



MONTHLY MAGAZINE & DIARY

1.
DURBAN RAMBLERS' CLUB. FEBRUARY 1965.

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FIXTURE LIST.

2nd February : TUESDAY. Executive Committee
Meeting at the Parr's home, 3
Brockwell Rd., Cowies Hill at 8p.m.

7th February : SUNDAY. Hike to Raven's Ridge
followed by the ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING at the Ambler's home in
Winston Park at 2.30 p.m. Please
meet for the hike at the Market
Place at 8.30 a.m. Further details
of A.G.M. and directions on p.2.

17th February : WEDNESDAY. Photographic Meeting
at Pan African Travel Agency,
London Arcade, off West Str.,
Durban at 8.p.m. Subject of the
competition is 'Water'.

21st February : SUNDAY. HIKE TO Soras Pool in the
picturesque Kloof Gorge with Rob
Philp leading. Members: 45c
Visitors: 50c Meet at the Market
Place at 8.30 a.m.

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7th March : HIKE TO BLACK ROCK on the Umgeni.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

For those of our members who will not be able to attend the hike before the A.G.M. I have been asked to print directions for finding the Ambler's home. I am afraid that these directions given to me are rather vague. Follow the National Road to Maritzburg until the Hillcrest turn-off, then take the first road to the left to Winston Park. Follow the poplar trees until you come to Jan Smuts Drive, turn left, and then look for a double storey house on your right.

For the past few years the Annual General Meeting has been a lengthy, drawn out proceeding, and the usual hot, summery weather has only added to member's discomfort. This year therefore we have taken two steps to speed up proceedings, and leave more time for general discussions. Firstly the Chairman's report and agenda will be distributed to members before the meeting, and will accompany this magazine. Secondly the Chairman appeals to all members who are interested in serving on the various committees, to signify their willingness to him before the A.G.M. This will help to speed up the election of office bearers, which can become a very tedious part of the afternoon's business. Please give some thought to the capacity in which you are best suited to serve your club, and let Garry know if you are willing to stand for election to any of the committees.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1965.

Please remember that all subscriptions for 1965 are now due. The annual subscription is R2-00, and it would be appreciated if this sub. could be paid before the A.G.M. Before you go off on a spree to spend this month's salary don't forget to put aside this amount.

HIKE TO DYMCK'S DILEMMA. 10/1/65.

Extract from Mrs. Beetail's Cook Book. *

Recipe: Roasted Rambler, or Hike a la Dymock's
Dilemma.

Directions: Take about 20 Ramblers of assorted sexes, and, placing them on the back of a lorry, mix well by bouncing until Pinetown is reached. There add a few fresh Ramblers and mix the whole with assorted food stuffs and liquid refreshment. Now drive them to Hillcrest and repeat the bouncing procedure more vigorously on a rough road.

When they reach the trading store at the end of the line the Ramblers are ready for toasting. Make sure that the day is a particularly hot one, and the efficiency of the recipe is improved if it is also a windless one. Now lead the prepared Ramblers off along the edge of the Umgeni Valley, until somewhere in the vicinity of Topp's Needle they will disappear down a crack in the Cliff. This is the time when a few bruises, grazes and cuts can be added to the mixture, not to forget a few blisters if necessary. At the bottom of this crack allow them to skirt around the edge of the cliff until Topp's Needle is reached. By this time the first effects of thirst and heat exhaustion should be felt by all but the hardest of the Ramblers. This being the case dehydrate them even more by taking them right down into the Umgeni Valley, and push the temperature up to about 90'. When they reach the Umgeni River allow them to cool their tootsies in the water, but disturb their lunch-time rest by driving herds of cows and goats through them. Also make sure that Bob Ferns has green peas instead of guavas for lunch.

At about 3 o'clock break up the group that has been discussing religion instead of indulging in the usual lunch time discussion of women, and lead them along the side of the Umgeni River. After one mile take them up the steepest hillside available. This will produce the required result of almost complete exhaustion and make the ramblers ready for the final addition of cold drinks at the trading store.

4.

Hike to Dymock's Dilemma. cont.

By about 5.15 p.m. they should be ready for the final stages of preparation. This merely requires another dose of violent bouncing on the back of the truck, with the result that by the time Durban is reached at about 6.30 p.m. the Ramblers will be ready for serving.

They may be served as they are, or may be washed and put to bed ready for the next day. This then is the Roasted or Dymock's Dilemma Rambler, and is recommended for all sufferers of chronic laziness. 'DIKRO'.

HIKE TO MACPHERSON'S CASCADES. 24/1/65.

After a week of heat and humidity in Durban I was relieved to wake up and find Sunday a cool overcast day. I think however, that many Ramblers must have woken up during one of the early morning showers, cocked a sleepy eye at the sky, and then rolled over and gone to sleep again, as the party out on this hike was an unusually small one., the final number of hikers being 26. We found it good weather for walking in provided you didn't mind getting wet.

We were all glad to stretch our legs after the long ride to Cato Ridge, and we set off to the Cascades in soft rain. At one point the party split into three: Tom Browne and Robert Booker set off on the usual route to get a fire going and a brew started at the lunch spot; a second party crossed the river and struck off across country, while a third group followed the river to the Cascades. Here thanks to the gallant efforts of Tom and Robert, who had struggled with wet firewood to get a fire going, we had a very welcome brew. The route back to Macpherson's farm was our usual one, and we soon struck mist and rain, which continued right back to Durban.

REPORT ON SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. Dec.-Jan.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 19/12/64.

