

march
1986



MOUNTAINEER

"Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. VBH0633"

March

1980



MOUNTAIN

Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. 180632

INDEX

The Melbourne University Mountaineering Club - Jamie Orr

Rockclimbing - James McIntosh

MUMC Library - Melanie Taws

Orienteering -

Trips Procedure -

Caving with MUMC - Kendall Crocker

For God's sake Get in There and Give It A Go- Dave Walker

Climbing Report - James McIntosh

Nelson Lakes N.P. - Jamie Orr

So you thought you'd like a face massage - Devo

Let's go canoeing - Julie Chaplin

Chamoirs

Bushwalking with MUMC

A Tasmanian Delicacy - Antony Harvey

Club equipment hire

Ski Touring

Editoresses farewell

MUMC's Halley's Comet Watching Trip!

Where are the clubrooms?

FRONT COVER: This is the design on the club's T-Shirts. Some are still available from the clubrooms but if a suitable one is not there, there will be another order made possibly in first term. \$7
Also for sale in the clubrooms are ; stickers, 1985 and 1986 Alpine Calendars and 'Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering' (a club publication).

Any correspondence for the 'Mountaineer' should either be put in the 'eer box in the clubrooms or addressed to:

The Editors
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
C/ The Sport's Union
The University of Melbourne
Parkville, 3052

Happy Reading
from 7+7

THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Mountaineering Club, unlike its name suggests, is not just involved with Mountaineering, but offers a wide range of outdoor activities including :-

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| - Bushwalking | - Canoeing |
| - Ski - touring | - Rock climbing |
| - Caving | - Orienteering / Rogaining |

Each of these activities has a Convenor, whose responsibility is to organise trips in their particular area of activity, if you have any queries about an activity, they should be able to answer any questions you may have.

The clubrooms are located in Tin-Can Alley, between The Sports Union and St. Mary's College and are open each lunch hour between 1.00 pm - 2.00 p.m. during term time (less frequently during vacation).

In the club rooms you will find the trips books which set out proposed club activities and trips. Each trip is graded according to the degree of skill and experience which is required. If you are in any doubt, you should contact the Leader or the Convenor. Trips are usually put in a week or two prior to the departure date, so you should be prepared to come in at least once a week to see if there is anything that suits you, and put your name down in the trip book.

The club rooms contain a large map and book library which can be used by members. One of the main advantages of the club is its extensive gear store. Members going on trips are able to hire EVERYTHING they require for trips, from tents, backpacks, parkas, sleeping bags, etc. etc. through to skis, canoes, ropes and ice-axes. This gear is rented at a very reasonable rate. Having quality and correct equipment is essential for safety and enjoyment of any trip, thus you should check with the Leader as to what gear is required, and ensure you check it again before you leave. Remember, the elements can turn dangerous very quickly, even in mid-summer.

Once you have decided to go on a trip, you should put your NAME down, and it is then YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to contact the Leader to find out details of the trip.

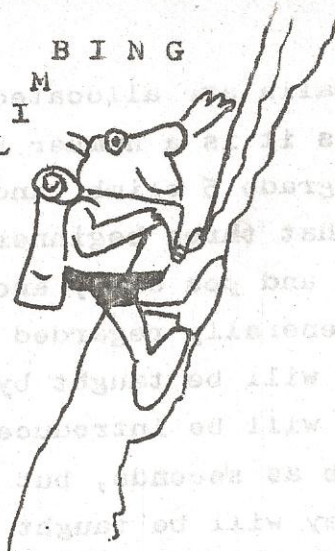
Virtually all trips use private cars for transport. Thus the Club relies on members to supply vehicles for their particular trip. To encourage people to take their own cars, a small allowance is given to drivers to help cover maintenance and insurance costs. This will vary depending on the trip, up to 4 cents per kilometer may be asked for. Therefore if you are a passenger in someone else's car, you will be expected to pay your share of petrol costs plus your share of the car allowance. Each trip must cover its own costs and you should have sufficient money to meet this cost at the end of each trip. Due to the wide diversity of trips, each will differ in costs and the Leader will be able to give you a rough idea of what transport costs will be. Your only other costs are food (on most trips, members cater for themselves); and gear hire.

The Club, through its more experienced members offers a wide diversity of activities at all levels, and there are trips planned virtually every weekend with extended trips during vacations and public holidays, such as Easter. Beginners trips are usually held early in the year and the standard progresses upwards as the year continues. If you are interested in a certain activity you should attempt it early and at least have a couple of easier trips before tackling something a bit more adventurous.

University offers a large diversity of activities and interests and during first term especially there seems to be a never ending series of events to keep you occupied. However, if you have an interest in any of the activities we offer, set aside some time to drop into the Club rooms and have a chat or see if there is a suitable trip going that interests you.

I look forward to seeing you around the Club.

Jamie Orr
President - M.U.M.C.



Rockclimbing has been practiced by MUMC ever since club members introduced the sport into Victoria about forty years ago. The club usually holds about fifteen to twenty climbing trips per year, mostly at Mt. Arapiles near Horsham and on minor crags near Melbourne.

The principle of rockclimbing is basically as follows. Two climbers, attached to either end of a fifty metre rope, take turns climbing. While one climbs, the other belays. Belaying involves taking up any slack in the rope, and holding it if the climber falls, so the rope stops the fall. (This is not difficult - the rope is in fact held by a braking device operated by the belayer).

