

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR:

2014 marked the 30-year anniversary of the first Australian ascent of Mount Everest, an expedition that featured members of the ANUMC and is proudly remembered as part of the history of our club. As in previous years, O-week was a fantastic start to 2014 membership year. We signed up hundreds of new and existing members during the week and held the "Come and Try Day" for the second year running. Despite a huge volume of rain, this was a very well attended event with almost all activities represented. This event has now been cemented into the ANUMC calendar and ANU Sport is very enthusiastic to help us advertise this event in 2015.

Successful outcomes continued as the year progressed. In particular, we have benefited from an increase in the number of trips, particularly in the areas of mountain biking, mountaineering, rogaining (with a club member placing in almost every event this year) and kayaking. This increase is a direct result of our dedicated and organised trip leaders, who form the backbone of the club. The executive also received a wide array of excellent proposals for the 2014 Expedition and Adventure Fund, and looks forward to seeing some of these trips come to fruition.

We have also had a greater emphasis upon training and safety; with a number of club activities make use of the skills and training fund and ultimately increasing the standard of club trips. The company "Risk, Response and Rescue" decided to include the ANUMC into their "giving back" program and provided a 2 day vertical rope rescue course free of charge. We hope that this is the start of a long-term engagement with the club. Furthermore, the climbing wall has seen regular ropes training and pulley testing evenings, which have furthered skills development without the associated time and money of a weekend training program. All of these events are beneficial to the club.

We have also developed a more positive relationship with the ANU Boat Club, with a meeting of the ANU Boat Club executive as well as the ANUMC kayaking leaders. This will lead to a greater push for better resources with ANU Sport and has improved communication channels on the ground this year.

Finally, the club website is an invaluable resource for the club as we know it, and this year has seen significant development on the new and much improved version. First and foremost, thanks must go to Nic Fox for his tireless effort, as well as the many other volunteers who have met on a fairly regular basis this year to merge content and built greater capabilities. Pierre-Do Putallaz, Laure Gauthiez-Putallaz, Mark Euston, Alana Wilkes, Robert Hayes, and Giovanni Guccione have all contributed time here and should be commended. We look forward to testing the new website in the coming months and seeing it come to life for the 2015 membership year.

CHALLENGES:

Climbing Wall:

In late 2013, ANU Sport informed our club that we would be required to pay a hire charge for the use of the climbing wall, increasing yearly over a three-year period. The club responded by implementing a Climbing Levy to our membership structure, which allowed the club to meet this annual hire charge as well as recouping the funds from those who

directly use the resource. Thanks must go to John Tang and a number of climbers in the club in their assistance in forming this structure. Unfortunately, ANU Sport gave the club little notice that compulsory minimum membership fees were also increasing in order to meet this hire charge, and therefore the climbing levy was scrapped several days before market day.

Trip Safety:

2014 has seen a considerable review of the safety of a number of club activities. Trad climbing trips are currently sent to the executive for final approval, and this has caused some issues in terms of the timeliness of the approval process. Concern was also raised by the Canyoning Officer with regards to making decisions on the safety of trips. As a result, two canyoning forums were held this year, producing a short list of clear canyoning guidelines that should be followed to improve the safety standards of club canyoning trips. Many thanks to Gabriela Scheufele and the other canyoning leaders for producing this, which will be available on the website.

Volunteer resources:

The beginning of the year is a particularly busy time for the club, with a busy canyoning season, market day, come and try day, the Blue Mountains Extravaganza, organising the new committee and other events taking a substantial amount of volunteer time. This year, the annual coast weekend did not happen due to an absence of someone prepared to organise it. The high frequency of events in the early part of the year take a significant toll upon volunteers in our club, and every year it remains a challenge to distribute this workload effectively without burning out volunteers.

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

The 2014 Executive consisted of Clare Paynter, Robert Hayes, David Powell, Alana Wilkes, Lauren Bartsch, Giovanni Guccione and Lyle Halliday. Each member of the Executive took on the demanding roles of organising integral club events including Market Day, Come and Try Day, the Blue Mountains Extravaganza, as well as attending bi-monthly meetings. I would like to thank Lauren, Alana and Dave for guiding and assisting me as President. I would also like to thank Rob Hayes for being an ever-reliable Vice-President, particularly in the latter half of the year as my time spent on thesis and job applications increased.

Committee meetings were held monthly at members houses and were well patronised throughout the year, with many positive outcomes.

