
THE EPIC



Newsletter of the ANU Mountaineering Club

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MAY 2002



Cycling in the Orroral Valley on the
Huge Days Out
Photo by Matt Yager

MAY 2002

THE EPIC

Editors:

Dan Magee62471140

magee_dan@hotmail.com

Jennie Miller.....6270 5460

jmiller@ama.com.au

Matt Yager.....6281 6006

matt_yager@yahoo.com

Postal Address: A.N.U. Mountaineering Club, C/o Sport & Recreation Association, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 0200

The Epic is the monthly newsletter of the ANU Mountaineering Club. All contributions, including photos and artwork, are eagerly accepted. Photos via email are preferred, prints accepted and all care/no responsibility taken with same. Try to limit articles to 600 words. Articles submitted may be edited for length and style. Put submissions into the ANUMC pigeonhole at the Sport and Recreation Association or e-mail the editors.

Subscription: free for members, \$20 for non-members.

Club Membership:

\$15/year students

\$20/year non-students

(plus SRA Membership Fees -
Approx. \$100 for non-students)

JUNE EPIC DEADLINE

Monday 20 May

The EPIC is also available online, with colour photos.

Editor's Enema

The Editors would like to thank you all for your trip reports and photos. It makes our job so much easier when we have lots of contributions - no matter how long or short - all stories, tidbits, info, etc are welcome. The more we have, the easier it is to lay out the Epic. If you submitted a trip report and it's not in this Epic, don't worry, it will be in the next issue. Heard any silly, interesting, embarrassing or otherwise humorous quotes by fellow club members? We would love to feature them on the back page!

We have, however, noticed that the Fridge Door is looking a bit bare this month. Hopefully it's just a timing thing, but don't forget to double check the Fridge Door on the web for the latest and greatest adventures on offer. It is, after all, a perfect time of year for many of the Club's activities as it is not too hot and not too cold... yet. But, if it is cold that you're waiting for and the first snow fall of the year, how about starting to plan some ski trips.

So, enjoy reading the May Epic... and keep those trip reports and photos rolling in.

Epic Editors.

President's Purr

As I pondered what to write about for this edition of the Epic, I couldn't help but think of the name of this illustrious newsletter. I recalled something I'd read on the matter of epics - a suggestion by Aat Vervoorn in his book *Mountain Solitudes* (highly recommended): "I certainly wouldn't wish to be accused of underestimating the value of staying alive, but the fact is I think we need to set our sights higher". Sound advice if you ask me!

Many people - from Joe Simpson to Brigette Muir and beyond - have tried to voice the reasons why we do the things we do in the outdoors. Most of us have probably asked the same question at some stage - shivering on a belay ledge half way up a long climb, stumbling exhausted along the Tasman Glacier (hmm, that sounds familiar), trying to remember the key to rolling whilst upside down (don't try and breath underwater) etc.

I've come to the conclusion that there is no one reason which is either right or wrong or somehow spiritually more relevant than others. It's just because we love what we do. So I hope everyone continues to enjoy it all.

Lex

Master Chef Oystein

The Great ANUMC Cook-Off at the Blue Mountains Extravaganza last month was won by Norwegian Oystein Birkenes, whose recipe follows. He hadn't intended to enter but was persuaded by the judges (Hugh and Hannah) who wanted to sample what looked promising.

Tunfisk på grønnsaksseng (Tuna stir fry)

- 1/2 onion
- 1/2 red capsicum
- 1 1/2 zucchini
- 1 can tuna in water (185g dolphin friendly)
- 1 packet beef flavoured noodles
- 1 mosquito (optional)

Cut the onion, capsicum and zucchini and stir-fry in a frying pan until they soften. Bring 1 cup of water to boil in a pot and add noodle-spices and noodles. Boil without a lid until most of the water has evaporated (about 2 minutes). Add tuna, the contents of the frying pan and the mosquito to the pot. Heat while stirring and serve!
Cheers, Oystein Birkenes

Honourable mentions were awarded to John McGrath - white wine and 5 cheese fondue, Lex Morey - chilli vege stir fry and Katie Curchin - mung bean stew.

Jennifer Cairne's big smile says it all about her Aussie bush experience. Photo: Mika Kontiainen

Shanahan's Mountain...finally



When I first found out I was coming to Australia, I knew I wanted to see the bush. I could not wait to explore the land and see the animals that populated its vast expanse. I went on my first bush walk with the Mountaineering Club the second week I was here, and it was much better than I expected. The beauty of the mountains and the land were breathtaking. There were seven of us on this expedition, Mika, who led the group, the veterans to hiking, John, Carolyn, and Nick, and the beginners, Ros, Daniel, and me (Jenn). This was great because it gave everyone a chance to get to know each other.

When we started our hike, which was in Namadgi Park, I was a little

nervous. Coming from the United States, I had only hiked on paths and had never done anything off trail. I immediately loved it. We first climbed up Shanahans Mountain, which when we reached the top, gave a gorgeous view of the area. I had my camera in hand to catch the beauty of the moment. The trek down the mountain was only 400m, but when there is no designated path, you have the challenge of making your own route. As we walked, the people who knew the area and knew things about the vegetation, were willing to answer questions and tell me what I was seeing. I also learned quite quickly to fear those menacing Drop Bears. The hiking atmosphere was relaxed, fun, and full of laughs.

