

# MOUNTAINEER

March/ April 1994

The magazine of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club



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## Editorial

There's a notable difference with the new clubroom. Whereas good old Cardigan St. was laidback ( some may even go so far as to suggest sleazy or decrepid), there's an element of excitement with the direction and mood of the new clubroom. And with it the club is growing- spurred on by new members and a rash of trips over the last few weeks. Question is, are we shaping our club's history or are we drifting along each lunchtime? The question is relevent as we celebrate MUMC's 50th anniversary and reflect on the diversity and growth of the club's endeavours.

But we also look onwards and none more so than to encourage members to try out various activites: bushwalking, climbing, kayaking (+ canoe polo), caving, conservation, skiing and rogaining. As well there's lots of social events like the Pie and Slide Night , Bushdance, Midnight Ascent and there's always the Clyde where many a club member become even stranger. Unlike some clubs, our success relies heavily on the masses and not the energy of the trip leaders or commitee alone. It's a familiar mantra to many.....*"the more you put in, the more you'll get out"*.

Also how closely do you identify with MUMC? Perhaps it's a springboard to complement your other Uni. pursuits or are you going to get involved and make MUMC your focus as many trip leaders have. By participation, MUMC helps to make a person more 'rounded' but by commitment one can look back and see the difference their contribution has made.

During Easter, many trips should be running and really it's the only way you'll understand what this club is all about. All it takes is one or two trips to become familiar with other people and find out which activity suits you. Hopefully I'll hear about your epic trip in the form of an article ( preferably on disk which will be returned) or perhaps see your photos.

So in 1994, MUMC challenges you to be adventurous, meet lots of people and discover things you never thought were possible.

Peter Chew  
Publication Officer

P.S. Check the clubrooms for the latest developments( or lack of ) on Mt. Stirling.

## MUMC 50th Anniversary Update

### Anniversary Dinner

There's a dinner party planned for the 8th October 1994. Cost is approx. \$50 but venue and dresscode is yet to be finalised- suggestions welcome. Check clubrooms for details

### Mountaineer

A special edition of the Mountaineer require photos both old and new- especially old ones than your parents or grandies might have as members.

Also wanted are short anecdotes on "I remember when...." both funny or poignant



## MUMC - NEW CLUBROOMS

For those of you that knew a little about the club last year, you've probably noticed something a little different - we've moved!! For those that have joined us this year, you've still probably noticed something a little different - the new MUMC clubrooms are huge! We've got a lot of space to play with, putting up posters, arranging gear and so on: if anyone has any suggestions whatsoever on how to alter/change/improve the clubrooms, drop in and let someone know. **WHERE ARE THE CLUBROOMS ?** : if you're somehow reading this article and not standing in the clubrooms at the same time, the clubrooms are located on campus, adjacent to the cricket pavilion by the cricket oval and colleges. ( We're near Ormond and St. Hilda's) Just look out for the large OXO (you'll know it when you see it) symbol pinned up outside! \* C'mmon who's taken it walkabout?

### Commitee Members

|                   |                       |          |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Steve Bird        | Caving Convenor       | 598 4154 |
| Kate Bradshaw     | Secretary             | 827 5135 |
| Peter Chew        | Publication Officer   | 818 3563 |
| Dan Colborne      | Treasurer             | 419 9342 |
| Steve Curtain     | Skiing Convenor       | 859 8053 |
| Scott Edwards     | Climbing Convenor     | 347 4626 |
| Anouk Fawns       | Conservation Convenor | 853 8280 |
| Lisa Flew         | General Officer       | 882 3834 |
| Peter Gariulo     | Canoeing Convenor     | 702 1851 |
| Tessa Letcher     | Gear Store Officer    | 347 1567 |
| Nicki Munro       | Bushwalking Convenor  | 376 2811 |
| Stuart Richardson | T- Shirt Officer      | 375 2338 |



**BEWARE:** Don't accept candy from these suspicious characters- club members during O week.



## MUMC : "Where to now? / A SHORT OVERVIEW.

How many people know that the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) is more than just a student club? Its current membership and activity is only a very small fraction of what MUMC had been in the past. On 9th October 1994, next year, the club reaches a milestone - like anyone else - where a grand age of 50 years is attained.

