



## 1952 ANNUAL REPORT

I now present the annual report of the Club for the year ended July 1952.

Committee. The committee elected last August for 1952 was as follows:- J. Stephenson president; G. Broadbent secretary; Miss Pam Watkins treasurer; G. Hooper outings officer; Miss Paquita Day librarian; I.R. McLeod.

Activities. The club sponsored evening meetings at frequent intervals during first and second terms of this year. At two of these speakers from outside the club addressed the club. Mr. A.A. Salmon interested everyone in a delightfully informal talk on the wonders of New Zealand, while Mr. R. Gregory provided a most interesting introduction to the mightiest mountains in the world - the Himalayas. Several meetings were devoted to introductions to bushwalking technique, given by club members.

The club organised trips, which were in general only fairly attended. ~~Most~~ of these trips were base camps, though three day walks were included; among those which proved the more popular were Springbrook, Barney and Dunwich. Other base camp trips were to Noosa, Glasshouse and Flinders.

I regret to state that few notable things were done this year. A <sup>two</sup> three day ramble by 3 members around the Ballow tops from Back Creek to the Barney Group, passing across the heads of Barney Creek was one of the few enterprising efforts. A relatively large party did well to climb the Cougals comfortably from Springbrook. But neither of these were on new ground, for certain members of this Club had followed these routes in the past. Among a bushwalking club's bushwalking interests the encouragement and appreciation of new work - that is, new country and new routes - must rank high for the club to have any genuine standing as such. This does not mean this club's activities and functions should lie along a certain groove, but it does suggest that this aspect should be one of the important items in the club's existence.

One notable effort stands well to the front in the scaling of the final tower on the Steamer formation, east of Warwick, by Bob Waring and John Comino, in January of this year. Bob has the outstanding distinction of having led each of the three first ascents on the

pinnacles of the formation. We note with interest that he is now testing his prowess in Europe.

An unrehearsed ascent of Crookneck in moonlight by 3 members provided some food for astonishment, while a serious climb on the south face of Beerwah revealed the existence of difficult routes which are nevertheless perfectly justified by their suitability to roped climbing; there are too few rock faces which provide difficulty without permitting the avoidance of extreme consequences in case of a fall.

Some good walking was done towards the end of 1951. In August two independent parties enjoyed themselves exploring gorges and escarpments in the Tweed Range, and covered quite a portion of rugged territory. In late November a party was forced from the crest of the Main Range by drought in their journey from the Head to Mt. Castle, which had <sup>been</sup> intended to follow the rim all the way.

Opening of a blazed track from Running Creek Falls to Throakban, in the Lamington Pk. has been approved by the Forestry Department, and the approaching second vacation may see this complete. This route is in one of our most scenic areas and with a carefully made track should become a well trodden one.

Contacts were maintained with the M.U.M.C. and the Brisbane Bushwalking club. Two of our members who visited Melbourne ~~the~~ <sup>dummy</sup> the year were received warmly by the mountaineers there.

It is felt a worthwhile step was made when a combined committee meeting with the Brisbane Bushwalkers was held. Development of tracks, huts or any relevant bushwalking matter is greatly accelerated by cooperation of bushwalking clubs, and it is in this regard that this first combined meeting has its significance. Bright hopes are held for construction of tracks, huts, etc. in the future by cooperation of the two clubs; combined general meetings of the two clubs have been suggested to stimulate initiative in exploration. In the absence of a federation of bushwalking clubs here, there being only the 2 clubs, it is essential that close contact with our fellow bushwalkers be maintained, and, as indicated, this would best be achieved in combined committee meetings perhaps twice a year.

Comments. Membership of the club, at approx. 70, was only slightly less than last year; However, activities indicate a bigger decline in active membership. An attempt to trace the cause of this decline will not be made here. However, one suggestion in regard to outings will be made. An unprecedented event occurred recently when an outing had to be abandoned through lack of support and an experienced person to lead the few persons who were interested. This suggests a change in policy is

desirable, and a trip leader to be specified for every outing. Lack of response to outings in the latter part of this term has prevented to a large extent any ambitious trips which might have been planned.

It is in place here to again stress the importance of retaining graduates as members. In this way the club can expect to gather strength and experience. One unfortunate lack this club experiences, I feel, is the absence of authority in it due to the membership of staff personnel. Melbourne has a number of enthusiastic and staunch supporters among its staff members; in contrast our club here consists entirely of students and graduates. It is to be stressed that any staff of this University, and any graduates whatever ~~are~~ eligible for membership in this club.

While the club has shown a retrogression during this part of 1952, I hope, and in fact expect, that it will be able to prove itself more of a bushwalking club next year.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of this committee for their readily given time and energy, in particular I thank Geoff Broadbent. Also thanks to those outside the committee who gave their services for various jobs without hesitation.

---