



MONTHLY MAGAZINE & DIARY

DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB.

APRIL 1964

CHAIRMAN: Garry Habie TREASURER: Don Young.
Phone: 47144 (home)
EDITRESS: Adele Schorn. (Phone:47581- Home).

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.C. Box 1063, Durban.

FIXTURE LIST.

- 1st APRIL : WEDNESDAY. Committee (Executive) meeting
at John Scott's home, 3 Catherine Ave.,
Cowies Hill at 8 p.m. sharp.

- 3rd APRIL : FRIDAY. Braai vleis near Blue Lagoon.
Charge: 10c. Bring your own meat, mugs,
etc. Meet in front of Barclay's Bank
corner of Smith and Field Streets, at
7 p.m. sharp. For further details see
p. 11

- 12th APRIL : SUNDAY. Hike to Hippo Pool in the Nagle
Dam area. Garry leading. Meet at the
Market Place at 8.00 a.m. sharp.
MEMBERS: 50c. VISITORS: 75c.

- 15th APRIL : WEDNESDAY. Photographic Meeting at the
McConnell's home, Quentin Smythe Rd.,
Kloof. 8 p.m. sharp. Competition:
General.

- 26th APRIL : SUNDAY. Hike to Kay Kloof with Mike
Woods leading. Meet at the Market
Place at 8.30 a.m.
MEMBERS: 45c VISITORS: 50c.

- 2nd MAY : SATURDAY. Ein Bavarian Nacht. Baron
Von Kasteeldons Hofbrauhaus. Dinner,
Beer, Swimming, Music and Dancing all
included. See next magazine for further
details.

R.B. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOW MEET ON A WEDNESDAY.

2
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

16th February, 1964.

True to tradition the Sunday of the A.G.M. was a hot, sunny day, and we were glad to make our way to Kloof and so escape Durban's humidity. Glenn and Rosalie Wessells were our hosts for the morning, and soon we were following Glenn down to the Kloof valley for a short hike in the Nature Reserve. It was very pleasant walking in the shade of the wooded valley, and we followed the stream back to the road. After the short but steep climb back to Glenn's home we wasted no time before diving into his very inviting swimming pool. All sorts of hilarious games were in progress in the water until lunch time.

After lunch we made our separate ways to the Scout Hall in Lahee Park, Pinetown for the meeting. Here we were joined by other members, and the meeting began with the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which were duly confirmed. The Chairman then read his report, which was followed by the Treasurer's report and the adoption of the Balance Sheet for 1963. Various Honoraria were decided on, and Fred Clark was once again elected as Club Auditor. In the course of the meeting the Constitution and Rules of the Club were amended as follows:

Clause 4. Membership. The age limit reduced to 16 years.

Clause 9. Executive Committee. Inclusion of the Photographic Chairman on the Executive Committee making a total of 14 members.

The election of Officers took up considerable time, and there was some difficulty in finding volunteers for the various sub-committees, but I hope that the various people elected will be able to work together as a successful team, and that the coming year will be a time of progress for the Club. Lastly the meeting was thrown open for General discussion.

Ed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1963.

As read at the Annual General Meeting, 16-2-64.

It is with pleasure that I open this my first meeting as Chairman of the Club and I thank you all for your support during the past year. In particular I should like to mention Harry Eripe and Fred Clark who burnt the midnight oil on many occasions in correlating relevant details in preparing an auditor's report on our Financial Statement for 1962 which was not presented at the last AG.M.

As you have already observed from the 1963 Balance Sheet details of which will be explained we have shown a loss over all activities during the year. Unfortunately it has been necessary to write off as Bad Debts 25 members who have not paid their subs., and who no longer appear to be interested in the Club. It would be appreciated if, should a member wish to terminate his membership, he would let us have his resignation in writing as soon as possible. At this stage I appeal to each one of you please to pay your 1964 subs forthwith as these were due on the 1st of January this year. Membership of the Club now stands at 171, of which 136 are ordinary members, 30 Country Members and 5 Hon. Life Members. This figure shows an increase of 50 members over the current year, and it is very gratifying to note that the spirit of the Club is once more returning.

HIKES: During the year we have been on 18 hikes, the average attendance being 29, and this also is an increase over last year's figures which stood at 25. It is interesting to note that the average for 1964 has already reached 38 and I can only hope that this continues.