The Christmas social this year took the form of a dinner dance in the Golden Ballroom at the Athlone Hotel. The gaily lit Christmas tree and the festive atmosphere contributed to make it a very happy occasion. The tables were almost all filled, and the large number of couples present made all the hard work and organisation of the Entertainments Committee worth while.

We dined in candlelight, and the fare lived up to expectations. Fruit cocktail was followed by a fish course, and then we each received a baby chicken in a basket to be eaten without the aid of knife or fork. This put me in mind of a film I once saw which depicted a feast in the days before cutlery became a household necessity. Anyway the Ramblers were rather more polite than the medieval barons, and it was great fun. The band then came to the fore and had everyone shaking down their dinner in modern style. Their 'get fit' routine of novelty dances followed, and had us all joining in. All too soon midnight was upon us, and the evening drew to a close with the exchange of Christmas greetings on all sides.

BRAAIVLEIS 16/1/65.

We were blessed with a perfect evening for a braaiivleis, and it was a pleasure to just be out of doors on such a night. Added to this was a perfect setting of a garden lit by fairy lights, and the tempting smell of meat grilling over an open fire, and our enjoyment was complete. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Terbrugge and Rosemary this was all made possible, and on behalf of all of us who so enjoyed the evening I should like to thank them most sincerely. I don't think that Ivor Ave., Westville North has seen so many cars for some time, as there was a very good attendance at this social.

For once the fire was just right, and our meat cooked well without charring so that even my one sausage that rolled onto the ground tasted good. Salad, bread rolls and coffee were supplied out of Club funds, and fruit cake and date loaf just rounded off the refreshments nicely. For those who were interested there was dancing in the lounge, and for the rest of us a quiet chat outside sufficed.

I could not end this report of the last social event of the current year's Club activities without a word of praise and thanks for the Entertainment Committee's efforts. We have had a wonderful variety of events this year ranging from a Beetle Drive to a Spring Ball, and there has been something to suite the taste of all our members. All these events have entailed a great deal of organisation and hard work, but its reward is in the enjoyment that these evenings have brought to members. A further word of thanks must also be extended to all those who have given us the use of their homes this year.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB NEWS.

The first meeting in 1965 was held at Dick and Ivonne Travers' flat in Pinetown on the 20th January. Following on from a talk on 'The Judging of Colour Slides' given to our section in November last year by Donald Seton there was some discussion on the method of judging best suited to a club like ours. Our ultimate decision was to retain the present system whereby three judges mark the slides out of a possible total of 100. The 1965 Chairman of the section will be chosen at the A.G.M. on the 7th February and a secretary and panel of judges will be elected at the photographic meeting following.

The subject of the competition was 'Architecture', and once again the subject matter covered a wide range.

2.
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB NEWS. Cont.

An amusing sequence occurred when a slide of the Tower of London was followed by one of a handful of simple Bantu kraals. Dick and Yvonne Travers seemed to have difficulty in deciding which slides belonged to whom, and even claimed one of Carolyn's slides in their puzzlement.

An outstanding shot of the Norwich Union Building taken by Harry T/pe was the winning slide with 79%

RAMBLERS RADIO.

The first pleasant surprise of the New Year was the engagement of Carolyn Tamblyn and Clive Gibson. This is a true Ramblers match as they met one another through the medium of the Club. Best of luck to you both.

Following close on the heels of Carolyn and Clive were Charles Smeda and Ingrid who announced their engagement. Congratulations.

Then to complete the hat trick Don Young, our Treasurer, announced his engagement to Paddy Crombie. This, I believe, is one of the happy aftermaths of Easter Camp last year.

Our two Mikes, Mike Wigley and Mike Woods, entered the gruelling canoe race from Haritzburg to Durban this month. In single canoes they completed the course and must be congratulated on their wonderful effort.

Bob Ferns is back in Durban again, and it is nice to see his familiar face on hikes again. The days of the Fern's tank are over though, as I hear that Bob has a V.W. now.

EDITORIAL.

Dear Ramblers,

I began scratching my head and gathering together a few thoughts to fill up this space in the magazine as I was sitting in the park where I spend most of my afternoons. The peaceful atmosphere of my surroundings and the charm of the old indigenous trees set off a chain of thought. I have recently read a book called 'Durban Story' by Barbara Tait, and in this book she mentions that on a Friday in the July of 1854 a lion killed an ox on John Crocker's farm on Springfield flats. Its spoor was traced from the Botanic Gardens via Montpellier to Springfield...Elephants too tramped about the forests of the Berea...and the last of the Berea elephants was said to have crossed the Umgeni in a troop about 1854! At that time crocodiles too infested the Umgeni claiming several human victims. How different life in Durban must have been in those days, and events which today would make newspaper headlines, were considered commonplace. The spirit of adventure was kept alive by all the challenges of a pioneering country. Even in the last generation life in our country has changed considerably. My father was a hero among his friends when as a young man he braved the gruelling trip from Johannesburg to Durban on his motorbike, taking 3 days on the journey. Even in the ten years I have been in Durban it has changed a great deal, and old fashioned buildings have given way to skyscrapers in many quarters of the city. A guest speaker at a school speech day recently was quoted as saying that the spirit of adventure must be kept alive among our young people, and must not be sacrificed on the altar of security. This pioneering spirit is being kept alive by clubs such as the Mountain Club and the Ramblers Club among others. I hope that our club will continue to play its important role as our city expands daily, and we become more hemmed in by modern civilization. May more and more young people come to know the byways of our countryside in the fellowship of the Durban Ramblers.

Ed.