

Down Memory Lane

Gloria and Mick McConnell challenge older members to send in stories from the past about the club. They start the ball rolling with theirs :-

In the 1950 's the club ran its own printing press, which took the form of an ancient Roneo and Ghestetner hand operated duplicating machine. First the Editor cut a stencil on a wax sheet on a steam generated Olivetti or Murray and Banks typewriter, usually it took three go's at getting the correct cutting of the wax sheet. A mid-week night was selected at a member's home, and after a light early finger-supper, production was started. Printers ink was sprayed everywhere, the language became unsavory, tempers flared, fortunately printing paper cost only 3 shillings a ream (60 new cents) as the trial runs would take up enough paper to print a daily edition of the Natal Mercury.

Coffee was served at hourly intervals, and as more and more members arrived to help with the printing, the intake of liquids became more serious. With the arrival of Fred Clark, the Phelps, Ernie Newbury, Billy Langois, John Scott, Jill Craig, Maggie More, Marge and Dymoch Parr, and a few more rebels, the ink got wetter, the rotary printing press got more temperamental, tempers flared, and by midnight we would decide to call it a day and try again tomorrow night.

Incidentally postage cost 1 penny to anywhere in South Africa, the envelope and 4 page foolscap printed both sides thruppence. And they say we have made progress? I have forgotten how we made black and white photos onto the wax stencils, but after every hike photos were selected and printed in the forthcoming Magazine. Just to stir your memories, here are some other topics :-

The annual Amble, the grub Truck, Easter camps, travelling by Broadway Cartage Truck from Durban Market, through Pinetown and onto the hike to Macintosh falls, Tops Needle, Hammersdale falls, Kloof Gorge and Soras, Inqutu, The pipe line, Shongweni, Table Mountain etc.

"If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more of us happy!"

P.S. Will whoever has nicked the spare cups and billycan shields from the tea bag, please contact one of the hike organisers with a view to their return.

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PO Box 50563
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JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2002

TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	HOME TEL	BUS, CEL & FAX Nos
Chairman	Brian O'Connell	3060743	0835446379
Secretary	Grahame Davies	5648728	5648728
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	3121503	0829006965
Day Hike Organiser	Margret Kirsten	7658052	
Sat. Hike Organiser	Ann Olds	7671027	
Berg/Trails Organiser	Neville Walmsley	3092298	
Publicity Organiser	Werner Vanslebrouk	2087532	
Magazine Editor	Christine Davies	5648728	5648728
Socials Organiser	Anne Thompson	7655133	
Ordinary Member	Paul Abelman	2013065	

Football World Cup Quote

"Some people think that football is a matter of life and death. I can assure them it is much more serious than that."

Bill Shankly (Manager)

HIKING PROGRAMME : JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2002



Please try to get to our meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier so that fees can be collected and lifts arranged timeously. Day hikers, bring 2 litres of water, a hat and a cup for lunchtime tea/coffee. Saturday afternoon hikers, bring 1 litre of water and a snack for half time.

Meeting places: Durban – Musgrave Park, cnr Berea & Musgrave Roads
Pinetown – Union Main Centre, Old Main Road




NB – PLEASE BRING CORRECT MONEY AS NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN

DAY HIKE PROGRAMME

All meeting times, unless otherwise stated are:- Durban 08h00, P'town 08h30.

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADER	TEL NOS
July 7	Mposane. Medium to strenuous hike. May be an entrance fee.	Steve Watson Members – R18 Visitors – 23	3127108
July 14	Umgeni Bend. Easy and moderate in length.	Dieter Becker Members – R17 Visitors – R22	4627445
July 21	Silverglen Nature Reserve. Easy and medium in length.	Dennis Chetty Members – R9 Visitors – R14	Margret 7658052 a/h
July 28	Waterfall Wander. Medium to moderate – a good hike before the summer rains arrive.	Chris Dobson Members – R9 Visitors – R14	7651824 a/h
Aug 4	NO HIKE – 70th Anniversary Celebrations – members only. <i>Book with Anne Thompson on 7655133 (see Social Diary). Only R20 p.p. for champagne & orange + lamb on spit with salads & dessert. Bookings close July 15 – you snooze you lose!</i>		
Aug 11	Delville Wood Circuit. Shongweni area. Medium hike.	Colin Turner Members - R10 Visitors – R15	7083517
Aug 18	Montezuma Ranch. One of George's great hikes.	George Archibald Members – R28 Visitors – R33	0399711621
Aug 25	Inkonka Meander. Kloof Gorge area – medium hike.	Brian O'Connell Members – R6 Visitors – R11	3060743

