

Mount St. Helens Walking Club

ANNUAL REPORT 1955.

I have pleasure in presenting the ^{SIXTH} fifth annual report of the club. The year past has in most respects been a highly successful one. The financial position is sound, and membership has reached the hundred mark, and a high proportion of this has been active.

The committee for the year was:-

President - Ian McLeod
Secretary - David Dunstan
Treasurer - Nell Cole
Outings Officer - Geoff Goadby
Equipment Officer - John Comino
Librarian - Yvonne Battey.

The club is primarily a University body, and because an increasing number of people in no way connected with the University has been attending outings, it was decided to amend the constitution so as to restrict the number of outings such people could attend.

Nine meetings were held during the year. Sound films were shown at two of these - on natural history subjects by Mr. Mack of the Queensland Museum, and three films supplied by the Indian High Commissioner's Office. Other speakers were David Steward, on the Carnarvon Ranges; Mr. R. Gregory, on the foothill country of the Himalayas; Bill Boyce, of the M.U.M.C. on some areas visited by that club. In addition, members gave talks on equipment, food and map reading, and several informal Kodachrome shows were held after the formal meetings.

A barbeque was held at Eaton's Crossing in aid of the Barney Hut, and a Social at the president's place in aid of a good time. Both were successful.

Outings held during the year were very well attended, nine trips drawing over 220 participants. In spite of their somewhat temperamental condition, the trucks made available by Mr. Blank have facilitated trips to areas which could not otherwise be easily visited due to inaccessibility or cost.

Outings held were:-

Cunningham's Gap - Hole in the Wall (November, 24 members)
Khole Crossing - Mt. Crosby : Day walk (March, 28 members)
Mt. Ballou (Easter, 27 members) with a day through walk:
Mt. May-Upper Portal-Foetal Peak-Double Peak (10 members).

In April, 29 people in two main and several small parties between them covered most of Lamington Plateau.

(Outings cont'd):

Mt. Barney (First vacation, 19 members) for work on the hut.
Upper Laidley Creek-Mt. Castle - Hole in the Wall (June, 21 members).
Mt. Warning (July, 28 members)
Glasshouse Mountains (July - washed out by heavy rain)
Mt. Barney (Second vacation, 22 members) for work on the hut.

Three climbing afternoons were held at Kangaroo Point.

The large attendances at outings, though auguring well for the future of the club, has one major drawback. It is inevitable that members of such large parties will differ in ability, and to keep the party together, the more energetic must adjust their speed to that of the slower members, which consequently loses some of the enjoyment of the outing.

So that all may get the most from a trip, I suggest that the incoming committee seriously consider holding concurrent outings of different standards, either to the same or different places. There should be no difficulty in arranging this if trips continue to be as well attended as they have been in the past year.

Few notable things were done this year. An unsuccessful attempt was made to reach the Pinnacle in the Tweed Ranges from Warrazambil Creek in a weekend, and a small party walked from O'Reillys to Rathdowney via Pt. Lookout and Running Creek.

The small number of privately arranged walks is a disappointing feature of the year's activities, as is the complete absence of exploratory trips. Students generally can find sufficient time, and the club should be to the forefront in opening up little known country, such as the Upper Barney Creek basin, or the Tweed Ranges, particularly south of the Pinnacle. The club cannot expect to maintain the prestige it has built up, is not, indeed, worthy of its name, if members do not execute trips of a high standard.

Perhaps one reason for the lack of such trips is the loss of many experienced members over the past year or two, and the inability of others to attend extended trips. This turnover of membership is inherent in most University clubs, and until the kernel of experienced members becomes larger, will always be a difficulty.

Work is progressing on the Mt. Barney hut. A number of tools, all the roofing and two bags of cement have been carried up, usually direct to the saddle by the Cronans Creek route. Most of the equipment and material has been donated by members and the Brisbane Bushwalkers.

The club equipment, consisting of a tent, 3 rucksacks and 2 sleeping bags, has been much in demand this year. A 2 man hike

tent has been ordered from Paddy Pallin.

At the end of 1954, the club purchased 24 lbs of dried potatoes, which were sold at cost to members. This experiment has been quite successful, as fifteen pounds have been sold.

On behalf of the committee, I wish to thank those people who have helped its work in so many ways, particularly Nell Cole and Cyane Taylor for typing letters and notices. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Committee, particularly the secretary, Davie Dunstan, for their assistance throughout the year, and wish them, the incoming committee, and the club the very best for the future.

I. R. McLeod.