

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1958

This report for the year ending September, 1958, of the activities of the University of Queensland Bushwalking Club could almost be completely divided into two parts.

1. The period from September, 1957 to February, 1958
2. The period from March, 1958 to September, 1958.

This is because the first period which covered trips to Stradbroke Island, The Cougals, Tasmania, the Snowy Mountains and the Obi-Obi were attended by older members. The second period was marked by a predominance of young new members with plenty of enthusiasm, an enthusiasm which seems to have been increased by recent more difficult walks.

Freshers' welcome was the first meeting of the club in the academic year, and large numbers of new members were admitted, many of these attending the day-walk. Although not exceedingly interesting scenically, the day was fine and hot while Lake Manchester was cool and refreshing. The day walk did, however, perform its function of introducing naturally freshers and older club members. The Easter trip started badly with disagreements with Red Line Coaches, but this trip turned out particularly well, with excellent weather, spectacular scenery, and plenty of enthusiasm among many new members.

Jon Stevenson, fresh from victory in Antarctica, was a very distinguished guest at a meeting in first term. Also present at the meeting were Dave Stewart, the club founder, and John Comino, last year's President, both with their wives. George Ettershank, another distinguished past member of the club was also present. Other past members heard from during the year were Ian McLeod in Antarctica and Dave Dunstan in Britain. Neil Bryce gave the club a memorable meeting with an interesting talk and first-class colour slides on Macquarie Island from whence he had returned after an eighteen months stay. Dr. Young and Dr. Duncan also added interest to meetings with talks and photographs of Ceylon and New Zealand.

A colour slide competition organised within the club produced some first-class photographs taken during the year. This form of entertainment is thoroughly recommended for a meeting near the end of the year. Attendance at meetings was excellent in first term but, as usual, fell sharply during second term.

The social highlight of the year was the annual party held at Mt. Glorious, thanks to Tom Brown and his parents who kindly provided their farm for the occasion. Although over thirty miles from Brisbane twenty-five members arrived, and with the fire blazing, gramophones blaring, general party din and plenty of good food and fellowship, nothing could dampen good spirits. The barbecue scheduled to be held at Mt. Mermaid was attended only by those in private cars, the others, in the truck, losing themselves to a drive-in cinema.

Generally, the bushwalking undertaken on club trips has not broken much new ground, but has rather consolidated the more exploratory trips of previous years. The exploration side has been left solely to private trips, the most useful being the new country traversed in New England. The trips to Tasmania, the Snowy Mountains, the caves in New South Wales and the Texas district all covered new ground and emphasize the importance of private exploratory trips.

At last, after over four years' patient and slow toiling, the Mt. Barney hut now has a roof. This does not mean the hut is finished. Refinements such as bunks, lime washing the walls inside to increase reflectivity, cooking equipment and a door are still required. The chimney also could be improved with a frame of bolted sawn timber and the sheets of aluminium bolted securely together.

Rock-climbing proved very popular with members this year and some very daring schemes put forward. Some of these caused the President and parents quite a few anxious moments. Dangerous climbs and very late returns from outings were the greatest dangers to club prestige this year. Once again, no serious accident occurred during the outings. Our record of only one serious accident in seven years is one that can be improved every year, only if members are careful and think of the safety of others and themselves whilst on outings. Dislodged and falling rocks seemed to be this year's number one hazard.

In conclusion my gratitude goes to the committee for remembering where I forgot, for having bright suggestions, for being so agreeable and for being helpful in times of need. Dr. Stevens performed a great service by taking on the irritating job of transporting crockery for the meetings to and from St. Lucia. Nell Cole's typing and artistry on the circulars and notices is very much appreciated by all who enjoy the brightness these circulars bring. Tom Brown was indeed, a true friend and a valuable adviser, whose generosity was enjoyed by many people and whose knowledge of large areas of bushwalking country is of inestimable value to the club. Finally, my thanks and congratulations go to the leaders of all trips, both private and club, for the success and initiative exhibited by these outings.

*Duncan McPhee*

President U.Q.B.W.C. 1958