

I have pleasure in presenting the ^{thirteenth} twelfth annual report of this club.

The committee elected last September for the year 1961-62 was as follows:-

PRESIDENT.....Ken Warner.
SECRETARY.....Gordon Grigg.
TREASURER.....Cathy Prentice.
OUTINGS OFFICER.....Don Potts.
EQUIPMENT OFFICER.....Pat Conaghan.
LIBRARIAN.....Lucy Harrison.

The club membership for this year was 82; a large decrease from last year's figure of 92 and the club maximum of 130 in 1956. Of these, 44 were new members this year and it appears that the decrease is due mainly to lack of interest in the club of the older members who have no further active interest in the University. One possible reason for this is the fact that, as meetings are now held at St. Lucia, these people never bothered to become financial. It is suggested that enrollment forms be sent to the old members along with the copy of the first term circular before Freshers' Welcome.

The club was very active in the first part of the year and average attendance for the first three trips was 44. Interest seemed to wane after Easter.

Twelve trips were run throughout the year, most of which were well attended. Of these the following deserve special mention:-

- a. The Freshers' Trip, which 66 people attended - surely a club record.
- b. The planned 3 day hard throughwalk from O'Reillys' to Running Creek, due to N.S.W. Railways Dept. timetable, had to be encompassed in two days and one hour and produced the highest standard of throughwalking for the year.
- c. The Commem Week-end walk on Mt. Barney well illustrated the advantages of small parties, and much walking of a high standard was undertaken.
- d. The first term daywalk to Campbell's Folly was a most enjoyable and relaxed outing, and it is a pity that so few people attended this trip.
- e. Two walks this year were run in conjunction with the University of New England Mountaineering Club, and both were very enjoyable. It is hoped that similar outings may be arranged next year.

Six regular meetings and one lunch-hour slide showing were held throughout the year. Thanks are due to guest speaker Dr. Bryan of Geology Dept. and Mr. Simpson of N.P.A. for their interesting addresses.

Two lessons may be learnt from early trips:- the first is that arriving home late on Monday morning arouses parental wrath; and the second is that carrying a stretcher is no joke. With regard to the first; everything possible should be done to ensure that club trips finish at a reasonable hour, and that if the trip is likely to be late, participants should be notified beforehand. At the same time, unforeseen circumstances may always rear their ugly heads, and there should be someone in Bris. whom parents can contact in the event of delay.

Coming to the second point of stretcher carrying the following points should be noted:-

1. As many as possible bearers should be mustered in the shortest possible time, either from within or outside the party.
2. A clear and concise report on what is happening should be got to Bris. as soon as possible free from hair raising embellishment and wild rumour.
3. The stretcher party should never have to wait for the route-finding, track-cutting party.

However, I feel that the circumstances in each case are likely to be so different as regards number on trip, distance of carry, type of eventuality, etc., that nothing is to be gained by running mock-accident type trips or by laying down hard and fast rules of procedure. The trip leader must take full responsibility for the organisation of the carry, and use his own common sense to have the patient relieved as soon as possible.

One other accident of a moderately serious nature occurred this year on a private rockclimbing trip. Members are urged to take every possible precaution on their private trips, for their own sakes as well as the club's. Remember that the old enemies of falling rocks, crumbling footholds, and slippery slabs lie in wait for the careless walker.

The most enterprising private trip of the year was the traverse along Hinchinbrook Island, from Mt. Bowen to Mt. Diamantina. This was a genuine exploratory trip and much credit goes to its perpetrators, despite their present lack of enthusiasm for similar schemes. Other private trips in Tasmania, Carnarvon Ranges, and in local areas of S.E. Queensland were merely following the old blazed trails and did little to pioneer new fields of enterprise. It is hoped next year that more of the newer members participate in, and lead, private trips to lesser visited areas. I quote from David Steart's first Annual Report:-

"It was anticipated at the inauguration of this club that its main activity would be throughwalks 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."

Are we to say now, eleven years later, that the club still hasn't gained this experience, or are we merely suffering the effects of a retrograde evolution?

Those members of the club interested in mountaineering deserve much credit for their climbs in New Zealand over the long vacation. I feel that our club members have helped in no small way to raise Australian prestige in New Zealand a little out of the depths into which it has fallen.

For those people interested in planning their own private trips, I urge you to make full use of the Club Library where you will find maps and trip reports on most local areas. While on the subject of trip reports, I think only two have been handed to the librarian this year. It is the duty of every trip leader to submit a report of his trip, especially if it is off the beaten track. Forms are available from the librarian.

Club equipment is in a much better state than at the beginning of the year and thanks are due mainly to Jim Hutton and Don Potts for making two large H-frame packs in their spare time. One sleeping bag was bought throughout the year, bringing the total equipment to:-

- useable packs.
- useable sleeping bags.
- 2 tents.
- rope, medical kit, and other miscellaneous items.

This year we have produced the fourth Annual Magazine of the club, again at a loss. Four possible solutions appear to exist.

1. An all out drive to increase circulation and secure advertisements. This does not appear possible as few people have the time necessary and it is very doubtful if the circulation can be raised much above the present figure. Advertisers are loth to cooperate with the present circulation.
2. Abolish the Magazine. This has some merit as more time and money could be spent in arranging walks, but it would be a pity to give up without a worthwhile struggle.
3. Reduce the Magazine in quantity and quality and circulation to a private club affair. In this case, however, costs would still be high, about 3/- to 4/- per copy for a 20 page plain cover roneoed copy.
4. Continue as at present, with one or two more advertisements coming in each year, eventually reaching equilibrium; until such time losses to be made up from club funds and Union Grant. This is only possible while the club is strong enough for many members to push private sales. The job becomes easier each year, and this seems to me the best solution, while there are sufficient interested people.

Interest in the Barney Hut has waned since its demolition and subsequent resoration. This happening has, however, had its good point in introducing people to the East-North Saddle campsite.

Finally, I must offer my thanks to all the Committee for the way they have handled their duties throughout the year, especially to Don Potts and Gordon Grigg for their efficient organization of trips and meetings and to Lucy Harrison for her untiring

efforts with the Magazine. I also thank all trip leaders and club members for helping to make the year a success.

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