Initially both climbers are at ground level. One, the leader climbs, towing the rope behind. Once every few metres the leader attaches the rope to the cliff via a runner. The runner usually consists of a metal device jammed in a crack and attached to an aluminium snap-link called a karabiner, the rope passes through the karabiner. Hence the leader leaves a trail of runners behind him or her, with the rope passing through each one. If the leader falls then he or she will fall past the last runner, and dangle from it, i.e. if the leader is two metres above the last runner then in theory the fall will be four metres.

On reaching either the top of the cliff or a convenient ledge, the leader will tie him or herself to the rock, and the two climbers reverse their roles. The one who was initially belaying now climbs, and is referred to as the second. The leader belays the second. If the second falls then the rope will hold him or her immediately, hence the fall will be very short.

The distance climbed so far is referred to as one pitch. If the climb requires more than one pitch, i.e. the climbers are as yet not at the top, the process is repeated. A climb may have one pitch or many, depending on its length.

Clearly the leader is in a more serious and scary situation than the second. It is this seriousness which gives climbing much of its challenge, as well as the strength and technique required.

All climbs in Australia are allocated a grade indicating their difficulty, in most cases it is a number between 1 and 31. Hence a beginner may start on a grade 5 climb, and work up to larger numbers.

It is anticipated that three beginners' climbing trips will be held in March and April, and possibly another in June, all at Mt. Arapiles, which is generally regarded as the best climbing area in Australia. Beginners will be taught by experienced club members how to climb safely, and will be introduced to a variety of technique. Initially they will climb as seconds, but some will progress to leading. In addition they will be taught to abseil.

If you wish to go on a beginners' trip then put your name down in the trips book as usual, and contact the leader. There will be a limit on numbers to prevent unacceptable student/instructor ratios. The club will provide all necessary climbing gear, including helmets, you provide usual camping gear for a weekend (some of this also available from the club store-room), and suitable footwear. Climbing boots are preferable if you can get hold of a pair (they cost about \$120) Otherwise bring a pair of tight fitting runners.

Bargain)

JAMES MCINTOSH

(Cutie)

Climbing Convenor.

MUMC LIBRARY



For those who may or may not know, MUMC does have a library. It holds a large number of books under the sections: bushwalking, caving, canoeing, conservation, cross-country skiing, first aid, mountaineering, orienteering, rock-climbing and miscellaneous (history, birds, flowers, etc.). They include the "How to do it" and "Where to go" guides and many personal accounts of walks and climbs (especially ice climbing). It's well worth a browse to see what's there.

There's also the Magazine cabinet which contains such publications as "Walk", "Skyline", Canoeing and Rock-climbing magazines and other miscellaneous periodicals. This is an excellent place to look if in search of new places to go and things to do.

We also have shelves or folders containing old Mountaineers and publications of many other clubs, which go back as far as the 1940s.

I should just mention there is an up-to-date map library too, but I'll leave this to the map librarian to talk about.

The library is situated in the club rooms and books may be borrowed for up to one month.

Happy reading in 1986.

Melanie Taws (librarian)

Mel the Man

New book: "White Limbo" by Lincoln Hall. An excellent personal account of the first Australian expedition to Mt Everest.

ORIENTEERING.

AND JUST WHAT IS "O"? A simple guide to orienteering for beginners.

Cunning Running; The Thought Sport; Orienteers Do It In The Bush.

Well, now you have seen some of the slogans used to advertise the sport of Orienteering. But what exactly is orienteering?

Orienteering is primarily a competitive sport which involves running and navigation using map and compass. The amount of running involved is up to you! Choose the length of the course that you wish to tackle, set your pace, and determine your route between each of the checkpoints around the course. The aspect of the sport which is most useful to us "Mountaineers" is NAVIGATION. It is easy to learn the skills required for finding your way about in the bush by participating in a few days of easy orienteering. At most events, instruction is available to novices at no charge.

The equipment required to participate in the Thought Sport is minimal, and the costs low. Suitable footwear can be as simple as a pair of running shoes, preferably with a chunky sole pattern to give some grip when traversing ground covered with leaf litter. Clothing is entirely up to you. Wear something that is comfortable for the pace you intend, bearing in mind the weather conditions. Of course, specialist shoes and clothing designed for orienteering are available, but we're just beginners, aren't we?! Perhaps the single most important item for any Mountaineer to have amongst his or her equipment, regardless of the particular activity being enjoyed, is a compass. A wide variety of styles and brands are available, ranging upwards in price from about ten dollars. Any compass suitable for O can be used in just about any situation a Mountaineer may find himself. That is just about it as far as equipment goes, except that it is worthwhile having a large clear plastic bag to protect your map from the elements and scrub, and some masking or other "sticky" tape for attaching your clue sheet to the map.

Upon arrival at the event, you need to decide which course you will attempt. If you were not handed an information sheet by the person directing you in the parking area, proceed towards the registration tent. Courses vary in length from less than 2 kilometres for novices, to 12 kilometres or more for the elite orienteer. If you are a complete beginner, skip the next bit of this paragraph, and just go to the tent and ask for help. A table with registration cards and course information will be somewhere nearby. If in doubt, just ask somebody - orienteers are a very friendly bunch on the whole. Having finally decided on a course, proceed to the registration tent with an appropriate entry card completed, and your money handy. At most events, the entry fee is only three or four dollars, even less if you are a member of the V.O.A. M.U.M.C. intends to arrange something during the year to make it a little cheaper for those club members who just wish to sample this sport, or participate only occasionally. The person at Registration will take your card, your money, and will ask at what time you wish to start. Armed with start time, map, clue sheet, and punch card, it is time to do all those last minute jobs before heading to the start area: stick your clue sheet to the map or put it loose in the plastic bag together with the map, change your clothes and footwear, visit the loo, etc. Proceed to the start area,

and off you go at the due time. Usually you go just a little way to an area where the master maps are located. Here you need to find the master map for your course, and copy the checkpoint locations and connecting lines onto your map. Now it is all up to you! See you at the finish....

