set, tentatively April 30/ May 1 may be a goer. It promises to be a social event in its own right.
- * Could any library books which are out, please be returned for stocktaking. We have a new librarian who is keen to get everything in order before he sets out to spend more money. Please check your shelves for any forgotten club books.

in the Siselknaft Theatrn, Architecture and coffee served afterwayTELL SQUAT

- April 1 4 Easter van trip to the Bogong High Plains. Five different walks, ranging in standard from easy to difficult. Places are still available. Contact James McIntosh 836 3104 or Mark Durre 861 8791
- April 7 Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Sisalkraft Theatre, Architecture Building. Come and join in the democratic process.
- April 23 -25 Bushwalk Wabonga Plateau and Mt Cobbler 1800ds of 515 oldself. Leader Andrew Rothfield 347 8551 Standard medium

Beginners caving trip to Buchan.

Contact Ian Houshold 41 6268

- May Vacation Flinders Ranges one way. The whole way from Crystal Brook to Muloorina. Contact Paul Sharp 059 75 3262 about this long masochistic trip.
- May 21 22 Intervarsity 24 hour walk Adelaide.

 Transport train

 Contact Andrew Rothfield for more details

 Contact Andrew Rothfield for more details
- May 28 29 V.R.A. 12 hour rogaine

 Cost \$7 + \$2 membership

 Contact Chris Arnold 787 7435

 Martin Nall 890 4418
- June25 26 MUMC 24 hour walk. Many, many more details later!
- July 23 24 Midnight Ascent of Mt Feathertop, and formal dinner in the MUMC hut. The social occasion of the year.

 Contact Janet Rice 347 3394

These trips are only those which have been planned well in advance. Many more trips than just those listed here will go, often with only a few days notice, so it is necessary to keep your eye on the trips book, or keep in touch with the appropr iate convenors.

So you've paid your money, received your membership card, and are now a fully-fledged member of M.U.M.C. A brief rundown on what the club has to offer and what we're all about, is thus in order.

All of this requires some organisation of course. Those the committee.

M.U.M.C. exists primarily as an organisation where people with an interest in virtually all outdoor activities can meet others of similar persuasions and, with a minimum of fuss and expense, get on with doing whatever takes their fancy. Those of you who don't yet know exactly where your fancy lies will doubtless be pleased to know that the 'Let's-try-something-new-this-weekend' (alias 'Discover-your-very-own-outdoor-pursuit') ethos is not only alive but encouraged.

The club's hive of activity, be it for planning trips, drinking tea, meeting friends or reading noticeboards, is undoubtedly the clubrooms. If, by the end of this article you feel the 'Everything-you-always-wanted-to-know etc.' angle has failed you in any respect, ask questions of someone in the clubrooms (open every lunchtime during term). They'll have a good chat to you, even if they haven't the foggiest notion of the answers to your enquiries.

A guided tour of the clubrooms could well start at the noticeboards. Here you'll find all sorts of information about everything we're into. If you want to know who to contact about BUSHWALKING or CLIMBING or CAVING or CANOEING or ROGAINING or ORIENTEERING or SKI-TOURING or CONSERVATION the noticeboards will tell you.

To know more details about exactly what trips are being planned (and trips in all but the last of these activities are held most weekends) one's attention must gravitate towards the trips book. This unassuming (some might even say tattered) orange folder contains details of all trips currently planned. If you find one you want to go on, write your name on the appropriate list and ring the leader, (or see her/him in the clubrooms). Again, the odd-bods sitting and standing round will probably be able to give you any details you require that aren't written on the trip's sheet. If all else fails (and even if it doesn't) ring the leader.

Experience required to join these trips range from absolutely none to lots - this information is given on the trip's sheet. Some trips (but by no means all) are also advertised in the daily Activities Sheet.

Other information you'll get out of the trips book are details about any social occasions coming up. These include Pub Nights, Slide Nights, Pie Nights, B.B.Q.'s, and sometime soon a Paint-the-Clubrooms-and-drink-a-lot weekend. Watch out for it!

Other facets of the clubrooms raison d'etre are the equipment store for bushwalking, ski-touring, climbing and caving gear, the library, map library and printing room (yes, from where this 'Mountaineer' emanated).

