

MOUNTAINEER



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CONTENTS

2	MUMC - WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT	Janet Rice
3	NOTICE OF THE A.G.M.	
3	BUSHWALKING	Nick Hallebone
4	TRIPS PROCEDURE	
5	CLUB EQUIPMENT HIRE	Mark Durre
6	IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BUSHWALKING BEFORE	" "
7	CANOEING	Greg and Julie Chaplin
8	CAVING	Bill Borrie
8	SKI TOURING	Owen Morgan
9	ORIENTEERING	Peter Freeman
9	CLIMBING TRIPS LIST	
9	CANOEING TRIPS LIST	
10	"You Must Remember This....."	Diana Rice
11	BUSHWALKING TRIPS LIST	

MUMC - WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

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

MUMC exists primarily as an organisation where people with an interest in virtually all outdoor activities can meet each other and, with a minimum of fuss and expense, get on with whatever takes their fancy. Those of you who don't yet know where your fancy lies will doubtless be pleased to know that the "Let's-try-something-new-this-weekend" (alias "Discovery-your-very-own-outdoor-persuit") 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 club-rooms. If, by the end of this article, you feel that 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 1-2pm). they'll have a good chat with you, even if they haven't the foggiest notion of the answers to your enquiries.

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

To know more details about exactly what is being planned (and trips in all these activities are held most weekends) one's attention must necessarily gravitate towards the trips books. These folders contain all details of currently planned trips. Please see the section on trips procedure in this magazine about participating. Some trips will be advertised in the daily Activities sheet.

Other information you'll get out of the trips book are details of any social occasions that are coming up. These include Pub Nights, Pie and Slide Nights, B.B.Q's and talks. There are also frequent lunchtime slide shows - participate with your photographs!

Other facets of the clubroom's raison d'être 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).

All of this requires some organisation of course. Thus, the committee the powerful(?) bureaucrats who keep some semblance of order(?) over everything. Their 1985 successors will be chosen at the A.G.M. on March 20. Nominations are now open for all positions. Non-committee positions include first-aid officer, librarian, map librarian, Hut Warden (of the MUMC Memorial Hut on Mt. Feathertop) and computer programmer. These positions are also vital to the club's running and committee meetings are held approximately once a month and are open to all.

Janet Rice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The club's annual general meeting will be held in the Sisalkraft Theatre in the Architecture Building on Wednesday 20th March at 7:30 pm. Office bearers of the club will be elected, then there will be a talk and supper afterwards.

BUSHWALKING

In 1984, MUMC bushwalkers were fairly active and their overall enthusiasm can be gauged from the number of them journeying to Tasmania over the summer vacation. Highlights of the year include the Easter Van Trip in the newly renamed Wonangatta-Moroka National Park and the midnight ascent of Mt. Feathertop up the North-West Spur.

Weekend trips included Kinglake, Red Jacket Mine, Mt. Dom Dom, Grampians, lake Mountain (watch out for McIntosh scrub bashes!), Wilhemina Falls, The Bluff, Cathedral Ranges, Mt Bogong, Moroka Gorge, Baw Baw Plateau, Wilson's Promontory and Lake Tarli Karng.

I hope to see you all getting involved in the bushwalking scene this year. The proposed trip list is at the end of this edition.

Nick Hallebone

TRIPS PROCEDURE

(1) Look through trips books in the club rooms at lunchtime and determine which trips you want to go on. make sure that the trip standard is commensurate with your skill, fitness and experience.

(2) Put your name, address and phone no. plus other details on the trips form. ONLY put your name down if you are reasonably certain of going on the trip. If you are not sure that you can go on the trip, do NOT put your name down, as you may exclude someone else from going. The committee is considering imposing a booking fee if there are problems with withdrawals from trips.

(3) Take note of contact details on the trip form and contact the leader accordingly. Those who do not contact the leader by the required time WILL NOT GO ON THE TRIP!!!!

(4) On all trips, there will be limits to the number going, but you can put your name down for reserve places.

