

APRIL 1963

DURBAN



RAMBLERS

CLUB



DRAKENSBERG GARDENS

DURBAN RAMBLER'S CLUB.

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APRIL 1963 : FIXTURE LIST.

SAT: 30/3 : BRAAIVLEIS and DANCE at Ambler's Estate:  
Winston Park. Bring your own meat, we do the  
rest for only 25c per head. More details on  
page 5. Map enclosed for your convenience.

TUES: 2/4 : Executive Committee Meeting at Glen Wessels'  
Home, Ronalds Rd., Kloof, commencing 8:00 .

SUN: 7/4 : Hike to Soras Pool. Bring costumes if you  
don't want to miss fun of the Water Roller-  
Coaster. Lorries travelling via Pinetown &  
leaving Market Place at 8:30 sharp.

MEMBERS: 45c  
VISITORS: 50c

EASTER ✓ EASTER CAMP AT DRakensBERG GARDENS. All details  
WEEK-END. on page 9. Don't miss this wonderful week-end  
2 - 15th. in the 'berg. Fill in the enclosed form and  
send in or hand to the Camp Captain  
together with the money immediately.

WED: 17/4: Photographic Meeting at Mickie McConneIl's home  
89, Quentin Smythe Rd., Kloof, commencing  
8:00. Subject: Animals & Insects.

SUN: 28/4: Hike to Zig-Zag Creek; Leader Claude Ambler.  
Lorries leaving Market Place 8:30 sharp and  
travelling via Pinetown.

MEMBERS: 45c  
VISITORS: 50c

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TABLE MOUNTAIN HIKE. 24/2/63

After a cold Saturday, Sunday 25th. obligingly dawned clear and sunny and 24 of the more --shall we say 'goaty' types from the Club were soon aboard a rather iffy-engined lorry and heading towards Table Mountain. Spirits were high, heightened even more by an excellent game of baseball with a stray tennis shoe, on the back of the lorry, and dampened only slightly by an unexpected but well aimed plastic bagged shower from a 'certain bridge at Kloog'??

Visibility was excellent, (despite these hazards), and the countryside gleamed in a freshness, no doubt helped by Saturday's rain. Far behind us sparkled the Indian Ocean and ahead our destination plainly outlined gave excuses for tales of other expeditions and routes in the same territory.

By the time Gary had begun racing up the track, our number had swelled to 29, -----only four of whom were girls. (Really, you did let the side down badly! And dare one of those males say that minority held them up either!!) The climb was taken in easy stages with plenty of time for chatter, drinks, photographs and general viewing of the lovely valleys, the dam (did anyone take a dam photo anyway?), the reserve and enjoying the country air, sunshine and good company. The short rock scramble was easily overcome with some pushing and some pulling and most giving good advice. It was quite surprising to me anyway, to find at this point just how narrow this rock ridge was. This panoramic view must surely cover all Natal? (Incidentally the party were very near to returning with a pancake corpse from that very spot. In fact, a certain somebody has a bruise in an unmentionable spot,???) Ahead of us the ridge widened considerably, to flat grassland, affording the odd pony and cow a few weeks food.

And talking of food, we were ready for ours after striding across the top, and certainly made short work of all the available grub and Hob's good coffee. It was pleasant and hot by the small water-fall and lone tree on the edge of the rock wall. Valleys and villages were scanned with binoculars and the water supply almost drained dry.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETING - 20/2/63  
Des and June Teague.  
(Subject: GENERAL )

Minutes of the meeting held at June and Des Teague's home on the 20th. February, 1963. The meeting commenced at 8:25 p.m. with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. 16 members were present.

GENERAL: The Chairman reported that Harry Tripe still has to be approached to give us constructive criticism of the slides entered in the competition. As the January meeting was cancelled the Chairman asked members whether they wished to carry over the subject chose for the January competition. The majority agreed to have this subject 'Animals and Insects' in April instead of 'General' as previously announced.