-Jamet Pice

All of this requires some organisation of course. Thus, the committee. The powerful(?) bureaucrats who kept some semblance of order(?) over everything last year are listed on page 2. Their 1983 successors will be decided at the Annual General Meeting on April 7. Nominations are now open for all positions. Non-committee positions include a first-aid officer, duplicating officers, librarian, map librarian, Hut warden (of the M.U.M.C. Memorial Hut on Mt. Feathertop) and Assistant Stores Officers, and are also vital to the running of the club. Committee meetings are held approximately once a month and are open to all.

In case this is all sounding too officious and mundame a quick mention of some M.U.M.C. traditions should allay your fears that the only reason we're involved in the club is to wallow in the paperwork. The Easter van-trip is generally the first sizeable event after '0' week doings. This year's trip is to the Bogong High Plains where six different 4-day walks are planned. As implied in its name, the travelling is done in a converted furniture van which is invariably uncomfortable but great fun! Intervarsity canoeing and rogaining are held usually in May, then the weekend of the full moon in June - 25th and 26th - the annual 24 Hour Walk is held, which is covered at length elsewhere in this edition. The full moon weekend in July is the date for the Midnight Ascent of Mt. Feathertop and formal dinner in the M.U.M.C. hut. The Alpine Instruction Course is held usually in August, as is the annual photo competition and pie night. Many more details about all of these will be available as the year wears on. Of course these are only the backbone of club activities, as indeed this article is, the full story is only to be found by becoming involved. noviles will tell you.

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TRIP PAYMENT SCHEME

The following scheme is recommended as the fairest means of compensating drivers for the use of their vehicles on club trips. Drivers should state what rate they will be charging when transport is arranged before the trip leaves.

COST COMPONENTS:

- This is the sum of all payments for services, maintenance and insurance made over one year, divided by the number of kilometres briven in that period. This figure is best determined for each vehicle. Otherwise use $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents / kilometre.
- Total cost of petrol used on the trip.

Total costs incurred on the trip (in dollars)

Organise h recting for the Western or Thursday ! (100 X no. of kilometres travelled) + P.

at this meeting. The This cost is then divided by the number in the car, including the driver. This is the same of bloods said reen year

EXAMPLE

Let the trip distance = 800 kilometres Let the number travelling in the vehicles (including driver) = 4 Let the cost of petrol = \$27 Use the recommended rate for S = 4½ cents/km

Total cost =
$$(\frac{S}{100} \times 10.06) + P$$

 $\frac{4.5}{100} \times 800 + 27$
= \$63

Passengers pay \$63 / 4 = \$15.75.

The 3cheme is a compromise which recognises that petrol costs are a small part of the total running easts. Notice also that large expenses such as time depreciation, interest payments and registration are not included. The scheme is more comprehensively described in the June 1981 and May 1982 Mountaineers which are available in the Library.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRIP LEADERS

Club members are frequently reluctant to lead club trips because they either believe that the trip organisation will be too onerous or that they lack the necessary leadership skills. These fears are generally misplaced. The following steps should be taken:-

- Contact the appropriate convenor. In particular, discuss any 1. uncertainties you may have.
- 2. Fill out a trip sheet. To benefit from the leader incentive scheme the sheet must appear in the book a sufficient time before departure.
 - It is the responsibility of those on the trip to contact the leader. However, leaders of beginners trips, especially at the 3. start of the year, should be prepared to ring those who do not contact them.
 - Organise a meeting for the Wednesday or Thursday lunchtime 1. prior to departure. Transport and tent-sharing may be organised at this meeting. The date should be specified on the trip list when first filled out.
 - Any gear hire should be done in consultation with the appropriate 5. convenor.
 - While on the trip, leadership is rarely very taxing and commond €. sense is sufficient skill. An eye to the weather and track markers or river bends may be necessary. Again, discuss this with the convenor.

It is as easy as that:

Probable 1983 convenors are:

Bushwalking: Wark Durre 12 Cradley Ave, Kewsbull 1861 3791 cardhi edi ni cidil James CIntosh 46 Rochester Rd, Canterbury 836 3104

> Canoeing Ian McKenzie 10 Parklands Ave, Briar Hill 435 8268

Caving 41 6268 Ian Houshold 61 Hodale St. Richmond

Steve Howden 347 4084 268 Elgin St. Carlton Climbing

Criente ring Feter Turner 20 Craithie Ave, Fark Orchards 1 1000 tel 100 876 1128

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Americk of shoot the telekot of

(curses - no roof-rack) and left the clubrooms at 7:30pm on Friday. After hamburgers at Berwick and being stunk out at Yallourn, we camped at the MGS camp at Breakfast Creek on the Wellington River, courtesy of Nick! A short sleep and another hours's drive saw us at McFarlane's Saddle to be greeted by the fairly horrid sight of 15 other vehicles (O my gawd - not more bushwalkers!)

