



UNE Mountaineering Club

O' Week Newsletter 2007

Welcome to the Club

The UNE mountaineering club is a diverse group of people with a range of interests including rock climbing, white water paddling, caving, bush walking, canoe polo and more. The name is probably slightly misleading, as we don't climb many mountains (we love our Alpine pursuits but Australia just doesn't have that much!) but enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities.

The New England region is well known for its beautiful national parks, gorges, rivers, climbing and caves. The UNE mountaineering club offers those interested a chance to experience this area with regular trips organised by experienced people familiar with the area. The club provides all gear or it can be hired cheaply so that cost isn't a barrier to enjoying the area. The UNE mountaineering club is a great way to meet interesting people, learn new skills, explore the outdoors and keep fit. We welcome people from all backgrounds whatever your experience is with the outdoors.

The end of each term the club meets to arrange trips for the next term. We welcome new members to come along and make suggestions and get involved in the club.

Check out our highlights from 2006 and hopefully you will be inspired to come along and try some of the activities offered by the UNE mountaineering club.

Alexandra Robilliard (aka Bubbles)

Editor



Meet the crew

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Indoor Climbing

Brad Davis

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Newsletter

Alexandra Robilliard

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Outdoor Climbing

Liam Jackson

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If you are keen to help out we would love to hear from you. Contact any of us if you want to be involved in our club!

Cheap gear hire

The club maintains a fair amount of gear for the activities we do. We have canoes and kayaks with all the associated gear, a climbing rack and ropes, canyoning ropes, camping gear (tents, stoves, sleeping mats), caving helmets and headlamps, a GPS, an EPIRB and various other bits and pieces. All of this gear is available for a minimal fee for use on club trips and for private trips.

We are a non-profit club and the fees only cover the maintenance of our gear.

Our website and email list

On our website and email list you can find information about all of our activities, trip reports and photos. If you have any contributions to make please subscribe to our list and post them up.

<http://www.une.edu.au/unemc/>

The club newsletter comes out every term and is available from our website. It includes the schedule of upcoming activities and trip reports from the last term. If you would like to be on our mailing list make sure you correctly fill out your email on the membership form. You can also join the email list at any time by visiting:

<https://mail.une.edu.au/lists/cgi-bin/listinfo/unemc>

You can send a message to everyone subscribed on the list via the following email address. Feel free to ask questions on the list or use it to find people for trips etc. We are a friendly bunch and don't bite.

2007 Term 1 Events

Regular Events

**Indoor Climbing - 6pm Tue
and Thurs nights**

Indoor climbing is heaps of fun. Just wander in and give it a go. Climbing for the year costs just \$20 membership and \$5 per time you climb.

Brad Davis

M: 0428 723 029

**Canoe polo – 7.30pm
Thurs nights at TAS**

Canoe polo is a great way to practice your paddling skills and have heaps of fun. A social competition runs through the term and there is plenty of spare time to just jump in and give paddling a try.

Kirsty Moore

H: 6772 8558

kmoore4@une.edu.au

Scheduled Trips

Sat 24 Feb

Intro Day – Gara Gorge

Contact: Scott Godwin (0432409162)

sgodwin@une.edu.au

Sat-Sun 3-4 March

Caving, Timor

Contact: Hamish Caddy

Sat-Sun 10-11 March

Canyoning in Chandler Gorge

Contact: Brendan Heywood (0415 280 008)

brendan.heywood@gmail.com

Sat-Sun 17-18 March

PT Canoe Polo, Dumaresq Dam

Contact: Kirsty Moore (0409 953 864)

kmoore4@une.edu.au

AND

Bushwalking, location TBA

Contact: Nathan Jeffrey (6771 2742)