As we continued on our way to Shanahans Falls Creek, we met a deadly tiger snake. It was lying right in front of us, maybe 10 or 15 feet away. It was the closest I had been to a deadly snake. I admit I should have been more scared than I was, but I was more interested and excited in seeing the snake before he slithered away from the humans who had interrupted his nap. It was important to watch where we walked to make sure we did not step on any other sleeping serpents, but

we only saw the one.

We continued on our hike to Naas Creek where we stopped for lunch. I listened to the sound of the water and watched the cute little lizards as they scurried along the rocks. I even managed to get one to stand still long enough to grab a picture. I am not sure he was happy about it. The trek up the river after lunch was fun. We had to hop or step from rock to rock like a long game of hopscotch.

After our creek walk, we visited two of the old stockmen's huts. The first, and my personal favorite, was Horse Gully Hut. I got to see a family of kangaroo here, which probably biased my opinion of the hut. We saw one male, two females, and two joeys. They were adorable and very curious. They were not skittish and came really close. They were quite the photogenic group. They did some excellent poses for the cameras, which made me believe they had previous experience in front of a lens. We looked at the logbook in the hut to see who had been there before us and got a laugh out of what some of the other hikers had written.

The second hut we stopped at was Demanding Hut. This hut was smaller and very quaint. It is set back further in the bush, which made it secluded and I imagine a wonderful place to spend an evening. We then made our way along Naas fire trail back to the car.

It was a beautiful walk. We saw many more kangaroo munching away on dinner. They would stop and check out who was encroaching, but quickly decided the grass was more interesting.

This was an absolutely amazing experience. The total hike was about 15 km, but it went quickly. We made quite a few stops to grab pictures. I highly recommend you have a camera on hand because you never know what you are going to see. I cannot wait to go on my next hike and meet more wonderful people, see more beautiful land, and meet more wildlife. For anyone who loves a good time, a little exercise, and beautiful scenery, I recommend going on the bush walks. I know I cannot wait for my next experience.

by Jennifer Cairne



John Mc Grath having a snooze.
Photo: Mika Kontiainen

Neglections & Corrections

Much as it pains us to admit, we the eds are in fact fallible. Here are just a few wrongs we would like to redress!



Vaughan Barlow on the summit of Mt. Rolleston, New Zealand Alps. Photo: Vaughan Barlow

For those of you who don't know, this is Vaughan Barlow... Mountain Biking Officer. Vaughan's pic and blurb evaded the March Epic Committee page so here he is!!! Apologies to Vaughan.

Mountain Biking Officer Vaughan Barlow has been a member for three years. He has mountain bike toured extensively throughout NSW, Victoria, the ACT and Europe. His favourite area is alpine bush touring.

Vaughan is also a keen mountaineer, having climbed a number of peaks to 6000m in Nepal and Mt. Rolleston in New Zealand (see photo left). See Vaughan for information on ride destinations, bike setup and gear selection

The photo of Matt Hollingworth on page 10 of the March Epic erroneously placed Matt high on Mt Cook, whereas he was in fact on one of its smaller siblings! (Tasman Saddle) Matt wasn't trying to big note himself...eds just don't know shit from snow shovel when it comes to Mountaineering and obviously should check their facts! Matt kindly sent us another great photo (conspicuously labelled) of Matt Montgomery climbing a dihedral in Kosciusko which you can see on the web.

Lex Morey, Club President has great responsibilities for overseeing and directing club operations and directions, not just climbing - as it seemed in her March Committee information. Sorry El Presidente!

Finally, apologies to Mika for the severity of our editing on his and Vaughan's "Barlow Logs" article last Epic.

Claustral Canyon By Night

Four shadowy figures navigating under a starry night, working their way down the hill into the upper reaches of Claustral brook. 1.30am, barely a noise, just the jingling of abseiling gear and the occasional knock of a helmet on a tree.

Ahead was a vista of Sydney by night - cars silently navigating highways, street lights receding to an unfixed horizon. As the track dropped off the side of the ridge and into the scrub, it steepened and the gusting winds became forgotten. Thirty minutes from the car they crossed the creek and turning off

torches, marvelled at the sight of hundreds of glowworms on the small cliffs. One simple chemical reaction involving the enzyme luciferase liberating a photon of blue light, one unforgettable moment.

It was cooler now and without the wind they could see their breaths. A steady pace was kept up through a darkness illuminated by the blue glow worm lights and the white starry night above. Acrobatically avoiding deep pools of water, they eventually swapped shorts and thermal tops for wetsuits and thermal layers. There was swimming to do!!

It was bracing but the magic of their surrounds meant that it was nice to swap scrambling for breaststroke. The canyon narrowed, it's walls unwittingly speaking of how easily lives have been lost in it's confines. The first abseil was reached at 3.30am. Harnesses on and down a 10m waterfall they plunged into a deep pool of water. Their shouts were theirs only to hear, the cool night air quickly quenching the excitement.