While the club and its members naturally experiences huge variations in activity as a result of lagging commitment due to work overload, exam periods and the decrease in skilled and experienced older members, some of this lack of commitment is purely on the shoulders of members. The club's constant buzz of activity is only - as it has always been - the result of dedication and commitment of all its constituents. Over the last several years, a tremendous amount of time and energy has been expended, with some excellent results to show for, such as increased numbers on clubtrips in all activity codes and the small but constant trickle of new leaders. The ability of the club to do these great things is not only of great benefit to all, but apart from this is a lot of fun! Without the ongoing commitment (there's that word again) of such members, MUMC simply suffers: few trips are run, potential members are turned away, and overall, there's lack in will to do something, compounding any further problems.

Apart from the steady flow of people - often many beginners - that join the club throughout the first half of each year, others join because they've heard of the rave comments like the great time they had on the weekend, or the huge pitch they did on a climb successfully or the time when the car broke down half way up a mountain road! There is little doubt that MUMC is one of the most active clubs around, with an absolute heap of places visited each year - the dark depths of Buchan Caves, the beautiful mountains of the Australian Alps in summer and winter, the glorious rock of Mt.Arapiles, the inland and stretches of Eastern Gippsland, the dry but vibrant desert parks of the north west, the rushing and exciting rivers of NSW and Tasmania, and other innumerable crags, open plains, deep streams, cliffs and caves that so many of us love to get out there and "do our thing"...

Over the years, MUMC has been involved in some amazing feats and trips. Traditionally with a strong walking base, it was one of the earliest walking parties to attain Federation Peak's summit, in amongst exploring and establishing - in conjunction with other other walking groups - routes and area descriptions of other ranges and remote peaks in Victoria specifically, but NSW and Tasmania as others. With ensuing years, MUMC developed multiple skills so that the current activities that people enjoy today, are the result of individuals "getting out there and doing it". Much of the skill and experience that club members have currently has been with this idea in mind, though with prior safety and knowledge of each field as prime concerns in mind; skill and experience have filtered down through the club as more experienced members pass on knowledge and the necessary skill for others to absorb and utilise, so that they too can pass on this knowledge to others. Although a rather informal working, it allows for a

relaxed, enjoyable but effective environment for individuals to learn and above all, have a great time!

Other mentionable involvement includes the numerous forays of members to New Zealand, where in recent years, members have been gaining alpine / mountaineering experience, providing a pathway onto other magnificent alpine environments around the world if not for their own enjoyment. MUMC had also been an active member in Search and Rescue, a component of Vicwalk, formerly known as the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, whereby MUMC's bush and mountain skills, as well as from numerous other walking clubs are offered collectively from Vicwalk (or the 'Federation') to the Victorian Police in aid of searches for individuals lost in bush regions - this association between MUMC and the 'Federation', up until recently had been fading as active involvement dropped. Even so, MUMC needs to recover and maintain its ties - as an example, the last Federation club day that MUMC hosted was in 1975. These days hosted by a Victorian walking club does each year, allows for the strengthening of relations and enjoy other club members involvement. One of these days in 1994 should be considered as apart of MUMC's celebrations.

Apart from this, MUMC has encouraged individuals to try activities that they would have not otherwise had the chance to do. It has been on the basis of members actually 'doing' things and sharing these experiences, that has resulted in ex club members, over many years, developing and excelling in all club activities and being able to apply this knowledge in many practical ways. Of worthy note is the publishing streak that emerged in the late 1970's, resulting in many fine publications, such as "Mountaineer" journals and bushwalking and mountaineering equipment guides. Of course there are other fields too numerous to mention, but all as worthy and important as each other.