Nathan.jeffrey@csiro.au

Wed 21 March

Club meeting and Slide Show

Further details TBA

Sat-Sun 24-25 March

MB Canoe Polo, Dumaresq Dam

Contact: Kirsty Moore (0409 953 864)

kmoore4@une.edu.au

Sat 31 March - Sun 1 April

Whitewater paddling, Nymboida / Goolang Creek

Contact: Robbie Blair

robbie.blair@groundtruth.net.au

or Scott Godwin (0432 409 162)

sgodwin@une.edu.au

Sat-Sun 7 - 8 April

Climbing Festival, Katoomba

Contact: Liam Jackson liam.jackson@gmail.com

2006 Highlights

Bushwalking: Guy Fawkes River Walk, Oct 2006

7 of us headed out to Guy Fawkes River National Park for an overnight hike last weekend. Saturday saw us start a bit late due to multiple driving navigational errors. The walk started in the wet from the gate to "Marengo Station". A gentle walk across farm land warmed us up before we reached the edge of the national park. A gentle descent along McDonalds Ridge took us to the valley floor where we made camp alongside the Marengo Creek not far from the junction with the Guy Fawkes River.



Although it had been drizzling/raining the whole way, the conditions were not unpleasant. From a distance, while walking along the ridge we had good views of the Marengo falls. The weather was kind when reaching the camp site with no more rain.



Karen and Fabienne take in the view

Tents were erected, we had a bit of a look around before dinner, ate and then retired for the night. Sunday morning dawned well. Broken cloud cover and a perfect temperature for walking. After stirring a few slumbering people to get on the move, camp was broken and we made our way along the creek to the river, before heading up stream.

The vegetation along the river was open, making it easy to walk along. The multiple river crossings were pleasant: The water neither too deep nor cold. Lunch was had beside the river at London Bridge before the ascent out of the valley. The ridgeline out was a challenge for some, but slow and steady saw everyone to the top. I'm sure everyone appreciated the views along the way, and the sense of achievement when the top was reached. A gentle walk back through farmland and a short jaunt along the road saw us back to our cars and sitting in Ebor's pub by 5:20pm enjoying a few drinks and nibbles.

Thanks to everyone who came along, for the excellent weekend.

Nathan Jeffrey.



McDonalds Ridge

Rock climbing and Bouldering

Our new rock climbing coordinator Liam has taken us on some fantastic trips including the renowned sport climbing mecca of Nowra and the sweet sandstone crags of Fort Knox and Wonderland near Coffs Harbour.

That on top of the regular days out to the local crags at Gara gorge, Ebor Falls and even some of the large water fall classics have seen some action.

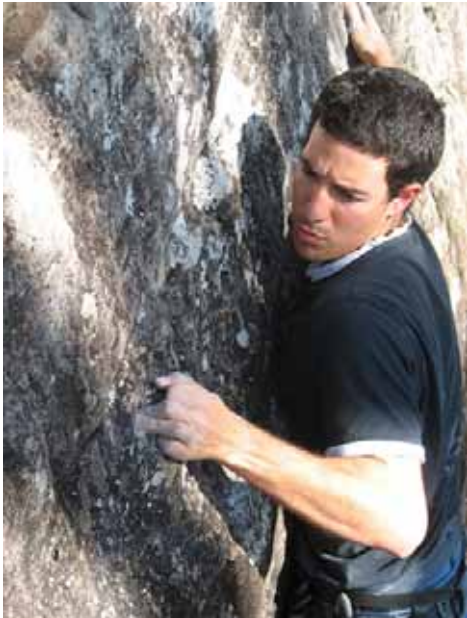
Bouldering has seen a strong focus in 2006 with a regular crew getting out heaps – especially over summer where it seemed like

almost every afternoon we ground our fingers down on new granite problems at Gara gorge.

The club has also done a lot of work to publish bouldering guides for Stone henge (over 50 problems) and Gara Gorge (over 100 problems) which are available for free on our website. You can also find the bouldering guide to Yarrowyck (previously hosted by Uncarved Block) as well as local climbing guides:

www.une.edu.au/unemc/climbing/guides

Nowra, Fort Knox, Wonderland ...



Gib traversing past a mono



Liam at the Mad Hatters belay station, Nowra



Todd sends the roof of Grab the Gristle at Wonderland



The swim home after Nowra

Bouldering



Mark focusing on the problem at hand



Liam loves heel hooks!

White Water Kayaking and Canoe Polo



Nathon carving it up



Caving



Alicia, Timor Caves



Kirsty disappearing into the abyss