Good, you managed to get around the course. Now its time to chat about the control marker that took ten minutes to find, or the wildlife you disturbed when you popped over the crest of the ridge near control x. Enjoy the atmosphere of the bush, the company, your picnic lunch.

I find a number of aspects of orienteering stimulating and enjoyable. Foremost, orienteering is a sport which does not rely solely upon physical attributes. A lack of fitness can, to some extent, be overcome by careful use of navigation skills. Here is a sport which can stimulate both mind and body. A day can be most enjoyable, with both active participation whilst on your course, and a social atmosphere after you finish. Events are often held close enough to Melbourne to allow one to complete a course, and return home in time to commit most of the afternoon to study or some other pressing task. It is important to occasionally let yourself wind down a little.

The event calender for orienteering can usually be found in the trips book. If not, try looking in back of the Friday Herald, or in the supplement in The Age on Friday. Most of the orienteers around the club, and there are not many at present, are only occasional participants. However, they will usually put a notice in the trips book if they decide early enough to head off to a particular event. If you have any queries, ask a committee member - they are there to help you.

The next year or two should see a considerable expansion of orienteering, in both the community at large, and within the club. Technical standards in the sport are improving in leaps and bounds following the running of the World Championships near Bendigo last September. Quite a coup for Victoria and Australia, for they were the first Championships to be held outside Europe. So participate now in sport at an exciting stage of its development in Australia, and learn the navigation skills that are important for so many of the other activities you will undertake with the Mountaineering Club.

NB. The title "Mountaineer" is used here in its widest sense, i.e. a member of M.U.M.C.

COMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| March 8,9 | Two events near Ballarat over the weekend. Transport available. |
| March 16 | Event at Digger's Link. |
| March 23 | Event at Mt. Hickey. |
| March 27-31 | EASTER: 3 Day event. An excellent weekend of orienteering on the map used last September for the World Championships, near Inglewood (west of Bendigo) Transport available. |

TRIPS PROCEDURE

(GREEN FOLDERS)

- (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. USUALLY BY THE THURS. PRIOR TO TRIP 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).



CAVING WITH MUMC

or "Going Down ; Down Under."

The world in which we live is filled with many natural wonders and challenges, not all of them are above ground. In fact there is a whole universe of wonder and challenge below the surface of the Earth.

Many people are interested in trying caving but don't know how to go about it. Being a member of MUMC gives interested people a chance of going caving to see how they like it.

Caves vary in character widely. They can be so small you have to squeeze your way along or so large a Jumbo Jet would quite comfortably fit inside (that's no exaduration). Many caves are decorated with beautiful calcite formations which are a photographers delight. Many caves contain mud and water which can add to the fun of exploration. Every cave is unique and many people have caved most of their lives and are still finding new experiences underground.

What equipment is needed?

Although caves have unique environments, only basic clothing and equipment are required to start caving. Initially you will need

- a source of light, a hand torch will suffice. Take a spare globe and batteries.

- a spare light source, a candle and matches in a plastic bag will do.

- a helmet. MUMC can provide helmets to prevent scull ventilation.

- footware . Old sandshoes with sole grip will do for some caves but old waiking boots are better.

- warm clothing. Several thin layers of clothing are best with wool or modern thermal fibre garments being better than cotton if the cave is wet.

- Overalls. A pair of overalls are useful to keep mud and dirt out and to protect your other clothes, but don't worry if you don't have a pair to start with.

As convernor of caving with MUMC, I wish to extend a welcome to anyone who may be even slightly interested in trying caving. Please put your name down in the trips book and/or come along to a chat session at the clubrooms at 1.15 thurs.7 Mar. '86 (1st week of lectures.) The 1st caving trip will be to Pawan lava caves near Baccus Marsh on Sunday 23 Mar. '86.

Regards, KENDALL CROCKER.

FOR GODSAKE, GET IN THERE AND GIVE IT A GO.

Dave Walker.

Serious article

by Dave

"Alpine climbing in New Zealand - that's meant to be pretty dangerous isn't it?"

I smiled vacuously, "Is it?". I said.

.....

It concerns me greatly that we are fast becoming a society of wimps. Lethargy and apathy seem to be taking over. You can hardly even leave the city these days without some do-gooder warning you of the perils of the bush, the discomforts of camping or how the crawling nasties will get you after dark.

"The Indi, (upper Murray River) mmm, that's not a river for beginners - you wouldn't catch me up there, too big."

"Good, I'm glad you think that way now get out of my way".

What I think is particularly loathsome is how people insist on giving you unsolicited advice, mostly in the form of negative warnings whilst completely ignorant of your experience, skill and expertise in the given activity and quite often without and knowledge whatsoever of that activity. Shooting off their mouths for your safety, your benefit, or is it really for their benefit?

"Rabbit Pass - it's pretty steep and exposed up there, you Australians will have to be careful. It is really treacherous when it's wet."