COMPETITION. The subject for the competition was 'General' and 20 slides were entered. Margaret Moore gained first place with a beautiful slide of Loch Lomond taken in the last rays of evening sunlight. Adele Schorn's slide of the Gardens in Cape Town attained the second highest average, the Margaret once again walked away with 3rd and 4th. positions.

Tea followed on the Competition, and then we persuaded Des to show us some of his slides of various trips in the Drakensberg. The meeting closed at 10.25 with a sincere vote of thanks to Des and June for their hospitality.

CHAIRMAN.

.....

PUMPHOUSE HIKE (10/3/63)

By the time I opened my eyes, Sunday, 10th was clear, sunny and bright (though I believe some folks left home so early that it was still raining from Saturday!) and I was sure a sunhat and dark glasses were the order of the day. (Though mind you I did wear as well, shorts, shoes, and shirt, in case the noon day sun proved to be too searing!) However, how wrong my prediction proved to be.....

The truck bumped it's way to the pumphouse area with quite a crowd aboard. How many? I can't be exact my addition is poor at anytime but I'm sure I counted sixty boots stuck in my face on the lorry, and then there were still a few more spare faces and derrieres protruding from odd capes, blankets and covers. Anyway who wants to count with a hat pulled down to their chin and a pool of water trickling UP their trousers. Lots of nice new faces, no I mean, a nice lot of new faces! New to me anyway, hope they come again.

The road if we can call it such, proved on one hill to be too much for the lorry, but with the bailing of two or three heavier members we finally made it, and continued on happily in the wrong direction. (I love sightseeing diversions such as this. Apart from the extra scenery for the same price I'm always uplifted with the knowledge that there are other navigators like me!)

We were soon in view of the Umgeni River and parked the truck outside the local store. It was quite obvious by this stage that sunhats and dark glasses were not the order of the day.....

The hike down was short through banana palms especially dwarf ones and by locals' shacks and gardens and in no time we were lazing under picnic trees. The path was sandy and deeply eroded - no wonder the very full river is that deep red coulout. The far banks of the river are steep and the pumphouse nestles at the bottom of a steep cableway. Yikes! Looks worse than a roller coaster to me.

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BRAAIVLEIS AND DANCE. 30th. March, 1963

Come and sip the cup and eat the fatted pig at the AMBLER'S ESTATE LODGE, WINSTON PARK, GILLITS. (Map provided for your convenience by the kind permission of McMuddle Incorporated Map Making Manuf.,)

If your Rolls is out of order or being used by the chauffeyr, meet at STUTTAFIRDS CORNER (West Street) at 6 p.m. or 'phone Lord Smeda (Home: 67586 or BUS:67594) if you can offer anyone a lift.

Ladies are requested to wear their bestest slacks and flaties (shoes, I mean) and the gentlemen may wear their bestest open-neck shirts and sweaters on account of the banquet is to held OUT OF DOORS!! Imagine that. (Weather permitting, of course)

Now beside your dear little selves, please bring some protein (meat to you slobs) and a cushion on account the Ambler Estate Cattle didn't do so good this season and we, the Domestic Staff of Ambler Hall will provide the rest, all for 25c'''' Now where else in town could you get all this for only 25c? (The 25c, by the way is only being charged as entry to defray the expense of the up-keep of the stately Homes of Gillits, like Ambler Hall so you guys can see how the Gentry liiiiiive!! )

After the great Feast (rolls, salads and coffee) dancing will commence INDOORS (great sport, what?)

SO FOR THE NIGHT OUT OF THIS WORLD???  
DON'T MISS THE 30TH. MARCH, 1963!!!!!!  
WHACKO! (and all that jazz)

Jack and Jill went up the hill to  
fetch a pail of water,  
I don't know what they did up there,  
But now they've got a daughter.