The second abseil starts in the very same pool, and the group efficiently proceeded down it, avoiding the



Adele on Claustral's 1st abseil
Phot: John McGrath

Brad wading a deep pool.
Photo: John McGrath



drenching worst of the waterfall. No stars now, the walls of the canyon had closed in and the top filled in with giant chokestones. It was dark and noisy with the water rushing, but peaceful being the only people for kilometres and enjoying the experience of working as a group.

The 14m third and final abseil, also down a waterfall, starts off through the Black Hole of Calcutta. They were really enjoying themselves now, despite the late hour and their tiredness, the experience was a relaxing one. Ropes all retrieved, a dark swim around a corner to constellations of glowworms reaching up the walls for 20m. Another swim ensued a few metres later past the junction of Raynon Canyon. Floating on their backs in

the icy water, torches off, the stars and glowworms shone brighter than ever.

No rush now. The canyon changed in character, sometimes more open, only to close in again. Swims, sandy bars, rainforest pockets, waterfalls, boulder walking, underwater tree walking (to avoid swimming), handline descents down short drops in the canyon. The group meandered down in a state of blissful contentedness.

Experience served to locate the exit, a lovely canyon in it's own right. Sharing a hot cuppa and tinned oysters in the relative comfort of a dry change of clothes, they sat in amazement as the predawn light transformed the canyon. Previously dark glowworm-lit walls revealed thick moss and ferns coverings. Coachwoods and gum trees lined the upper reaches of the gorge harbouring the canyon proper.

As the group headed up, glowworms and the stars were all but extinguished, but their patterns were now permanently etched in the minds of their visitors. And such is the scene amongst much of the Blue Mountains, night in, night out...

John McGrath

P.S. Special thanks to the 'group':
Adele, Emily and Brad.

Slinky Dresses and Slippery Rocks - The Ninth Annual Cocktails at the Castle

We find our intrepid party goers as they are climbing up the first scramble of the Castle summit climb. They gaze upon an amazing sight, the beautiful rays of sunshine streaming across Holland Gorge and the extensive clifflines of the Budawangs. The mist begins to swirl around them, eventually obliterating the view. The day has dawned fine, and under the beating sun they have clambered with heavy packs over rocks, tree roots and wooden steps. But now they approach the final, difficult climbs of the day amongst thick cloud. They are carrying all the necessary equipment for a good time; pina colodas, guacamole and chips, and butterscotch schnapps, and of course dinner suits and cocktail

dresses.

After the party goers reach the top of the scramble, the party leader, Jack, strides across the heath and rock to find the campsite. When they arrive he announces cocktails will be at 5. All of our intrepid party goers immediately set up tent/or bivvy and begin to transform themselves for the event. Thermals, dinner suit and tie for the guys; cocktail dress, high heels and lipstick for the girls- and yes, the lack of cold weather cocktail wear for women is well noted by the party goers. The table is set up next to the cliff edge, or what is assumed to be the cliff edge in the thick mist. Drinks and aperitifs are arranged, and champagne is cracked open

L to R/Front to Back Jack, Jimmy, Katie, Ruth, Ian, Roland, Michael, Catherine, Emily, Annabel and Brad enjoy cocktails in the fog. Photo: Matt Yager



once all the guests have arrived. They sip from wine glasses and praise their appearance, despite the sweaty climbing not one hour ago.

The most important part of the cocktail party is of course the taking of photographic evidence. Who on earth would believe they were there without the proof? The girls refrain from wearing polartecs for a minute or ten while numerous photos are taken. Jimmy remarks that the photographic evidence is not enough, wouldn't it be funnier if some bushwalkers strolled past and happened to notice the bunch of lunatics that the party goers are, drinking on the cliff edge. As if they are blessed, bushwalkers do stroll past, Ben and Calvin from Wollongong. They have heard of the party, and decided to come and see it for their own eyes. With generous spirit our party goers pour them a drink and invite them along- despite their obvious lack of dress standard.

But the mist becomes heavy quite quickly, and the spitting rain and summit winds force the party guests to abandon the cliff edge location and move the party on to dinner amongst the tents. Ben and Calvin share their chocolate and then light a fire. It burns for about 40 mins before the wood runs out, and the party guests retire early to their tents. Perhaps 8.30pm is not exactly a fashionable or a credible time to go to bed, but it

has been a long day and thunder and lightning are gathering overhead.

During the night it rains and pours and our party goers awake with low spirits and wet gear. It is suspected some awake with hangovers too, but it is not certain, since everyone looks pretty drab on this misty morning. They pack up quickly with the intent of getting the hell off the mountain as soon as possible. Ben and Calvin try to get off the mountain too, but fail, and return to the campsite to follow the party goers and their infallible leader. Jack sets off at a strapping pace, relying only on his knowledge of mist and mountain tops to find the exit for descent. After the group goes around in circles a couple of times they furnish him with a compass and the instruction 'Go north' and he does much better.