"Oh yeh? - what were conditions like when you were last up there?"

"Hmm, well a mate of mine was saying...."

It is interesting to contemplate what the motive might be for such gratuitous advice. It seems unlikely I would have thought that they are intimately concerned with your safety - there are exceptions to this, notably parents and friends. Often the gems you receive before heading off on some kind of adventure come from people you have never met before - the bus driver who lets you off by the side of the road, the store keeper where you buy your food and others. What is it? Jealousy? Quite possibly, jealous of the fact that you have the courage and the get up and go to do something that they are not game to try. Perhaps they are just venting their paranoia, their fear of all things big and dangerous.

"Are you fellahs heading over the (Copeland) Pass? - I hope you've got boots."

"Nuh, we've got some pieces of rubber which we are going to stick to the bottoms of our sandals when we get to the snow."

These people seem to delight in telling you the obvious, details which you would have covered quite early on in your trip planning. Things such as conditions and whether or not you are both mentally and physically prepared for the adventure you have set yourself.

"Mountaineering eh, mountains are pretty rugged places not what you're used to. People die on mountains."

"Of course they do dickhead, what do you think mountains are for?"

With attitudes like this, there is no way the Burke and Wills expedition would ever have gotten off the ground, and Australians would all be living clustered around Sydney and Hobart, having progressed no further.

Those who do have a genuine interest in your safety perhaps ought to be treated with kid-gloves, but in general once realizing that the speaker is quite ignorant of the trip, and your capabilities treat their advice with a pinch of salt, smile vacuously and walk away. Whether you are planning a Himalayan mountaineering expedition or putting your name down on a beginner's rockclimbing weekend, thing will never be as dire as people tell you. Take the bit between your teeth, seize the opportunity get in there and have a go. Your life will be the better for it. In this instance, take advantage of the scope provided by MUMC. Speak to experienced members and see for yourself what is on offer. And don't be put off by the do-godders

* * * * *

CLIMBING REPORT FOR 1985

In 1985 rockclimbing in MUMC remained fairly quiet with about the same number of trips and similar party sizes to those of 1984. A number of climbers joined the club early in the year, but the expected increase in activity did not eventuate. Only two beginners trips were held, and they were not well attended. It was pleasing to observe a trend away from the climbing areas most regularly visited by the club as the small number of active climbers sought to visit new areas. Rather than all rockclimbing trips being at Mt. Arapiles and Melbourne's local crags, we have seen several trips to The Grampians and Mt Buffalo, and one to The Blue Mountains, as usual, a few club members went to New Zealand to learn alpine climbing. Overall, it was a quiet and uneventful year. It is hoped that several beginner's trips in March will get the ball rolling for 1986.

JAMES McINTOSH



"Well, it was there!"

NELSON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

The south island of N.Z. offers very scenic and dramatic tramping (bushwalking) ranging from snow capped mountain ranges complete with glaciers through to beautiful beech forests and lovely river valleys. One of the most beautiful tramps I did was in the Nelson Lakes N.P. which is at the northern end of the South Island.

The first few hours is along the shores of Lake Rotoiti which was a lovely blue coloured lake ideal for a quick swim before heading up the valley. The Travers Valley was smaller than most I had been in but certainly as beautiful as any, with the small river slowly cascading down through the forest. After a full day of walking Travers saddle was reached, which took you up on to the range which separated the Travers and Sabine valleys. Although the weather was a bit threatening, the clouds were just high enough and the rain held off sufficiently to have a good look around and explore the few tarns; scree slopes and cliffs which blocked off views in other directions. The different lines of vegetation were clearly distinguishable as the forest became tussock and the tussock gave way to grass and then no vegetation at all, just rock and scree.

Then as the rain came down I started on the 1000m descent into the Sabine Valley. The first 500m was on scree slopes which was unstable and not at all enjoyable however as I got lower the forest was entered and in the pouring rain the mosses, ferns, and beech trees were looking beautiful. The walk to Sabine forks that passed one of the most amazing chasms I have ever seen. In the middle of the forest, first a sheer drop of about 50m and only about 2m across from the small bridge the water could just be made out below.

The following day the weather cleared and under bright blue skies I headed up to Blue Lake which as its name suggests was a very bright blue, I think due to glacial deposits. Then after another hour Lake Diana was reached which was a very large glacial lake surrounded by barren and spectacular mountain ranges. The trip down the Sabine was also very picturesque, with lovely rapids and rock pools and some beautiful gorges which were too tempting to be able to just pass by without a brief stop and dip. Then from Lake Rotorua another full days walk through beech forest and some open plain back to the Ranger Station.

The walk was beautiful and not too strenuous and could comfortably be done in 6 days. For those with a bit of spunk at the end, Mt. Angelus offers superb views and supposedly an unforgettable night, however an extra day of so would need to be allowed.

As with all N.Z. national parks, the huts were in very good conditions and will be placed to coincide with a good day's walking, it also had the advantage of not being as crowded as some of the other N.P.s.

If you are planning a trip to N.Z. I'd strongly recommend this walk as something very worthwhile.

JAMIE ORR.

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE A FFFACE MASSAGE.