A toucher down the track and we dropped packs for a shoofti up
Trapyard Hill, where we looked into the Moroka & Wonangatta valleys, with
good views of Mts Dawson & Kent & Snowy Bluff.

there are no quaractors of safety in the scanteurs is an indicator of the

We soon left the main trail to Millers hut and did the Picture Point

- Spione Kopje traverse, with great views over to Tamboritha and the

Crinoline (Mt Ligar to all those with NATMAP 1:100000 maps - what do they
know,anyway!). A muscle-jolting descent down Gillio's track found us at

Lake Tarli Karng with an exquisitely lovely swim after the day's heat.

Iron-man Paul Sharp swam across the lake, to the admiration of the troops.

Fully aware that the Total Fire Ban had been lifted at 5pm (hur-hur), dinner was consumed. Then it was that we found why Paul's pack was so humungously big! Not only had he carried 8 litres of water, but!!, also 2 full winecasks of riesling, bottles of port,ouzo and Southern Comfort & a litre of Coke. This was the Real Thing! Not wanting to disoblige him in helping to relieve his pack weight, a very pleasant time was had by all, especially the Pack-Horse himself, who was seen among the possums (noisy buggers) at 4am - looking for his sleeping-bag!

In the morning, a short jolly to the Nigothoruk Falls (such as they

Trip To Tarli Karyr - March 12th, 13th

were) got us limber again. Then it was on packs for the long haul up Gillio's out of Tarli. The tone of the trip then rapidly descended into a bludge, so a projected side-trip to climb Mt. Wellington became a very extended lunch, where the remaining wine was offered to all and sundry who came past the slack bunch. There was some head-shaking among the company over inadequately equipped 4WD people walking to the lake for the day - there are no guarantees of safety in the mountains. As an indicator of the severity of the drought, the lake was a good 6m. below its normal level, with large areas of exposed bank.

We toddled off back to Melbourne, but the van got sicker by the minute, so an extended stop in Heyfield was necessary, where the group was checked out by the local shielas. (G'day Ranger)

All in all, a most enjoyable trip, and we hope there will be many more such this year, with a vigorous bushwalking program. The perpetual crying need is for leaders, so we hope to see more experienced bushwalkers helping out in the future.

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was had by all, especially the Pack-Horiz Listerif, was wee done acon its

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What is the MUMC 24 hour walk? - A challenging course of cross-country navigation using map and compass along a line of checkpoints. Beginners and experts, MUMC members, friends and members of the public are all invited. One hundred and thirty happy walkers in 50 teams were more than a little hazy about the 1982 event, the 36th annual 24hr. walk, held on 3-4 July. After leaving the clubrooms on a bright Saturday morning the 2 vans carrying about half the competitors climbed up and over the Black Spur heading for Taggerty Community Hall. For the next 24 hours they were covered by a wet blanket of thick fog. No one could argue when I announced that it was a beautiful course, with the Cathedral rising majestically to the east, scattered pine plantations on the foothills of the Black Range to the west, the Acheron river meandering northward to the Goulbourn through the picturesque farmland of the Cathedral valley, with Taggerty on the banks of the Acheron in the middle of it all.

We set a typical MUMC line-course aiming for a great variety of terrain including farmland so flat that it had billabongs, & farmland so hilly that the climb to the checkpoints allowed the team to look out over the rippling sea of fog across the valley to the islands of hill-tops and the Cathedral cliffs and crags. There were young pine forests to give an earie claustrophobic feeling when lost in the right fog, pretty ferneries in the Black Range gullies, and for the keener 24hr walker, the challenge of the steep climb onto the 2nd highest peak of the Cathedral range. Of course there was the occasional electric fence to keep walkers jumping, and novel checkpoint locations such as in the middle of a dam which could only be reached by inching along a log above the mud and water, and the checkpoint hung up a tree which could only be reached by a tightrope walk a few feet from the ground. A few checkpoints were set purely to challenge navigation . Without the aid of contours the billabong checkpoints could only be found by pacing along accurate bearings. Checkpoints at gully junctions required that you knew exactly which of the very similar gullies you were in. On the other hand, however, most checkpoints required only basic navigation skills, enough guts to bash through the odd patch of scrub or blackberries, and the energy to climb a small hill or two. Coping with the cold was an essential prerequisite also, especially for those teams who chose to sleep half the night - they found just how cold it was to stop walking. Whilst walking, wet grass let the frost find its way on to toes of competitors wearing runners. During course setting, I experienced the phenomenon of growing spiky icicles out of the toes of my runners

