



PO Box 1063 - DURBAN 4000

APRIL / MAY 1994

Title	Committee Member	Telephone:	
		Home	Work
Chairman	Bill Hyslop	7016638	7018996
Secretary	Lynda Holmes	3051188	3005911
Treasurer	Margret Kirsten	441467	
"Ordinary" Member	Philip Gatenby	213592	
Day Hike Organiser	Sue Ferguson	7013852	7064055/6/7
Trails Organiser	Steve Watson	211172	
Social Hikes/Lectures	John van Zyl		9032374
Editress	Jean Jacobs	472483	
Weekend Hikes	Neville Walmsley	7052919	7018481
Publicity/Partys	Mike Morillion	3091566	7011758

1993 & 1994 SUBS

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS YET?

Quotable Quotes

Wearing shorts usually reveals nothing about a man so much as his indifference to public opinion.

Happiness is like a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.

God creates the world anew in each moment.

All your fingernails grow with inconvenient speed except the broken one.

A small town is a place where you're no longer a stranger after five minutes, but still a newcomer after fifty years.

Pensioner Required Male

Queensburgh area. Hours 7-30 - 3.30 plus Saturday morning. Time off to compensate for Saturdays. To answer phone and run small office.

Contact Mr. Bill Jacobs AH 442014

TRAVELLING COMPANIONS

Seeking travelling companions, back packing in the Himalayas, Sept - Oct 94 8 weeks. India, Nepal. Trekking the Annapurna Trail, Khatmandu Valley, Bhutan, Kashmir And Ludakh areas. Flexible and willing to discuss itinerary, but please note, only suitable for the energetic, adventurous and not too fussy types. Intending to travel on a low budget, approx; R6000.00 including air fare.

Contact Graham Barratt
PMB 0331 965736 AH

IF GOD WENT ON STRIKE

It's just a good thing God above
Has never gone on strike
Because He wasn't treated fair
For things He didn't like.

If He had ever once sat down
And said "That's it - I'm through,
I've had enough of those on Earth
So this is what I'll do -

"I'll give my orders to the sun -
Cut off your heat supply,
And to the moon - give no more light
And run the oceans dry.

Then just to make it really tough
And put the pressure on
I'll turn off air and oxygen
"Till every breath is gone"

Do you know He'd be justified
If fairness was the game,
For no one has been more abused
And treated with disdain.

Than God -- and yet he carries on
Supplying you and me
With all the favours of His Grace
And everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal
And so on strike they go
But what a deal we've given God
For everything we owe.

We don't care who we hurt or harm
To gain the things we like
But what a mess we'd all be in
If God should go on strike.

APRIL / MAY 1994 HIKING PROGRAMME

Check starting place and times for individual hikes. **Hikers, please make every effort to get to our meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier so that fees can be collected and lifts arranged timeously.**

NB: CORRECT MONEY ONLY, WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE DAY HIKE ORGANISER DOES NOT CARRY LOOSE CHANGE.

Day hikers, do not forget your two litres of water, a hat, and a cup for lunch time tea and coffee.

MEETING PLACES (Durban) Musgrave Park, Berea
(Pinetown) Union Main Centre Old Main Road.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THIS MONTHS LEADERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Aumord Jack	H 423245	W 3015131
Busby Barry	H 849988	W722382
de Waal Tom	H 474766	
Ferguson Sue	W 7064055\6\7	
Gatenby Philip	H 213592	
Hyslop Bill	W 7018996	
Kirsten Margret	H 441467	
Nel Steve	H 7017796	W4651503
Turner Colin	H 815351	W3094720
Watson Steve	H211172	

1 - 6 April includes Easter Weekend

LORNA DOONE

House camp with day walks at Lorna Doone Hostel in the Ngele forest. Estimated cost including petrol R95 for 4 days. R125 for 6 days.
Phone Philip Gatenby 213592H

1 - 4 April Easter Weekend

GIANTS CASTLE AREA

Exploring Loteni to Giants Castle. Tents required. Medium hike
Leader Bill Hyslop.

3 April - Easter Sunday
NO HIKE

10 April - Sunday

ORIBI GORGE RESERVE

Moderate hike. Our hike in this gorge last year was a huge success, some lovely scenery.
Leader Steve Nel
Ptn 7.30 Dbn 8.00
Members R14 Visitors R16
plus entrance fee payable at reserve

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM:

Name: _____
New Address: _____
Old Address: _____
New Tel No. (H) _____ (W) _____

Please forward to:

The Secretary
Durban Ramblers Hiking Club
31 Kingslynn
60 St Andrews Street
Durban
4001

RECOMMENDED TRANSPORT FEES FOR BERG HIKES PER PERSON.

