



MONTHLY MAGAZINE & DIARY

DURBAN RAMBLERS' CLUB

FEBRUARY, 1964

CHAIRMAN : Rob Philp  
SECRETARY : Denise Philp  
Phone : 836034 (Res.)

TREASURER : J. Scott  
EDITRESS : Gloria McConnell  
Phone : 77267 (Res.)

POSTAL ADDRESS : P.O. Box 1063, Durban

---

FIXTURE LIST

- 1st Feb. : Sat. : Another Monte Carlo Evening at Terry and Claude Ambler's home : Jan Smuts Avenue, Winston Park. at 7.45 p.m. For further details read through this Magazine.
- 2nd Feb. : Sun. : Hike to Pump House with Garry Rabie leading. No water to cross but the lunch spot will be on the banks of the Umgeni River. Members : 45c Visitors : 50c
- 4th Feb. : Tues. : Executive Committee Meeting at Parr's home, Cowies Hill at 8.00 p.m. sharp.
- 16th Feb. : Sun. : A short and attractive hike led by Glen with the lunch spot at Ronald's Road, Kloof (bring your bathing costumes) after which everyone will be transported to the Scout Hall at Lahee Park, Pinetown for the Annual General Meeting, at 2.30 p.m. It is extremely important that every member attend the A.G.M. so if you are unable to hike in the morning please make an effort to be at the Lahee Park Hall on time for the A.G.M.
- 19th Feb. : Wed. : Photographic Meeting at the home of Adele Schorr's parents - 16 Berwick Place (off Hoylaks Drive) Durban North at 8.00 p.m. Subject : General.

\*\*\*\*\*

"EDITORIAL" !!!!!

This being the last magazine of the current year I find myself sitting down before my pad with, I must admit, most of the time having a spot about one inch above my ear being scratched by the unbusiness end of my pen. This position will be readily understood when you realise that it is not Gloria writing!

It is with regret that we will not be seeing Gloria on the Executive Committee this year as she has intimated that, for domestic reasons, she will not be available for any Committee work for some time. First and foremost her absence will be felt on the editorial staff (not to mention the Entertainments Committee and her cooperation with Claude our Public Relations Officer) for as Editress Gloria really excelled herself and in the face of increasing obstacles she always managed to pull something out of the hat, as it were. It has only been in the last few months that, due to a complete lack of articles from club members, it has been necessary to cut down the issue of the magazine to every second month. Now I, and I know that you as well, look forward each month to our chronicle, and I ask you quite earnestly to please let us have those articles. You needn't be asked to write up on a particular hike, just go ahead and submit a few words to the Editor, they will be most welcome. Remember, lack of interest can sound the death knell of any organisation including this magazine or the Club itself.

On looking /.....

On looking over the average attendances on hikes during the past two years I cannot help but compare them with those of just a few years ago when each Sunday would see 60 of us going off, packed into two lorries. How I wish we could see this again, and we could so easily if only all of us, even if only once in a while, would make the effort to meet at the market place at 8.30.

In conclusion I wish to thank those members of the various Committees who have worked so willingly and ably over the past year, and to those members who will shortly be filling these positions, I would remind you that any job worth doing is worth doing well.

To all of you I wish a very happy year, and may you have many enjoyable and memorable experiences in your association with the DURBAN RAMBLERS' CLUB.

Rob.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOKE : Especially for G-rr- R-b-- : Fr-d Cl-rk etc.

An eye-witness to a bank robbery told the Police that the thieves had made their get-away in a blue '56, '57, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62 or '63 Volkswagen.

\*\*\*\*\*

Notice attached to tubes of spreading cheese in Grocery Store :

"Please do not squeeze me until I'm yours!"

\*\*\*\*\*

MARCH, 1953.  
VOL. 2. NO. 1.

EDITOR :L. Holland  
P.O. BOX 1063.