Members should realize what the club has been, what it is today, and what it can be in the future. It brings people together to experience an array of activities and develop a spirit to enjoy and grow. MUMC needs the support of all its members - it needn't be a 'full-on' commitment, but at least a say or a hand here or there. It's the support and motivation of different people that offer different qualities, no matter how small or big, that what makes MUMC : a bloody great club!



## "It's nice once you're in..."

If you thought soprano was a good night out at the opera, think again. A visit to the sub- Antarctic waters of numerous creeks in the Alps, only reconfirmed the much awaited study of how to gauge the intensity of cold inflicted upon one's body....or freezing one's buns off.

### COMMENT

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| - Ambient           | You're not sure whether to laugh or cry.            |
| - Cool              | You know that it's on the cool side of warm.        |
| - Cold              | Hey, it's cold.                                     |
| - Fresh             | You start to laugh, then cry.                       |
| - Refreshing        | Slight shivering is a bad omen.                     |
| - Bloody refreshing | Gee, it's nice once you're in.                      |
| - Invigourating     | What's that about hypothermia?                      |
| - Suprano           | You've just made it to the Australian Junior Choir. |
| - Enlightening      | You meet God for the first time.                    |

So next time someone asks you in for a swim on a trip, don't knock 'em back, show them how enlightened you can be.



Ahh..... Bushwalking as it should be- Mt. Bogong.

## Quotes.

*"Doing surface anatomy on the upper body is O.K. It's below the belt that gets a bit hairy."*

(Tim McIver)

*"How long do 2 minute noodles take to cook?"*

(Nicki Munro)



## The Eagles Eyrie by Anton Weller

I said "I want to scrub bash up Bogong". People said "You're mad". I said "No matter, who wants to come along?". Nikki said "I do".

She is mad too.

In fact the trip was quite awesome, the scrub quite friendly, not an epic was sighted and Nikki is not all that mad.

The idea of the walk was to ascend and descend Mt. Bogong entirely off tracks. The spur I chose to ascend is unnamed, but since Sodawater Creek runs beside it I have called it, appropriately enough, Sodawater spur. It leads directly to Stirling Gap, an "awesome" place to camp and right next to West Peak.

We left Melbourne rather late, at 10:30pm in fact. After a short drive and an ever shorter sleep we were ready to set off. I had no idea of the scrub, and my method of dealing with this is to assume it is terrible and hope it is not. Thus I had allowed all day for the few horizontal kilometres we would be covering. At the least the weather was okay.

Open woodland low down slowly gave way to bracken, mostly easy but with the occasional nasty bit. Little Bogong, towering above at the start, acted as an excellent height indicator as we ascended. At about 1400m we crested onto a prominent spur of beautiful snow gums and for the first time felt the WIND. I use capital letters to emphasise it's presence. The views too were most impressive - from between the swaying trees the summit plateau appeared to brood under a veil of dark mist and cloud.

At around 1550m we entered the zone of heathy scrub that can be a real pain to get through. Thankfully it was a short section, the only excitement being provided by a black snake which had decided to park itself in a clearing in front of us. Rather than tempt fate we scrub bashed around it.

The most mega part of the trip was still to come. As we left the scrub belt we entered both the upper reaches of the snow gums and the lower reaches of the mist. And the wind! It was a presence raging through the trees. We knew that there was no way we would be able to camp anywhere up top, and so looked for campsites on the way up. Many were too low to consider or offered no shelter. But right on the tree line, at about 1800m, we stumbled across the most awesome micro tent platform this side of the Grampians! It was just big enough to fit the small tent we had - any "normal" tent would not have fit. And the best thing was that it was totally sheltered by big boulders and scrub on the south (uphill and upwind) side.

The effects of lack of sleep and high winds caused a rather unsteady pair to continue up to Stirling Gap for water. Back at the platform we set up camp and cooked dinner. Nikki, being generally brillo, had brought along Zout liquorice which was a mega nice treat. She

WHERE?

Here →

When : End of April

Date to be confirmed

Bogong

374 → LT. BOURKE

AND

ST, CITY.

MUMMC

What  
a club...