-Some thoughts on canoeing with MUMC by DEVO. (a sillier article this time)

Twenty past midnight, clear sky, rough gravel road, bleary eyes, driver sitting next to you possessively clutching the steering wheel, a maniacal grin across his mouth with Roger Daltrey and Mick Jagger apparently singing a duet together. Scary? Bloody Oath (especially the duet) - the river could never be this bad. Of course, it never is; except in the minds of those telling the story and possibly in the minds of those stupid enough to be listening. The hard Times, those Dickensian unrepeatable epics of years gone by.....and darkness, always gloom and foreboding; all lies. Face massages? - a myth by and large. Ian McKenzie once left some pieces of his forehead in the bottom of the Indi and the rest of the face smeared across a boulder in the Nymboida whilst Karl Kny was caught out inspecting the rock formations in the bottom of a shallow section of the Snowy....and needed a doctor. Apart from this nothing much to speak of - but then again it only needs to happen once to be unforgettable. Even the sight of someone being stitched up by the side of the river can leave lasting memories. Haunting, chilling, neurotic memories visibly altering once sane human beings for the worse.

Still, the friendship, the folklore, the good experiences more than compensate for all of this. Come canoeing with MUMC, you will have no regrets; and the paddling will never be as bad as the drive in. - Personally I'd rather go to a "drive-in"

LET'S GO CANOEING

(corny enough?) Yeah!

MUMC canoeing is mainly concerned with white-water 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 (well, not really, they are actually aimed at providing basic swimming* skills and developing the art of being a fish). For those who survive long enough to become more experienced, we run regular trips to most Victorian white-water rivers. (when you've mastered the local brown-water river)

(Swutlety is lost on us - F&F)

Touring trips are usually day* or weekend* affairs (I chose that word carefully, F&F), with the occasional longer trip on long weekends or holidays. One trip not to be missed is the annual epic Snowy River Bludge Trip in late November or early December. Ask Mark Durr for details.

or when ears unhook
drawn.

Beginners' trips will start early in March. All equipment can be hired at bargain basement prices from the club - kayaks, canoes, paddles, etc... Subaru cars (sand color of course) may be provided. A typical beginners' day trip would leave early* on a Saturday or Sunday morning. You would need to bring lunch, bathers, towel, old sand-shoes, a shirt and an old woollen jumper. For colder or windier weather, a wet-suit or slicker makes things more comfortable (for when we have a splashing fight).

I don't recall
this
sensation

Get in early for the beginners' trips because Easter is not far away. Our Easter trips are always epic* (ask Uncle Timmy about a flooded Murrumbidgee).

An annual event is Inter-varsity canoeing - a competition between Universities. This year it will be held in Tasmania (!) during the May holidays. Transport costs etc. are subsidised by the University. This is very much a social event. Everyone is welcome from the beginner to the expert, so keep practicing. The events include slalom, down-river racing, canoe polo and big parties as well as novelty events such as the lilo race. In the bag!

We will be holding practice sessions in the Uni. pool, for basic skills and especially eskimo rolling. Keep an eye on the Canoeing Trips Book (in the club-rooms) for details.

That's all folks, Thank goodness
Julie Chaplin.
Godees.

* List of Jargon *

- "white water" kayaking - paddling rivers with detergent pollution
- Swimming - underwater spraydeck wrestling.
- Fish - excessive underwater spraydeck wrestling.
- "experienced" - owning a subaru, a nikonus camera, a trend setter & an ability to make jaffles.
- Day Trip - a late start & a very late finish.
- weekend Trip - Bip Bip Bip (STD) "I'm not feeling very well"
- Epic - a trip led by the chaplin's that will assuredly go very very badly.

C H A M O I S

Whilst on a recent trip in Arthur's Pass N.P. in New Zealand, Mr Jamie Orr and Mr David Walker were fortunate enough to come across a Chamois, a rare and delightful denizen of alpine regions. Research upon their return to Australia revealed the true nature of the beast.

*Glissading is a method of descending steep slopes of snow, by virtually skiing them without skis. High speeds can be reached.

