

University of Queensland Bush Walking Club - Annual Report, 1953.

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Club for 1953.

The Committee of the Club this year has been : President - J. Stephenson; Secretary - G. Broadbent; Outings Officer - G. Hooper; Treasurer - (Miss. M. Barrowman), and Miss. M. Wilson; Librarian - Miss. P. Watkins; Committee Member - (J. Roberts) and B. Holdaway. At the beginning of the year, John Roberts was forced to resign on account of illness and Byron Holdaway was elected in his place as committee member. Margaret Wilson was elected in May to replace Margaret Barrowman who resigned view matrimony.

We were concerned to hear early in the year that John Roberts had ^{learn} been unfortunate enough to contract poliomyelitis. We are pleased to hear that John is making satisfactory progress and wish him well for the future.

Meetings were held at approximate intervals of a month following a Freshers' Meeting held in March. At these meetings, members were entertained by the following speakers.

Mr. R. MacLennan on his New Guinea trip.
Mr. G. Hooper on his Tasmanian trip.
Prof. T.K. Kelley on National Parks in the Western United States.
Mr. R. Kenney on Antarctica.
Mr. R. Raymond on a trip through Queensland and the Northern Territory.
and Dr. F. Benuzzi on mountaineering in New Zealand.

Before the general meeting in March, Geoff Broadbent and Gordon Hooper gave introductory talks to new members on bushwalking equipment and food respectively.

During the last 12 months, the Club has been moderately active with regard to outings. Organised club outings included :-

Through Walks. O'Reilly's - Running Creek - Mt. Lindesay. (Nov.-Dec.)
6 days.

Running Creek - O'Reilly's. (June). 3 days.

Hinchinbrook Island. (Jan.) 10 days.

Canungra Ck. (May). 2 days.

Base Camps.

Running Creek. (Aug.) (On this trip a track was cut from England Creek to Pt. Lookout, partly along the old stretcher track.)

Durwah. (March).

Emu Creek (Easter).

Glasshouse (June).

Flinders (April).

Cedar Creek (May).

A Herbert River (June).

Two rock-climbing afternoons held at Kangaroo Pt. in June and July proved quite popular.

A general club trip planned to Mt. Lindesay in July had to be cancelled owing to lack of support.

Trips this year have been run under the control of a specified leader. This has been very effective except for one point : the apparent scarcity of leaders. Perhaps in the future, more members will be prepared to act as leader when asked. Surely it is not unreasonable to expect people to agree, in advance, to lead one specified trip during the year. If circumstances arise in the meantime to prevent him doing so, there is nothing to stop some other leader being appointed. Leading of trips this year has fallen on the shoulders of a relatively small number of members which is not a good thing from any angle. My thanks to those who did act as leaders on trips.

At the Easter trip to Emu Creek, we enjoyed the company of 7 visitors from Scots College, Warwick - 6 senior boys with Mr. R. Peel, a Master at Scots. Having schoolboys with us on the trip was a complete success and it is hoped this club will maintain connections with the College and its newly formed exploration society. Over the last 5 years schoolboy exploration has developed strongly^{IV} and its growth in Queensland^{77th} deserves every encouragement⁵⁰⁹⁷.

A Committee meeting was held in conjunction with the Brisbane bushwalkers on July 21. At the meeting, sites of future tracks were discussed and means for maintaining blazed tracks considered. The only track felt urgent is the Pt. Lookout - Kalinya Lookout section which, when complete, will link tracks from O'Reilly's to Running Creek. It was suggested, maintenance of tracks could be most easily performed by the two clubs, if they co-operated in running one of their organised trips each year alternatively to the Running Ck - O'Reilly's track and the Cunningham's Gap - Laidley Ck track. One brushing a year for these tracks should keep them open. Geoff Broadbent's idea of marking track routes with aluminium tinsel waste, applied to trees as blazes, is well worth pursuing and has the approval of the Forestry Department.

An idea initiated by the Brisbane bushwalkers is to pool information on specific areas of interest to bushwalkers. This idea is a good one, and could be carried out if next year, each club appoints editors for the several bushwalking districts, who can edit their own Club's relevant trip reports and co-operate subsequently to prepare an information booklet on such things as tracks, huts, routes, topography, transport etc., for the various popular areas in Queensland.

The Search and Rescue Organisation within the Brisbane bushwalkers was discussed.

The importance of exchanging information on such things as first ascents, exploratory trips in new areas, new routes, new climbs etc. was agreed on and it is hoped information on any of the more outstanding activities in the future will be received by each club.

Co-operation with the Brisbane bushwalkers should be maintained in the future.

In June it was suggested the Club enquire into the possibility of constructing a rock hut near the East-West saddle of Mt. Barney. A committee elected for this purpose concluded that construction of such a hut was possible. The Department of Forestry has indicated its approval of the intended hut. In the August vacation it is hoped the main problem, that of selecting and shaping rock for the hut, will be properly estimated and the practicability of construction in rock realised. The idea of building in rock may have to be shelved.

On trips this year a few performances by members are worth noting. In December John Roberts and Geoff Broadbent scrambled to the top of Glennies Chair unaware of the reputation for difficulty this monolith has enjoyed for something like 20 years. Miss. Nada Darveneza scored the distinction of being the first woman to stand on top of the Mast at Easter. John Comino became the third visitor to the summit of the Funnel when he made virtually a solo ascent in May. Five members of the Club, including a ^{woman} ~~girl~~ of 21, made the second ascent of Mt. Barney at night when they scaled the East Peak by the Logan ridge, early in August.

In January, this Club staged its first exploratory trip when 6 members visited Hinchinbrook Island. The trip saw the success of 2 new routes up the highest peak on the island Mt. Bowen, from the east. Two first ascents were made on two prominent peaks, one of which was the Thumb. The party spent their last 7 days on the island during the start of the wet season, which was unusual to say the least.

Early in the year, two members, with a member of the Brisbane bushwalkers, completed the last 200 feet of a route begun by members of our club last year, up the South Face of Barwah, which has never been climbed directly before.

It is hoped in the future the Club will continue to give a lead in Queensland in the field of exploration of lesser known areas and in rock climbing. Being formed of students who generally get enough time, the Club could be even more active in this regard than it has been in past years. It was primarily for promotion of such interests in serious bushwalking and rockclimbing that this Club was formed. I hope the Club will continue to provide for these interests, among others in the future.

A few projects might be worth noting for consideration in this regard :

Extended trips : Bartle-Frere - Bellenden Kerr area.
 The gorges of the Johnstone, Mulgrave, Tully
 and the Herbert rivers (particularly the
 Herbert's tributaries, Elphinstone and Gowrie Cks.)
 Winsor tableland, Cape York.
 Bucklands Tableland, near the Carnarvons.
 Mt. Peterbotte - Roaring Meg Ck. area north of
 Cairns.
 Wolfgang Pks near Clermont.
 Jim Crow Peaks near Rockhampton.