SOCIAL DIARY

Date	Event
Saturday 13 July 	Walk at Thornridge Farm, Cato Ridge followed by braai at the boma. Fires will be provided. Bring your own food, drinks, cutlery, glasses. Donation of R5 required for Cato Ridge Conservancy.
Sunday 4 August 	Happy 70 th Birthday party! Durban Ramblers will be holding their 70 th birthday party at the Hillcrest Scout Hall, Shortlands Avenue, Hillcrest. Meet at 12h00 for champagne and orange juice, to be followed by lamb on the spit, salads, rolls and dessert - all for the small charge of R20 per head. Bring own drinks/crockery/cutlery etc. - we will do the rest! A short walk in the Springside Nature Reserve can be arranged after lunch for those who would like to stretch their legs. To facilitate catering, bookings (with cash!) must be made by 15 July. Contact a committee member, or you can pay by direct bank deposit – details as follows: Standard Bank, Musgrave Road branch Branch code: 04-26-26-10 Account no: 051257653 Account name: Durban Ramblers <i>If you use this method, please don't forget to print your name legibly on the deposit slip, so we know who you are. Directions to Hillcrest Scout Hall are as follows: Take Hillcrest turnoff from M13, turn right into Old Main Road. At the Heritage Market turn right into Stonewall Road, at T- junction turn right into Springside Road. Drive down the hill past the Springside Nature Reserve entrance, go up the other side of the hill and turn left into Shortlands Road. The scout hall is approximately 1 km on the left. If you have any queries, please contact Anne on (031) 765-5133.</i>
Sunday, 15 September 	Music at the Lake – meet at the entrance to the Botanic Gardens in Sydenham Road at 17h00, bring a picnic basket and chairs and chill out in beautiful surroundings whilst listening to Mozart by Moonlight (starts at 18h30). Cost R35, R20 for pensioners, R15 for Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

WEEKEND AND TRAILS PROGRAMME

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER	TEL NOS
July 5-7	Bucleuch. Long or normal weekend at Bucleuch hut. Cost R70 inclusive.	Philip Gatenby	2013592
July 20-21	Lodge in a new area of the Hella-Hella Valley. Approximate accommodation cost – R80pp. Deposit required by Monday July 8.	Neville Walmsley	3092298
Aug 9-11	Tenting & day hikes at Injasuti. Cost R37 pp.per night, to be paid by July 6. Travelling costs to be discussed with drivers.	Brian O'Connell	3060743 0835446379
Aug 16-19	Ngele New Trail. Walk this beautiful area while still available. Optional backpack through finest indigenous forest in SA. It may be possible for backpacks to be delivered to overnight hut. Cost approx. R150 trail & transport. Bookings with R80 deposit by August 11. Maximum of 15 people.	Philip Gatenby	2013592
Sept 7-8	Giant's Cup Trail. Overnight in hut. Approx R50pp exc. transport costs.	Neville Walmsley	3092298
Sept 21-22	Silo Trail in the Greytown area. Ever popular weekend.	Chris Dobson	7651824

" Sometimes I wake up grumpy. Other times I let her sleep."

MEMBERS NEWS

Letter from Ingrid D'Eathe

"So little time and so much to do....that was how one felt after my puffadder bite last month.

But with the amazing support of family and friends I have survived ...WOW. Thanks so much for all the wishes, cards, flowers, visits, encouragement, phone calls and prayer – it has been amazing how everyone has offered so much at this time. It was not a pleasant experience but with all the support, I am on the road to recovery. With my leg intact and no gangrene what more could I wish for. Hope to be back hiking one of these days.

Happy and safe hiking – with love and thanks from Ingrid D'Eathe.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the club :- Irma Scholtz, Glenn Common, Christina Timmermann, Eleanor Richardson, Kenneth Sclanders, Leonard Heins, Roger and Simone Arnold, Frans and Mandy Van Der Veen and Dean Simon.

Sept 1	Rob Roy Ridge. Moderate to strenuous hike in the Valley of a 1000 Hills.	Steve Nel Members – R10 Visitors – R15	0834540569
Sept 8	Cumberland Nature Reserve. Easy hike of medium length. <i>N.B an entrance fee of ±R7 is payable.</i>	Tony Livingstone Members – R23 Visitors – R28	Margret Kirsten 7658052 a/h
Sept 15	Umbilo D'MOSS Trail. Easy and will enable you to get home early to attend social –Music at the Lake.	John & Denise Members –R6 Visitors – R11	4629781
Sept 22	Shongweni Heights. Moderate hike of medium length.	Dieter Becker Members – R10 Visitors – R15	4627445
Sept 29	Umlazi/Ufudu Circuit. Moderate happy hike. Long uphill in the morning and pretty water fall. Guest leader.	Adrian Rowe Members – R6 Visitors – R11	7644721 a/h

Please note that the members' hike fees no longer include R2 for the cost of tea & coffee. The Committee has agreed that the club should offer this service to it's members for free.

Thanks to all leaders who offered to lead hikes without being asked. It's great to know that the spirit is there. Let's keep it up and I look forward to more people helping and offering their support to our club. I am only a phone call away.

Your Day hike organiser, Margret.

Crimewatch

Our local chemist was robbed last week and a large quantity of Viagra was stolen. Police say that they are looking for a gang of hardened criminals.

Of course we all know the Hikers Code of Behaviour – or do we?