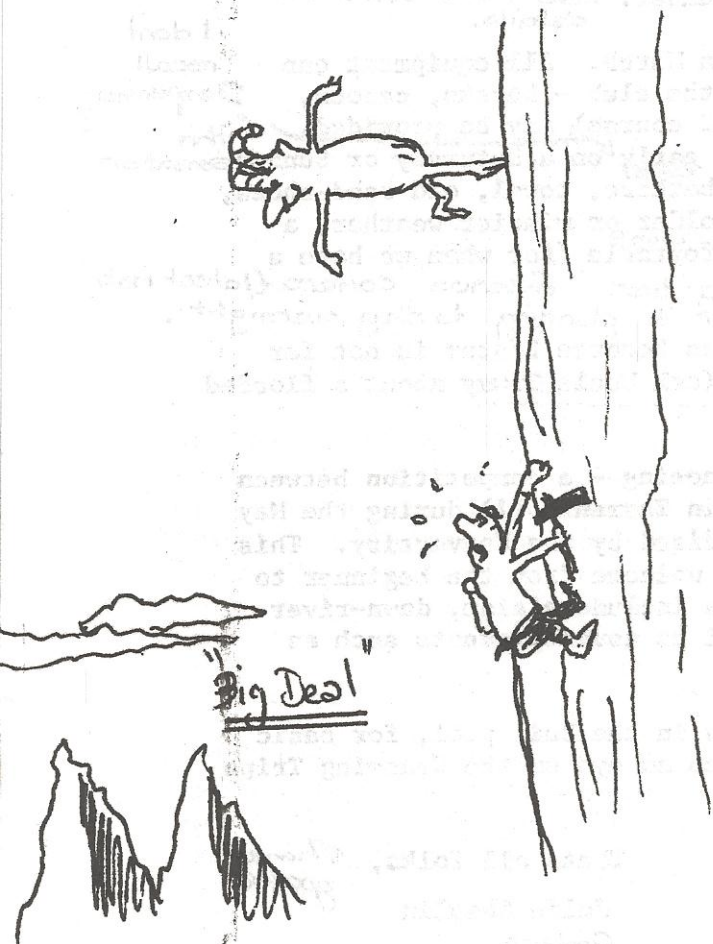
THE LEAPING FEATS OF THE DARING AND GRACEFUL CHAMOIS

The Rocky Mountain goat already named is the clumsiest in build of all the goat clan, but in spite of its stocky limbs it is a fine climber. When pressed by hunger it will descend to the lowlands, but its home is in the heights, and it seems now as sure to survive man's coming as the closely-guarded bison.

The same remark, let us hope, may now be applied to the delightful Chamois, the lissom leaping beauties that seem the very embodiment of Alpine life. They have been much persecuted, but their range is not limited to the Alps. They are in the Pyrenees, the Carpathians, Caucasus, Apennines, and in the Taurus range in Asia Minor.

Also, they are in New Zealand! A few were taken there some years ago and there thrived splendidly. There is nothing more thrilling in Nature than the sight of a chamois glissading down a snowy slope, to bound afresh up a new height and land like some incredible bird with all four dainty hoofs gathered together upon a pinnacle no bigger than a man's hand.

For daring, adroitness, and grace the chamois is the little king of his order, an order superbly fitted for hill and valley, and to make rough places seem plain and the crooked straight.



BUSH WALKING . with MUMC

This is probably what first comes to mind when you think of joining the club, and it caters for a wide range of fitness and experience in many different environments. Day trips are held in places like Cathedral Ranges, Lerderderg Gorge, Werribee Gorge etc. For these only a day pack and sandshoes are needed. Longer trips may go to the Grampians, Bogong, Feathertop or Wilson's Prom. A big event coming up is the Easter Van Trip - not to be missed. Also later in the year the epic "Midnight Ascent of Mt. Feathertop" (full moon, snow and formal dinner.) Most equipment can be hired from the club - so put your best foot forward and give it a go!!!

A TASMANIAN DELICACY

Beautiful and brutal, caring and destructive, yet well worthwhile

This is Tasmania's Franklin River. A classic wilderness trip which tests the limits of human honesty. Try to prove yourself in this place and you're in trouble; treat it with respect and you'll have an unforgettably wonderful time.

Rafters head into the west coast area to begin their trip at the Collingwood Br. on the Lyell H. 135km later the trip is finished at Warners' landing. An average trip is 14 days.

(a) The Collingwood Bridge

This ugly slab of concrete is where it all begins. "All" includes a decent bout of nervousness. Such anxiety is the direct result of not knowing what lies ahead.... If it wasn't for the smiling faces of the TNPNS rangers and the serenity of the forrest campspot, it would be very easy to worry.

The logbook is signed and we're OFF.

(b) First rapid

Approaching chute ...stop...contains stopper...stop...current hitting rock wall...stop...imperative to keep paddling...stop... in chute...stop...too wide to use paddle...stop...being eaten by stopper...stop...flushed out-----THATS IT! I'M THROUGH... The nervousness is over. Its replaced by a growing confidence and a healthy respect.

(c) Irenabyss

This is a peaceful chasm which in places is only a few metres wide. Its amazing to think the Franklin flows through this narrow gap. The gateway to the Irenabyss is a 500m set of big bouncy rapids. The final 1m drop shoots you into the sudden peacefulness of the chasm. The rock walls are very high and they overhang in many places as the Irenabyss twists around not much light penetrates here. As you drift in the almost still water you'd expect to hear an Andean flute player hign up in the cliffs.

A freak flood a day and a half of solid rain caused the Franklin to rise 7m one night. The Irenabyss became a tremendous rapid to be looked at and nothing else. The sudden moods of this river make it quite easy to become paranoid. It took 2 days to drop.

(d) Finchan Hut

This grotty hut has a grotty walk to it, but it's welcome in times of hardship, hunger and cold.

(e) Blushrock Falls

These must cascade down more than thirty metres of sloping rock faces. Its only a small tributary of the Franklin. At the very top of Blushrock there's a log jammed between the two rocks which are at the very edge of the water fall. There's a decent gap between the falling water and this log. I wonder how it came to be stuck there and I wonder when it's going to come unstuck.

(f) Mousehole

A great place to relax after the awesome grandeur and hard work of the Great Ravine is the Mousehole campsite. It is found in Deliverance reach. The Mousehole is a small gorge through which a creek enters the Franklin. I spent a few hours sitting on rocks beside the river. The waterfalls, sculptured cliff faces, bubbling current and dense forest make this one of the most beautiful spots in the area. It was quite pleasant sitting there.

(g) Gannymede's Pool

After the huge rapids in Propsting's Gorge this pretty basin offers approx. 100m respite before the huge rapids in Glen Calder.

(h) Calder's Ferry

There's a special campsite at this place. Once there you have left behind the last of the gorges on the Franklin. You are now on the lower Franklin. The pressure is off. You're confronted by a much wider river with its banks crowded by luxuriant rainforest and sweeping limestone cliffs.

