

MOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY OUTDOORS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1976

18, 19th September - BUSHWALKING

In the northern Budawang Range this walk will go from Sassafrass to Newhaven Gap, Mt. Elliot, Pagoda Rocks, Folly Point, Mitchele's Lookout. Some scrub is known to exist as well as scrambling some climbing - good views. Contact Steve Davies Ph. 286284.

2, 3, 4th October - BUSHWALKING

In the Wild Dog Ranges and Cox River area. The expected route is Carlon's Farm, Splender Rock, Yellow Pup, Cox River, Breakfast Creek. Over three days, the trip takes in some beautiful country and is of moderate grade. Contact Bevan (Gundungara) Jones Ph. 288405.

17th October - Sunday - ABSEILING

Instruction in the art of abseiling in preparation for the coming Canyon season. The technique is good knowledge for bushwalkers and all should attend. Contact John Graham Ph. 288405.

30, 31st October - BUSHWALKING

Ettrema Gorge: This walk commences just north of Quiera Clearing and we cross Tullyangela Labyrinth to Naked Pass, where we descend into the Gorge. We hope to proceed along the Gorge, and come out via Transportation Spur. There is some thick scrub in the Labyrinth and in the Gorge there will be some swimming necessary through at least one and possibly more pools. Contact Rod Millsen - Maths Department.

18th October - Monday - MEETING

Discussion of trips - past and future as well as slides of activities. Treasurers Statement and progress report by President re Club.

BOOK REVIEW

BUSHWALKING NEAR CANBERRA - published by the Canberra Bushwalking Club, 1974.

This book is very well written and has a lot of very detailed information about possible walks in the area near Canberra, not including the Snowy Mtns.

There are sections at the beginning on "The art of Bushwalking", "Geology and Landforms", "Vegetation", "Prehistory" and "History". These sections are informative without being too detailed, and references are given for those interested in pursuing these matters further. I particularly liked an opinion expressed that "an important part of the attraction of bushwalking is that it is essentially co-operative, rather than competitive, and everyone in a party shares responsibility for the party as a whole".

The remainder of the book describes, with maps and details of routes and campsites, twenty walks which range from afternoon strolls to quite demanding and difficult walks (but which can be done in two days, allegedly). The walks are widely scattered and occur in all the following areas: The Brindabella, Decca River, Ilybean Range, Tinderry Range, The Budawangs and Ettrema Gorge. Only the last two areas are known to this writer and the description of the walks seems to be adequate and accurate, with the exception, in my opinion of the Ettrema walk. The latter is described as being a "long two-day walk of medium difficulty". The trip along Dungeon Canyon is longer and more difficult than the book leads one to believe, at least in the wet, slippery conditions when club members tried this trip earlier this year. Although the understatement of difficulties is probably not a characteristic of the book, this may be worth bearing in mind when planning a walk from this source.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that the emblem of the Canberra Bushwalking Club is the Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*), which is at least as difficult to draw as the club's "current" emblem. Does this suggest any ideas for the club's "next" emblem?

This book is recommended and is worth buying if you are thinking of trying some new walks in an area relatively close to Wollongong.

Rod Nilsen

---oOo---

"TUCKER BAG"

Macaroni del Fumichino Basino (Basin Creek Macaroni)

A tempting and original dish developed in the Gundungara over many bushwalks.

Ingredients: 1 lb Bacon, chopped salami, garlic cloves (to taste), "spice n' nice", cayenne red pepper, onions, macaroni, stock cubes (onion and garlic), 4 oz cheese cubed, margarine, capsicum.

Fry bacon and onions in small amount of margarine. Add salami and other ingredients all bar the cheese. Cook over moderate campfire. Prepare billy with salted water placing macaroni gradually in boiling water. Cook until macaroni is "al derite" (soft and spongy). Add cheese to frypan. Drain and serve macaroni giving cheese about 5 minutes to melt through frypan mixture. (serves 2-3).

