

MOUNTAINEER



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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR FROM

M.U.M.C.

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF : IAN MCKENZIE.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Everything has gone quiet around the Club - it must be exam time again. I hope that all goes well and that you participate in trips after the exams.

It was very pleasing to see a few current faces at the Fortieth Anniversary Dinner. Those of you who were not present missed a great night. It seems that the Dinner marked the end of activities for many Club members before that final effort for exams. Remember - you must let off some steam before and during the exams. Keep the body fit and the mind is helped along as well. Try a day trip or give orienteering a go. There are "O" events every weekend, many within an hour's drive of Melbourne. You can drive to the event, have a run/walk stroll around a course, enjoy a picnic lunch and still be back for a couple of hours study in the afternoon before dinner. If you have any queries ask at the Clubrooms.

Now for the gripe!! Think carefully before putting your name on a trip list. If your name is down and you later withdraw, you may prevent others from attending. There have been several trips recently where people have pulled out at the last minute, and the trip has gone with less than optimum numbers, or has not gone at all. This is most frustrating for the Leader concerned. If you decide not to go, cross your name off the list as soon as you decide. If this is within one week of the trip leaving, have the courtesy to ring the Leader and advise her/him of your decision.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and happy Christams and New Year. If you do a trip, please drop a few thoughts on to paper and give them to the Editor : great masterpieces are not necessary. Just let everyone know what has been happening. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Best Wishes, PETER FREEMAN, PRESIDENT.

P.S. If you will be around Uni during O Week next year, please contact someone on the Committee. We would be most grateful of any time you may be able to spare to help promote the Club.

The Editor,
"Mountaineer"
M.U.M.C.

Melbourne College of Theology,
5th August 1984.

Sir,

In your latest issue several allusions were made to a particular incident which occurred on an Easter canoe Trip. Enquiries which I have since made confirm that on at least one occasion, one of the men participating adorned his strong young body - God's own creation - in ladies swimming attire.

Such behaviour is a debasement of God's imperfect work, an abuse of natural processes and an utter degradation of the M.U. Mountaineering Club. I am sure that it is demeaning to all proud Club members and University students.

The M.U.M.C. was once regarded as the leading Mountaineering Club in this country. Surely the Club and its Committee can take some action, any action, to restore the high standards of propriety that I and others have come to expect. Perhaps all is not lost, if only every Mountaineer would shun impurity and abnormality in all its insidious forms.

I have been a member of your Club several times in as many years. I have always admired and cherished the bursting vitality, robust spirit and throbbing life which so characterises this clutch of vigorous youth - and lures one to its heart. During that time, Jamie, I have endured many broad experiences and have been rewarded with moments such as supreme sensory enkindlement that they are, now and always, beyond any description. Suffice to say that they were deep and primitive feelings of vitality.

With this in mind, I trust in you and your colleagues that I may continue my joyful participation in Mountaineering, free of the growing anxiety which now inhibits me.

Sincerely yours, (Ms) Una Calliptos.

Dear Ms. Calliptos,

I heartily concur with your comments, ours is a club for the young and healthy of mind and body and such behaviour is out of keeping with the aim of our club. For this reason I condone the action of the committee in putting the 'smutty old couch' under lock and key, rather than having it in plain view and freely accessible to all. I only hope that the committee continues to initiate such action so as to raise the moral standing of the club and free your self and all cleanminded mountaineers of the anxiety growing in our hearts.

Editor.

SNOWRIVER SWIMMING AND ROLLING AT 2.7 METRES - SATURDAY JULY 7 - 9

The trip commenced in typical canoeing fashion leaving Melbourne at 9 p.m. and arriving McKillops Bridge at 5 a.m., after "space cadet's" (Robyn's) attempt to "beam up" the Mazda via a wombat.

After 3 hours sleep and a check of the river level (2.7 metres, super high, suicidal), the group of six entered the water to begin the best and highest level trip in a number of years.

The afternoons paddle was reasonably easy except for one 300 metre stretch of 7 foot pressure waves and the "space cadet's" deafening screams. The current in between rapids was flowing at a phenomenal rate and after numerous waves and "stoppers" it was decided to camp at 'Granite Boulders' to let the pyromaniacs loose and get some much needed sleep and liquid tea to prepare for Tullach Ard Gorge.

The crystal clear skies overnight prompted a late start in cold but sunny conditions. The first to swim was "edga" (Ian) catching an edge in the eddy and paying the penalty, a half kilometre swim (1 down, 5 to go) Chris was next to taste the bottom of the river after trying to avoid myself being held in one of the deceptively large stoppers, luckily a roll saved him further embarrassment (2 down, 4 to go).

