

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND BUSHWALKING CLUB

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1966

I have pleasure in presenting the 17th Annual Report of the U.Q.B.W.C.

The committee elected for the 1965-66 term of office was as follows:

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| President: | Rod O'Donnell |
| Secretary: | Bob Leavy (see below) |
| Treasurer: | Jim Millar |
| Outings Officer: | Denis Townsend |
| Equipment Officer: | Sybil Curtis |
| Librarian: | Bronwyn Day |

Unfortunately, at the start of 1966 Bob Leavy had to resign from the position of secretary because of his father's illness. At a subsequent meeting, Rosemary Prentice was elected to the position of club secretary.

Club membership this year was about 160 (130 last year) of which 80 were new members. This is a substantial increase in the size of the club.

The average attendance at meetings was about 60, which is about the same as last year.

TRIPS:

Twelve trips, two rockclimbing afternoons and one daywalk were held and most were well attended. I will leave these to the Outings Officer's report but I would like to comment on those trips from which lessons were learnt.

(1) Freshers Trip.

This year Freshers arrived back in Brisbane about 10 p.m. or later. This is too late and attempts should be made to get back several hours earlier.

(2) Running Creek Trip.

The lesson learned here was that organized communication between U.Q.B.W.C. walkers and the rest of the world, in the event of something going wrong, was non-existent. One party, partly because of inadequate knowledge and partly from fooling around too much, found itself stuck on top of Running Creek falls for Sunday night. This in itself was alright but the unfortunate thing was that no word was got back to Brisbane until about noon Monday, and this was done by the kind people who stayed behind to look for the stranded party. Consequently, the homes of the president, secretary and outings officer, as well as the University were beleaguered with telephone calls from anxious parents. Even the police were notified.

This unfortunate incident has led us to adopt a contact officer system to eliminate such unnecessary anxiety. The system is described in "Mini-Heybob" June 1966.

Even though it may appear an irksome job at times it is important that all members make themselves aware of it and adhere to it.

(3) O'Reilly's

A lesson in the unexpected and always possible occurrence of accidents. Sue was behaving perfectly sensibly at the time and the accident was sheer bad luck. Falling rocks are always a source of danger and walkers should take particular care whenever loose rock is on a hillside or cliff.

The accident underlines the necessity for:

- (i) several male walkers in a party
- (ii) a working knowledge of first aid, since in this case the victim suffered a fractured ankle and was unconscious after the fall
- (iii) a calm, level-headed attitude for such emergencies. This is more likely to be found in members with some walking experience behind them.

(4) Main Range Trip

This was the trip that was abortively changed from first to second term. Only half a dozen people turned up for the trip. The low attendance was due mainly to a poor choice of area. The blame rests on the committee and more particularly on myself.

The week long May Vacation trip seems now to have become a standard club trip and I hope that it remains so. It was only started in 1964. This May the trip went to Many Peaks Ranges and was very enjoyable for the 18 who went.

General Comments on Trips:

Trips this year were nearly all throughwalks. The number of privately-run trips has increased and the same sense of adventure is shown in the number of new or relatively new areas visited - Wollomombi Gorge, Many Peaks, Frazer Island, Nandewar Ranges, Tenterfield Creek.

It is one of the aims of the club to provide a meeting place for people to organize their private trips and I hope that people next year show the same initiative in organizing their own trips. It is an excellent way of developing leadership and the club will always be in need of trip leaders.

As the number of people coming on trips has been fairly large, the practice of splitting into small parties of a half dozen or so has continued. I hope that it continues next year, for the most enjoyable party, and the faster one, is a small party. However, it requires a little more organization, in that each party should know where the others are going in case of an emergency.

TRANSPORT.

Club-arranged transport at the moment is in a sorry state. "Betsy" the University bus, was sold this year and the position on the hiring of the present bus is not clear yet. Prospects are dismal as it is definitely a much more delicate vehicle.

The club has had to rely on the goodwill of the private car owner who has responded rather magnificently. At times the squeeze has been tight but always we have got away from the Kidney Lawn without leaving anyone behind. I suspect that this was mostly due to the ingenious packing of the Outings Officer.

I would like to thank the numerous car owners and borrowers for providing their cars. Without them, trips would hardly be possible.

MEETINGS ETC.

8 General meetings, including one film evening, were held. The film evening has been very successful in recent years and I hope it also continues. As well as being entertaining, a lot can be learned from climbing and walking films even if sometimes they are in French.

Thanks are due to Mr. Tom Young and Mr. Graham Jurrott of the Brisbane Bushwalking Club who gave a talk and showed a film on Safety and Training. A fairly lively discussion followed afterwards on the merits or otherwise of Contact Officers.

The club held two parties this year, one at the home of Rosemary Prentice and one in a hall at Taringa. Thanks are given to Rosemary's parents. Both parties were natural successes, because bushwalkers have a bigger than usual capacity for enjoying themselves

anywhere. However, it must be kept in mind that the aim of the club is to bushwalk and not to socialise.

HEYBOB.

I would like to thank the many people who have worked, and worked hard on Heybob 1966. The advertising people have done the essential and difficult job of collecting or squeezing advertisements out of people so that Heybob approaches an economic possibility. The editor has spent many hours in getting articles and editing them. The high standard which Bronwyn has maintained is a tribute to her hard work.

I would like to thank Jim Millar, the man in general control of the magazine for his hard work, and Carol Brown for the volume of typing she has waded through.

Thanks are due to Bruce Thomas for the cover photograph and to the many people, who in big ways or small ways, have assisted with Heybob 1966.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

As the club gradually gets bigger, more organization and thought will be needed in running it. More people will come on trips and more transport will be needed. With more people there is a greater chance of things going wrong so a greater responsibility lies with the club.

On the Freshers Walk it is important that older walkers go out of their way to make themselves known to the new ones. It is appreciated that the older walkers haven't seen each other for a long time but it takes little effort to include a few new members into your reunion.

The only two recommendations I have are unfortunately things that this committee never got round to doing. One is that the Barney Hut needs general repair, especially the bunks, and the second is that thought be given to holding a navigation trip, a matter which was forceably brought forward at a general meeting.

No reply as yet has been had from the Forestry Dept. concerning our sanitation proposals for Mt. Barney and the time has probably come to jog their memory.

The Federation of Qld. Bushwalking Clubs is now in its second year of existence and is moving reasonably rapidly towards organizing an efficient search and rescue team.

CONCLUSION.

I would like to thank the Committee for their co-operation and willingness to help, and for their efficient organization of trips and meetings.

Thanks also to the many club members who at many times and in many ways have volunteered their services. These people have helped to make the year one of accomplishment.

Finally, I congratulate the new Committee and wish them success in the coming year.

R. M. O'Donnell