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CLUB STATISTICS

The following collection of obscure figures was amassed by the newly appointed club statistician and although every care was taken in their preparation no responsibility will be taken for inaccuracies.

DATE	WALK	NO. OF BODIES	PEOPLE DEVIATION	LENGTH OF WALK	WALK DEVIATION
20/12/75	S-W Tasmania	4	0.63	21	17.25
27/12/75	Tasmania	3	1.63	21	17.25
24/1 /76	Snowies *	8	3.37	3	0.75
7/2 /76	Ti-Willa	4	0.63	2	1.75
14/2 /76	Kiandra	5	0.37	2	1.75
28/2 /76	Canoeing	6	1.37	2	1.75
28/2 /76	Random Swamp	2	2.63	2	1.75
13/3//76	Dungeon Canyon	2	2.63	2	1.75
20/3 /76	Bonnum Pic	4	0.63	1	2.75
3/4 /76	Budawangs *	4	0.63	2	1.75
8/4 /76	Barbecue *	10	5.37	1	2.75
10/4 /76	Caving *	5	0.37	2	1.75
14/4 /76	Snowies	4	0.63	2	1.75
16/4 /76	Blue Breaks	7	2.37	4	0.25
16/4 /76	Canoeing	2	2.63	4	0.25
24/4 /76	Snowies	7	2.37	3	0.75

DATE	WALK	NO. OF BODIES	PEOPLE DEVIATION	LENGTH OF WALK	WALK DEVIATION
1/ 5/76	Canoeing	4	0.63	1	2.75
1/ 5/76	Budawangs *	5	0.37	1	2.75
9/ 5/76	Orienteering *	3	1.63	1	2.75
20/ 5/76	Lacys	5	0.37	4	0.25
5/ 6/76	Camping *	9	4.37	2	1.75
12/ 6/76	Ettrema	4	0.63	2	1.75
11/ 7/76	Skiing *	10	10.37	9	5.25
17/ 7/76	Little River	2	2.63	2	1.75
24/ 7/76	Cabramurra (Ski)	2	0.37	2	1.75
31/ 7/76	Horse Camp (Ski) *	5	0.37	2	1.75
7/ 8/76	Falls Creek (Ski)	2	2.63	2	1.75
7/88/76	Skiing *	2	2.63	2	1.75
14/ 8/76	Cascade (Ski)	7	2.37	3	0.75
21/ 8/76	Skiing	3	1.63	4	0.25
25/ 8/76	Broken Rock	4	0.63	4	0.25
23/ 8/76	Intervarsity (Ski)	4	0.63	5	1.25
	TOTAL	148	62.78	120	84.50
	MEAN	4.63	1.96	3.75	2.64

Thus we have the highly significant figures that an average W.U.C.O. walk lasted for (3.75 ± 2.64) days and (4.63 ± 1.96) bodies participated. So what?

The club so far has run 32 trips, the ones marked * being specially for beginners. It can also be shown by a rigorous proof (that is beyond the scope of this newsletter) that one member spent a total of 61 days on W.U.C.O. trips, or 1 in 4 days. Who ever he is he certainly believes in getting his \$1 worth.

John Graham
 Statistician by appointment
 to their honours
 the G.U.R.T. executive.

SKI TOLL SOARS

Officials of the University Outdoor's Club are reported to be alarmed at increase in ski-tip breaking. In the last two months no less than six ski tips have been broken or damaged. A call has been made on manufacturers to produce a more sturdy ski that will endure the rugged skiing style of the Outdoors Club, especially the C.U.R.T. *1 members. Here are the latest details:-

On an expedition to Horse Camp Hut on 31st July, the leader, J. Graham, (G.U.R.T.) collided with a bush, breaking his ski tip clear off - never to be seen again. Fortunately the skier was reported unhurt. Disaster struck again when Mr. Graham, equipped with a new set of gleaming red skis, charged over a precipitous six inch rut on the side of road at Dead Horse Gap on the Tin Mine expedition (14th and 15th August). On the spot observers attributed the cause of the accident to the poor light which is often experienced in this area at 2 am.