The group reaches the summit descent, where upon a few of the more valorous members used ropes to take down packs. Whilst they have lost a lot of packweight by drinking cocktails, of course the poo tube is heavier. The girls are invited to wait in a cave while an extra safe rope is rigged up. There they try their best to keep Ben and Calvin warm (not divulging any more information here) and play charades.

The crew stay dry while Ruth whistles in the acoustic wind cave/overhang. Photo: Matt Yager

After a jolly old time there, they are instructed that the rope is ready and they leave the cave. They climb down a tree root below the cave and emerge at exactly the point where the extra safe rope ends. Confused looks all around and the rope is quickly removed and re-anchored down the bottom where it is needed. All the guys/sherpas help ferry down the packs quickly and the group is ready to go. But things go slowly, since the party goes have two extra with them, there is only one extra safe rope for the scrambles and all the rocks are wet and slippery. They reach the bottom of the climb three hours after leaving camp, and they immediately head off to have lunch under a nearby overhang. They have a hot drink and feel a lot better now they are down from the top of the mountain.

Finally they start the slightly easier descent down the hill. Everything

is muddy and in order to avoid splattering their clothes with mud or getting a head injury they walk carefully down the hill. The clouds are still closed in and there is no view, even when they reach the top of Kalianna Ridge. They are walking close together, but here the group spreads out and they descend at leisure. A quick swim in the river and everyone changes into dry clothes. “Dryness never felt so dry” says Cathy as she pulls off sopping wet clothes and puts on dry ones. She has walked, climbed and abseiled bravely, since the adventure was her first overnight hike and first time rock scrambling. As her friend, I feel a little guilty for telling her the adventure was “like climbing Mt. Ainslie only longer”, but it all worked out in the end, didn’t it?

Thanks to everyone for a great trip; special thanks to Ruth for recorder/

whistle playing, Matt for carrying the poo tube (and cleaning it!?), Brad for carrying table and extra packs and of course Jack for leading our intrepid group.

By Annabel Battersby



Mt Tennent MTB

Mountain bike riding around Mt Tennent is really FUN. You can ride down a very steep road from the car park at Honeysuckle Campground and get heaps of speed. Riding up the steep fire trail to the top of Mt Tennent is very hard work but at the top there's some of the best views you'll see and the ride down the mountain is exhilarating.

The ride that Matt Yager and I went on was on the Sunday of the Huge Days Out programme. It was pretty chilly as we started but it got heaps colder as the wind whipped against us as we raced down the steep bitumen road from the carpark at Honeysuckle creek down to the Orroral Valley.

Then the real mountain biking started. We turned off the main road on to a dirt road and rode down to a creek crossing that was about a foot deep and heaps of fun to cross. Then came the uphill section. I had trouble just trying to make the bike stick to the ground - it was so steep that at times my bike wheels would spin underneath me. I tried to blame it on the goon hangover from the night before - it had nothing to do with my lack of mountain biking skills - NOT! Half the time we were walking our bikes up the mountain because it was simply unridable (for a person of my capacity anyway) and it was very tiring.

After two and a half hours of

Andy and Matt atop Mt. Tennent
Photo by an unknown but obliging 4wder



Matt trying to get “air” over a small waterbar on the descent. Photo by Andy

labouring exertion we finally reached the top. All of that hard work paid off, as the first breath of mountain top breeze cooled the sweat that I was drenched in. The views... wow .. you could see views in every direction and with the views came that sense of freedom that you always seem to get when

control over the bike as we skimmed over rocks and eroded rills in the trail. The best bits were those areas that were long and flat - you pick up heaps of speed without too much risk. At the bottom we crossed the foot deep creek again as the water sprayed out in all directions and covered me in the process. Then it



you get to the top of such mountains. In the distance Canberra seemed like a small urban island and a long way away in terms of distance and in the way of life that existed there. To the south parallel ranges of rugged mountains stretched out away from us to the horizon with pastoral valleys between each. To the north west lay the green Brindabella mountains that beckoned to be explored and to the west were Booroomba Rocks where the rock climbers were scaling the beautiful cliffs.

The ride down was heaps of fun - especially when I didn't have total

was time to slowly make our way up the steep bitumen road that we had raced down earlier on in the day.

By the time we got back to the campsite I was thoroughly exhausted and loving it - I was just full of pride that I had made it up such a bugger of a mountain and then back down again.

For anyone that isn't sure whether they should give mountain biking a try - I reckon - JUST DO IT! You'll have loads of fun and learn heaps in the process.

Andy

Off Track Day Walks - 5 of the Best

Last month The Epic published a list of five of Mika's favorite on-track day walks. This month, we look at five great off-track day walks that have featured in the club calendar, The Fridge Door, in recent years.