I threw my very good friend Dymock (clothes and all) into the river on the hike last Sunday, thus earning for myself the deadly enmity of little Alan Parr, whom we were privileged to have out with us. It was a tough hike and Dym had to carry young Alan quite a deal of the way; and all this, in a rather roundabout fashion, brings us to the Ramblers' Coming-of-Age Banquet held in the Causerie on Tuesday, 17th February. Like Alan, this birthday banquet was our Chairman's child. Originally his conception, he carried the burden of the organisation most of the way himself. Certainly he had assistance, but make no mistake about it, without Dymock there would have been no 21st birthday party. He can be proud (as we all were) of the way little Alan staggered along with a massive rock to attack me after I had half drowned his father, (the big ape!). He can be just as proud of the success of the Banquet, the biggest, most ambitious and most enjoyable social function ever held by the Durban Ramblers' Club. (ED. If he censors any of the foregoing he goes back into the river next week!)

---

HIKE UP NONGWAN RIVER : 15TH FEB.

Just a short write-up on this hike as there is so much else to report.

Journey's end on this hike to the Nongwan Stream is one of the loveliest spots we visit. Complete with shade, rocks for sunning oneself, a normally Berg-clear stream, and a first rate water-chute which huris itself over a 10 foot drop into an almost bottomless pool, it is a swimmer's paradise.

2/.....

SUB-COMMITTEES :

Editorial Committee : 4 members one of whom must be  
able to type.  
Camp Committee : 6 members at least one of whom  
must be a lady.  
Entertainments Committee : 6 members at least three  
of whom must be ladies.

\*\*\*\*\*

MONTE CARLO EVENING !

As the first Monte Carlo Evening proved to be so  
successful, your Entertainments Committee are arranging  
a similar evening to be held at Terry and Claude's home,  
Jan Smuts Avenue, Winston Park, on February 1st, 1964.

Entrance will, once again, be free of charge but bring  
along about 50c (you won't need more) in one cent pieces  
- these to help you win some more at the various games.  
Amongst others there will be :

A Vegetable Derby  
Roll-a-Cent  
Guessing Games

Please bring a mug or cup for coffee.

N.B. If you can offer a lift to anyone or if you require  
a lift please 'phone 67594 and ask for either  
Charles Smeda or Fred Clark : but PLEASE do not  
'phone at the last minute; give them at least  
one day's notice to arrange transport.

\*\*\*\*\*

"DYMOCK'S DILEMMA" HIKE

8.12.1963

This was the last hike of 1963 and it is one we will not forget very quickly. We set out with a full lobby on a very hot day. When we reached our destination we all clambered out and started on our trek.

The first part of the hike was over gently rolling hills, but this state of affairs did not last long. After a long walk we started to go down into the gorge. The path was very bushy and steep. Everybody was concentrating very hard on being careful when a halt was called and the leaders investigated to see if it was the right path. We all sat down to wait and some began to unpack their water-bottles. From somewhere below came a lone voice, "I wanna go home!"

It was then discovered that we were on the wrong path and we all turned around and climbed back up to the top. Here we sat and waited until the right path was found. This path proved to be quite difficult as we had to climb down a great cleft in the rock which was rather steep.

The next part of the hike was quite interesting. We walked along the cliff face and looked down on the land far below. We passed Topp's Needle and then made our way down towards the river. By this time we were all hot and tired and were looking forward to a nice cool swim. When we got to the river we had a great disappointment, the river water was warm!! Although this was the case a couple of people went in. During our lunch we had unwelcome visits by various farmyard animals.

After lunch /....

"DYMCOCK'S DILEMMA" (contd.)

After lunch we set out on our long climb back to the top of the plateau. This was the most tiring part of the hike. We had a steep path to climb and all the way up panting, groaning and shouts of "water" were heard. At every turning one came upon groups of weary Ramblers clutching their water-bottles.

At last the top of the mountain was reached and a most beautiful sight was seen. The SHOP! With COLD DRINKS!

When we had all filled ourselves we piled into the lorry for a restful ride home.