Undaunted by this second setback the same adventurous G.U.R.T. member was involved in yet another mishap. It was on the very next day when returning from Tin Mine Hut to Cascade Hut, Mr. Graham failed to observe a sharp U-turn in the road and attempted gallantly to forge a track through the thick Eucalypt forest. A loud crack was heard and another ski-tip had bitten the snow. Witnesses again attributed the accident to poor light which plagues this area after sunset.

In other incidents Mr. Dave Whitelaw demolished two tips in a spectacular collapse while trying to avoid a collision with a female skier sprawled across the track during the 15 km Intervarsity Cross Country event at Perisher. Mr. Ian Burns (G.U.R.T.) cracked a ski tip on a trip from the Chalet to Perisher but damage was later reported to be slight.

* G.U.R.T. - Gong Uni Racing Team
(Refer July '76 Newsletter)

Daddy Racer

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INTERVARSITY SKIING * THREDBO * 23rd - 27th August 1976

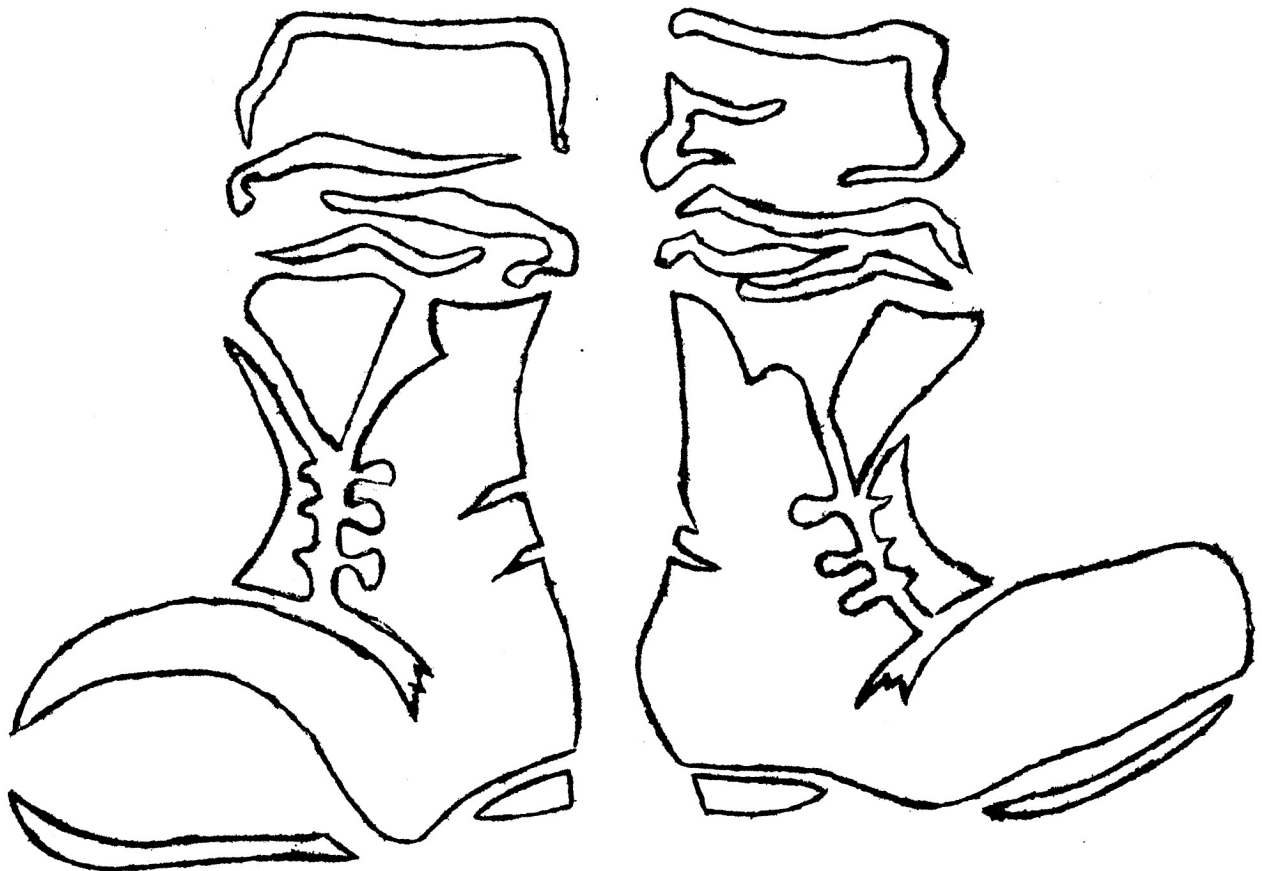
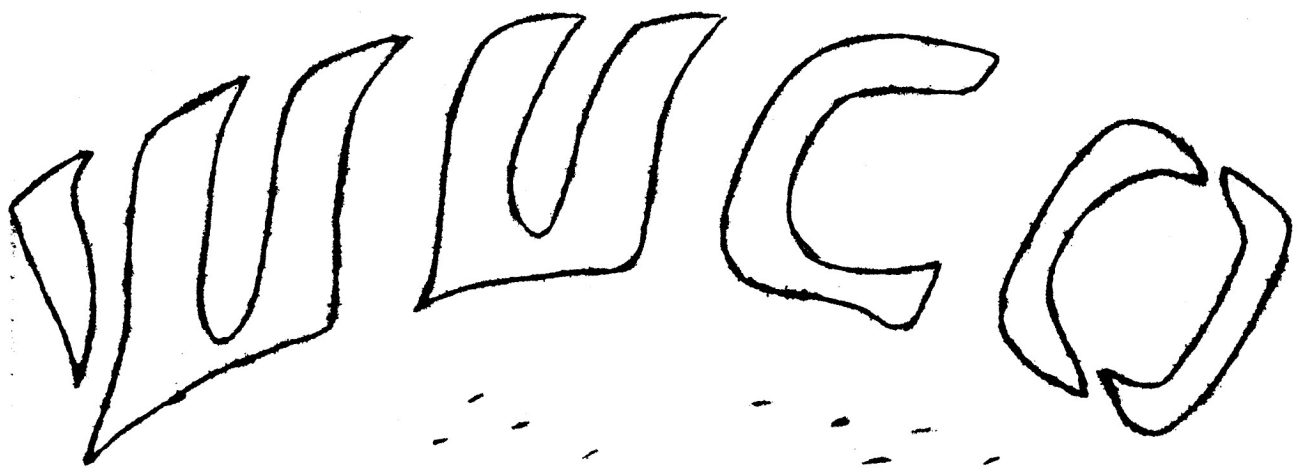
Slalom, G.S. Special C.S., X-C Relay, Jump. What do all of these terms have in common? They are the 6 events contested annually at I.V. Skiing. This year the venue was Thredbo, and Wollongong entered its first team, consisting of Anne Buchhorn, Penny Scott, Dave Whitelaw and Kevin Donegan plus official/gatekeeper Graeme Williams.

All team members competed in the Slalom but Kevin Donegan was the only one who successfully completed the course, finishing in 11th place. In the Giant Slalom, and Special Giant Slalom, Wollongong's sole competitor was Kevin Donegan who failed to gain a place in these events.

In the Cross-Country Individual, Dave Whitelaw was up amongst the leaders until he broke both his skis. This incident occurred near the 10 km mark of the 15 km race held at Perisher Valley, preventing Dave from completing a good run. Kevin Donegan had waxing problems and finished well behind the leaders. Anne Buchhorn put in a creditable performance but failed to gain a place. Following the episode of the broken skis Wollongong was forced to withdraw from the X-C Relay.