CLUB TRIPS

The 2014 trip calendar featured 358 trips. We had 64 trip leaders and 275 members attend one or more trips throughout the year. Notable aspects included:

- The dedication and good attitude of those who continued the tradition and attended the 2014 Cocktails on the Castle, which was first delayed due to a substantial fire and then held in extremely hot weather;
- Regular rope training courses, furthering skills development at the ANU climbing wall;
- The huge number of accessible and interesting kayaking trips, including sunrise paddling, kayaking and then bouldering at the NLA, the annual Skyfire paddle, and regular trips to the Kingston foreshore;

- Mountain biking, for really taking off in 2014: Special credit to Janet Street for her enthusiasm and consistency, Mel Stamell for her many trips, and the members of the MONT team for furthering the momentum;
- Mountaineering, for having the two-part course very well received for the second year running;
- All of the skiers, for maximising what has been one of the best snow seasons in years; and
- The belay courses and general organisation of the climbing wall: Significant credit must go to John Tang and his dedicated wall officers for running the wall so smoothly.

The trip statistics for each club activity is as follows:

Activity	Number of trips	Number of distinct participants
Bushwalking	22	91
Inland kayaking	72	104
Climbing	45	125
Skiing	23	84
Canyoning	27	62
Rogaining	21	52
Sea kayaking	18	51
Mountaineering	11	39
Mountain biking	34	39
Belay courses	25	134
Snow shoeing	1	2
Social event	12	168

COMPETITIONS

ANUMC members have won a category in every ACTRA rogaine this year:

- Summer Twilight 3hr Rogaine: 4 ANUMC teams, including the winners of the women's category, Clare Paynter and Janet Street;
- Paddy Pallin 6hr Rogaine, Namadgi: Laure Gauthiez-Putallaz and Mark Euston beat 80 teams to win the mixed open category;
- Googong Dam 3hr: Michael McCluskey, Charlotte Petersen and Lee Rice won the mixed open;
- Spring 6hr: Mark Euston was in the winning team, Laure Gauthiez-Putallaz and David Anderson-Smith won the mixed category;
- ACT Champs 8hr: Peter Luk, Andrew Koolhof and Maya Wilkinson won the mixed category;
- Night/Day/Cycle Rogaine: Marco Ernst, Kristen Walker won the mixed category.

The club also embraced the Sri-Chinmoy events once again, with participation in the Jindabyne multisport and Canberra 101:

- Sri Chinmoy Multisport, Jindabyne: The team of 7 came 5th in their category, with Tim Crockford achieving the fastest time for the category;
- Sri Chinmoy 101: The club entered two teams, and Mark Euston placed the fastest time for his leg.

Additional events

- Jasmine Rickards and Mel Stamell participated in the Kosciuszko Tour XC Ski Race, taking out the fancy dress prize;
- Wildside Adventure Race: IB Bandits and Bearhunt participated (both with club members) in a 5-day, 420km epic in early October.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Garrick Larkin and Claire Fraser who gave birth to Edgar in August (and then took him to the snow!);
- David Powell and Robyn Whipp who were married in September and are expecting a baby soon;
- Jasmine Rickards and Sven Howorth who are also expecting a baby soon.

FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Lauren Bartsch has done a superb job, maintaining our strong involvement in the outdoor community with food and drink supplied for Reel Rock as well as talks by Tim Macartney-Snape, Andrew Lock, and Mike Law. Regular social nights have also been a success. Barbeques and other social events have also been a regular occurrence this year, to the benefit of members.

SUMMARY

The ANUMC has had successful year and has provided a great platform for the new Committee to plan for 2015. The new Executive will be elected at the upcoming AGM and a new Committee will be appointed in the coming weeks. I trust that these positions will continue to be filled by dedicated members of the ANUMC and that 2015 will be another great year for the club.

This is the final year of my studies at the ANU, and in January next year, I will be relocating to Melbourne to begin my career. Joining as a relative beginner from the tropics in 2011, I have spent four wonderful years in the ANUMC. I maintain that my involvement in this club has been defining aspect of my university experience, and I am grateful for the experiences I have gained skiing on the main range, canyoning through the Blue Mountains and working with the incredibly talented and dedicated members of the executive and committee.

I would like to specifically thank the members of the executive and committee in supporting me as President this year. It has been a busy year with a lot to juggle, however I think it is very important that the leadership of the ANUMC comes from a diverse background, and an undergraduate student is certainly one of them.

Clare Paynter

ANUMC President 2014