Blue Gum Creek M/M

If you're looking for somewhere in Namadgi National Park where you can walk off track without being perpetually tangled in scrub, then the Blue Gum Creek area is for you. Located between the Corin Dam Road and Booroomba Rocks, this area is excellent for navigation practice and easily accessible from the Smokers Trail carpark off Corin Dam Road. Three features in the area are worth visiting for their views. White Horse Rocks (at grid ref 762673), described in the ACT Granite Guide as "a pleasant, if isolated, little crag," can be reached from the carpark, by heading east then north along the ridge. Blue Gum Hill (at 793666) is best approached from the direction of White Horse Rocks along another ridge. Mt Lincoln (at 774648) is 2km SSW from Blue Gum Hill, but don't attempt an approach from this direction unless you fancy a very steep 300m descent into thick scrub and an even steeper 400m ascent

up the other side. Instead, approach Mt Lincoln from the west along a ridge easily accessible from the open grassy valley around 764644. Map: Corin Dam 1:25,000.

The Chimneys M/M

The Chimneys (1885m) is a prominent crag on a ridge of the same name located about 5km south of Thredbo in Kosciuszko National Park. Access is usually from Dead Horse Gap, along the upper reaches of the Thredbo River to a saddle at grid ref 182542, with a final approach from the north. Alpine wildflowers, brumbies and stunning snow gums are common on this walk. If these aren't reward enough, then the views from The Chimneys certainly are. The Ramsheads, Mt Kosciuszko and Mt Townsend are identifiable to the northwest. The whole of the Tin Mine area, including Cascade Range, can be seen to the southwest. Southwards the ground drops steeply down to the Jacobs River, leading to the Snowy River Valley in the distance. The Monaro "plain" is visible as a yellow expanse to the east. The return walk is at least 16km, longer if you include a visit to Teddys Hut ruin near the very start of the Thredbo River. An alternative is to return to Thredbo by Teddys Hut

The Chimneys
Photo: Mika Kontiainen



and Paddy Rashes Bogong. This area is snow bound in winter. Map: Chimneys Ridge 1:25,000.

Mt Nibelung M/R

If you've climbed The Castle, then consider climbing Mt Nibelung. From this formidable mountain you get a unique and very impressive

view of two of the most frequented destinations in the Budawangs. Mt Nibelung can be reached from Long Gully, along the same rough track as you'd take to The Castle or to Nibelung Pass and Monolith Valley. The access route to the summit begins at the scrubby watershed at top of Nibelung Pass, from where it heads up a steeply rising gully on

The western wall of The Castle from Mt Nibelung. Photo: Mika Kontiainen



Nibelung's north face. The route, marked by occasional red tabs, twists and turns through typical Budawang's scrub and involves some scrambling before the top is attained. The views of Monolith Valley on the way up are superb. The best views, however, are of The Castle from atop the 100m high southern cliffs. To reach them involves negotiating scrub and narrow rock areas, one of which is bisected by a deep ravine. Crossing this ravine requires careful scrambling down one side and up the other, and is not for those uncomfortable with such activities. Although only 14km return, the rough terrain and 700m ascent make for a long and demanding day. Map: Corang 1:25,000.

The Sentinel

The Sentinel is amongst the most spectacular destinations in Kosciuszko National Park. Perched high above the Geehi Valley, this isolated crag is connected to, and approached from, the Main Range by a very narrow steeply descending spur. The vistas from this boulder-strewn crag are stunning, and provide breathtaking views of the immensity of the mile-high western faces of the Main Range. The return walk from Charlottes Pass is about 10km and almost qualifies as a track walk as much of it is along the Lakes Walk and then, from Carruthers Saddle, the old Soil Conservation Track towards Mt Twynam. There is also a foot track along the crest of the approach spur, but nothing between this track and the old road to Mt

Looking down the narrow spur to the sSentinel
Photo: Mika Kontiainen



Twynam. Moreover, near the lowest point of this razorback spur there is a rock ridge that involves some rather airy scrambling. In perfect conditions neither the scramble nor the absence of a continuous track are of concern. In poor visibility or very windy conditions, however, it becomes far more challenging and should therefore be avoided. The area is, of course, completely snow-bound in winter. Map: Perisher Valley 1:25,000.

Dead Horse Snowshoe

Walking on snowshoes from Dead Horse Gap (1582m) to the summit of South Rams Head (2052m) is the best alpine winter walking available in Kosciuszko National Park. Dead Horse Gap is usually easily accessible by car, and likely to have snow even when the cover elsewhere is meager. Although there is a distinct, unmarked track from Dead Horse Gap to South Rams Head, in winter it is lost beneath the snow, making the 5km return trip an exhilaratingly different type of off track walk. Snowshoes excel on this route, particularly amongst the beautiful snowgum forests on the lower slopes, and on the frequently icy conditions near the top. They are very easy to use, providing the means for even snow sport novices to access the edge of the backcountry and, on a clear day to look upon the snow mantled

eminence of Mt Kosciuszko and marvel at the grandeur of the mountains. Even in poor conditions, the approach to the summit is relatively sheltered and short, and not too taxing, enabling a snowshoer to get a mild taste of mountaineering without all the associated risks. Map: Thredbo 1:50,000.