The final event on the program was the Jump, held near Merrit's Falls in Thredbo. Plagued by injuries sustained in earlier events, Wollongong did not compete.

On the Social Scene, however, Wollongong represented itself well, attending all social functions and being placed equal first (1st) with La Trobe in the Annual Zoom Championship.



BROKEN ROCK RANGE

Chief: Bevan Jones
Indians: Ian Burns, Chris Cook, Rod Nillsen
Maps: Yerranderie, Burragorang, Bimlow
Date: Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th August

Wednesday Night: Drove to Bat's Camp

Day 1: Paid Lang his \$5 and drove past Yerranderie's Total Earth Environment to Bull Island Saddle on Scotts Main Range (G.R. 218963 - Yerranderie). Started walking at 11 am down a ridge to Butcher's Creek and thence to "The Grog Shop", a formation of rocks near the river which bear no apparent relationship to their name. Lunched at the Grog Shop, and strolled over a low point of Broken Rock Range to the south of Green Wattle Mountain, joining Green Wattle Creek at G.R. 260946 - Burragorang. We walked along the Creek and camped at a 4-star camping spot at G.R. 264948. The Chief and one Indian "did a recce", and claimed that there was a definite possibility probably of climbing the cliff line onto Lacy's Tableland at 275940, perhaps, if anyone had any particular desire to do so.

Day 2: Set off after a 4-star sleep downstream along Green Wattle Creek, an extremely pretty creek with rocky slabs, cliffs, pools of water, enjoyable walking, though it looked as though the cliffs were closing in towards the end. We left the creek at G.R. 976289 and travelled N-W up a ridge to Green Wattle Break and then approximately N-E to the one and only break in the cliff line at G.R. 994293. After a short scramble we were on Broken Rock Range proper and rewarded ourselves with lunch. We then walked along Broken Rock Range (with beautiful views to our left and right) for the remainder of the day to a dry camp on reasonably level ground at G.R. 326026 - Bimlow.

Day 3: The next morning, after looking down on the clouds in the valleys around us, we walked to the end of Broken Rock Range and lunched at G.R. 352063. We had examined the unevenness and unbroken cliff lines of the Bimlow Tablelands during our walk, and concluded that only hard tough, rough, rugged and stupid bushwalkers could "knock it off" in less than a week. After lunch we wandered down to a 4½- star camping site near the junction of two creeks at G.R. 326068.

Day 4: After crossing Butcher's Creek we joined the Old Cedar Road at the New Sale Yards (G.R. 293072) and followed this road back to the car, arriving at lunch time.

Highlights of the trip were the massive amounts of food carried by Ian Burns; the Bacon Macaroni del la Flumchino Basino (this is neither French nor Italian) concocted, cooked and consumed by Nillsen et al; Rod's slumping around with camera at the ready; good weather; a beautiful walk along Green Wattle Creek; impressive views from Broken Rock Range; very varied terrain and the large number of wild flowers. Generally speaking, a copy book example of a relaxing 4 days bushwalking.

Chris Cook

HORSE CAMP HUT SKI TOURING

Tourers

John Graham
Anne Meehan
John Meehan
Mark Jeffreys
Ian Burns

Maps

Kosciusko 1:100,000

Date

Saturday 31st July and Sunday 1st August

We arrived in Sawpit about 2am Saturday morning and enjoyed a brief 5 hours sleep. We started skiing from Guthega Power Station with snow falling and a brisk wind blowing. The progress up the road was slow as the party was unexperienced, the conditions uncomfortable and waxing on the varying snow conditions less than perfect.