Unfortunately our hikes in the Native Reserves apart from the Table Mountain area have had to be discontinued, and I stress that it will therefore be imperative for the incoming Leaders to find new hikes.

Cont. overleaf.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cont.)^{4.}

EDITORIAL: You will have noticed over the past few months that the Editress has had to reduce issue of the magazine to once every 2 months due to lack of articles, and I would therefore appeal to you to please support the incoming Editorial Committee by letting the Editress have articles on socials, hikes, camps or anything you might think of interest to members. It is only with your support that we shall be able to revert to a monthly magazine.

CAMPS: Only one camp, Easter Camp at Drakensberg Gardens, was arranged during the year, and this was, as usual, most successful. Thanks must go to Glen for his very efficient handling of the organisation of the camp. The Berg Trip along the contour path from Champagne Castle to Cathedral Peak, a new innovation last year, proved so popular that a similar trip on a different route will be arranged for this year. Our 2 combined hikes with the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers to Shongweni and Otto's Bluff, were once again most enjoyable. Unfortunately the hotel weekend spent at the Hotel Sierra, Moci River was very poorly attended, and serious consideration will have to be given to the matter before arranging another such weekend.

ENTERTAINMENTS: The Entertainments Committee has been extremely busy this year organising a variety of enjoyable socials. An overall profit of R20 was attained despite the fact that not all functions showed a profit due to lack of support. The highlight of the socials appeared to be the Xmas Dinner held for the 1st time this year, and I should like to see this become an annual affair.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: I should like to place on record my sincere thanks to Gloria McConnell and Claude Ambler for their stout and rewarding efforts in the field of Public Relations.

This afternoon we shall be electing committee members for the various committees and I ask all members accepting these offices to do so with a full knowledge of the responsibility involved. Cont.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. (Cont.)

When you accept nomination for a committee or sub-committee please realise that this will require a full year's active participation on that body.

In closing I should like to thank all the Committees for their excellent work during the past year, and in particular Margaret Moore and Garry Habie for taking over while Denise and I were overseas.

ROB PHILP.

CHAIRMAN 1963.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CORNER.

The meeting of the Photographic section was held last month in Durban North at the home of Adele's parents. As usual at 8 p.m. there was not a guest in sight, but from 8.10 people began to trickle in. The Constitution of the Club was amended at the A.G.M. this year and the Chairman of the Photographic Section now automatically becomes a member of the Executive Committee. Chris Schorn was re-elected for another term of office, and at the Photographic meeting Heather Odgers was elected as the new Secretary of the Section.

The highlight of the evening was the talk by Garry Van der Werff on 'Black and White Photography! Garry began by giving us some interesting general points. In Durban's summer weather it is essential to take great care to maintain constant temperatures of the fluids used in developing negatives. It may even be necessary to place the developer in the fridge before beginning work. When taking up photography as a hobby it is essential to decide on one particular medium and subject on which you wish to concentrate, and in which you will be able to aim at perfecting technique. Today the field of photography is so wide that it is impossible for one person to obtain excellent results in all the different branches open to the aspiring photographer.

Cont.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S SECTION. Cont.

He himself concentrates particularly in portraits in a 'low key', and has had considerable success in this field. From experience he has found that it is also an advantage to concentrate on using the same brand of film & developer all the time so as to be able to obtain the best possible results from that brand. Your task is only complicated by using different brands of film etc., as there are shades of difference, and it is only as you become familiar with your materials that you are able to reach a high standard of competence. Gerry then showed us a number of outstanding examples of his work, and we were able to appreciate all the thought and planning which go into the production of an authentic character study.

The subject of the evening's competition was 'General', and 32 slides were entered. Once again Heather Odgers carried away the honours by coming 1st and 2nd with a beautiful slide of a winter sports scene in the Alps, and of a cableway in Switzerland. Chris Schorn and Rob Philp tied for 3rd place.

This meeting was one of the most interesting and instructive that we have had for some time, and we have plans for further practical talks and demonstrations in the very near future, so do be sure not to miss the next meetings.

Overheard in the Berg:

He: "How about wandering along the bridle path".
She: "Oh Percy, this is so sudden"!!

HIKE TO THE PUMPHOUSE. 2.2.1964.

Can you think of anything more pleasant to do than walk all Sunday morning in soaking wet garments? If you can't then you must surely be a Durban Rambler.

Cont.

HIKE TO THE PUMPHOUSE.

