



MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Adventure Grant Policy

Introduction

MUMC has a proud tradition of engaging in adventure and discovery. Historically the club has made first ascents, established novel outdoor events and sports, and contributed significantly to outdoor communities and development. This pioneering spirit undoubtedly contributes to the club's strength, longevity and appeal.

The committee has an ambition to ensure that the club continues to aspire to adventurous objectives including those which may require greater experience/expertise and cost than is present in the membership at any given time. The adventure grant was created to respond to this ambition. The purpose of the grant is to encourage an MUMC community that thrives on adventure and continues to push the boundaries of what is possible for its membership.

Aims of the Grant

- To extend the level of trips undertaken by members
- To advance the skills and experience of members
- To inspire existing members
- To increase the exposure and profile of MUMC within the outdoors community
- To promote leadership and teamwork

Beyond the Trial Period

The MUMC Adventure Grant ran for a trial period of three years. The adventures that the grant facilitated were assessed as being a success against the founding aims of the grant. The aims, assessment and awarding processes have been altered on reflection of issues the trial process uncovered. The success, aims, funding and process of the grant will be reviewed by the committee not more than five years from the last review.

Sub-Committee

The committee will appoint an assessment panel to consider and make a recommendation on the awarding of the adventure grant. The assessment panel must be made of five club members, with at least two members being current committee members. If a member has applied or intends to apply for the grant they cannot be on the assessment panel. Members must nominate for the assessment panel and be approved by the committee.

Assessment panel selection criteria:

1. Knowledge across multiple sports, considerations should be given to making sure that the panel has a cross section of experience across the sports of the club as it is unrealistic to expect all members to be across all sports.
2. The assessment panel requires at least three experienced club members to ensure the assessment is within the context of the overall club
3. They must be a current member of the club

Assessment

1. The selection panel is to consider the grant applications against the selection criteria and convene a meeting to discuss
2. Any points that need clarification or further information should be sort from the applicants to assist in decision-making. It may be beneficial to have the applicants attend the meeting to discuss any issues raised in person.
3. The selection panel may seek further information or opinion from members within the club or people external to the club who have particular knowledge in relevant areas.

The Award***Funding*****Quantity**

Each committee can award an amount not exceeding \$2000. This can be to one applicant or split between multiple applicants. If there are no suitable applications no funding is awarded.

Use

The funds are to be used within 15 months of receiving the award. Should the expedition be cancelled before it starts the funding is to be returned to MUMC. Should the planning of the expedition be significantly changed then re-approval of funds is required from the committee. The funds are to be used at the discretion of the successful applicants.

Source

Funding is to come from MUMC consolidated revenue. This is up for review as other funding sources become available to supplement or supplant the reliance on general revenue.

A chapter in the Sports Foundation is a reliable and secure option for future funding, an initial chapter has been established for this purpose.

Application

Applicants must complete the 'MUMC Adventure Grant' application form and submit it along with their supporting documentation to the secretary.

Selection Criteria

- Is the proposal credible given the skills and preparation of applicants
- How will the proposal:
 - Capture a sense of adventure and discovery
 - Increase the exposure of MUMC to the outdoors community
 - Extend current MUMC activity in the relevant sports
 - Build on the skills of club members
 - Increase the frequency and complexity of trips
 - Improve leadership and teamwork within the club
- What is the environmental impact of the adventure
- What is the quality of the application
- Is there a MUMC historical context

Timing

Applications are to be open during March and April each year; closing date being 30th April each year. The applications will be considered, assessed and awarded in May each year.

Obligations

Upon completion of the expedition, grant recipients must supply MUMC with at a minimum:

1. Documentation of the trip for promotional purposes (photos, video footage etc. and associated publishing rights). NB: recipients must make all reasonable endeavour to display the Melbourne University and/or MUMC logo in published/distributed items.
2. An article for *The Mountaineer* recording their adventure and appropriate accompanying media where available.
3. A public presentation to club members on their adventure at a time mutually agreed between the recipients and MUMC.
4. All applications are to be made available to the membership after the selection process.

Appendix A - Selection Matrix

The descriptors are a guide to assess the application against the selection criteria. They are not exhaustive questions and the selection panel may need to consider other aspects of the selection criteria.

Feasibility of Adventure	Score
<p>Is the adventure likely to be possible? Consider seasonal, geopolitical, access, time frame, budget and any other relevant barriers to the adventure. In terms of financial capacity the grant is not to be precluded to members seeking seed support in order to apply for further sponsorship/support. An answer of no does not automatically disqualify the application but more information should be sort.</p>	Y/N
<p>Are the participants skilled or have the capacity to acquire the skills necessary before the adventure? Consider if the participants are skilled to undertake the adventure or have the capacity to acquire the relevant skills before commencing the adventure. Safely pushing boundaries is acceptable, supporting an adventure where there is a blatant disparity between the applicant's skills and those necessary to succeed safely is not. It is important that applicants are assessed to be capable of making a decision to abandon the attempt if the situation demands it at the right point. An answer of no does not automatically disqualify the application but more information should be sort.</p>	Y/N
Adventure Score	
Quality	
<p>Ability of adventure to inspire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it inspire club members? • Will it nurture the culture of adventure within MUMC? 	/25
<p>Increase exposure and profile of MUMC within the outdoors community and attract new experienced members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the adventure increase the profile of MUMC? • Is it likely to be featured in media beyond club publications? 	/10

Environmental Impact of the adventure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This criterion can receive both positive and negative scores. A negative score would be given to an application with negative environmental outcomes, up to a maximum of -5. 	/5
Quality of the application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the relevant details Provides relevant pictures/maps Easy to read format 	/5
Historical MUMC context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance to historical MUMC context 	/5
	/50
Skills	
Extends the club in relevant sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the adventure push some of the boundaries of the relevant sport within MUMC? Does the adventure contain components that have not featured in the sport in the recent history of MUMC? An example of this is the Denison River adventure where technical kayaking skill was not pushed but multi-day remote journeying was. 	/10
Build the skills of club members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the adventure extend the skills of the club members which can then feed back into the membership 	/20
Increase frequency and complexity of club trips in relevant sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills obtained in preparation or during the adventure? Training trips open to other club members in lead up to adventure? 	/10
Ability to promote leadership and teamwork within the club	/10

	/50
	/100

Appendix B - Problems and Potential Solutions

To be added to as problems and solutions arise.

Second draft to address issues identified in the 2016 awarding of the grant

- Clearer instructions to the selection panel
- Clearer assessment criteria
- Applications to be kept and made public for all applications
- Modification to selection criteria to include environmental impact and quality of application.

Appendix C - History of the Grant

2011

- Stu Hollaway and Lachie Currie, New ascent Mt Cook, New Zealand
- Mark Patterson and Carlos Correagrez, Climbing Mt Geryon, TAS

2012

- Sean Ladiges and Gaetan Riou, Climbing Federation Peak, TAS
- Ben Webb and Rose Beagley. Kayaking Denison River, TAS

2013

- Daniel Cocker and Danielle Curnow-Andreasen. Hiking Osmond Range, Kimberley WA

2016

- Robert Springer. Canyoning in the Otways, VIC
- Evie Clarke, Alice Newman, Emma Johnson, Hiking, East Timor

Appendix D - References

Clubs with similar grants:

ANU Mountaineering Club

American Alpine Club

Mountaineering Council of Scotland

British Mountaineering Council

NZ Alpine Club