



1951

In presenting the second annual report of this club, it is a pleasure to note that our active membership has improved both in numbers and prowess. At the same time activities must develop much further in the through walking line if we are to achieve a worthy status in the sphere of bushwalking.

COMMITTEE:

The Committee elected at the last A.G.M. consisted of D. Stewart, President; J. Stephenson, Secretary; G. Broadbent, Outings Secretary; I. McLeod, librarian; W. Dowd, Treasurer and Miss P. Roberts. Early this year Miss Pat Roberts retired and Miss Pam Watkins was elected in her place.

ACTIVITIES:

The club enjoyed several pleasant base camps, notably at Christmas Creek last November, at Cunninghams Gap at Easter, in the Numinbah Valley and at Straubroke Island. Quite strenuous walks were done and the fine scenery appreciated. A weekend at the Glasshouses introduced some to the exhilaration of rock climbing

During first vacation this year two parties camped near Mt. Barney. The first climbed by way of the long neglected Logan's Ridge, reopening what is perhaps the best route up the northern faces. The second party did a two day trip, ascending by the same route and has the distinction of containing the first women of the club to camp on this magnificent mountain. Two difficult pinnacles in the vicinity were conquered and a traverse of all the peaks of Mt. Barney was done by two members.

The club did two rather easy through walks in the Montville area and at Flinders Peak. But the spirit of through walks - the real bushwalking - has not yet captivated many members.

A very enjoyable and quite energetic through walk in the southern portion of Lamington Plateau and across to Mt. Barney was done in first vacation.

By far the most notable trip of the year was that by Jon Stephenson and Geoff. Broadbent around the scenic rim. This trip is of a high standard from both scenic and bushwalking aspects, and if we develop as a bushwalking club, such trips will become more common.

Other commendable feats by club members were those of Bob Waring's parties, in being the first to ascend the Steamers, and to descend the east face of Crookneck.

At Easter, with the approval of the Forestry Department, several club members opened a track through the heavy rain forest from the Hole in the Wall to Morgans Lookout. This was a sterling piece of work and has reduced the travelling time from a couple of days slogging to several pleasant hours. If this and other similar clubs would set such a track as an annual target, the more remote features of S. E. Queensland would soon become readily accessible to all who are willing to shoulder a pack.

During the first vacation we had the opportunity of meeting several M.U.I.C. members, and of introducing them to some of our country. It was a pleasure to meet people with such a bushwalking reputation, and it is hoped the good relations between our clubs will continue.

Meetings were held at frequent intervals and we were fortunate in obtaining many interesting speakers on diverse aspects of bushwalking.

Detailed information on past activities may be obtained from the club log book.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

I have held the opinion that through walks are the ultimate in bushwalking and that any bushwalking club worthy of its name is predominately a through-walking club. However, it has been recognised that through walking is as yet a rather uncommon recreation in Queensland, and that most club members need some further knowledge and experience before attempting long trips.

To this end, talks on map reading have been given and activities have been mainly energetic day and two day trips from base camps. While these camps are definitely bushwalking activities, it is hoped that through walks will become more frequent in the future.

It is also felt that the greatest danger to a bushwalking club is the quite possible degeneration to a picnic or a cuddles society. Any such tendencies have been strongly resisted, and it is hoped the club will continue to do so.

The spirit of conservation as exemplified by the N.P.A. has been encouraged in the club, and we can do best in this respect by following the example of, and co-operating with, the Forestry Department and the N.P.A.

It is felt that graduates should be encouraged to take part in club activities and indeed the M.U.M.C. has achieved much of its high reputation in the bushwalking world through its graduates. This club can gain greatly by keeping experienced graduates associated with it.

APPRECIATION:

I should like to thank the members of the committee for their willingness which made my position almost a sinecure; especially Jon Stephenson and Geoff. Broadbent who carried most of the work and who have been towers of strength to the club. I also thank the many others who so willingly rendered service whenever required.

CONCLUSION:

While the club is still far from being a fully fledged bushwalking club, I feel its progress has been satisfactory and there is every reason to believe that in the near future our reputation can be made worthy of our name.

1st August, 1951.

(President)