P R E S E N T



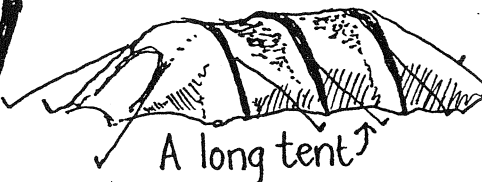
Your Wildest Dream  
come true....



GEAR BUYING



Night !



15~20% OFF - Retail Price

START SAVING OR BEG FOR MONEY... BUY THAT RUCSAC OR  
CHALK BAG OR THERMAL TOP OR JAPARA OR TENT OR BOOTS OR  
STOVE OR PAIR SKIS, YOU'VE BEEN HANGING OUT FOR!

# MUMC

LIMITED 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

## T-SHIRTS

100% AUSTRALIAN MADE

SHORT SLEEVED \$15  
LONG SLEEVED \$17

AVAILABLE IN THE CLUBROOMS FROM 1 PM TO 2 PM  
T-SHIRTS ARE ALL WHITE.

FRONT DESIGN IS IN RED AND GREEN. BACK  
DESIGN IN BLACK

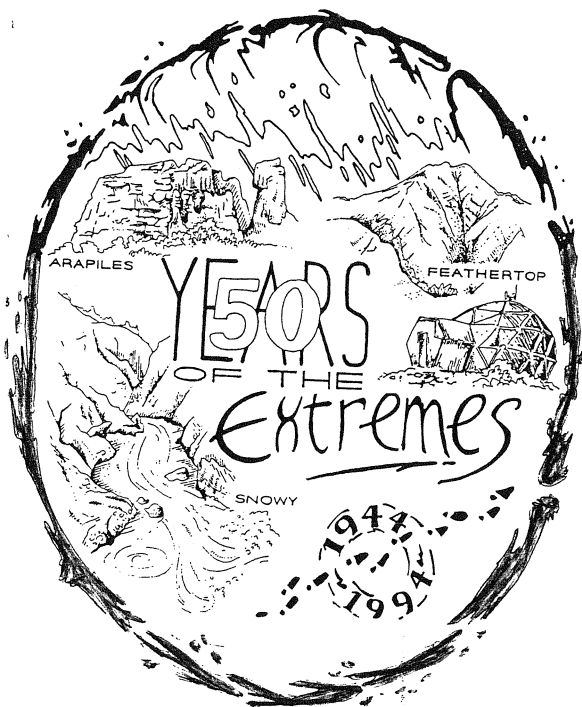


ONE SIZE FITS ALL  
(EXTRA LARGE  
ALSO AVAILABLE)