Southern Berg R35.00
Central Berg R40.00
Northern Berg R40.00

The above prices include toll fees.

FOR SALE R10.00 EACH

Ramblers T-Shirts
and
Sun Hats

Contact: Joe Strayton 723480H

TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY IS BETTER THAN TO ARRIVE

Anyone interested in participating on the 1st Thursday of each month in hikes, which are about three hours in length should contact Vic on 237165 home.

HIRING OF EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBERS

Tents: R7.50 p/day
Deposit: R50.00
Backpacks (new): R5.00 p/day
Mats: R1.00 p/day
Stoves with fuel: R2.50 p/day

Contact: Philip Gatenby 213592.
For tents contact Gerald Hall 251089

Congratulations

To Philip, he was made an honorary member at the A G M. Philip has been an active member of the hiking club for 28 years. Many more happy hikes Phil from us all.

Please send your subscriptions to Margret Kirsten 441467 (h) 447911 (w)
P. O. Box 1063
Durban
4000

Wanted Partner to play duplicate bridge, Wednesday evenings. Norwegian Hall Berea. Phone Monica Sauer. AH 4664584.

Hiking equipment

eg: Cooking utensils, boots, water proof jackets, summer weight sleeping bags. Hill Billies shop closed down, prices reasonable. AH 751516 Ken or Sue Cradock.

13 April - Wednesday

EVENING SLIDE SHOW

By Des Watkins, "With Ice Axe and Battle Axe" Around Mont Blanc.

7.30 for 8.00 At New Germany Sports Club.

Des has been a member of the Mountain Club for many years and has travelled and hiked extensively.

16 - 17 April Weekend

GARDEN CASTLE

Friday night we stay at Garden Castle. Saturday up past Sleeping Beauty Cave, return Sunday via Langalibelele Cave to Swimans. Tents required. Medium hike.

Leader Barry Busby.

17 April - Sunday

FARAWAY FARM

Medium hike. A popular hike, always enjoyed, with a bit of history thrown in.

Leader Steve Watson

Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00

Members R10 Visitors R12.

24 April - Sunday

BEACH HIKE AND BRAAI

In the Warner Beach area. Jack van Reenen who is one of the clubs founder members, has invited us to join him for a casual hike and braai, bring your costumes. Many of our "old time" members will remember Jack with great fondness. So, come and join us at this delightful spot.

Ptn 8.00 Dbn 8.30.

Members R6 Visitors R8

B Y O food and drink.

Contact Margret Kirsten.

1 May - Sunday

VERNON CROOKS RESERVE

Once again we will find something different at this lovely spot. Tom states "This will be a new variation for many".

Leader Tom de Waal

Ptn 7.30 Dbn 8.00

Members R10 Visitors R12

plus R3.50 entrance fee, payable at the reserve.

7 May - Saturday

WALK AND BRAAI

Amanzimtoti area across the river in the park is where we will braai.

B Y O food and drinks for 3pm

Ptn 2.00 Dbn 2.30pm

Members 4 Visitors R6

8 May - Sunday

BAYNESFIELD

Come and join us on this NEW hike in the lovely rolling hills of the Thornville area. We will be hiking approx; 12km.

Leader Philip Gatenby

Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00

Members R12 Visitors R14 this includes entrance fee of R2.00.

12 - 15 May - 4 days

SPECTACLE CAVE, HODGKINS PEAK, XGALANGENWA CAVE

An interesting hike for the active, and a lazy stroll for the not so active all in one hike. Contact Steve Watson.

15 May - Sunday

OLD BALDY Umgeni Valley Area.

A great hike with a fair amount of ups and downs, the highlight being, our negotiation with a rope of a steep granite slope. GREAT FUN!!!!

Leader Bill Hyslop

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R8 Visitors R10

22 May - Sunday

SHONGWENI CIRCUIT

Moderate hike with a touch of everything. River valley, bush walking, water falls, boulder hopping and some great views.

Leader Steve Watson

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R6 Visitors R8 plus R3 entrance fee payable at reserve.

28 - 31 May - Weekend

INJISUTI SUMMIT CAVE

via Giants Castle. Incredible sensation of looking down on the world and Injisuti Triplets. Medium hike.

