



ANNUAL REPORT – 1950

I am delighted to have the honour of presenting the first annual report to this Club, so I hope my enthusiasm is matched with your patience.

If I may, I shall start at the very beginnings of the Club.

1. Foundations

Early this year, a letter was written to "Semper" inquiring if there were any students sufficiently interested in camping and hiking to form a bushwalking club. Then meetings were called at St. Lucia and George St. Many students and quite a number of geologists attended, and a temporary committee was elected to draft a constitution and initiate activities.

The inaugural meeting, attended by about 60, was held in the Geology lecture theatre on 26th April 1950. The draft constitution was adopted and a committee elected.

The constitution was then approved by Union Council, with some modification, and the Club became an affiliated body.

2. Activities

Our first outing was a stroll from Upper Brookfield to Mt. Mermaid. The Geologists found some trachyte and the Artists some blisters, but most survived.

In first vac., 22 hardy souls camped under the shadow of Mt. Barney. Activities ranged from dizzy rapels off Leaning Peak, down to motor tours of the district. Unfortunately Pat. Roberts slipped over a precipice and injured herself rather badly. However she is recovering steadily, and hopes to show Mt. Barney a thing or two soon.

A long weekend camp at Springbrook attracted 36. Sedate strolls or solid scrambles were the order of the day. The campfire produced some fruity melodramas, while some keen types rose early and, from Bilborough's Lookout, saw the sun rise.

One rainy weekend, the Club went to Flinders Peak, and everything bar enthusiasm was dampened. Prominent sports were mountaineering, chasing and swimming.

In second vac., we had our first real bushwalk. A party of 5 hiked from Villeneuve, over rugged, jungly and lantaneous country until three days later they arrived at Somerset Dam Village. Thence by mail truck to Esk, and next morning we climbed Glen Rock and saw the sun rise, and woke the town with our cooees.

Several evening meetings have been held, and perhaps the best feature of these has been the supper and chinwag afterwards.

3. Future

Arrangements are being made for a camp at Christmas Creek, following the November exams, and possibly a Christmas-New Year camp at Noosa.

4. Committee

By a recent Constitutional alteration, the Committee has been increased by one to split the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer between two members. Natasha has carried this double job, and any other work she could find, with a zest and enthusiasm that has been an inspiration to us all. Indeed, the Club owes much of its success to Natasha, and I am sure we all are really appreciative of what she has done.

I should like also to thank Jon Stephenson, outings officer, who has with great success led nearly all of our trips, and John Jones, who has diligently collected maps, books, trip records, and other material for our library.

5. Comments

It was anticipated at the inauguration of the Club, that its main activity would be through walks by small parties. Frequent Club meetings would enable those interested to gather and arrange such outings amongst themselves. Although such spontaneous trips have not yet eventuated, it is hoped that next year, when the Club gains more experience, they will be the major form of development. These through walks in somewhat unknown country approach the ultimate in bushwalking, and lead one into some of the more attractive corners of our country.

At the same time, the larger camps of a more static form, with the radiating day walks and rowdy campfires are a joy in themselves, and it is hoped they will be as enthusiastically attended as in the last year.

It has been the policy to cancel a camp only as a very last resort, and, on experience, this has proved to be a most satisfactory arrangement.

The behaviour at camps between sexes has been most correct, and it is most important that it remain so. The Club can expect society to tolerate mixed camping only so long as the behaviour conforms with the strictest rules society applies.

6. General

We are much indebted to other Clubs, especially the Mountaineering Club, for assistance and real friendship, which helped very much in this initial year. We also are indeed grateful for Professor Whitehouse for the assistance and advice he has given, and to Mr. Hunt of the George St. refectory, for the willing and cheap supper he has supplied.

The Geology Department has been most obliging in the facilities it has afforded us with the lecture theatre.

I should like to wish the incoming Committee good hiking, and hope their term of office is both as enjoyable and as profitable as has been the last.