STRONG COTTON  
100%

FRONT >

< BACK



# MUMC

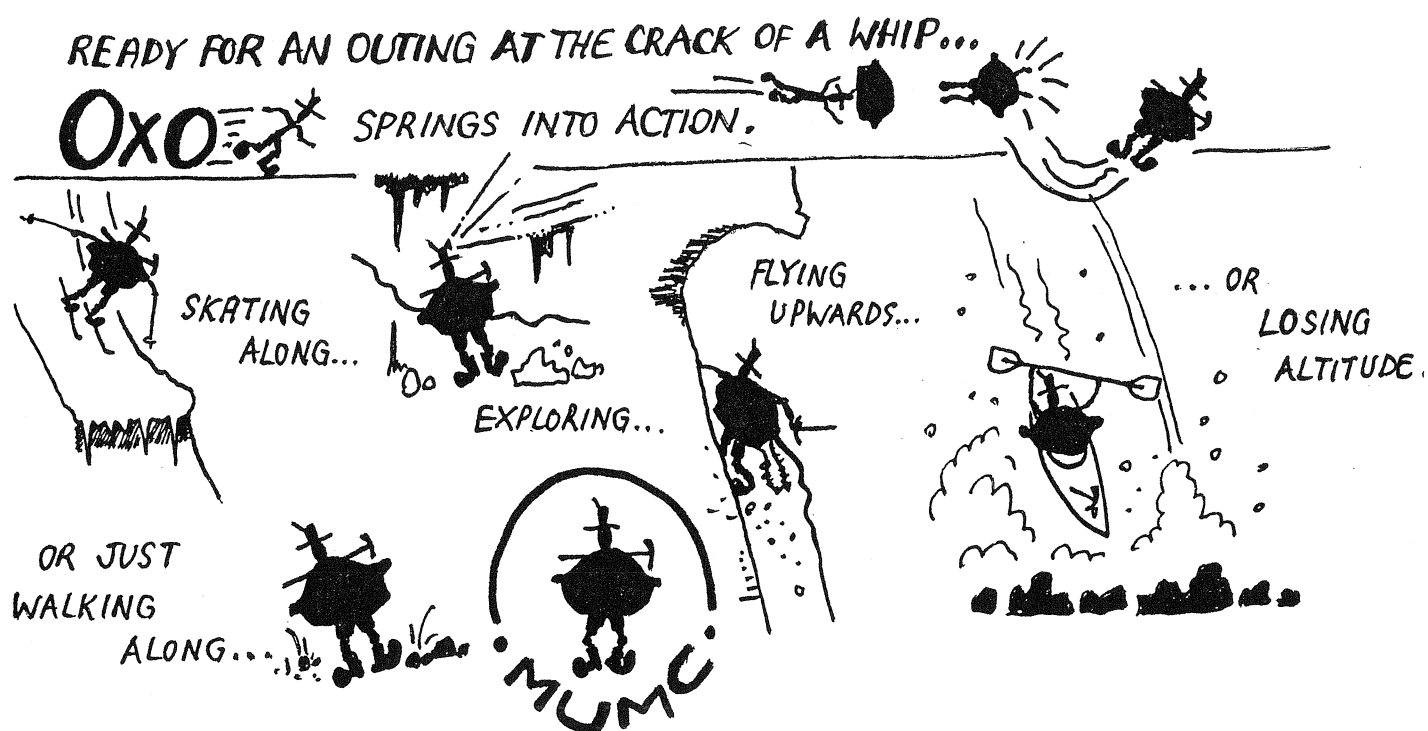


## A Day's Paddling on the Yarra

As total beginners to this activity we had little knowledge of what we were in for. However overcoming a strong desire to pike out at the last minute we showed up at the MUMC boatsheds. It was earl Sunday morning, the weather was lousy and although it continued to rain on and off all day we had a fantastic time. We learnt the basics to kayaking and how to negotiate some rapids. The leaders were encouraging and friendly and after a satisfying day we finished off with dinner at La Porchetta's (affectionately known as Larper's).

The following Tuesday, we were ready to tackle an evening of canoe polo in the Uni pool. For anyone who's interested in going on a club trip don't be put off by the imposing ring of chairs that confronts you as you walk through the MUMC door. Make the effort to grab the attention of a senior club member and sign up for a trip.

Alice ( in Wonderland)



## MUMC - SKI TOURING

**DEFINITION** : for those downhill minded, you go wooosh; we go swish - swish.

I know, I know, there's no snow... YET.

But start walking your fingers ( hopefully around June ) through the Ski Touring folder in the clubrooms in anticipation for mega XC ski trips. What? I hear you say. Snow in Victoria? It's a pretty phenomenal concept to handle, but occasionally there's enough snow to shovel into a corner and look as though you're skiing.