There are many caves along here. Some have cave spiders which look like they've been made of pipe cleaners and stuck to the cave roof. One cave has an eerie howl which sounds like an Aboriginal chanting. It is a fascinating area.

(i) The Gordon River

The 8km that you paddle down the Gordon is a series of culture shocks.

1. The Franklin River ends.
2. The dam site is passed.
3. There's a jetty at Sir John's Falls.
4. The summer ranger station and the dam road.
5. The 'Gordon Explorer' which takes you to Strahan.
6. The tourists on this boat who intently film you loading your gear onto the 'G.E.'

However, after a few beers on the way to Strahan the transition back into society is partially made. A counter tea (or two) is eagerly awaited.

ANTONY HARVEY

CONSERVATION UPDATE

What's happening?

1. Two of Tasmania's most important forest wildernesses are to be logged. These are Lemonthyme and the Upper Picton Valley. Work has begun on a road into the latter.
2. Robin Gray has been returned to power in Tasmania with an increased majority.
3. Bob Brown has been re-elected.
4. The Land Conservation Council final recommendations for East Gippsland are due out soon.

What you can do!

1. Volunteer at Tasmanian Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation or the East Gippsland Coalition,
2. Read up on the issues,
3. SPREAD THE WORD.
4. Write to your local politician and/or the P.M.

Antony Harvey
Conservation Convenor
Ph. 8615882

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 checks.

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

BOGAINING: 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.

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.

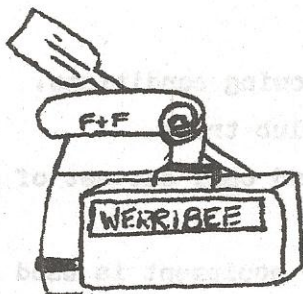
What does snow mean for the MUMC? Snow means we can strap long, flat planks to our feet, take a pole in each hand and travel in the mountains during winter. It is not really possible otherwise. The club has lots of these long flat planks and poles to hire to club members when it snows.

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.



Editoresses'
Farewell

BYE - BYE

well the time has finally arrived for our last magazine (shiff) we would like to thank all those club members who contributed in '85 even those whose articles were rather long to type up we hope our editoressing didn't offend too many people and we would like to thank Gertrude the duplicating machine even though she chewed her way through numerous stencils, paper, fingers, clothes and what little sanity we started with. we're sad that our editoressing careers have ended but we never were too good at speeling and our relationship with Devo our prize contributor was just getting too involved!!! anyway Werribee isn't that bad is it???? after all we can go climbing in the Grampians, walking in the Otways and Orienteering at Werribee Gorge as for canoeing well we are only two blocks from the Werribee River and we do like flat water. we hope you enjoyed the 'eer in '85 good luck to the new editor(esses???)

~~Tttx~~ T.T.F.N.

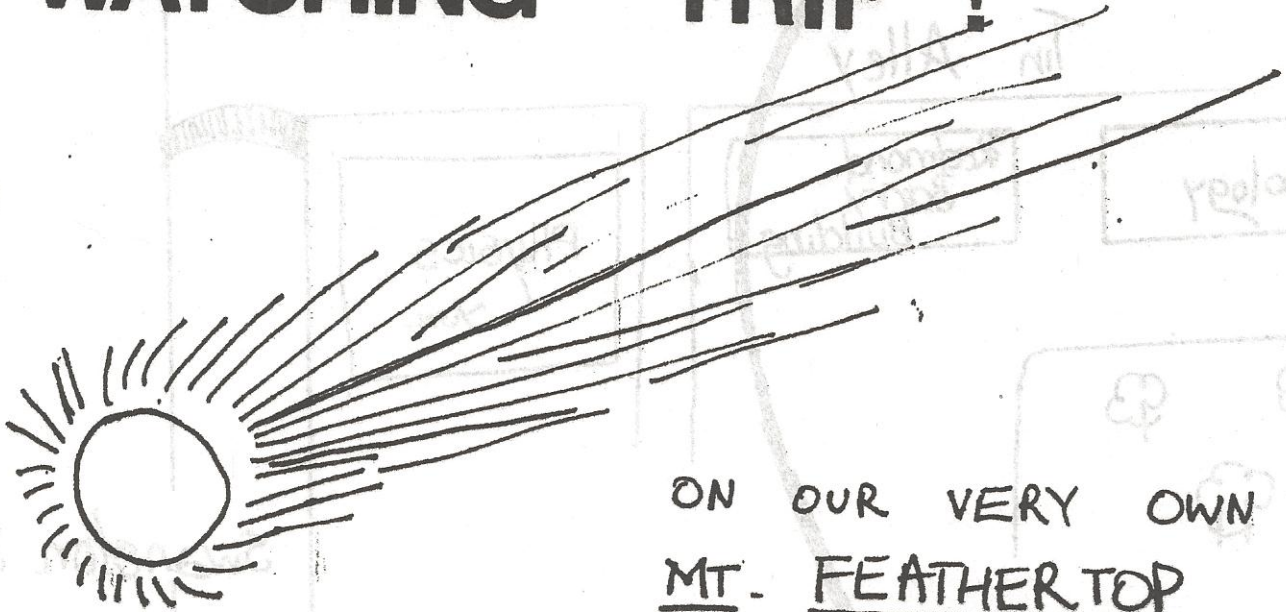
F. and F.

(alias Ann Foster and Jane Frost
MUMC, AVA, VSSV, YHA.)

