

### VERGELEGEN MAP AND COMPASS EXPLORATION

Four of us left Durban on Friday afternoon (Winnie, Cedric, British Bill and I), headed for Vergelegen Parks Board Post. On arrival we found to our surprise twenty-six mountain backpackers, a crowd of ten hikers from Pietermaritzburg and a mountain club party - so much for getting away from your regular buddies for a long weekend in the sparkling air and waters of the Berg!

Saturday dawned nice 'n clear and we set off on what was to be an epic walk in blistering heat. We noticed a fair amount of erosion as we headed toward the rooibessiebos outcrop, following a criss-crossing of the Mhlahlangubomkhulu River and after a very hot and shadeless lunch break by the river we trudged further upstream (exploration "force it" smile) to our base camp at the foot of the escarpment.

We pitched our tents and settled down to our respective suppers ("nosh" to Bill) toppers, peas and shogun, Bill's liverpaste "torpedo" and Ced his precooked home stew. A sudden downpour had Ced lifting his tent and transferring to higher ground in double quick time, anticipating maybe a flash flood. "Bulldog" Bill and I stayed put on the river bank - taking our chances on watery dreams and a fluid-like trip back to the car park.

Sunday morning, a nice day for a climb to the top, but Winnie wasn't feeling up to it, and decided to play house ... tent!! - Bill, map and compass in hand, and cockney "at on "ead, lead the way up via a steep grassy slope to the top where we perambulated back and forth 'til we found Lynx cave where we decided to have lunch.

'Win' welcomed us 'home' with a nice pot o' tea and thereafter dinner was served on the rocks, literally, thanks to the wind, her pot of 'toppers' over, spreading it methodically over Winnie's boots and the rocks 'Saltorys'! - eat your heart out.

Monday morning and once again its 'walkies', downstream with a banshee wind and driving rain to help us on our way back to Vergelegen and the waiting car - Maggie's lad (Bill) - proved one thing on this trip - an analog watch is a better direction finder than a compass in the Berg.



"Quackers"!  
from Mike



Chairman	Tom de Waal	474766 (H)
Secretary	Margret Kirsten	441467 (H)
Treasurer	Winnie Jackson	3052515 (H)
Day Hikes	Bettie Smetryns	445902 (H)
Berg Hikes	Rosemary Foster	842522 (H)
Trails	Bruce Medway	235895 (H)
Photographic	Trevor Coxon	425531 (H)
Entertainment	Mike Morrillion	3091566 (H)
Editress	Brenda Hoppe	

Affiliated to the Hiking Federation of South Africa  
P.O. BOX 1063, DURBAN, 4000.

DECEMBER 88/JANUARY 89

MAG. 6/88

Your Chairman and Committee  
Wish all members and their families  
a happy, peaceful Christmas  
and  
a New Year filled with enjoyable hiking.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on the 19th February 1989 at the home of Phil Caws - see next mag. for further particulars.

Welcome to the following new members:

Pat Thompson, Marilena Small, Sandy Esterhuizen, R.P. Smit, Louise Vancalcar, Charlie Tullis.

#### FUTURE EVENTS

MARCH 1989

4/5 Bulwer Hotel weekend with Johannesburg Hiking Club. Maximum 14 people. Cost - dinner bed and breakfast R34,72 (inclusive of GST). Enquiries Mike Morrillion (7011758 B) (3091566 H after 8 p.m.).

21 to 28 Airborne adventure - Kombati to Waterfall Bluff (7 days R110 which includes transport, air fare, one meal, entrance fee to the park - excludes food). Contact Bruce Medway (235895 H). Entry date 9th January 1989 closing date 20th January 1989. Cheques payable to Durban Ramblers Hiking Club, 7 Ferndale Road, Durban 4001.

DEPARTURE POINTS FOR DAY HIKES

DURBAN - Musgrave Park (previously Osborne Hotel) parking area corner Berea and Musgrave Roads.  
PINETOWN - UNION MAIN CENTRE - Old Main Road, outside Big Bite. Please do not park your car outside Big Bite.

VENUE PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETINGS

Randall Scout Hall, Milner Road (behind Cowey Centre, next to electricity sub station). Please park in Milner Road.