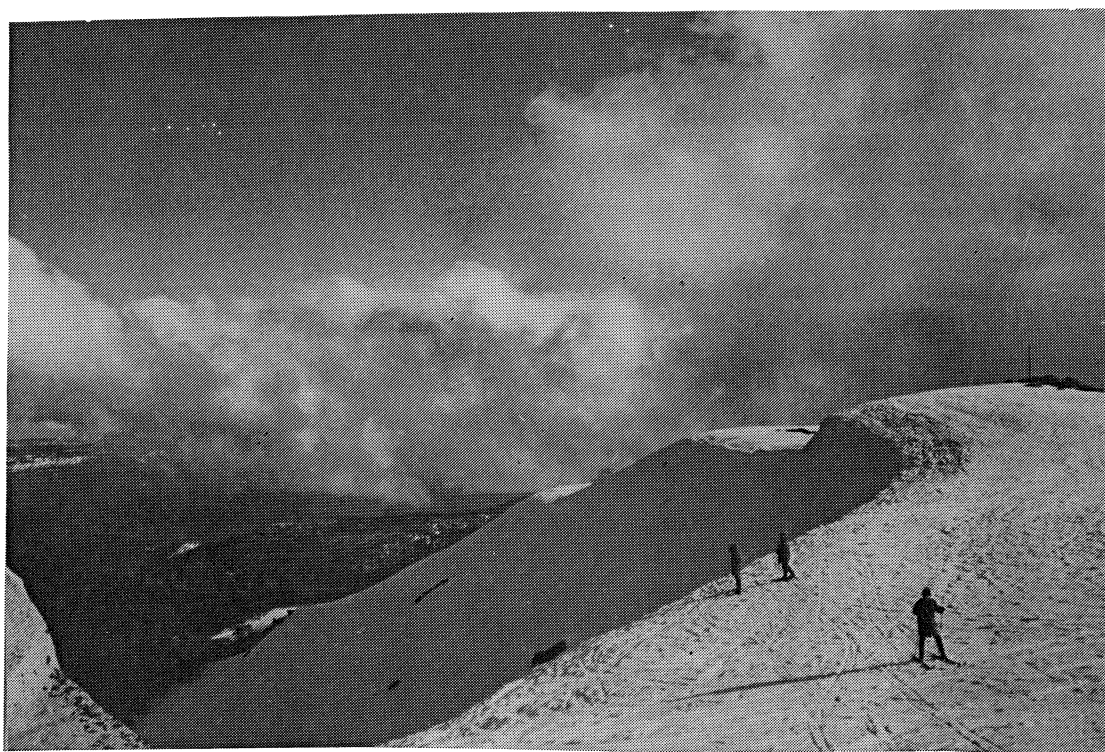


(i) **NEVER BEEN XC SKIING BEFORE?** Not a problem. Learn the basics with heaps of others at Lake Mountain, Mts Stirling and Baw Baw.

(ii) **WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE "WILD" THING?** You've met the right people in the right place: the Bogongs, Kosciusko. Learn to snowcamp, other ski and snow techniques. Wake up to a truly unique sunrise in a snowy wilderness.

(iii) **WANT TO KNOW MORE?** Come into the clubrooms at any time and chat with the ski - tourers for the low down on ski-touring.

Steve Curtain



"Hey Grollo- Some Mountains just can't be bought.". Mt. Bogong

## CHEAP SECOND HAND GEAR !!

In making way for the purchase of new gear and retiring our older gear supplies, MUMC will be having a **CRAZY** selling out on selected bushwalking and X-country skiing items. Sure, they may not be the most glamorous pieces of gear in the world, but if they fit you, then the price is right!! Items for sale include: XC skis and boots, old sleeping bags and tents and other unknown paraphenalia at **AMAZING** prices - keep your eyes peeled on the clubroom noticeboards, with a date to be announced soon.

## Bushwalking Report

1993 was a year packed full of MUMC activities, and bushwalking continued to play a fairly prominent role. The year kicked off with two intrepid adventurers, Anton Weller and Keryn Paul walking in the Tasmanian wilderness for 60 plus days, covering places such as the South West Coast, Federation Peak and many less well-known areas. Throughout the year there were many smaller walks to Feathertop, the Grampians, The Bluff, Cathedral Ranges, Croajingolong National Park, Mt. Bogong, and many more. The year ended with 3 more adventurers, Steve Curtain, Jenny Wolswinkel and Nicki Munro, walking for 25 days in the Victorian High Country, from Sheepyard Flat to Mt. Bogong, covering many remote peaks. There were also some of our paddlers in Tasmania doing various walks, such as the well-known Overland Track, and Walls of Jerusalem.