After an hours paddle we reached the entrance to the gorge, normally recognisable by two-house-size boulders forming an 'A-frame', blocking the river, just below a medium sized grade 3 rapid.

"Macka" (Ian McK.) led down the rapid unaware of the stopper waiting to drag him towards the bottom of the river. After seeing Ian surface upright out of the stopper I thought it looked easy until I sat on the crest of the wave looking at what resulted in my first roll for the trip and the second about 1 minute later, to prevent certain destruction in the now totally submerged boulders and A-frame (3 down, 3 to go).

"Cranka" (Bill) provided the highlight of the rapid with his attempt to run the stopper resulting in an unintentional tail stand and the necessity to surf to the side of the stopper to remain upright.

The first major rapid in the gorge contained two stoppers and large waves, joining the second rapid forming a continuous section of good grade 4 to 5 water in which a swim could be devastating. All paddlers completed the section upright more through fear than skill, wondering what lay ahead in the normally large "Gentle Annie", the last rapid in the gorge.

The centre channel was clear except for two stoppers that wouldn't let a raft through, let alone a kayak therefore the "chicken shoot" was selected which looked easy! Ian was first, surfacing out of the stopper at the bottom with massive support strokes followed by myself, swimming after catching an edge in the second stopper. Bill also thought it was a piece of cake and tried it without a paddle after losing it halfway down, alas a swim, the first for Bill in a number of years (4 down, 2 to go).

"Macka" was on "cloud nine" at this stage being one of the two left who hadn't been under the water after completing Tullach Ard Gorge.

However, luckily for us on the next day a roll was required to prevent destroying his boat against "the rock wall rapid", as a result we could still fit his head in the car for the return trip (5 down, 1 to go).

"Space cadet" had survived all rapids until 30 minutes before the end when the river claimed the last of the aliens, the shiny wetboots finally learning how to swim (6 down).

After a 5 km walk to collect the cars, as a result of the closed road and traditional counter tea at the Buchan Pub the trip finally came to an end, the first in a long time where all members have had to swim or roll, and loving it!

The total number of capsizes was 10 only 6 of which completed successful rolls.

Paddlers:

- Tim Beriman
- Ian McKenzie
- Chris Lloyd
- Ian Eggerton
- Bill Cruickshank
- Robyn Cruickshank

Tim Beriman

SKIING LAKE MOUNTAIN

The weekend of the 7th and 8th of July, with the first real snow, saw two beginners trips led by the foolhardy Peter Freeman.

It was 6.40 a.m. at this club rooms for those who really felt that it was worth getting up at some unearthly hour to go skiing. Most people stay in bed - in fact some people stay in bed and still go skiing.

On the Saturday it snowed all day, whilst the MUMC skiers tripped over, forwards, backwards, sideways and any other way they could think of. It seemed that the majority of skiers on Lake Mountain spent most of their time on their backside as well. The last downhill trip to the carpark at the end of the day resembled an obstacle course rather than a ski slope.

While most of us were glad to get warm and dry and relax in a hot bath after the days ski, four of our party seemed to think that it would be a good idea to camp in the snow. They seemed to be in good spirits next day.

Up at 6.00 a.m. next morning with a new bunch of people willing to risk a broken neck we made it to Marysville O.K. but managed to lose Tim Dyle and co. even before we got onto our skis. I hear he has a habit of getting lost - well I suppose he is involved in orienteering.

The snow on the Sunday was much softer than it had been the day before which made it slower but much easier for the likes of us. In terms of distance, we didn't cover much on Sunday but sure had fun skiing up and down of the good slopes.

I would like to thank Peter Freeman for being silly enough to take a lot of beginners to the snow and I am sure that everyone who went over the weekend would also like to thank him.

Jenny Bailey

Life in the conservation world is never quiet. Anyone who is at all concerned about the state of our environment could spend every spare moment writing letters to the media and politicians. Writing letters is effective especially if you can convince your friends to write as well. It only needs a half a dozen phone calls to Access Age, and about the same number of letters to the relevant politicians to make them realize that people out there are concerned.

At present there are a number of issues on the go that could definitely benefit from a quickly penned paragraph or two ...

Restructuring of Department of Conservation, Forests, and Lands

At the time of writing the National Parks Service, long fought for, is in danger of being effectively disbanded and the management of our National Parks is, in consequence, looking pretty shaky. The plans at present include management plans for National Parks becoming the responsibility of Regional Managers. As some of the Regional Managers have spent all their life working in production forestry, such a situation in some sections of the State could be ominous.

Conservationists are calling for management plans for all National Parks and Conservation Reserves to remain the responsibility of an enlarged and revitalised National Parks Service.