(5) Details of leaving times and equipment requirements etc. can be obtained from the pre-trip meeting or the leader.

(6) Most trips use private transport (a way of virtually guaranteeing a place on a trip is to have a car that you are willing to use) and you will all share in petrol costs plus a contribution to running costs, generally worked out at 4 cents per km. (club recommended rate)

(7) All students and sports union members are partially covered by Sports Union insurance. It is recommended that all members have medical and hospital cover, and it is highly recommended that all members have an ambulance subscription (only \$12).

CLUB EQUIPMENT HIRE

Equipment can be hired from the club for all our activities. The general store gear can be hired for any of our activities, with special equipment for each activity.

GENERAL GEAR: Packs, daypacks, tents and accessories, sleeping bags, choofas, sleeping mats, parkas and overpants, and gaiters.

CANOEING: Canoes, kayaks, floatation vests, paddles, helmets.

CLIMBING: Ropes, harnesses, helmets and a full range of nuts and chocks.

CAVING: Ropes, ladders, helmets, lights and other vertical gear.

ROGAINING: Compasses.

SKI TOURING: Skis, boots, stocks, snow tents.

Equipment can be hired under the following conditions.

- (1) Gear is hired ONLY for official club trips.
- (2) Only club members can hire gear and only one set of gear per member.
- (3) Hire fees must be paid before the equipment is used and hire must be accompanied by a club card. No credit can be given.
- (4) Gear can only be hired from a committee member and you must be fitted for some equipment (e.g. packs) by a committee member.
- (5) Equipment must be returned in good order and cleaned and dry by the due date (generally the Tuesday after a weekend trip). Fines will be imposed for late return.

Mark Durre

IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BUSHWALKING BEFORE

Many people ask for a check list of equipment for bushwalking. This should cover a weekend trip.

- W - necessary in winter
- * - available for hire from the club

CLOTHING:

T-shirt/cotton shirt
Shorts
Sunhat(for summer)/woollen cap or Balaclava(W)
2 Woollen jumpers(1 for summer)
Woollen gloves/mittens(W)
Woollen socks (with spares kept dry)
Boots (sandshoes acceptable in dry conditions and easy terrain)
Sandshoes or thongs (for evening - optional)
Long trousers (preferably woollen (W))
Parka, japara, cag-jacket etc.
Overtrousers (W)

NIGHT EQUIPMENT:

Sleeping bag of good quality
Inner-sheet (must be used with club bags)
Tent with adequate pegs etc.
Ground-sheet (for floorless tent)
Sleeping mat

FOOD:

Edible material (light meals are available in the form of dehydrated packages, rice, macaroni, instant puddings, dried fruit etc. etc. etc. It is possible to get by without dehydrated meals on weekend and short trips)

EATING/COOKING EQUIPMENT:

Spoon, knife, fork, mug
Small billy
Frypan (if frying is necessary)
Scourer
Water bottle
Matches
Choofa + fuel (W)

NAVIGATION:

Map in plastic bag
Compass

FIRST AID:

Elastoplast (without gauze padding)
Scissors or pocket knife
Antiseptic cream
Disprin
Triangular bandage
Crepe roll bandage (10 cm)
Band aids
Sunburn cream (for summer)

PACK

A complete analysis of equipment for all the back-packing sports can be found in "EQUIPMENT FOR BUSHWALKING AND MOUNTAINEERING", published by the club and on sale in the club rooms.

Mark Durre

CANOEING

MUMC canoeing is mainly concerned with whitewater kayaking, but most other aspects of canoeing and kayaking are covered. Most of the club trips, especially in the first half of the year, are aimed at providing basic paddling skills to beginners and developing those skills. For the more experienced paddlers, we run regular trips to most Victorian whitewater rivers.

Touring trips are usually day or weekend affairs, with the occasional longer trip on long weekends or holidays. One trip that should not be missed is the annual epic Snowy River Bludge Trip in late November or early December.