There was the annual Midnight Ascent, an ascent of Mt. Feathertop at midnight in midwinter, with a 4 course decadent dinner to be had, wearing formal dinner dress. With a bit of luck, this year's Midnight Ascent might have a bit more of the elusive white substance (snow)! Alpine Instruction weekend went well with training by those who have been mountaineering overseas (where there's real mountains they tell me). We learnt crevasse rescue, self-arresting with ice axes and we would have built a snow cave if there had been more snow. This weekend is a must for those intending to try mountain climbing. The annual leadership weekend was another fine success, producing a few more competent people who will take club trips.

1994 looks to be at least as exciting as last year with many walks already in the planning stage. Keep your eyes open for trips to Lerderderg Gorge, Mt. Arthur - Cairn Ck., the Avon Wilderness, Cobberas and Mt. Feathertop.

Rogaining was quite a success for MUMC last year, with many of our competitors getting places. Significant achievements were Stuart Dobbie and Nicki Munro coming second in the mixed division of the 24 hr Vic Champs, and Jenny and Cora Wolswinkel winning the womens with a 5th place overall in the Spring 24 hr. There were many more third and fourth place getters. It would be good to see more MUMC people doing this activity - the ultimate sport in navigation and endurance. See the green bushwalking folder for upcoming events.

MUMC runs walks of all standards, from those that have never donned a pack before to the more arduous journeys. So join us for a day trip, or a 3 month epic.