American Coffee and Chic(ory)

\*\*\*\*\*

PIETERMARITZBURG RAMBLERS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

(Every year the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers invite the Durban Ramblers' Chairman and Secretary and their partners to their Christmas Dinner and this year our Club was represented by Val and Garry Rabie and Denise and Robin Philp.)

December 20th was a stifling hot day in Durban and, as we struggled to dress in the oppressive heat for the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers' Annual Christmas Dinner, we hoped for cooler weather there to enable us to do justice to the always wonderful menu. However, as we drove into Pietermaritzburg a hot dry wind greeted us so this was just as bad as Durban, if not worse!

Our rendezvous with the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers was at the New Plough Hotel and in no time at all Helen (P.M.B. Secretary) had us comfortably relaxed in the air-conditioned lounge, each with a most welcome long cold drink.

As /...

P.M.B. Christmas Dinner Party (Contd.)

As we took our places at the head of a "U"-shaped table, colourfully decorated with bon-bons and menus each with our names printed on them, we found to our delight that this gaily decorated room was even cooler than the lounge, and we were soon really enjoying each course on the long and interesting menu - not to mention the wine. Amid much hilarity the bon-bons were disposed of and the contents put to good?? use; i.e. from Esme we heard nothing but piercing whistles and Garry and Rob (to the horror of their respective spouses) started a battle with a minute water pistol and a doll's feeding bottle, using wine - what a waste! Believe it or not, Don (P.M.B. Chairman) was able to stem these high-jinks for short intervals while he, Donald Tankard, and Michael Coke gave very interesting and sincere speeches on "Our Country", "Our Club", and "Absent Friends", respectively. Rob then thanked Don and the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers for having invited the four of us to their Christmas Dinner Party and he also expressed the wish that the friendly relationship which existed between the two Clubs should flourish for all time.

After dinner we joined in a most interesting "guessing competition" done with the use of a number of most unusual slides and then danced to the music and singing of a "real live Cowboy".

Very reluctantly we left our Pietermaritzburg Rambler friends and the happy Christmassy atmosphere of the party.

DMP

"SORAS POOL" HIKE

5.1.1964

This, the first hike of 1964 was due to be to that old favourite of ours, Hammarsdale Falls, the scene of many a weekend camp, however this spot has now been erased from our hike list owing to "expansion and security risks" as stated by the owner of the property. After some last minute arrangements, Claude, our leader for that day, decided to take us to Soras Pool.

Sunday saw a good crowd waiting in perfect weather at the market place for the lorry which failed to materialise. Oh! what a start to the New Year. Eventually, along chugged a vehicle of vintage years and we all clambered aboard and set off for Pinetown to pick up the ever-increasing crowd who gather there nowadays for a lift. After negotiating the formidable Field's Hill, helped along by silent prayers and crossed fingers, the lorry turned off at Kloof station where we travelled along in grand style (downhill) past the imposing Civic Centre and almost-completed High School and thankfully disembarked when the engine shuddered to a stop. Claude, bless his little heart, proceeded to lead us along through fields of "steek-gras" whilst alongside us meandered a perfectly good road! Some people? I don't know! However, we were soon walking along the edge of the Great Rift Valley, looking down over magnificent scenery right down to the Umgeni far away at the foot of the valley. Even after nine years of hiking, I still marvel at the beauty of our countryside, appreciated more with the thought that a few miles behind my back lies that grey concrete jungle wherein we live. Sorry, I digress.

Claude eventually/...

"SORAS POOL" HIKE (contd.)

Claude eventually called us all to a halt to muster ourselves before descending an almost verticle hillside, down which we slithered and scrambled into Old Nick's inferno itself, to be partially revived when we waded gratefully into the pools of a clear stream which tumbled down through the valley. Too soon we were off again, making our way up towards the head of the valley, with the oppressive heat stifling our belaboured breaths. Once again the overhanging rock claimed some victims distinguishable by the "eggs" appearing on their heads, after having jumped over a rock without seeing a solid rock ceiling about 6" above them.