.....  
Schoolboy Howler:

An essay on Africa:  
"In deepest, darkest Africa, the natives don't  
sleep in beds but just have crude mating on the floor"

.....  
The moving finger writes and having writ moves on  
with all thy wit nor piety shall lure it back to  
cancel half a line,  
Nor altho' tears wash out one word of it.  
Ah, come fill the cup what boots it to repeat,  
How time is slipping beneath our feet  
Unbound yesterday, dead tomorrow why  
Why fret about it if to-day be sweet.

.....

The story of  
A  
RAMBLER



Did you hear about the dumb cyclist who sold his wheel  
spoke

or the deaf shepard who sold his flock and heard ---

or the one a our the blind carpenter who lost his chisel and  
saw.

.....  
McTaggart gave Campbell a bottle of whisky for Xmas;  
Campbell not being a very trusty fellow sent the whisky  
to a chemist to be analysed - the report that came back read -  
"Your horse has diabetes.

.....  
"While my back was turned your spaniel bit my leg" said Scotty  
"Your lucky! You should have been home when we had an  
Alsatian"

.....  
RUB-A-DUB-DUB, THREE MEN IN A TUB - HOW INSANITARY!!

.....  
Why racks the goat upon yonder hill,  
Who dotes sely  
Upon sweet chlorophyl.

.....  
There was an old Prophet named Jonah,  
Who lived in a whale all-a-lonc-a,  
He was spewed from his belly,  
All dirty and smelly,  
So he washed himself clean  
with Rexona.

(Pumphouse Hike) contd.

Lindy soon had the billies singing over the fire whilst the rest of us...watched and gave good advice. Visitors for lunch were many and varied. Odd crickets, a crab and a highly inebriated local who, quite content with our company collapsed and slept in the pouring rain. One way of cooling off, no doubt. Meanwhile we steamed our rear ends over the coffee pots or stood huddled under an assorted variety of wet weather barbs. Those who had been swimming were the best off. They stood gaily in the rain in their costumes.

So we soon head back through showers and bursts of clear, followed by more fine drizzle. The tarpaulin on the truck though covered in cement and positively filthy was dry and a welcome cover and seat.

I'm sorry I never saw the route home. My eyes were under my hat, under a cover under pouring grey skies.

Fun? Of course! Not that anyone else will believe me!

----- o o o ----- KIWI

There once was a girl named Mary (Denise)  
Who of insects was very wary,  
She yeld and she reared  
For her husband named Fred (Rob?)  
But he hid - for he was just as scary.

(overheard)

.....  
" ..but why can't you come out on Saturday night, old chap? We're having caviar and all that !"  
"Sotzy, old chap, but I'm going to the Ambler Estate everybody that is anybody will be there, and in any case we're having MEAT .. yes thats right Meat done on a sort of open spit.... just like our departed ancestors. Simply spiffing, old man.

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E A S T E R   C A M P .

This year's Easter Camp is as you know at DRAKENSBURG GARDENS, UNDERBERG, a really lovely spot. Application Forms are enclosed, so please fill them in and return them together with your money as soon as you can to Glen Wessels. Deadline for these is 8/4/63.

For those not in the know here's all about it:

The lorry leaves the Market Place on THURSDAY 11th in the evening at approximately 8:00 (come early and get a good seat). Wear plenty of warm comfortable clothing and something to lie or sit on as we spend the first night on the lorry. FRIDAY, 12th. Set up camp and everybody is given their duties for the week-end (a list is put on the notice-board at the camping site) From then on you should have a really wonderful week-end. Entertainment is usually provided on Saturday evening and every other evening is spent gaily around the camp-fire. Lovely walks and easy, as well as the more difficult climbs abound in this district and there is plenty for the camera enthusiast to go dilly about.

All food and drink is provided as well as sleeping accommodation and your personal kit should consist of: -

Sleeping bag or warm sleeping equipment; Metal plate, fork, knife and spoon and mug (additional cardboard plates to line the metal ones are great labour savers!) Always bring a little extra clothing than you think you might need in case you get sopping wet. Bathing costumes and towels and of course soap and toothbrush etc and most important of all, comfortable footwear (lots of socks too)

We return to Durban on MONDAY, 15th around late afternoon.