Beginners trips will start early in March (see the program in this issue). All equipment can be hired at bargain basement prices from the club - canoes, kayaks, paddles etc. All you need is a sense of humour, spirit of adventure and a love of the outdoors. Those with a more eccentric sense of humour can also feel at home.

A typical beginners day trip would leave early (but not indecently early) on a Saturday or Sunday morning. You would need to bring lunch, bathers, towel, old sandshoes (wet suit boots are ideal), a shirt, and an old woollen jumper. For cooler or windier weather, a wetsuit and slicker makes things more comfortable. Once you have been on at least one day trip, you would be ready to go on one of the easier weekend trips, and later the Easter trip.

An annual event is the Intervarsity canoeing to be held in the May vacation. This is very much a social occasion. Everyone is welcome, from the beginner to the expert. The event includes slalom, downriver racing, canoe polo and a big party at the end of the week (though many treat the whole thing as one big, long party).

Another area that is covered is the game of canoe polo. This is played in special small kayaks in a swimming pool; MUMC fields three teams, though this season (March to June) we will be putting in a team in the Open novice section. On Tuesday nights, the pool is booked between 8 and 10 pm. for canoeing practice. This is an excellent opportunity to learn canoeing skills including eskimo rolling and canoe polo. During O-week, there will be a display of canoe polo in the swimming pool and then you are welcome to have a paddle (bring your bathers!) - check the O-week program for times or visit the MUMC table on the concrete lawns.

Hope to see you all involved.

Greg Chaplin and Julie Chaplin

CAVING

The thrill of exploration...the excitement of being underground....the magnificence and beauty of formations...the challenge and climbing. These attractions draw people of all ages to caving. Victoria is reasonably well off for interesting and extensive places to cave, most easily accessible for weekend trips. It's not hard to get started - all you need is some old, reasonably strong clothes (overalls are good) and a good torch. The club owns a large store of equipment such as helmets, ladders, ropes and other vertical gear.

Buchan has traditionally been the mecca of cavers in Victoria, with hundreds of caves in the surrounding hills. These limestone caves formed by water range from walk-through caverns to extensive vertical systems offering hours of exploration and discovery. Many caves are yet to be visited or mapped and most have areas that very few, if any, people have been to.

If you like the thrill of exploring and the challenge of climbing then caving will offer you a new and fascinating introduction to the underground beauty. MUMC organises beginner trips during the first term and co-ordinates closely with the Victorian Speleological Association for trips throughout the year. The club contact is Sue White - phone 3416331 (work) 3284154 (home). A meeting will be held in first term for all those interested.

Bill Borrie

SKI TOURING

Every winter it snows.

It may come early, or it may come late, but it will be there.

What is snow? It is fluffy white flakes that fall from the sky when it gets cold and wants to rain.

What does snow mean for the MUMC? Snow means we can strap long, flat planks to our feet, take a pole in each hand and travel in the mountains during winter. It is not really possible otherwise. The club has lots of these long flat planks and poles to hire to club members when it snows.

How do I learn to ski? Early in the season (June), lots of beginners trips will be organised to cater for you. experienced leaders will show you how to do it.

Where do we ski? We ski in the mountains. Day trips usually end up at Lake Mountain, Baw-Baw plateau or Mt. Stirling. Weekend trips may find you on the Bogong High Plains.

Will I get cold? Yes, but your leader will help you keep warm.

What can I do now? Wait for Winter.

Club Contact - Owen Morgan Ph. 5312932 (1984 Convenor)

ORIENTEERING

What?? Too busy for a weekend trip this time of year?! Give orienteering a try.

Orienteering is a sport for both body and mind. To perform at the highest level, you must be very fit, be able to navigate on the run, and, most importantly, to keep a cool head in a tight situation (where am I? I can't really be lost!) There are "O" events on most weekends throughout the year, most events being on Sundays. Novice instruction is usually available at most events. Details of coming events can be found in either the trips book or on the "O" notice board. On some days club members may plan, in advance, to attend an "O" event, and a trip list will appear in the Trip Book. Otherwise, do not be frightened to go by yourself - orienteers are generally a friendly bunch.

