UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND BUSHWALKING CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1963.

I have pleasure in presenting the 14th. annual report of this club.

COMMITTEE:

The committee elected on the 5th. September, 1962, for the year 1962-63

was as follows.

President : Don Potts.

Secretary : Barry Baker.

Treasurer : Noel Eberhardt.

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Outings Officer : Norwood Harrison. Librarian : Sybil Curtis.

Equipment Officer: Eddy Wilson (resigned 17th. June 1963).

Russell Bevan (resigned 27th. June 1963).

MEMBERSHIP:

This year 86 people paid their subscriptions: also, a number of active members did not pay. This shows an improvement from last year, but does not approach the 130 members in 1956. Thembers have been active this year, coming on at least one trip.

TRIPS:

The outgoing committee has organized 14 trips and one rock-climbing afternoon at Kangaroo Point. On the whole, attendences have been very good, with 49 on the Fresher's walk, 36 at Barney, and on the Glasshouses trip. The Fresher's walk to Mt. Maroon was very successful; due partly, I feel, to the excellent swimming hole near the campsite.

Mt. Lindesay was climbed by the club for the first time in several years. In a very successful weekend, 13 people reached the top.

I am glad to say that we had no serious accidents this year, although an occasion on which one person was lost from one party for a night, did not redound to the credit of all concerned.

Once again we have had access to University transport, augmented by private vehicles. I would like to thank all those who have brought their cars on club trips.

MEETINGS:

During the year seven general meetings, as well as the A.G.M., have been held. All were well attended. Dr. Stevenks of the Geology Department, and an old club member, was our only guest speaker this year. He illustrated a talk on walking and travelling in Europe with some excellent slides. We are arranging for Dr. Todhill of the C.S.I.R.O. to show his slides of the Andes in the near future.

After fourteen years of discussion, a majority of members have finally voted for a design for a club badge.

Seven people entered the slide competition, which was won by Gordon Grigg with a series of slides advertising Tasmania.

This year I represented the club on a committee to raise funds to preserve an aboriginal bora groud near Samford. At the present time the target figure has almost been reached, and I would like to thank those club members who have given donations.

EQUIPMENT:

The club equipment pool now contains

6 sleeping bags (5 down and 1 kapok)

8 rucksacks (including 2 H-frames)

2 army haversacks

5 tents (2 japara and 3 plastic)

1 rope

4 medical kits.

Our main need at the moment is for more sleeping bags. Also, it is desirable that the club map collection should be expanded and brought up to date.

MAGAZINE:

We have issued the fifth club magazine this year. By duplicating the contents, and increasing the number of advertisements, we have been able to produce an excellent magazine with six maps and a first class cover. Despite the heavy losses of previous years, we expect to cover costs, and we hope that the magazine is now permanently clear of financial difficulties. Experience indicates that a semi-permanent editorial staff, which does not change from year to year, would ensure a good production without The expensive mistakes of the past.

I would like to thank John Comino for his excellent cover photograph and design, and the editor, Sybil Curtis. I particularly want to thank Pat Connaghan for the many long hours he devoted to organizing and supervising the typing and printing of the cover, maps, and the symmetry as well as for the time he spent gathering advertisements.

GENERAL:

For two or three years club activities have been predominately throughwalking, but, during the last few months, a marked change has occurred. During second term all basecamps were well attended, but very few people turned up for through WALL walks: e.g. only nine went to the Tweed Ranges on the Queen's Birthday weekend. Associated with this there has been a sharp decline in the number and variety of private trips. It has always been thought important that club trips should XXX stimulate members to organize their own trips. This year most people have been content to leave all organization to the club. Private trips constitute the only effective way for exploring new areas, and for finding new routes in old areas, The planning and running of private trips plays an essential part in the training of leaders. At the moment we are short of competent leaders, and, if the present trend continues, this will become a very serious problem. I feel that the present situation has one major cause. If we are to continue training new leaders, older members must provide a suitable example of initiative and leadership. In the last two years many older members have become inactive, and many of those remaining have become too sedate to provide this example.

After a couple of very active years the rockclimbers in the club have been very quiet. This appears to be the result of academic pressures.

No work has been done on the Barney Hut this year. Since many of the old members are predjudiced, I would particularly recommend the maintainance of the new hut to younger members.

This year slackness and efficiency have appeared in a number of aspects of the club's organization. Despite the informal nature of the club there must be limits to our casualness.

I would like to thank all committee members for their help throughout the year, especially XXX Norwood Harrison for his efficient handling of transport, and the secretary, Barry Baker.

Finally I would like to congratulate the new committee, and wish them every success in the coming year.

Don Fotts.