The Taggerty Community Hall as hash house provided a little warmth, with the fireplace in the kitchen attracting weary and cold walkers as a spot to talk over their experiences and partake of piping hot tucker. The skeleton crew of hash-house staff did a magnificent job, with most getting less sleep than some of the less competitive participants. Our cooks are due a special thanks. Imagine only three people trying to feed one hundred and thirty hungry walkers for a 24hr period using only bush campsite cooking equipment. Regardless, as highlights of meat and vegetarian stews served steaming hot right through the night, fruitcake and custard, and fresh hamburgers and eggs for the Sunday barbeque showed, the catering was extremely successful. Hopefully, 1983 will see at least 7 cooks to allow time for bonfire building outside and hash-house 'merry making'.

With a new system of prepared 'ready-to-go' maps with checkpoints premarked and the maps pre-laminated, a 12:00 start was made possible. In distinct contrast to most MUMC 24hr events, the traditional champagne start had the cork popped to the second.

The course was set to cater to a cross-section of standards. For example, no apology is made in reply to the complaint about the length of the first leg. The winners finished it in 4hrs 36mins while the last team took 15hrs 12mins to come in. I must admit that I set the course purposely in an area where some fog was expected. The idea was to encourage navigation not just from the hills that could be seen, but using the fine detail of map contours, compass and pacing. I'm sorry to have found such an ideal location for this challenge! At least, the experience of gazing from high ridges across a sea of fog was unforgettable. Just on dawn, the sight of golden waves of mist brushing the gleaming Cathedral cliffs was magical.

I will unfortunately be rogaining interstate in 1983, so I wish everyone now the best of navigation. Please give the incoming organiser every assistance because s/he can't give you a good time without the help of course setters, publicity, and most importantly, the hash-house.

The sun had set behind a dark horizon of grey-green forest and as light faded, the air turned sharp and chill. After a clear day in the mountains, stillness falls with night. And so it did this day on all the ridges, in all the valleys, up every gully and across every lonely meadow.

However, through one very special, very lonely little snow plain, a large and clumsy pair of boots was ploughing a wobbly trail through the long grass. It was a man - a man in strange attire, or so his outline would suggest, for it was getting too dark to see his features clearly, if indeed there had been anyone there to see - and in his wake, barely visible between the tall tufts of grass, a tubby lump of a thing, a wombat.

And the wombat had an eagerness in his eyes and he spoke to the man. "Have you ever travelled the world, Oxoman?" the Wombat said. "The world, Wombat?"

"You know, Oxoman! Far away lands: the Nile, the Rocky Mountains, Atlantis, the Veld, Buckingham Palace, the Red Sea," said the Wombat, listing all the worldly names he could remember....

"Bacchus Marsh," he added, wondering whether this was quite right or not.

"Well, Wombat, it's a wide world," said the Man.

"Yes it is," replied the Wombat admiringly.

"Have you ever seen any real mountains, Oxoman?" the Wombat asked a little while later, still ambling along behind.

The Man stopped: the Wombat stopped.

Carefully tipping his Bavarian style feathered cap forward over his brow and slowly scratching the back of his balding head with the pick of his ice-axe, he answered, "Real mountains, Wombat?"

Then he looked up, paused and strode on; the Wombat looked down, paused and gruggled on behind.

"Like Mount...Wount...well...Bogong."

"Bogong, Wombat?...Fujiama? McKinley? Cook?...."

"Gee!" exclaimed the Wombat.

"...the Eiger, the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc..."

"Wow!" said the Wombat.

"....Ama Dablam, Annapurna, Machapuchare ('Fishtail' to you, Wombat),
Kachenjunga, Everest..."

"My!" said the Wombat, not bothering to close his mouth again. "You've it climbed all those, Oxoman?"

"Fine mountains, Wombat" replied the Man. And he moved his head slowly from side to side as he spoke, which shows that he knows a fine mountain when he sees one.

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"Geel" exclaimed the Wombat,

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