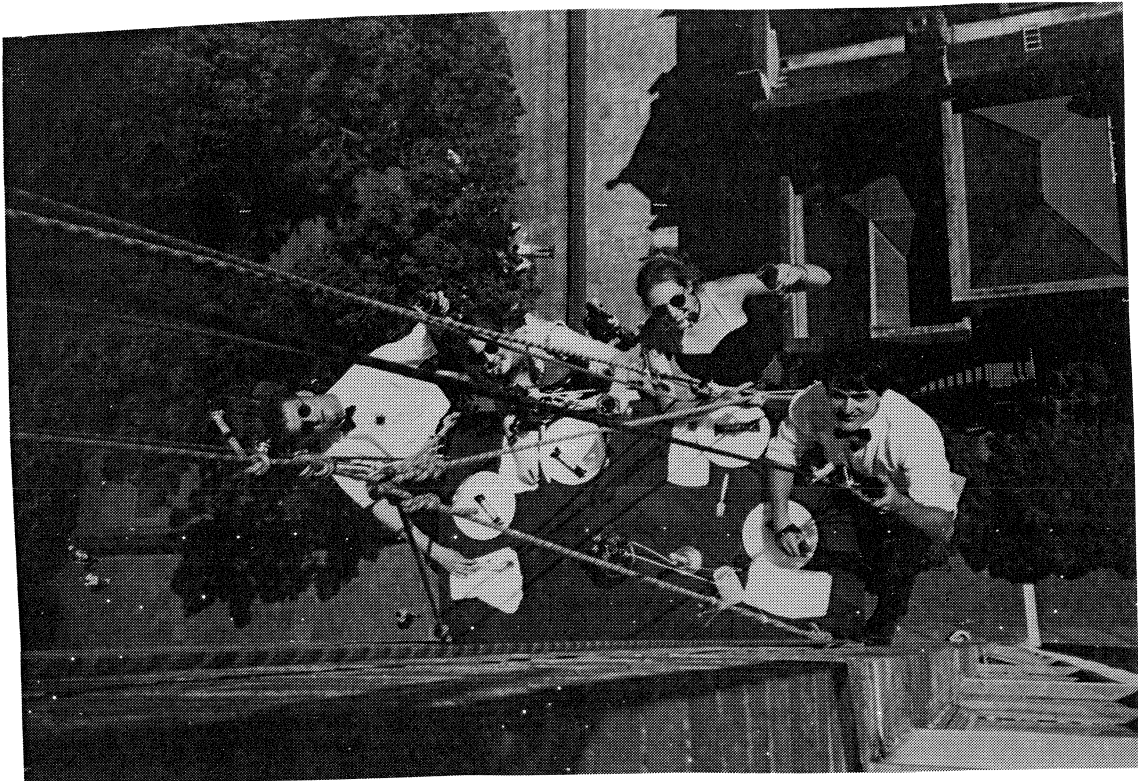
*Nicki Munro*  
*Bushwalking Convenor*





what Matt would have looked like on "Kachoong" if

- a) He was of normal height
- b) He knew anyone who could be bothered taking photos of him



For want of something to do.... Cadbury's promotional abseil 1994

# Rockclimbing

## Summer Holidays

Throughout the summer MUMC climbers travelled far and wide in search of rock but inevitably the majority of us hit the Arapiles scene ( Mt Arapiles , mecca of climbing , home of rock godpersons etc ) whenever we could . Despite searing temperatures at the mount a number of climbers pushed their grade limits , of note was the ascent of "Kachoong" , the classic grade 21 roof climb , by Matt "The Runt" Lang . You have to commend Matt for completing it considering there were probably psychic vibes emanating from people all over Victoria hoping he would fall off ( on the dodgy piton of course ! ) . Other forays were made into the Grampians around the Mt Stapylton area and Bundaleer , consensus was reached that Bundaleer is an enormous pile of fragile chossy crap and not worth visiting unless (a) you climb 22 and over thereby being able to climb the more solid rock (b) you climb shitty , vegetated , low grade gullies for fun or (c) you are an absolute moron who knows nothing about quality .

On a more positive note MUMC climbers also tackled a number of cliffs in Tasmania , the best being the granite sea cliffs of Whitewater Wall in Freycinet National Park . This area boasts numerous climbs from 12 to 24 on an unusually juggy but solid granite , many of the routes being 50m and over . The combination of clean sea air , solid rock , adequate pro and best of all , cliff top car camping should satisfy even the laziest and most discerning climbers . I should add though that on rough days look out for your belayer in case they get washed away by rising waves and tide ( I'm not joking ! ) .

The places visited by MUMC climbers over the summer are probably too numerous to speak of although Stuart Dobbie and friends apparently found some good multipitch classics in the Mt Difficult area . The best way to find out about these places is to grab a climber in the clubrooms and interrogate them or even borrow a guidebook from the club overnight .

## Trips

In MUMC rockclimbing we attempt to run trips most weekends of varying standards although unfortunately we don't often have enough experienced leaders to lead or instruct beginners trips . If you are interested in climbing then be patient and keep looking in the trip folder for upcoming trips . If you have attended beginners trips before and want to do more climbing the best thing you can do is buy a pair of friction climbing boots and a chalkbag , then try to get on as many intermediate trips as you can . Who knows , you might learn enough to help instruct others or even lead your own trips . You can also keep in shape between trips by bouldering around Melbourne , there are a number of walls around the suburbs that can be climbed (cheap but boring) or alternatively you can go to a climbing gym (expensive and boring) , look on the climbing noticeboard for details of locations .

also supplied a sumptuous dinner of fresh vegies. Camping where we did was awesome - the gale howled through the snow gums all night only metres from where we slept.

Next morning the weather was fine, with few high clouds and light winds. After sleeping in we set off, up to West Peak and some gratuitous photography. The rather enjoyable descent to Little Bogong followed. On the way we chatted about this and that. In particular I tried to prove that computer science is not boring by explaining a few ideas behind pipelined RISC CPU's, while Nikki retaliated by doing some technical name dropping related to her studies of mammalian whaddayacallits.

Little Bogong is actually a giant ant hill disguised as a mountain - eating lunch there is not a good idea. But the wildflowers and the views of the north face of Bogong are spectacular. Navigating down the northern spur was fairly pleasant, with no major scrub. One minor booboo near the bottom almost provided an epic end to the day, but very boringly it was corrected and we all lived happily ever after.

