

UNIVERSITY BUSHWALKING CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT 1959.

^{tenth} It is with pleasure that I present the ninth Annual Report of the Club. The Committee of the Club, elected at the Annual General Meeting on 10th September 1958, for the year 1958-1959 was as follows:-

President: Tom Brown
Secretary: Peter Reimann
Treasurer: Ron Cox
Outings Officer: Keith Scott
Equipment Officer: Bill Bolton
Librarian: Annette Wilson (resigned February 1959)
Judy Bryan (elected March 1959).

The membership of the Club is, at the present time, 128, of which about 70 members joined during 1959. Seven general meetings were held, of which one was specifically a welcome for freshers. A record number of Club camping trips (twelve) were held, and were well attended.

This year, the traditional Freshers' day-walk was not held, but instead a Saturday-Sunday weekend trip was run to Wilsons Peak. This was very successful as it provided camping and spectacular scenery, both of which are generally lacking on Freshers' day-walks. The trip was very well attended - by about 50 members, probably a record for a Club camping trip.

Other Club activities included a day-walk during third term 1958, a barbecue, a party, a rock-climbing practice afternoon and an informal dinner and film evening.

Contact was maintained with other walking clubs, and established with the recently formed Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club. With the support of the National Parks Association of Queensland, an area in the Many Peaks Range, near Gladstone, which was visited by some Club members in 1957, has been recommended to the Minister for Lands for reservation as a National Park.

The Mt. Barney hut draws nearer to completion with the recent construction of bunks. Further work which should be done includes rebuilding of the fireplace and chimney, the placing of a fibreglass sheet in the roof and whitewashing of the interior walls to improve the lighting, and possibly the installation of a door.

We have fortunately had another year free from serious accidents. The chief danger has been from rolling rocks, and members must take continual care to avoid this and the other dangers of bushwalking. There has been less irresponsible rock-climbing this year, but some of the climbs attempted by some members perhaps show more optimism than good sense.

In addition to the Club trips a number of private trips have been run. A good start was made with two enterprising trips to Federation Peak in Tasmania. Apart from these trips, however, nothing of note has been achieved, and no new areas have been visited. I should like to emphasize that our Club has an opportunity that other clubs have not, in that many of our members have the time for pioneering and exploratory trips during the vacations. The spirit of adventure and the urge to explore are lacking in the Club; members prefer to go to Mt. Barney and other well known local mountains, rather than to look further afield to little known areas.

The chief function of the Club should be to give people a taste for bushwalking, to show them how to bushwalk safely, and to provide information on bushwalking areas. A large part of the bushwalking done by members should be on private trips - only in this way can really worthwhile bushwalking be done, new areas opened up and leaders trained.

The Club cannot hope to organise trips which will please all the people all the time, and thus those members who like only tough trips should not criticize easy trips and the people who go on them, but should organise their own private trips, and make them as tough as they like. This does not mean, of course, that all the Club trips should be easy, but it must be remembered that all members of the Club have an equal right to be catered for adequately, and that some members have neither the ability nor the inclination to go on tough trips. However, the people who like tough trips are those who have had enough experience and who should have enough enterprise to organize their own trips.

It is obvious that the Committee will be made up chiefly of the more active members, but those on the Committee must remember that they are not to run the Club with the selfish aim of pleasing only themselves and their friends, but rather of pleasing the Club as a whole. New members must be encouraged and made to feel welcome, a responsible attitude with regard to safety, suitable leaders on trips, and general behaviour must be maintained. It would be very easy for the Club to get a bad reputation, but almost impossible to lose it again. I think that we have always had a good reputation, but a conscious effort must be made to keep this, by trip leaders and the Committee, by making sure that the standard of behaviour on trips is very high, and also by members, by not making foolish remarks which non-members may take seriously. The Club has been built to a high standard by the largely unselfish efforts of past Committees and members, and we have a responsibility to maintain the Club at this high standard, and to hand it on to those who come after us.

In conclusion, I should like to thank my Committee, especially Peter Reimann and Keith Scott who have done most of the work, also Nell Cole and Jean Pope who have done our typing, the leaders of trips, and all others who have contributed to the success of the year. I should also like to wish the incoming Committee every success for the forthcoming year.

T. W. G. Brown

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PRESIDENT.