DIARY OF DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 1988

3/4 UMZIMKULU VALLEY EXPLORATION - Leader Jack Aumord (423245 H).  
Sun 4 UMDONI PARK HIKE AND BRAAI - Leader Phil Caws (441089 H). Durban only departure point - 08h30 Members R6 Visitors R7.  
10/11 BULWER MOUNTAIN FLORAL HIKE - Leader Dick Billiet (813672 H).  
Sun 11 UMKOMAAS GORGE HIKE - Steve Watson (214512 H). Durban only departure point - 08h00. Members R7 Visitors R8.  
16 to 18 KOKSTAD - MOUNT CURRIE WEEKEND - Enquiries Winnie Jackson (3052515 H) or between 5th and 12th December Margret Kirsten (441467 H).  
Sun. 18 MYSTERY HIKE???? - Leader Bruce Medway (235895 H). Durban only departure point 08h00. Members R5 Visitors R6.  
26 to 31 BRANDWATER TRAIL - Eastern Free State - Cost, transport and trail fees approx. R80 (excludes food). Contact Winnie Jackson (3052515 H) for further particulars.  
26 to 31 WILD COAST HIKE - Phone Steve Watson (214512 H).  
26 Dec. Phone Audrey Vickers (283187 H) if you would like to hike on Boxing Day.

JANUARY 1989

Sun 8 MOLWENI HIKE - Leader Margret Kirsten (441467 H). Depart Durban 08h00 Pinetown 08h30. Members R3 Visitors R4.  
14/15 VAN REENEN AND OLIVIERSHOEK TRAVERSE (EXPLORATION) Leader Dick Billiet (813672 H).  
Sun 15 SHONGWENI HIKE - Leader Les Petzer (7011703 H). Depart Durban 08h00 Pinetown 08h30. Members R5 Visitors R6.  
Wed 18 PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETING AT 7.45 P.M. Basil Scott will show slides and 8 mm movies on hiking and caving in the Eastern Cape and on a trip by passenger ship to Reunion.  
Sat 21 PALMIET HIKE AND BRAAI - Leaders Marge Blake and Margaret Kirsten (441467 H). Depart Durban and Pinetown simultaneously at 14h00.  
Sun 22 RAVENS RIDGE - Leader Tom de Waal (474766 H). Depart Durban 08h00 Pinetown 08h30. Members R4 Visitors R5.  
27/28/29 'MHLOPENI' NATURE RESERVE WEEKEND  
A hutted camp in the craggy thornveld of Central Natal,

near Muden 180 km from Durban. Braai Friday and Saturday nights. Bring your Binoc's you nature lovers, for the many species of buck and bird life - and for swimmers - a "waterchute" in the river "A LA Sora's Pool" style - booked for 12 people only - Accommodation R33-60 (inclusive of GST). Enquiries - Mike Morillion (7011758 B) (3091566 after 8 p.m.).

28/29 INJASUTI Day walks from camp. Closing date 14th January 1989. Leader Rosemary Foster (223857 H).  
Sun 29 UMGENI VALLEY RANCH - Leader Audrey Vickers (283187 H). Depart 07h30 Pinetown 08h00. Members R7 Visitors R8.

FEBRUARY 1989

4/5 COBHAM - Something different - specially for day hikers. Join me and I'll prove that Berg Hikes are not too tough for you. I promise you two walks that you will long remember. Leader - Tom de Waal (474766 H).  
Sun 5 MPOSANE - Leader Steve Watson (214512 H). Depart Durban 8 a.m. Pinetown 08h30 Members R7 Visitors R8.  
11/12 HELLA HELLA - R15 per person - limit 10 people. Leader Audrey Vickers (283187 between 6 - 6.30 p.m.).  
Sun 12 GIBA GORGE - Leader Jo Streyton (215985 H). Depart Durban 08h00 Pinetown 08h30. Members R4 Visitors R5.  
Wed 15 PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETING AT 7.45 P.M. Various berg and back packing trails. Anybody who has slides they would like to show please phone Trevor (425531 H).  
Sun 19 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the home of Phil Caws - details to follow in next magazine.  
25/26 HILLSIDE - Day walks from campsite. Closing date 11 February 1989. Leader Terry Lubbe (223857 H).  
Sun 26 CRAIG LEA - Leader Bill Hyslop (726763 H). Depart Durban 08h00 Pinetown 08h30. Members R5 Visitors R6.

MARCH 1989 - ADVANCE NOTICES

Sun 12 THE EYRIE - Leader Eamon Bussy (473400 H). Depart Durban 07h30 Pinetown 08h00. Members R6 Visitors R7.  
Sun 19 TOPPS NEEDLE - Leader Tom de Waal (474766 H). Depart Durban 08h00 Pinetown 08h30. Members R4 Visitors R5.

HIKING TOUR TO SWITZERLAND

which has been prepared to appeal to keen South African hikers.

Departing Capetown 26 June 1989 and returning 8 July 89 features a stay at two of Switzerland's most famous and popular resorts — for further information phone Sigrid Ronaassen (021) 252470 of World Travel