Leader Philip Gatenby.

29 May - Sunday

TOPPS NEEDLE

Medium length hike, enjoyed by all last year.

Leader Colin Turner

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R8 Visitors R10

A SAD FAREWELL

To Dick and Regina, who are leaving on the 20th April to make a new start in Prince Albert. They are going to establish a Hiking Hostel with bed and breakfast. Dick and Regina have been constant and loyal members of our club. They will be remembered by many for the strenuous but beautiful Berg hikes that they have led. From all your friends at the Durban Ramblers Hiking club, we will not forget you and the happy times we have spent together. Good luck, good health, good hiking and All The Best.

New subscription fees are as follows

Country R16
Single R20
Couples/Family R25
Country Couples R20

A reminder to prospective members. To become a member you must engage in three day hikes or one Berg trip. The entrance fee is R10 plus a yearly sub:

ADVANCE NOTICE

5 June - Sunday

PARKSIDE FARM

We will be joining the weekend campers to explore this beautiful area near Nhlosane in the Midmar district. DBN 07:00 PTN 07:30 Members R 14 Visitors R 16
Contact Sue Ferguson

4 - 5 June Weekend

CAMP AT EVERGLADES

For exploration of Mgeni Cascades.
Leader Bill Hyslop.

18 - 19 June Weekend

BUSHMANS CAVE exploration

Leader Jack Aumord.

7 - 9 days July

Mini grand tour National Park Cathedral Peak.
Leader Philip Gatenby

LEADERS WANTED FOR WEEKEND HIKES

All types of venues, Berg, Coastal, Reserves, etc. If you are interested in leading or have any suggestions for venues. Please contact Neville Walmsley 7052919H

A NOTE FROM PHILIP

I have a copy of a brochure and application form for the Federation Hike Jamboree to be held at Knysna on 6 - 14 May 1994. I will take this on hikes with me, if anyone is interested, or ring me. 213592H.

NEW GERMANY COMMONAGE 27/2/94 By Margret Kirsten

With a dozen hikes in the Cape, and another dozen in the Drakensberg, I presumed that there wouldn't be a big turnout for this "very mild" hike on an extremely hot Sunday. I could not have been more wrong, with + - 30 people arriving. We welcomed also one of our remaining founder members, Jack van Reenen. Jack you really surprised us and we were amazed how well you walked and enjoyed yourself. The condition of this nature reserve was very dry, but never-the-less pleasant. After the walk we enjoyed the braai under the shady trees.

CONGRATULATIONS

Rob Sinclair and Anda
Adrian Sillito and Diane

These two couples were married recently. We wish you much happiness and a long and happy life together.

CLUB PROPERTY

The committee are endeavouring to trace all/any club property, if you have been kind enough to store anything at all, no matter how great or small, please phone our secretary Lynda H 305118 W 3005106 That she may note who has what!

RAMBLERS' COMMITTEE REPORT : FEBRUARY 1994

This report is compiled by the various members of your Committee, with my contribution being to provide the mortar which holds the bricks together.

As an initial comment I would say that it has been a happy committee that you have chosen, although we lost two members early on, for reasons that are probably not a topic for analysis at an AGM, and we gained one a week after the last AGM when our Editress joined us.

The committee is an example of how the best-laid plans of mice and men can aft gang agley. One of the reasons is that we have the entirely laudable idea that each member should be appointed to do a specific job (I still think we should find a more elegant title than "ordinary member") but fate and geography decreed otherwise. Being short-handed we had to help with each other's jobs; and being spread geographically meant that we needed active people in both the central Durban and Pinetown areas. The latter problem was solved by Lynda, Philip and Bruce collaborating together with central Durban tasks. Jean, like Halley's comet, was in orbit in the Bluff but linked to the centre by the invaluable help of daughter Tracey, while of course Sue and I were planning our wonders in the Pinetown area.

On the financial side, you granted an increase in subscriptions at the last AGM which we have advertised will come into force this year. In the event, I have the impression at least that we will not need to increase these again for some time, thanks to the much tighter control which has been exercised over our finances. You will have the opportunity to congratulate our resolute and determined Treasurer when she presents her report, but in general, the rough pattern remains that the subscriptions pay for the newsletter and the investments pay for the other expenses. Fortunately, this year, our Editress and her helpers have watched the size and cost of the magazine, so that this expense has been more under control. And finally, at the end of the year, Ed Walters, on behalf of Mond Paper, offered most generously a free printing service. Despite the rise in subs, I have no doubt in my mind that we are the best value club in the business!