As we went along there was a continuous stream of parties overtaking us, including a group of four people walking in the snow to practice snow and ice climbing (I hate to admit to this), and as the rear guard was tiring somewhat we decided to cut the trip short and stay at Horse Camp Hut. Even this hut was full and we later learned that both Whites River and Schlink were overflowing. We skied around the hut for some time, but the wind made an uncomfortable companion. Saturday night saw us embark upon a feast rarely to be repeated - the menu of which would make your mouth water.

Anne and John erected their tent in the attic (which was less than waterproof) as it was impossible to keep in up in the wind. Mark and myself spent a comfortable night in a snow tent and awoke to find 6" of snow on the tent. We emerged from our makeshift crypt unscathed.

On Sunday we were all but ready to leave when in popped Ian for lunch (and breakfast). He had travelled down Saturday night for a days skiing and had travelled to Whites and back before finding us. Later on we departed for Guthega where we found 6" of snow in the car park and had a slow trip out of the park with chains fitted on to past Sawpit.

A good time was had by all and despite the weather everyone agreed that the snow was "mickey mouse".

John Graham

BLUE LAKE

Party:

Ian Burns
Jim Sligar
Al Barrett

Maps:

Kosciusko 1:100,000

Date:

Friday 20th to Monday 23rd August

Originally planned as a trip across the Main Range from Guthega Power Station via White's River, this trip transformed into a relaxed camp-out on Blue Lake. The start from Guthega was made in glorious weather, but conditions were icy making the descent from Guthega village to the Snowy River rather tricky. Upon reaching the river conditions improved, the frozen river being coated with powder snow.

The Snowy River was followed until the creek flowing from Blue Lake and Hedley Tarn was reached. After a steady climb Hedley Tarn was reached and after a brief rest, we proceeded on to the lower lip of Blue Lake. Icy winds blasted through this pass making this section rather unpleasant. The lake itself was quite frozen over, making it appear like a large white football field.

BLUE LAKE (cont'd)

A sheltered but sunny spot was found in the south-eastern corner of the lake where we stopped for lunch and the next two days (slacko's!). The tent was erected here and Friday afternoon, as well as all day Saturday, was spent skiing around the slopes of Blue Lake.

A day trip on Saturday to Mt. Kosciusko was cut short due to very strong winds and icy conditions on top of the Main Range. We were still rewarded with a magnificent view to the east and west from the saddle between Mt. Tynam and Carruthers' Peak.

Blue Lake is recommended for both inexperienced and accomplished skiers. There are many slopes to choose from and even the seasoned skier will find slopes that will prove a real challenge. Access to this area can be achieved by just a morning's ski from Guthega and would make quite a good weekend trip. However, a reliable "wind-sturdy" tent is required as winds may be extremely strong in this area and indeed made its presence felt at various times during our stay.

Sunday morning saw us heading off to the Chalet to rendezvous with Al Barrett and John ("Waggabidgee") Louis. The ski down the ridge from the Soil Conservation Hut was long and exhilarating. (Telemark turns were ubiquitous).

Upon reaching the Chalet yours truly was approached by two attractive ladies (about eight years old), who were wielding large snowballs. My immediate reaction was to think they were about to attack an innocent, weary ski-tourier. I was right (Thanks Al!).

The three of us then put on some exhibition skiing on the down-hill slopes of the Chalet and I'm sure by the reaction of onlookers we displayed a unique technique and interesting spectacle. After the Waggabidgee contingent failed to arrive we journeyed back to Perisher, sometimes along the 10 km track.

Jim parted company and Sunday night spent a Sawpit. The following day saw a morning's ski on the downhill slopes at Smiggins Hole and an early return after lunch.