By Mika Kontiainen



Mika snowshoeing near Dead Horse Gap
Photo: Mika Kontiainen

Slide Night
Wed 8th May
Damian Jovanovic (local)
Mountaineering
The Parchment Room,
P J O'Reilly's Pub, Civic
From 6.30 pm



FRIDGE DOOR



Walk ratings

To help determine if a particular walk is of a level and type that will be enjoyed, the Club uses the following rating scale:

Distance:

S (hort) - <12km/day.

M (edium) - 12-20km/day.

L (ong) - >20km/day.

NOTE: 1km is added to a walk's length for each 100m of height gained.

Difficulty:

E (asy) - all on good tracks/ fire trails/flattish ground.

M (edium) - some off-track walking / possible mild bush-bashing / rock scrambling / some up and down, but mostly on reasonable tracks.

R (ough) - steep climbs, heaps of bush-bashing, rock scrambling, stinging trees, blackberries, etc.

W (et) - compulsory swims, walking through rivers and swamps.

Pretrip Meetings

For most trips, the pretrip meeting is where transport, tents, food etc. are organised. You must attend the pretrip if you intend to go on the trip. Unless otherwise specified, all pretrip meetings are held at the designated time outside the ANUMC gear store (on the balcony overlooking the main hall in the ANU Sport & Recreation Association). If you know you can't get to the pretrip meeting contact the trip leader before the pretrip or else you may be disappointed. You will need to take your ANUMC membership card to the meeting.

Transport

Transport for club trips is provided by members with cars. Indicated transport costs are estimates only and will vary depending on factors such as park entry fees, distance driven and the number of participants and cars. The trip leader will try to keep down costs by using as few cars as possible.

There is an additional fee of \$5 per trip for student non-members, \$10 for non-student non-members. Club members have priority over non-members if places are limited.

Climbing Wall



The ANU Sports Union Climbing Wall is open to ANUMC members on Tuesday evening from 5:30pm until 8:00pm. The

first night for 2002 is Tuesday, 15 January and every Tuesday thereafter until March. Club ropes are set up and harnesses are available. To use the wall you must have a belay pass, Sports Union membership and either pay at the front desk or show your ANUMC membership card. You must sign in at the front desk before climbing on the wall.

Contact: Prita Jobling, prita_j@hotmail.com, or Ben Davies, 6247 7378h.

Rockclimbing



There are always lots of climbing trips running. If you're interested in climbing news in general, subscribe to the climbing mailing list (see <http://boh.m.anu.edu.au/Clubs/Mountaineering/Email.html> for information on how to subscribe) and you'll get all the latest on upcoming trips.



Canoepolo

Canoepolo is a great way to improve your all round boat skills and practice your paddling techniques in a safe and fun environment.

Games and training sessions are held at the Aquatic Centre in Tuggeranong from 7.30pm every Wednesday. All are welcome! It's very informal and teams are arranged on the night. Contact Gerd to arrange gear or a lift down to Tuggers.

Contact: Gerd Schroeder, gerd.schroeder@rsphysse.anu.edu.au, 6249 1059h, 6125 3500w

River and Surf Kayaking Trips

River trips will be announced closer to the time of the trip, when water levels can be more easily predicted. If you would like to participate in river trips please sign up to the paddling mailing list (see <http://bohm.anu.edu.au/Clubs/Mountaineering/Email.html> for information on how to subscribe), so that you receive notification of trips being run. Surf trips will also be determined and advertised in the same way.

Contact: Gerd Schroeder, gerd.schroeder@rsphysse.anu.edu.au, 6249 1059h, 6125 3500w



Dawn Paddling on Lake Burley Griffin

Dawn paddling on Tuesdays and Fridays will start again on Tuesday January 15th. Meet at the boat shed on Tuesday or Friday mornings at 6:30am. If you are hoping to attend a kayaking trip, it might be a good idea to attend one or more of these sessions to get a feel for the boats and equipment in benign conditions.

Contact: Annino Vaccarella, Ph: (h) 6214 1540, (w) 6216 7040, email: annino.vaccarella@cmis.csiro.au



Casual Bushwalking

There is a list for ANUMC members to use for bushwalks. This list can be used to advertise impromptu walks organised at short notice, or to let people know about private trips you might like to invite other club members to come on. Walks advertised on this list are NOT official Club trips. As such, activity officers do not check them and the Club cannot vouch for the appropriateness or safety of the leaders and routes. The list can be mailed at anumc-walk@anu.edu.au. To subscribe to the list follow the instructions at: <http://student.anu.edu.au/Clubs/Mountaineering/Email.html>.

Orienteering

ACT Orienteering Association have events running on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays for anyone keen on a run, jog or walk through some of ACT's nicest areas. Check out their website on <http://www.sportnet.com.au/orienteering/act/state/> or contact Kieran O'Leary, sukieran@hotmail.com, 6265 0692w, 6273 7505h.