When we set out from Durban the sky was non-committal, and when we arrived at the end of the lorry ride the general question was "Is it going to rain, or not?". This divided the club into 2 groups, the pessimists and the optimists. After hiking for a while we were no longer left in doubt, for it began to rain. At first it was only a shower, and we were still optimistic. Then it teemed. All we could do was take shelter under a tree (scant protection), and huddle together like sheep. Some of us were still philosophic about it all, but others asked whether it would'nt be a good idea to go home promptly! However it seemed that we couldn't get wetter, so what had we got to lose. Meanwhile from a distant hut came the strains of "Summer holiday... We're going where the sun is shining" to cheer us on our way. Suddenly the rain did stop, and we continued walking. By the time we reached the river, the sky and our spirits were much brighter. By the time the sun had put in an appearance, and we had had a mug of hot tea or coffee we were glad we had'nt turned home. As the hike had been comparatively short some people decided to do a bit of exploring. A certain hiker with a Scottish accent was seen on his hands and knees stalking a grasshopper. He seemed to be saying "If only it would remain still for a moment, just long enough to click the shutter Ooh! too bad its gone". Others however had better things to do. For instance there is a certain knife game which demands great skill and concentration. (I still think its a terrific bore). I was told to report the winner, which is most important..... Well who was it now? Do I remember someone saying Don?.....

The return was both steep and hot enough to bring the owner of a trading store the profits from 30 cold drinks. By the way here is a very interesting game to play. You need to get off the lorry at Pine-town and a white M.G. is a help. Race the lorry, and climb the overhead bridge at Westville. Then when the lorry passes below you empty your water bottle.....

Teacher's pet.

HIKE TO SHONGWENI DAM
1-3-1964.

Our destination for this hike should have been Hippo Pool near Nagle Dam, but hereupon hinges the tale of a lorry. There was a very good turnout of over 40 hikers all ready bright and early for the hike, but you should have seen Rob Philp's face fall when one of the most decrepit of lorries chugged into the Market Place instead of the newer, more efficient lorry we had requested. Berea Rd. proved to be a match for our transport, and at Chelmsford Road we disembarked while Rob tried desperately to get a better lorry. His efforts were in vain, and we had to be content with the same old lorry which was supposed to be in good running order. By this time some of the party had reached Sherwood, while others had got no further than Chelmsford Tearoom. Having wasted so much time it was decided to change our hike to the Shongweni Dam area, and we walked along our usual route to the dam past Delville Wood station. Once at the dam we decided to change the lunch spot, and our scout Mike Wigley went on ahead, and worked out a route. Soon we heard his shout to follow along, and we made our way around the lower end of the dam to the sandy beach at the extreme corner. After lunch a game of baseball proved very popular, but I am afraid I could never find out which side won.

Our path back covered partly the same ground as before, but it was very peasant walking through the poplars lining the shores of the dam. We then cut up past the engineer's houses to the lorry, and so back home.

Overheard in the typist's pool:

"What kind of a husband would you advise me to find?"

"You find a single man and leave the husbands alone".

HIKE TO MACKINTOSH'S CASCADES? 15/3/1964.

The date: 15/3/64.
The time: 9.50 a.m.
The place: Marianhill.

The action begins - 50 Ramblers strong set off down an avenue to the sound of church bells.
Destination: Mackintosh's Cascades.
Purpose: If you don't know come out and see! Look elsewhere in this edition for details of plans.

After stopping at a rippling brook we meandered around rolling hills, strolled through cool plantations and tip-toed across rippling brooks till, after breasting a short slope we quenched our thirst at a minor cascade, which only marked half-way.

At this point the fun began. With many a pant, groan and grunt we ascended, and it was'nt in a whirly-bird either. The worst was yet to come! A few more yards and we were in the Winston Park area. We carried on, of course, until we branched off down to the crest of the ridge we were to descend. Life has its ups and downs as we all know. Anyway, to get down the ridge we had to invade the haunts of the 'Little People', and climb down a natural tunnel in the rocks. Cool! Man! Maybe that is'nt what you said when you were down inside there. In fact we heard, to exaggerate a little, terrified screams by claustrophobia sufferers, anguished moans from those having an uneven distribution between weight and height and the like. O.K. I was'nt saying it was you.

After emerging from the tunnel we scrambled down the last bit to the stream where we bathed our feet, relaxed and enjoyed our 'repast' (Grub to you). Not too much later Don, our leader, decided to go exploring. We followed, and crashed and smashed our way through the dense foliage under the crest of the opposite ridge. We got through (It was tricky you know) and soon afterwards we joined up with the rest of the party. Cont.