Ian Burns

CASCADE

Party: John Graham
Ian Burns
Peter Winder
Gill and Keith Chapman
John and Helen Griffiths

Map: Jacobs River 1:100,000

Date: 14th, 15th August 1976

Friday Ian, Peter and myself arrived at Dead Horse Gap at 2 am Friday morning after a 6 hour drive. Being rather insane we set off skiing for Cascade Hut, there and then by the "light" of a full moon. Unfortunately we couldn't see the moon for the clouds. I promptly broke one ski but with the aid of a spare aluminium tip we set off. The route is notorious with 3 W.U.C.O. trips being lost in as many years. The latest by Dave Whitelaw and Mark Jeffreys only a month previously in full daylight. Undaunted we set off and proceeded directly to the hut without mishap without being lost and without consulting map, compass, stars or other navigational device (Eat your heart out Dave!). We arrived in time for breakfast and a well earned sleep. Later that day we skied some 10 km down the road just for the heck of it.

CASCADE (cont'd)

Saturday Peter had the only watch but it read 2 o'clock perpetually so we gauged it to be 10 am when we set off for Tin Mine Hut. There was heaps of dry powder snow as we went along the road through dense forest. There is usually little snow at Cascade, but we found a foot of snow at Tin Mine, 20 km to the south. It was still 2 o'clock when we reached Tin Mine for lunch. As we headed for "home" we virtually flew along the icy tracks we had left until the sun set, the up hill started and rigormortis set in. We slowed up somewhat as we skied in pitch dark along the road, but I somehow managed to break my other ski. We got back at "2 o'clock" to find Gill, Keith, John and Helen had arrived. Later we found out that the round trip was 40 km and we were the only people to ski in over the last 5 years.

Sunday We had a leisurely ski out to the cars in beautiful conditions. In fact I skied without a shirt, it was so hot.

This trip would have to be the best ski trip of all: the perfect weather (lightly falling snow but no wind), the dry powder, feet thick and the idealic setting of Cascade Hut.

John Graham

Footnote: Although Mark and myself couldn't find Cascade Hut we were by no means lost as can be seen by the fact that we are still with you today. What's more, we didn't break any ski tips on our trip - Dave.

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BUNGONIA CAVING REPORT

Date: 10th April 1976

Although last year's attempts to organise caving trips aroused virtually no interest, this year's caving activities got off to a promising start. Six people actually turned up at Bungonia!

The trip was organised to attract people who had never been caving but were willing to give it a try. Thus no difficult caves were attempted.

The first cave entered was B44 'The Grill Cave' - so called because of a grill across its entrance, placed there when this particular cave was a reasonably popular tourist attraction last century.

The upper section of the cave is fitted with fixed iron ladders so progress down the first two hundred feet of passage was easy. However the plucky W.U.C.O. trog-lodytes continued into the lower section which was not part of the tourist's agenda. Descent was made by all six members to a depth of four hundred feet. After this the passage proves a little wicked for beginners and three members only made the final descent to the sump, (a nasty climb through foul air), where the visitors book was signed and a sticker affixed.

B4 was next on the agenda (Fossil Cave). B4 is part of the most extensive known system at Bungonia. Some tricky climbs were negotiated and the party penetrated the system almost as far as the B5 entrance (Hogon's Hole).

B15 was also entered, a cave which produced our first incident when the lady member of the party became wedged in a short vertical chimney. Obviously gentlemen all, the party refrained from making remarks which might have heightened the lady's embarrassment. Apart from the caves, the party enjoyed the beautiful surroundings at Bungonia - notably the 300+ metre gorge. Later explorations have revealed some promising caves and later trips should be more interesting than the first.

BUNGONIA CAVING (Cont'd)

B31 (Argyle Hole) seems most promising after extensions in the upper section were explored and moreover the club's acquisition of 60 ft of ladders will allow exploration of the intermediate level of this very extensive system. (Argyle Hole is the second deepest cave on the Australian Mainland).

Hopefully this interest in caving will continue since, contrary to popular opinion, caving - not horse-racing is the sport of kings (Remember Robert the Bruce?).