This issue may sound complicated and bureaucratic, but it does cut at the heart of native conservation in Victoria.

If this is the only letter you write this year, write now to :

The Premier,
The Hon. Mr. John Cain
1 Treasury Place,
MELBOURNE 3000

OR

The Hon. Mr. Rod Mackenzie,
Minister for Conservation
Forests & Land,
240 Victoria Parade,
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

If you would like more information, contact either the Conservation Council of Victoria, or the Victorian National Parks Service at the Environmental Centre on 663 1561. But please, **WRITE NOW!!**

Alpine National Park

There is a concerted plan being orchestrated at the moment by Graziers, the Sawmillers Association, and the Shire Councils of the North East to stop the acceptance by the Government of the Land Conservation Council's recommendations for an enlarged Alpine National Park. We need your support, again, at least in the form of letters, to show that Victorians do want a large contiguous National Park in an Alpine Area.

Write to : The Hon. Mr. Evan Walker, Minister for Planning and Environment,
500 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

If you would like more information, or would like to help out, please ring the Conservation Council of Victoria on 663 1561.

IV. ORIENTEERING BRISBANE

The weather was fine, the course fast but unfortunately train strikes reduced the "O Team" from 9 participants to 5. Nicola Taws came 3rd in the Womens Section, (unfortunately the controls were collected by the organisers before Kathy Watt had finished her run). Mark Jenkins came 5th, Andrew Kelly abandoned the course mistakenly believing that the return period had been exceeded. Wayne Singleton, a member of the X-Country Team filled in at the last minute and creditably finished the 16 km course in approximately 3 hours.

The Uni Relays were run in 26°C on the Friday with the M.W.M.C. team of Jenkins, Kelly, Taws running a fast time.

A TRIP OF EPIC PROPORTIONS : THE MITCHELL IN A DAY

by : David Walker

Bzzzzzzzzzzzz - "Blast!, Tim really did set the alarm for 5.45 a.m.; that's funny - there doesn't appear to be much daylight yet. Oh well, I'd better get up on a Sunday"? After heading off to pick up Ian (still up from a party the previous night) and Steve (straight from an all night shift at the hospital), we set off down the freeway and eventually to the start of the trip at Angusvale on the Mitchell River. With Tim Halton's jokes and Ian McKenzie's rendition of "Wild Tim" the four hour drive passed quickly.

The plan was for the five of us to drive up on the Sunday and then to catch up with the other seven who were making it a weekend trip. We were a little surprised to find them standing around a campfire at 11.30 am.

On to the river by 12 noon we still had a chance of finishing at a reasonable time, especially with the river at 1.5 metres. However our hopes were soon thwarted.

The Mitchell in its middle reaches is a magnificent river. The excitement of the rapids is contrasted by the splendor of the scenery with many spectacular cliffs and rock formations and the luxurious forest which overhangs the water. The occasional black wattles in full bloom provided the highlight on this weekend in mid-winter.

It was not long before we reached the amphitheatre rapid which carves a giant arc at the base of the amphitheatre cliff face. Ian McKenzie was first to shoot the tricky first stage rapid. He did his best to make it more difficult for himself and was forced to roll halfway down. Bill Cruikshank kindly showed us that it didn't have to be as difficult as that, and so one by one we took the plunge. Some plunged further than others with Rob Taylor enjoying a 200 metre swim before being towed to the bank. James Hider wasn't so lucky, whilst he had a shorter swim, his kayak met its fate on some boat hungry rocks in mid-stream. That was to be the end of the trip for him and he would need to be picked up later when we got to the cars.

After a short break, where Ian Edgerton treated us to a bonfire in record time, the race was on to finish before dark. There was now no time in which to fully appreciate the ensuing rapids which now had to be shot with a maximum of haste and no time to appreciate our surroundings.

We clambered out of our boats just as daylight was ending. The 1½ hour car shuffle and the collection of James and his broken kayak now had to be accomplished. 3½ hours later the cars returned with Tim Berriman's "Tupperware" car providing its value on the 4WD roads and James' resting spot.

Tea at the Billabong Roadhouse at 10.00 p.m. seemed like a good idea, especially as Ian Edgerton had grossly overestimated the efficiency of his car and needed to refill his dry tank.

The boats needed to be re-allocated on top of cars at this point, so it wasn't until 11.00 p.m. that we got going on the long drive home. It was 3.30 am when the last of us arrived home, just in time for a couple of hours sleep before the week began again.