They had reached the Cascades, and had enjoyed a good swim. When we joined them it was already getting late, and we wound our weary way back to the lorry. Come to think of it it was unusually quiet on the lorry going home. Wonder where the rest of "the boys" were: anyway a good time was had by all, or should I say nearly all. Finally on the way back we missed the rain (rotten aim I suppose), but the lightening display was excellent.

' CARYL CHESSMAN '

Here is what we have all been waiting for - 'News and Views' by our Entertainments Chairman.

Special appeal to all car owners.

about 9 or 10 years ago the number of cars owned by members of the Ramblers Club could be counted on the fingers of 1 hand. Be that as it may, in those days due undoubtedly to the high spirit of enthusiasm prevalent amongst all the crumpets and crumbs (ladies and gents to you) attendances at social events were such as we do not experience at the present time. These few car owners rallied magnificently, sometimes doing 2 or 3 trips in an evening. We also used buses to such an extent that even the seats had our names engraved on them! Ah! yes, those were the Claytons, Parrs and Woodwards of the old days. However I feel that we still have that nucleus of enthusiasm today, and due no doubt to the booming economy and a record budget surplus receiving so much publicity in our daily papers we can also boast a record number of car owners. By now no doubt you are suspicious of my motive in this build up.

This is what I employ you to do on bended knees. Will all car owners willing to provide transport (which automatically means all car owners in the Club) please phone me at 858319 (home) leaving your names, addresses and number of passengers you are able to take. By this means I can assess the transport available to us. Once this has been established I will be able to ask non car owners to phone for transport. If they live in your own immediate vicinity, you will then be able to pick them up at their home, or if not convenient, at a pre-arranged meeting place.

As it is the entertainment committee's intention to give you a bumper year, we would most sincerely appreciate your co-operation.

Many thanks,
John Scott.

BRAAIVLEIS.

Roll up! Roll up! to a Braaivleis on FRIDAY, the 3rd April, to be held near the Blue Lagoon.

We shall supply buttered rolls, coffee and fire, if you will bring along meat, mugs, refreshments, and last but not least, 10c. Where else can you get so much for 10c (except at home on your lonesome).

As you don't know exactly where to go, we request that all car owners as well as those who require lifts meet in front of Barclay's Bank, corner of Smith and Field Strs. at 7.00 p.m. sharp.

PLEASE HELP US TO MAKE OUR FIRST SOCIAL A SUCCESS,
AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FRIENDS ALONG.

.....BRAAIVLEIS BRAAIVLEIS BRAAIVLEIS.....

On Saturday the 2nd May we are planning a novel 'Bavarian evening' at Westville, so mark up the date on your diary. All details will follow in the next magazine. This is a must in the field of entertainments. See you there.

SOCIAL COLUMN.

Congratulations this month go to Glaria and Mick McConnell on the arrival of a lovely daughter. Also to Jane Richards and Roy Borgars on the announcement of their engagement. Alex Currie is another who has plucked up the courage to become engaged. Best wishes.

Here I must welcome back Brian Clark after a long visit overseas. We hope to see you regularly.

RESIGNATIONS: Mavis Thompson.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following:
Carolyn Lamblin, Robert Booker, Gwen Tonkin,
Arthur Benjamin, John Vinsen, Clover Erickhill,
Joan Smith, and Mary Jager.

Editress' Corner: Dear Ramblers,

It is with very mixed feelings that I have taken on the editing of the newsletter again, as it has been proving an uphill task. Once again I must ask for co-operation from all members. I should be very pleased if you could assist me by writing articles on hikes, or by submitting any other articles of interest to a hiking club. It might be worth your while financially as the Committee has agreed to give a free hike to the writer of the best article printed in the magazine each month. As I believe that this offer does not extent to me I shall put all my effort into the editorial and leave the rest of the field wide open to you. If you are willing to have a go at writing an article please just let me know, as this would help me no end. I look to you all to help keep a monthly magazine in circulation. Please don't let me down.

Easter will soon be here, and with it Easter Camp, so do join us if you can. To all those coming along to camp I can only say 'Have a happy Easter'.

Adele Schorn, ed.

Many thanks to those who submitted articles for this newsletter. Your efforts do not go unappreciated I assure you.