Future plans involve descent of all the half-dozen or so major systems at Bungonia as well as trips further afield. A dig at Bungonia has been discussed and if successful the W.U.C.O. cave may soon be on the Bungonia maps. So, all you bushwalkers, if you ever get tired of trees, trees and more trees, try mudsliding, abseiling, climbing and gravelling into the bowels of the earth. - As Ex-P.F.C. blintegreen said (Catch 22) - "Somebody's gotta do it".

Graham Marshall

WEEK SKIING TRIP

Party:

Ian Burns	John Graham
Geoff Sim	Lynne Cook
Frank Giacon	Janette Chapman
Jim Sligar	Dave Whitelaw
Alan Barrett	Joanne Scott
John Louis	Jane Louis

Maps: Koscuisko 1:100,100
Jugungal 2" : 1 mile

Date: Saturday 10th - Sunday 18th July

Sunday The party left Guthega Power Station at a respectable hour and advanced painfully slowly via the aqueduct up to Whites River Hut. The hut and outhouse were full so we set up camp on the snow. The party consisted mainly of beginners who were pretty tired after their first day and there was a general lack of enthusiasm as they spent their first night on the snow.

Monday The morning was spent recovering and telling tales of how cold it was the night before; I think most thought they would perish like Scott in Antarctica. After the disappointment that no one had perished had wore off there was a general exodus to the slopes (no skis!). After lunch the party moved to Schlink Hilton Hut (1½ miles) for the night where upon the galloping gormets of the club (Ian and John) made a return trip to Guthega for more provisions.

Tuesday A few people showed symptoms of the dreaded lurgi and they lingered in the hut while the fit and healthy took to the slopes, and the trees and anything that was in their way. That night we cooked a Self Saucing Blackberry pudding (packet mix) by shoving the billy halfway in the door of the pot belly stove, and rotating frequently. We finished a cask of port and then took to the slopes (before the moon was up but after sunset) and negotiated a ski jump by placing a navigation candle on either side of the ramp. Gong Uni Racing Team strikes again!

Wednesday The Lurgi had passed so we set off over Gungartan pass for Tin Hut. The initial climb up a valley was hampered by a thin layer of soggy snow which would give way and allow the skier to become entangled in under lying vegetation. The run down to Tin Hut was superb and some beginners were proficient enough to negotiate it. Others were not. The nights at Tin Hut were very cold, the temperature often being below 0°C.

WEEK SKIING TRIP (cont'd)

However the "picture post card" setting of Tin made this one of the nicest parts of the trip.

Thursday The perfect weather continued for us with bright sunny days, cloudless full moon nights and hardly any breeze. The day was spent touring around the hut with most beginners being good enough to enjoy themselves by this stage. There was a dusk sortie to Gungartan to watch the sunset and then a cold, very fast, deadly still run back to the fire.

Friday We skied back to Whites River Hut where we rejoined Alan and Joanne, who had spent an easy couple of days in Whites. (not rugged ski touriers at all). By this stage the beginners were no beginners any more and could negotiate reasonably well the slopes around Whites. In particular a well worn run down past the hut where formation and trick skiing was practiced, developed and laughed at.

Saturday The team developed formation skiing to a fine art:- 4 skiers 1 second (or 1 monkey) apart all careering to a halt in a spectacular display but usually ending in a heap of bodies on the snow. Also the three legged style was developed by Dave and John by skiing side by side with their inside legs tied together. Hint - don't try it. Saturday afternoon saw the arrival of John and Jane Louis with more provisions for the galloping gormets. By this time the full moon was not full any more but undaunted Dave and John and Jim underwood a rigorous course in pitch dark. So dark in fact that Dave ran over the ski jump by mistake and not one to be outdone John attempted it with Dave giving directions.

Sunday The hoard (as it was by this stage) departed, sorry to leave, but eager to go home and have a wash. All were happy and agreed the trip was superb. The weather was perfect all week although the snow conditions could have been better. This trip (over 8 days) attracted 10 people in all and shows the interest ski touring has generated within the club.

John Graham