If you have any questions, ask around the clubrooms. The standard that you require is your own - most people compete against themselves. Give it a try - it often involves only half a day. The "stroll" - be it slow or quick - around the bush is a great way to get your head together when work gets tough.

Peter Freeman

CLIMBING TRIPS LIST

- (1) Beginners weekend - Mt. Arapiles March 16th and 17th
- (2) " " " " March 30th and 31st
- (3) Easter trip - all standards - beginners welcome Mt. Arapiles

CANOEING PROGRAM - TERM 1, 1985

March: Sat 9, Yarra river, Beginners day trip.
Sun 10, Goulbourn river " " "
Sat 16, Yarra river " " "
Sun 17, Campaspe river, " " "
Sun 24, Goulbourn river " " "
April: Easter, 4-5 day trip, possibly Snowy River
Sat 20, Beginners day trip, possibly Yarra or Goulbourn
Sat 27/Sun 28, Weekend trip, (at least one day trip needed)
possibly Mitchell river
May: Sat 11/Sun 12, Weekend trip as above
May Vacation: Intervarsity canoeing, Northern NSW

"You Must Remember This....."

We knew it was going to rain. It must have been something to do with the fact that no sooner had we left Melbourne than we could see black thunder clouds gathering ominously in the area we were headed for. The exact location was really immaterial - it was one of those trips where it wasn't going to let up. Three days we spent trudging through rain fiercer, colder and harder than I'd ever experienced; for three days we climbed a few thousand feet, looked out across magnificent views of misty, cloud-obscured peaks and valleys, and then slid down a few thousand feet into another bleak and soggy camp where most of the night was spent placing billies in strategic points around a leaky tent. The undisputed highlight of such trips must surely lie in pulling on cold, clammy shorts the next morning in preparation for a further eight hours of squelching. However, I suppose that it is a fine way to gain a full appreciation of Victoria's hot take-aways.

But then again, there is nothing to beat a decent rogaine to bring out the worst in any weather. Nothing quite surpasses wading through freezing creeks bounded by blackberries at two in the morning when it's teeming with rain. Whether it's the heartless croaking of frogs that reminds you that it's the middle of the night and most normal people don't slide through swamps in the dark looking for orange and white boxes squatting in hiding, or the fact that you're starting to envy the cow you passed a few kilometres back, hindquarters to the wind and placidly chewing its cud; you're not really experiencing life that tourist brochures would brag about. Then there are those competitors who haven't yet quite worked out that man is not a nocturnal animal and who insist on walking all night. Although, with due credit to sunny rogaines, wet ones give you a chance to test out your gumboots (and usually to find them wanting).

So what? you ask, gun blood coursing through iron veins, mountaineer unafraid of mere meteorological vagaries. OK, perhaps it's all kid's stuff in comparison to the Midnight Ascent. It's July, four in the morning, and you've just got into the heavy snow and it's getting harder to get up off the oh-so-comfortable ice every time you sit down to rest. Now, is that someone stopped up ahead or - no it's a tree - but anyway isn't Feathertop a wonderful mountain? Perhaps if I sing it'll ease the pain, oh well, here's the hut I'm only slightly hyperthermic and I have to summon up enough strength to nurse tomorrow morning's hangover. Ah, the joys of outdoor life!

Diana Rice

BUSHWALKING TRIPS LIST

March 9th

Convenor's day walk and picnic - Dandenong. Easy standard.

Contact Nik Hallebone 5090378

March 16/17

Baw Baw Plateau Easy-Medium Standard

March 24th

President's Day Walk - Moorabool Gorge. Contact Peter FREEMAN

internal no. ext. 5833

march 30/31

Wilson's Promontory medium standard contact Nik Hallebone

5090378

April 4-9

Easter Van Trip - 5 walks of varying standard. Mt Howitt area

Leaders to be announced.

April 13/14

Day trip Cathedral range

April 20/21

Come walking with Mr. McIntosh - mystery location (scrub

bashing etc....)

April 27/28

The Bluff

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