Nobody can deny that the day-hike programme continues to be a back-bone of the Club, especially these days when week-ends in the Drakensburg have become increasingly expensive.

Sue Ferguson, after her first, and successful year as day-hike organiser, writes as follows:

"There has been good response all the year around to the day hikes. Average attendance has been around 30 people every week in 1993, and 1994 has started with a bang! On January 9th we had 47, on 16th there were 41 and on the 30th there were 40 happy hikers.

The good Lord, or the Met-man, has been kind to us during the rainy period with no hikes having to be cancelled for reason of bad weather".

On behalf of the committee, I should like to thank those who organised and led the hikes, and also offer a warm word of thanks to Joe Strayton and Steve Nel for keeping the coffee and tea supplies in order. On a personal note I should like to thank Steve Nel for accompanying me on many a 'recca' and bush cutting trip, as did also John and Denise.

The weekend events have not been as frequent as they might have been. We hope that whoever takes on this vital job of week-end organiser this year will not become despondent half way through the year. There were too many trips cancelled through reasons of low numbers, so that we seemed to be losing sight of the fact that it is not quantity but quality which counts.

Because of the cost of Drakensburg trips, I tried the idea of a weekend walk from Shongweni to Far Away Farm with a Saturday night camp and braai at the farm. The club viewed this new idea with its usual deep suspicion of all new things, but the group who went loved it. Bruce Medway also established a new entry for the Guinness Book of Records by taking all the tents and braai equipment for the whole party squeezed into one Mazda 323. Other areas visited for

"nearer" weekends were Blinkwater in the Karkloof, Bulwer, Hlabeni near Creighton, Salt Rock, and our old friends Bev Foster's and George Archibald's farms near Ixopo and Umzinto respectively.

Obviously there were good Drakensburg times as well. I remember with pleasure Steve Watson's trip from the farm Crystal Waters where we discovered a valley new to all of us, rich in caves and spectacular scenery. I also remember with pleasure being joined by a small but determined group when we worked out a new direct ascent to the Hawk from the Ka-Mashlenga valley.

The trails' portfolio was managed by Steve Watson, who again found it uphill work (in more ways than one!). Finding leaders is always a problem, but let Steve speak for himself:

"The wonderful sport of hiking topped by the special event - going on trail.

On last year, we can report a moderate measure of success. Not an account of the numbers of participants each trail attracted. On that score, all expectations were surpassed, borne out by the number of trailers who can't wait for the next event.

No so for the number of trails that were on offer, their success was less spectacular. As much as I would like to lead every trail 112 per year lasting a month each would suit me fine, this is not possible. Not enough trails commensurating with the size and standard of our club, we need to do more trails.

S.A. can rightfully claim to be amongst the world leaders when it comes to the issue of trailing. With over 6000 kms of prepared hiking trails, how privileged we are! All we have to do is make use of them, to see our beautiful country like no other can. Let the trails organiser know when you have the urge to see one of those far away wonderlands, in a pair of hiking boots. You don't have to lead!".

Whatever else happens to our trail programme, it does seem that the Ngele Forest area is now a permanent favourite.

Philip Gatenby is down as "Ordinary Member" of the committee. I wish we could think of a more resonant title. He has acted as deputy chairman; been the co-ordinator of many administrative jobs in the Durban area because of my being resident in New Germany; chased after our technical equipment such as projector, rucksacks etc.; and been the custodian of the accounting program kindly donated to the Club by Systems Consultants. He summarises his year's work as follows:

"As 'ordinary member' one is allocated special projects. The first was to see to the orderly handover of the computer files of the outgoing committee members to the new, and to establish the necessary backup procedures. This was made easier by Tracy Jacobs setting up her system for Jean to use for the magazine addresses and attending to all the training and hand holding. The committee considered that the finances of the club were not sufficiently voluminous to justify continuing with the computerised bookkeeping and we reverted to manual.

The second project was to negotiate the re-affiliation of our club to the Hiking Federation of S.A. This was achieved at minimal cost, and we were the only Natal club to be affiliated in 1993. The Federation is currently active, in respect of cash and/or expertise, in the development of nine new trails in our region - the closest only a forty minute drive away, so we are certainly getting good value for our money.