MIDNIGHT ASCENT

On the weekend of the 14th and 15th of July about 25 brave OXO persons made the pilgrimage to Mt Feathertop. The five hour climb up began at 12:00 midnight from the Trout Farm at Harrietville. It was a very clear night and the full moon clearly illuminated the track up the North West Spur. The trip up seemed to go on and on, up and up. This was probably exasperated by tiredness, cold, and for the last few hours deep snow. Although the trip up was rough there were some wonderful views of the snow-capped Fainters and Mt Bogong, all silvery and ghost-like in the distance. Eventually we saw the domed hut and went in, put on all our warm clothes (it was -5 degrees celcius inside), and ate, then as we saw the first rays of sun, went to sleep.

Just after lunch we finished the trek to the summit. Feathertop has been described as the only real alpine peak in Victoria, and this was obvious at the summit, where there was a large cornice, and a definite peak from which the Bogong High Plains, Mt Bogong, The Fainters, The Razorback and Mt Hotham.....could all be clearly seen and defined. It was marvellous sitting at the summit in the quietness with the wind howling round and the world at our feet. After a few hours of this we headed back down and after donning dinner suits and evening gowns, pre-dinner drinks, pate, and assorted delicacies were partaken of, by the romance of moonlight and candles. As the night wore on and more bottles emptied conversation livened up, and a good night was had by all. However the previous sleepless night had a large effect, thus by about 11:00pm the message from the loft was for quiet from the conservationists and foresters battling it out below.

Sunday proved to be just as perfect a day as Saturday. The morning was spent soaking up the sun, building snowmen and sled runs, and trying out slurpees of different flavours. (Baileys seemed to work the best.) Then after a make-up lunch of all that was left, the descent began. The trip down in the afternoon sun was much more pleasant than the trip up, and the freshness of the trees and the snow was a wonderful way to finish the trip off. All were down within about three hours, and the general consensus was that it had all been worthwhile.

To those who haven't been to the club hut on Feathertop you should make the effort. The long haul up is very satisfying and rewarding. If you can't make it by next winter, keep the mid-winter

full moon free and join the mob as they head off from the trout farm bathed in moonlight.

JAMIE ORR

PS: As the hut is just on the tree line, due to concern for the environment there is NO FIRE in the hut, thus you MUST CARRY A STOVE to cook on.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

I'd like to thank all contributors to the Mountaineer this year and to all those who helped in putting the various additions together. In looking back through the fortieth anniversary edition one is made aware of the importance of documenting the club's activities. It is interesting to see the changing views, attitudes, directions and issues involving the club over the years. Thus I would encourage people to write about their trips and views of the club, and about issues concerning it.

Trip Reports also serve as a function of giving ideas to others, and of giving helpful hints to others who may decide to follow your steps. It only takes a short time to jot down a couple of paragraphs about a trip, thus while still fresh in your mind, take a few minutes out to reminisce and write down your thoughts, and leave it in the Mountaineer box. Any buddying cartoonists or illustrators would also be welcomed, as would photographs for the front cover.

Please contribute as it is your magazine and its quality depends on your contributions.

1985.

First Term is probably the most active for the club, due to warm weather and lack of study hassles, thus it is important to get the club operating as efficiently as possible at the earliest possible time. Thus, if you are around during 'O Week' drop in and see if you can lend a hand, or just have a chat with someone interested in joining. However, the purpose of the club is to run trips and for this to happen we depend upon experience of our club members. If you are interested in taking a trip, please see the convenor and enter it in the trips book. It doesn't have to be overly adventurous especially at the beginning of the year, when beginners' trips are needed to introduce newcomers to the various activities which the club offers. We depend upon people taking responsibility of planning trips once they have gained sufficient experience. If you are unsure about a trip come into the club rooms and ask, or contact the convenor, you'll find they have many helpful suggestions to get you on your way.

Now is the time to start planning or at least thinking about next year. Your help is needed in keeping the club active and provideing a constant stream of new people entering and participating in club activities, to give new and fresh ideas and keeping the MUMC to the forefront of Mountaineering in Australia.

Look forward to seeing you all in 1985.

JAMIE ORR

40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The club celebrated its 40th birthday with a dinner on the 30th of September in the union buffet. Just under 200 people (past and present members) were present and enjoyed a delicious smorgasbord. Conversation and reminiscing was the highlight of the night for most especially for the older members, some of whom had not seen friends for many years.

A very interesting and entertaining talk was given by Dr. Phillip Law about his travels in the Antarctic. It was great to see so many past members were still interested in the club and looked back upon their M.U.M.C. days with such vividness and fondness. Whilst for the "youngies" there, it was a chance to see mountaineering from a different perspective and time-span, as well as hearing tales from the old days.

It was a very enjoyable night for which I would like to express special thanks to Diana Rice and Bill Bewsher for all their time and effort in making it such a success.

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