Fri 3 - Sun 5 May - Tuross Falls Your Choice weekend (canyoning optional)

Not far from Canberra, on the coastal escarpment near Cooma, the Tuross River plunges coastwards through a granitic(?) gorge. This trip is for those who just want to get away for the weekend and lie, sleep, read, laze around the campsite. There are deep swimming pools below short waterfalls in a wonderful bush setting, just 100 m from the tents! The trip would also see another group of 6 max. intermediate/advanced canyoning head off to abseil Tuross Falls, a relatively long day canyon trip. Regroup around a fire and gourmet dinner (BRING WINE!!) to share the days adventures. Suitable for: Beg/Int/Adv; Limit on Numbers: 6 canyoning plus x happy campers; Pretrip meeting: Thurs 2 May, 5.45pm Contact: John McGrath, johnmcgrath@start.com.au, 6201 2397(wk), 6257 5827(ah).

Sat 11 - Sun 12 May - Breakfast on Thurat Spires

A 'relaxed' but vertiginous trip to gourmet breakfast in the middle of Kanangra gorge! The walk is not long, down to Kanangra Ck at the Den of the Mist Monster and up a narrow ridge onto the spires in the arvo. Perched there both sunset and sunrise should unfold rather dramatically on this wild landscape. After a long breakfast, return via Danae Tops. Expect steep scrambling, abseiling, and some bush, so experienced people only please. Suitable for: Adv; Map: Kanangra ; Limit on Numbers: 6; Pretrip meeting: Thurs 9 May, 5.45pm Contact: John McGrath, johnmcgrath@start.com.au, 6201 2397(wk), 6257 5827(ah).

Mon 13 - Sat 18 May - Katoomba to Mittagong Mtn Biking

The classic remote southern Blue Mountains multiday bush tour via Cox's River, Lake Burragorang, Scott's Main Range, Yerranderie (ghost mining town), Nattai and Wollondilly. Try for train to start and home from ride. Length - Long. 150km over 6 days. Difficulty - Int/Adv. Occasional carrying of bike and water supplies involved. Limit on numbers 6. Possible rest day & side trip bushwalks to peaks, caves, swims etc. Pretrip meetings Thurs 2 & 9 May for bike & gear set up if required - email early if interested.

Matthew Yager 6281 6006 (h)
0428994068 (m)
matt_yager@yahoo.com.

Sat 18 - Sun 19 May - Climbing Point Perpendicular

Get real, get vertical and bring your brown undies. You know the drill, you know the exposure, and I know you love it! With the new guide out, what more do you need. Drive up Friday night and hit the rock early on Saturday. Suitable for: Adv; Pretrip meeting: TBC if required Contact: Lex Morey, lex.morey@affa.gov.au, 6272-5512(wk), 6241-1540(ah).

Sat 18 - Sun 19 May - A Budawangs Classic:

A Budawangs Classic An Oldie ,but a goldie! This is the walk I had to cancel in March after falling of my pushbike. Apologies to all who had their weekend plans changed. This weekend walk takes a track along the top edge of the coastal escarpment, near Braidwood, from Corang Peak to Yumga Lookout in Morton National Park. Views are precipitous, but the track has flat to gentle gradients. 10 km each way distance with overnight packs, with optional 3km day walk on Sunday. This walk is peppered with views of the Castle Mountain, for those who want to warm down from the Cocktails on the Castle walk. . If it has been too long since you have seen a banksia or person fern, then

this is the trip for you. This track has been recently improved with some great track work by NSW PWS. Gone are some very boggy and thorny bits. Length: Short; Difficulty: Easy; Suitable for: Beg/Int/Adv; Map: Corang 1:50 000; Limit on Numbers: 12; Distance: 20 km; Pretrip meeting: 16 May 6pm 19 Contact: Ian Munro, budawangs@hotmail.com, 02 6288 1112(ah), 0421 107 717(mob).

Sun 19 May - Pre-Winter Chimneys

Before the snows fall I want to do one of my favourite off-track walks. The Chimneys (1885m) is a prominent crag located about 5km south of Thredbo with awesome views of the Snowy Mountains and surrounding areas. Access is from Dead Horse Gap, along the open upper reaches of the Thredbo River and then back to Thredbo by Teddys Hut and Paddy Rushes Bogong. Expect to see alpine wildflowers, brumbies and stunning snow gums; Length: Med; Difficulty: Med; Suitable for: Int; Map: Chimneys Ridge 1:25,000; Distance: 16km; Pretrip meeting: 6pm Thursday 16 May Contact: Mika Kontiainen, mika.kontiainen@ag.gov.au, 6250 5344(wk), 6286 7111(ah).

Sat 25 - Mon 27 May - Warrumbungles Climbing

Jaw-dropping exposure and an

exhilarating summit await the climber willing to tackle a Warrumbungles spire. This is some of the best adventure climbing in Australia! As well as the standard peaks (Beloungery, Crater Bluff and Bluff Mountain), we may also investigate Tonduron and Timor Rock. To come on this trip, you merely need to have seconded some outdoor climbs, and know how to abseil. Lead climbers are also required! Suitable for: Int/Adv; Pretrip meeting: email me beforehand Contact: Matthew Hollingworth, mholling@mbox.com.au, 6283 2024(wk).