As a consequence of my dealings with the Federation, I was invited to become a member of the local Hiking Way Advisory Committee, which enables us to communicate more effectively with this body. Regrettably, communication with the Natal Parks Board still leaves a great deal to be desired.

I was able to be of assistance to the 'berg and trail leaders by running additional trips over busy periods - the pinnacle of our achievements being the conquering of, once again, Thaba Ntlenyane - the highest point south of Kilimanjaro. The Easter hike/sing song session seemed to be enjoyed by all".

Looking back over the year, I find myself endorsing his comment about his relations with the Natal Parks Board. Dick Billet and I have represented you at liaison meetings with the Parks Board, and we also find it difficult to impress our views on a body which seems to believe that it can never be wrong.

Referring to the job of chasing after our property, it must be admitted that this Club is not very good at managing its equipment. I doubt if this will really improve significantly until we can find a member with vast storage space who can officially become our "Quartermaster" on the Committee. As it is, we have equipment scattered all over the place, and it is the view of the committee that we should not buy anything else until this problem is solved. Having said this, we should, however, thank Gerald and Di for storing and controlling the bulk of our camping equipment.

We had no volunteers for last year's committee for the jobs of organising the indoor meets and for other indoor social events. By "indoor meets", I mean talks and films etc. on matters of hiking interest. Other social events, parties and the like, may not necessarily appeal to the same organiser, so we left it open for either one or two people to offer their help in these jobs. Further - and important - social events are the short Saturday afternoon hikes and braais, which in the past were always popular. I have already referred to Bruce Medway's camp and braai at Far Away Farm which he organised jointly with me, and I think we should consider more of these events in the future.

At the beginning of the year I asked the Club for guidance on your wishes for indoor meets, because the previous year had shown poor support for these events. To this request, you all maintained a sturdy, tight-lipped silence! Therefore I arranged just three such meets with the kind help of Reg Blow who organised the use of the New Germany Sports Club as the venue. The idea was to see if a pleasant venue and an interesting topic would encourage attendance. The subjects chosen were slide lectures on Mount Kenya, the Island of Reunion and the Ruwenzori Mountains, and all three brought good attendances.

At the last AGM we revised our Constitution a little and divided the jobs to be done on committee, as best we could, into ten functions. When we are beset with the problem of finding the right people to cover all these tasks on committee, we had better be a little flexible in how we divide up these functions, otherwise we could easily find ourselves changing the job titles every year in order to fit in with the volunteers we have available. With this in mind, proposers of candidates for your committee next year ought to bear in mind that all the tasks need to be covered.

I was lucky last year because, at the AGM, I thought I was going to have to do the jobs of Treasurer for the first two months, Editor for all the year, and also be your humble Chairman! What a pleasure therefore to find an editress in Jean Jacobs only one week after the AGM! I'm sure you all agree that Jean has fulfilled this vital role splendidly, and from reading the magazine I think you will have a clear impression that she has enjoyed the job. At the beginning of the year she needed the assistance of someone to lean heavily on the printers, and I think Bruce Medway was just the man for the job.

Jean adds her comments to the report, as follows:

"When I was asked to be editress of the Ramblers' Hiking mag, I little realised how I would be affected by this portfolio.

For example, week one is committee meeting.

Week two I have anxiety crises - will the printer work on the computer? Will I remember all that I have been told "parrot fashion" to do? Will there be a virus in the darn thing? This has happened twice.

Week three, I capture all the data, insert new members, change addresses, print labels.

Week four - take the mag to be printed or Photostatted - later that week collect it, and later on with the help of my family fold and place into envelopes approximately 330 magazines.

The statements that members received in January, and I suspect after opening, were casually cast aside, took 19 hours to print! My dreams that night echoed with the cack cackling of the printer.

With all the anxiety, care, misgiving, apprehension, worry and perplexity that I suffer, I wonder how well our little master piece is read, when on Sunday morning meets, the hike organiser is asked "WHERE ARE WE GOING?"

The two key people who have not yet presented items for this report are our hard-working Hon. Secretary, Lynda Holmes, whose elegant minutes of our committee meetings are a pleasure to read and who deserves our utmost thanks for her labours.

Our Hon. Treasurer will shortly have her say when she presents the Financial Statement, but before this happens, I hope you will use these remarks to comment on the state of the club and to formally adopt this report for the year 1993/1994.

W I HYSLOP

Have a Happy Easter!



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