LOb in f.r eXtra vaLue;

THE TRADITIONAL ; 76 - ANNU LLAR

M.U.M.C. HALLEY'S COMET WATCHING TRIP !



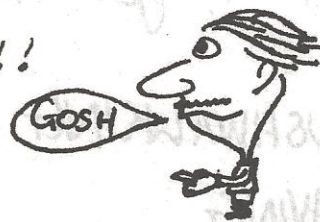
ON OUR VERY OWN
MT. FEATHERTOP

(The second best
viewing point in the
State !!)

- RAMBLE UP THE SCENIC BUNGALOW SPUR
- VIEW THE WONDEROUS COMET FROM THE SUMMIT
- RETURN VIA THE LUSCIOUS AND FAMOUS N.W. SPUR
- LAWS OF PHYSICS + RUNNING COMMENTARY BY MR. D. WALKER
- PHYSIOLOGICAL EXPLANATION BY PETER FREEMAN
- LEGAL WITICISMS BY JAMIE ORR
- TAX ADVICE BY TIM BERIMAN
- Celebrate Jane Fooks 21st B day !!

APRIL 11th - 13th

leave Friday evening
return Sunday night



PUT YOUR NAME ON THE TRIPS LIST TODAY

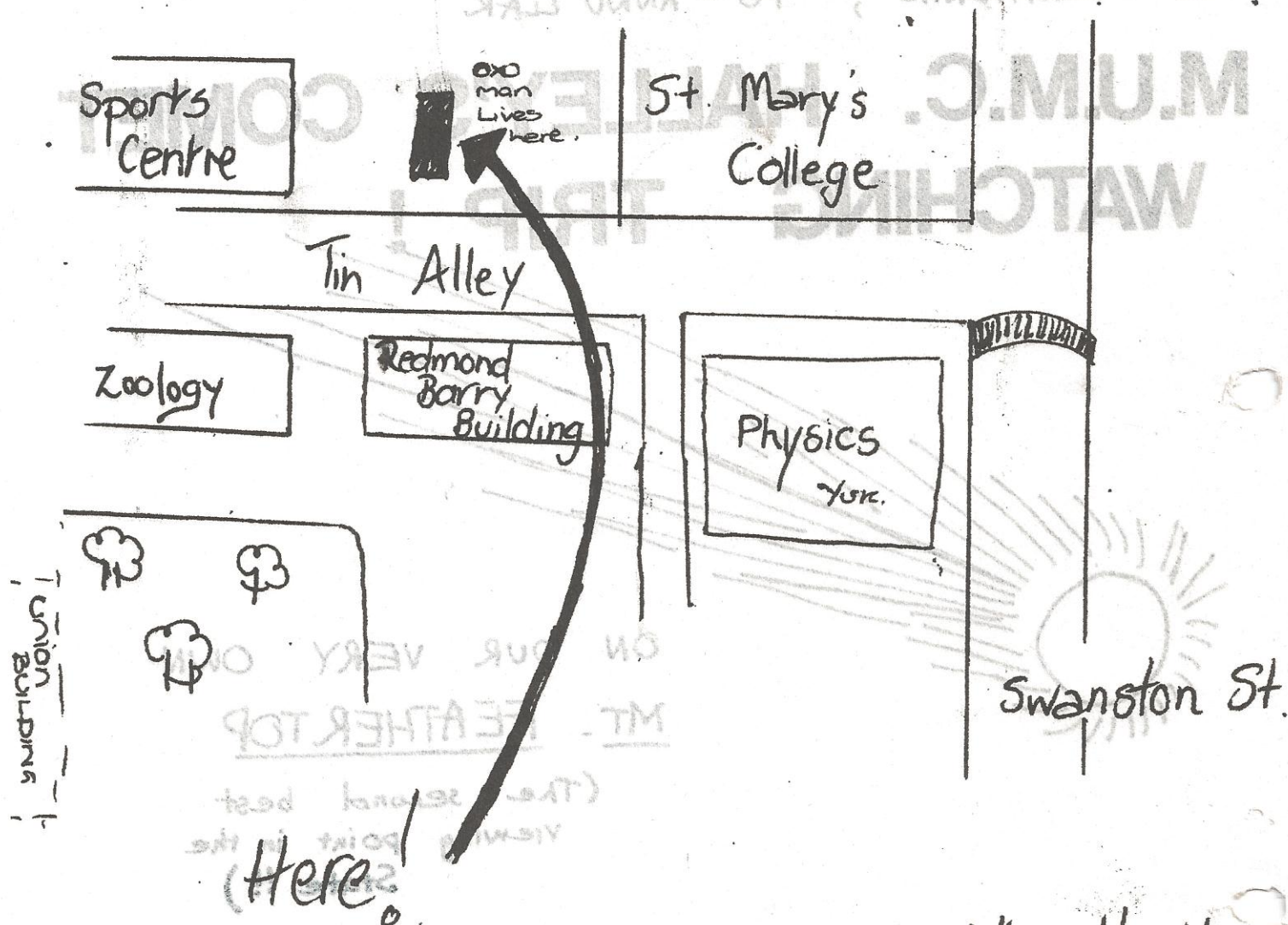
Fucking good

Down!!

66

79

Where are the clubrooms?



- * Look for the white weatherboard "hut" with the OXO MAN on the door!
- * Open weekdays lunchtimes 1-2pm
- * Come in + get involved in:

BUSHWALKING

CAVING

ROCKCLIMBING

KAYAKING

ORIENTEERING

SKI-TOURING