Sat 8 - Mon 10 June - High Peaks of Namadgi

A trusty June long weekend bushwalk through some of the ACT's highest country. Planning to visit Mt's Murray, Bimberri, Kelly and Scabby, in a loop setting out from Yaouk Gap, camping high on mountain passes and frost hollows. A bit of up and down, mostly off fire trails and tracks, with possibly a bit of Namadgi scrub thrown in for good measure. Please contact me before the pre trip meeting. Length: Long; Difficulty: Rough; Suitable for: Int; Map: ACT 1:100 000; Limit on Numbers: 6; Distance: 15km/day plus climbs; Pretrip meeting: 4 June 6pm at gearstore Contact: Paul Rustomji, paul.rustomji@csiro.au, 6246 5754(wk), 6251 7552(ah),

6254 3500(mob).

Mon 15 - Wed 31 July - Intermediate Mountaineering exploring Exploratory trips (1-2)

Depending on conditions to check out the early season ice and snow at Blue Lake. No instruction given, best suited to those who have been mountaineering before and can look after themselves. Weekend dates to be confirmed closer to the time. Length: Med; Difficulty: Med; Suitable for: Int; Limit on Numbers: 6; Distance: 15km ret; Pretrip meeting: Thursday before trip Contact: Alex Lee, alex.lee@brs.gov.au, 62724510(wk), 62557850(ah).

Sat 17 Aug - Mt Paralyser daytrip

This will be my first time on skis this season, so it will be pretty cruisy (I hope). We'll head out from Perisher along the road to Charlotte Pass—we will want to move pretty 'cos of the short days at this time of year, so you'll need to have some XC skiing competence. Once there, we'll find some appropriate hills to ski down, then find a pleasant place to have lunch, etc. Then we'll ski back the way we came (unless we're feeling particularly energetic). Suitable for: Int; Limit on Numbers: ~8; Distance: approx 10km; Pretrip meeting: 15 August Contact: Matthew May, grumpymatt@hotmail.com.

ANUMC Contacts

General enquiries should go to the club mobile: 0408 252 809. But anyone listed below is more than happy to talk to anyone about the Club and its activities.

Position	Person	Home	Work/Mobile	E-mail
President	Lex Morey	6241 1540	6272 5512	lex.morey@affa.gov.au
Vice-president	Helen Bostok	6251 7808	6215 4303	helenb@geology.anu.edu.au
Treasurer	Dylan Anderson	6257 7332	Dylan.Anderson@dotrs.gov.au	
Secretary	Lisa Blanch	lisa_blanch@hotmail.com		
Social Officer	Hugh Webb	6248 5586	hughwebb@hotmail.com	
General position	Katherine Lilly	6262 8100	katherine.lilley@anu.edu.au	
	Sarah Gow	6257 3089	s_gow@hotmail.com	
Database dude	Sam Margerison	6288 0182	6125 3572	samm@rsc.anu.edu.au
Webmaster	Jevon Longdell	6262 8100	6125 4129	jevon@clear.net .nz
Epic Editors	Dan Magee	6247 1140	6285 9033	daniel.magee@iba.com.au
	Matthew Yager	6281 6006	0428 994068	matt_yager@yahoo.com
	Jennie Miller	6251 9239	6270 5460	jmiller@ama.com.au
Gear store	Matt Montgomery	6254 0413	6252 6487	
	Raja Patil (aka Matt)	Raja.Patil@csiro.au		
	Matt Hollingworth	6283 2024		mholling@mbx.com.au
Enviro Officer	Linda Beasley	6247 1140	0410 419554	beasley_lc@hotmail.com
Granite Guide	Tess McCarthy	6255 7850	6125 0348	tess_mccarthy@bigfoot.com
Activity officers				
Trip Convener	Katie Curchin	6257 8727	katiecurchin@hotmail.com	
Bushwalking	John McGrath	6247 0302	6201 2397	johnmcgrath@start.com.au
Canyoning	Adele Morrison	6248 5586	s3367669@student.anu.edu.au	
Climbing Wall	Prita Jobling	prita_j@hotmail.com		
	Ben Davies	6247 7378		
Kayaking	Gerd Schroeder	6249 1059	6125 3500	
		gerd.schroeder@rsphysse.anu.edu.au		
Mountain Biking	Vaughan Barlow	6257 6726	6125 4480	vaughan.barlow@anu.edu.au
	Matthew Yager	6281 6006	0428 994068	matt_yager@yahoo.com
Mountaineering	Alex Lee	6255 7850	6272 4510	alex.lee@brs.gov.au
Orienteering & Rogaining	Kieran O'Leary	6273 7505	6265 0692	sukieran@hotmail.com
		0428 562 600		
Rockclimbing	Matt Hollingworth	0404 021 682mholling@mbx.com.au		
XC Skiing	Matthew May	Overseas until August, contact Club Secretary		

“To me, adventure involves a journey, or a sustained endeavour, in which there are the elements of risk and of the unknown, which have to be overcome by the physical skills of the individual”.

Chris Bonington



SENDER
A.N.U. Mountaineering Club
C/o Sport & Recreation Association
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200