Utopia at last! for after another half hour we came upon our objective - a shady resting place alongside clear deep pools and tumbling cascades. In no time at all the water chute was in popular demand and those who didn't have costumes went in clothes and all, including Jean in a snappy white bikini. What was that? That wasn't a bikini? Oh! The sound of boiling billies soon had us all gathered around George's delicious coffee from whence we dispersed to have angling competitions, (with Garry catching eight fish, and Neill four fish and one crab) and games of chess. It is only a rumour that your scribe upset the chess board whilst in a losing position.

When the heat of the day had passed, we packed up and set off for the long slog up the ridge out of the valley, at the top of which stands Lord McConnell's manor house and it was here, whilst waiting for our transport, that we slaked our thirst, to the tune of quite a few Rand as our dear friend will find out when presented with his water bill for the month of January.

The /...

"SCRAS POOL" HIKE (cohtd.)

The trip back to town ended off a very pleasant day, the first of many which I hope this Club will enjoy in the coming year.

Rob

P.S. After seeing all those hikers sliding down the chute, I wonder if the hike stood up to its name?

\*\*\*\*\*

CHRISTMAS PARTY

21.12.1963

The weather on December 21st was a bit of a wash-out, but that certainly didn't apply to the Christmas Dinner Party. Sixty-three Ramblers and their friends converged on the Lonsdale Hotel between 7.30 - 8.00p.m. and, after slaking initial thirsts, were conducted to the Supper Room where the tables were set in "T" formation. We were pleased to have some of the Maritzburg Ramblers with us, and it was good to see Jane Richards with the Club again after five years overseas. Needless to say it was not long before everyone was stuffing themselves with all the good things to which they had helped themselves from the Buffet. Chicken, asparagus, olives, etc. - soon disappeared as Ramblers' appetites came to the fore - don't tell me that it's being out in the fresh air that causes Ramblers to eat a lot as I'm sure no one was out much in the rain that afternoon!

We were "entertained" to speeches by Rob, and Don Allison, and after coffee folks drifted into the public lounge and joined in the dancing. Unfortunately with the Christmas holiday crowd of visitors to the Hotel, it was not possible for the Ramblers to sit together. Nevertheless, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and I am sure I speak for everyone when I say "a very big thank-you" to Denise for her efforts in arranging such a thoroughly enjoyable and successful Christmas Party for us.

Margaret

SHUTTERBUSS' MEETING

15.1.1964

Heather Odgers' Lounge fairly bulged at the sides when Club members gathered there for the January Photographic Meeting. It was good to have Chris and Adele, and also Jane Richards, back with us again.

Twenty-eight slides were entered for the competition, the subject being "Animals and Pets". Part-way through the judging Heather's projector glob blew so it was decided to have the break for refreshments then whilst Rob dashed home to collect his projector. The job of judging the competition slides was most difficult as there was a great variety of subject matter ranging from household pets to wild animals, snakes, crabs, etc. The slides adjudged 1st, 2nd and 3rd were :

- (1) Three wire-haired terrier pups lapping from saucers of milk - taken by Margaret Moore 72.5%
- (2) Close-up of a highly coloured crab - taken by Gibson Brown 72.3%
- (3) A chameleon - also taken by Gibson Bown 65.6%

Mike Wigley showed us the first instalment of the slides which he took on his walk from the Portuguese border to the Cape, and has promised to show more at subsequent photographic meetings.

We /...

Shutterbugs' Meeting (contd.)

We were also shown Garry and Val's Wedding Slides - that certainly was some day!

Heather and Peter were thanked for their hospitality and the meeting closed at about 10.50 p.m.

N.B. Claude's friend who is to talk on "Black and White" Photography was unable to attend the January Meeting but will be at the February Meeting.

Margaret

\*\*\*\*\*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1964 are now OVERDUE as these fall due and should be paid on or before January 1st each year.

Would you please therefore send in your R2's as soon as possible to the Treasurer at our box number 1063, Durban, or hand same to the person collecting the hike money. Your immediate cooperation in this matter will assist in the smooth running of the Club.