So there you have a lovely week-end for only: R6. 00 for Members and R7.50 for Visitors.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETING -  
MIKE HOOPER'S (20/3/63)  
(Subject: Parks and Gardens).

What a pity there was such a poor turn-out for this meeting as it was so very interesting - only 15 - I know, I know --- I didn't publish the Subject in the last magazine - humble apologies, but that is still no excuse for not coming.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read and matters discussed the competition slides of about ten shots were shown and judged. The average was very good and Maggie Moore did it again with a beautiful tree in bloom for first place; second place went to Adele Schorn and third to Adele Schorn AGAIN!! while honourable fourth went to Mickie McMuddle's shot of a maze ....oops, sorry, a country garden.

The competition over with we then had a most enjoyable hour of some of the most interesting slides I have seen in a long time. Kath Bartley showed us slides of her stay in Canada, right way up in the North where the Eskimos still play with Icebergs, and she gave us a very educational commentary on them. Imagine camping at Easter right in the thick snow and about 35°, brrrrrrrr. Well that's just what Kath and her co-teacher friend did while they were up there teaching at a very modern school for mostly Eskimos and Red Indians.

Tea was then served by the kind permission of Mrs. Hooper, yum-yum... and we all drifted home thinking how fortunate we were not to have to dig our way through three feet of snow to get there.

ED.

Which reminds me that someone found the date 1888 scratched on the rock in the water-fall crevice. (not one of you put it there last year, did you?) Quite an interesting fate. Don't suppose any fool was panning gold in "them thar hills?" I mean those Uitlanders were capable of most things!

Anyway by 3:15 well rested and fed we headed off again back along the southern edge and descended into the valley down a rock cutting. Most arrived safely on foot but some ...thick skinned of course preferred to 'blackslide' it. A reception committee awaited George and the Club's followers swelled considerably as we, single file, made our way by mealy fields, through backyards, over streams, past donkeys and more goats till we reached the road. A well-deserved rest at the trading store for lemonade brought us across the river in 'daylight'!!!! with no thrills or spills.

"Gallant are those souls,  
Who crossing surely first...  
Returned with clasped arms,  
A cheer, (and silent curse).  
To carry one it seems,

Who was wearing long black jeans!  
Ah, well, as dusk fell and sunburns rose we got back to the lorry and settling down under numerous coverings, we headed home. Even the slight shower just before our destination (not from the birdge either!) could sway us to voting .....Afirst class hike! Lets have more like it. Come you folkarazzle out those shorts and boots and join us.

KIWI.

It was with very deep regret that we heard of the death of Alex Hanbury's mother - so soon after coming to visit Alex & Ash here in S. Africa from England. Please accept the Clubs deepest sympathy.  
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NEW MEMBERS.

This month we have pleasure in welcoming Valerie Leeson-Greene to the Club, and trust our Gary to spoil it for the other guys by just grabbing her and putting a lovely diamond ring on her finger and saying, "Me, Gary, you Snakebite Carrier for Gary", and that was that.

Anyway, congratulations Gary Rabie and Valerie and lots of happiness.  
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Editorial Hookie (bilingual)

Let's face it. Where else do you get such a lot of reading matter for nothing these days? Twelve whole pages! And pictures too. Well, I hope you'll all show your appreciation by attending the Social on Saturday, 30th. and bring your autograph books so I can sign them!

Seeing as you've had such a good magazine I'll just make this short and sweet. Keep sending 'photos and articles?? - the more the merrier. I think we should have a few baby photographs just to see how many future Chairmen etc., we have

How about a Junior Hambling Section. Meet at Albert Park after 6 o'clock feed. Frams leaving at 6:30 sharp. Hike to Dry Dock, via Maydon Wharf. Bring extra napkins as this promises to be a wet walk!

Gloria McC.  
(Phone 77267)