1. Take adequate water – minimum of 2 litres on a day hike and 1 litre on Saturday hikes. Others should not have to carry water for you.
2. Do not walk ahead of the leader, deviate from the hike group or lose sight of the person in front of you. If you are in trouble, send a message up the line to the leader.
3. Do not :- trespass, throw or roll rocks, damage crops or property, take shortcuts off the path, pollute water, molest livestock, remove indigenous plants or pick flowers, mark or write on rocks / trees etc. Guard against all risk of fire – build fires only where permitted.
4. Discard nothing – take all your rubbish home.
5. Treat other hikers with consideration and above all.....have fun.

Two trucks loaded with a thousand copies of Roget's Thesaurus collided as they left the publishing house. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, amazed, astounded and unsettled.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON HIKE PROGRAMME

Hikers may meet at the Musgrave Park Medical Centre at 13h30 and share transport to the relevant starting point of a hike. Hikes depart 14h00 sharp and participants must be at the start at least 10 minutes beforehand. The transport cost of R8.00 is payable to the driver. All visitors are to pay R4.00 to the hike leader of the day. Hikes marked with # involve an additional entry cost to the nature reserve. Hikes marked with ** are suitable for beginners. If you require directions to the starting point of a hike, or information regarding suitability for beginners, etc., please contact one of the organisers below between 12h00 and 12h45 on the Saturday.

Ann – 7671027 Dave – 2668602 Brian - 0835446379

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADER
July 6	** Springside Nature Reserve. Meet at Emberton Golf Range (1 st right off Old Main Rd, Hillcrest, after leaving Highway). Tea/coffee & scones after.	Dave
July 13	Stonyridge Farm, Cato Ridge. # R5.00 donation. Bring and braai in Boma on the farm. NB depart St Helier Dam at 13h30.	Trevor Thompson
July 20	Inanda Rd Surrounds. Uphill & down dale, through forest and cane farmlands. NB meet at Emberton Golf Range at 13h30 sharp for start on Inanda Rd.	Colin Turner
July 27	Kloof Falls. # R6.00. Meet at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve.	Brian
Aug 3	70 th Anniversary Hike. Crinkly Bottom area in Crestholm. NB meet in car park opposite Stokers, Kloof 13h30. Meet Musgrave at 13h00.	Margret Kirsten
Aug 10	Alverstone Nature Reserve. Meet on verge outside Assegai Hotel. #R5.00. Bring & Braai in Boma –own gas & lighting.	Clive
Aug 17	** Virginia Bush. This secluded nature reserve is well worth a visit in the winter months. Meet at main gate in Kensington Drive.	Brian
Aug 24	Shongweni Farmlands. Meet on verge outside Assegai Hotel.	Clive
Aug 31	Kloof Nkonka Falls. # R6.00. Meet at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve.	Ann
Sept 7	** Roosfontein. Meet outside Westville Prison gates.	Werner
Sept 14	** Paradise Valley. # R4.00.	Dieter
Sept 21	Nqutu Gorge. Waterfall area- strenuous climb out. # R600. Bring and braai – own equipment & lighting.	Dave
Sept 28	** New Germany Nature Reserve. Off Otto Volek Rd, New Germany.	Celia

Report – Back on Saturday Hikes

March 17

The hike through Virginia Bush and surrounds was really pleasant. The Reserve is well maintained and quite delightful. The ponds featuring blooming lilac water-lilies make convenient rest spots. The variety of trails will make this a most enjoyable outing in the Saturday programme. Thanks to Christine and Grahame Davies for the outing and hosting the swim and braai at their home afterwards.

April 14

A great highlight of the walk around the Bluff was entry into the new control tower at the Naval Base on the Bluff. The view of the Harbour and the Bay from the top level was spectacular. Thanks to Annora and Clinton Clark for hosting the braai afterwards.

April 20

Alverstone boasts a private nature reserve (opposite the Roseway-Waldorf School) that Saturday hikers are particularly fond of. The Warden leads our hike up hill and down dale, and we are usually treated to a display by the resident herds of Impala, Zebra and Bontebok. On April 20 a group of hikers stayed on to enjoy sundowners, and a braai in the boma as the sun set gloriously in the west.

May 1

A good number of Saturday and Sunday hikers took advantage of a wonderful autumn day walking and relaxing at Shongweni Dam. In spite of the entrance fee having risen to R12.00 per person and R2.00 per car, the picnic sites were well utilised by fishermen, birders, picnickers and Ramblers. We explored the trail downstream of the dam wall, and hiked up the kopjie near the canoe club. Impala and Warthog were spotted.

The local bar was so sure that its barman was the strongest man around that they offered a standing R1,000 bet. The barman would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop out would win the money. Many people had tried over time (weightlifters, bouncers etc.), but nobody could do it.

One day a scrawny little man came in, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a squeaky voice, "I'd like to try the bet." After the laughter had died down, the bartender said okay, grabbed a lemon, and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man.

But the crowd's laughter turned to total silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass.

As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the R1,000, and asked the little man, "What do you do for a living? Are you a weightlifter, or what?"

The man replied, "I work for the Receiver of Revenue."

P.S. Don't forget your tax return or he will squeeze more than your lemon!!!