P.S. Just a reminder that NO member may attend Easter Camp without having paid his/her Subscriptions!

££££RRRRR

"TABLE MOUNTAIN" HIKE

19.1.1964

An eager crowd consisting of many first-timers were assembled at the market place well before eight and by ten past eight we were all on the lorry and on our way. The last on were two very tanned and talented young girls and they had to sit in the centre whereupon someone at the back called out "Ah, sitting in the centre of attraction". On hearing this their tan changed colour! The lorry was fairly full and we wondered where the crowd from Pinetown were going to sit but everyone managed to fit on to the lorry. Having made a brief stop at Pinetown we eventually arrived at Nagel Dam. My, what a relief to be able to stretch our legs and feel human again. Duly armed with our permits to enter Native Reserve Areas we set off away from the dam.

Up and up the mountain slope we wound our way stopping for our first rest high up above the dam. The stragglers had hardly got to the resting place when we were off again still climbing until we came to the base of the rocks all getting across this tricky section without mishap, although at the start of the climb there were a few cries of "Oh, I will never make it!!" The views from the top were really wonderful. Looking inland we could see Pietermaritzburg nestling in the hills and beyond we could just make out the mountains disappearing into the clouds. Looking east we could see the vast Umgeni Valley with the thin ribbon of the river winding its way down towards the sea. When we had all got to the top we set off on the last mile and a half or so across the rolling grassland to the lunch spot.

About /...

About half way across the top the stragglers, on looking ahead saw one of the party go racing off across the veld closely pursued by another. "Oh where do they get all their energy?" were the remarks of a few. On catching up we found Garry much in the limelight with the cameras clicking all round him. He had a firm hold of a leguan which moments before had had a firm toe-hold on Garry!

At the lunch spot there was a mad rush to the small waterfall and the cool water. Next to the waterfall, engraved in the rock, was the name "F. KOI" and the date "1819". Tea and coffee were slow in coming as there is no wood on the top to make a fire and so we had to rely on one gas stove which Garry had carried all the way up. While we were resting the storm clouds were building up fast and by the time we set off homeward it looked as if the storm would break at any moment.

A short walk across the top and then down through a narrow gorge, at the bottom of which our numbers were greatly increased by the locals who walked with us for quite a few miles. We were almost down to level ground when the sun came out again and the storm moved off without hitting us. After a long but easy walk we came to the river crossing where we had to wade across; a few "gallants" going back and forth a few times to ferry the fairer sex across. It was very pleasant walking in the cool of the evening but as it was getting dark by this time, we had to hurry, arriving at the lorry when it was just light enough to see.

The lorry journeyed back through intermittent showers arriving in Durban just before ten o'clock, so ending another day enjoyed by all.

Mike W.

SOCIAL PAGE

**BIRTHS :** Congratulations to June and Des Teague on the birth of Shaun David on 17th January, and also to Marge, and Dymock Parr on the birth of a son on 19th January. Two future Ramblers - no doubt!

**ENGAGEMENTS :** Very Best Wishes to Jeanette Frain and Eric Smith who became engaged at the beginning of December 1963.

**WEDDINGS :** On December 21st Leila Richardson and Brian Joyce were married and on January 11th Pat Wattam and Trevor Culverwell were married. Good Luck and Best Wishes for your future happiness!

**WELCOME :** To Adele and Chris Schorn who have just returned home after 3 months' holiday overseas. We look forward to seeing your slides and hearing all about it. Also to Jane Richards who is on a short visit from England. Nice to see you again.

**NEW MEMBERS :** To PHILLIPPI HUMPHREYS  
(MRS.) BRIDGET COLLEY  
JANET KULPA  
who have just become members, our best wishes for many happy hikes with us.

**RESIGNATION :** It is with regret that we advise that GRAHAM BAYMAN has resigned from the Club as he is now living in Cape Town. Graham is a member of long standing, and in accepting his resignation we lose a very good friend and member.

\*\*\*\*\*

