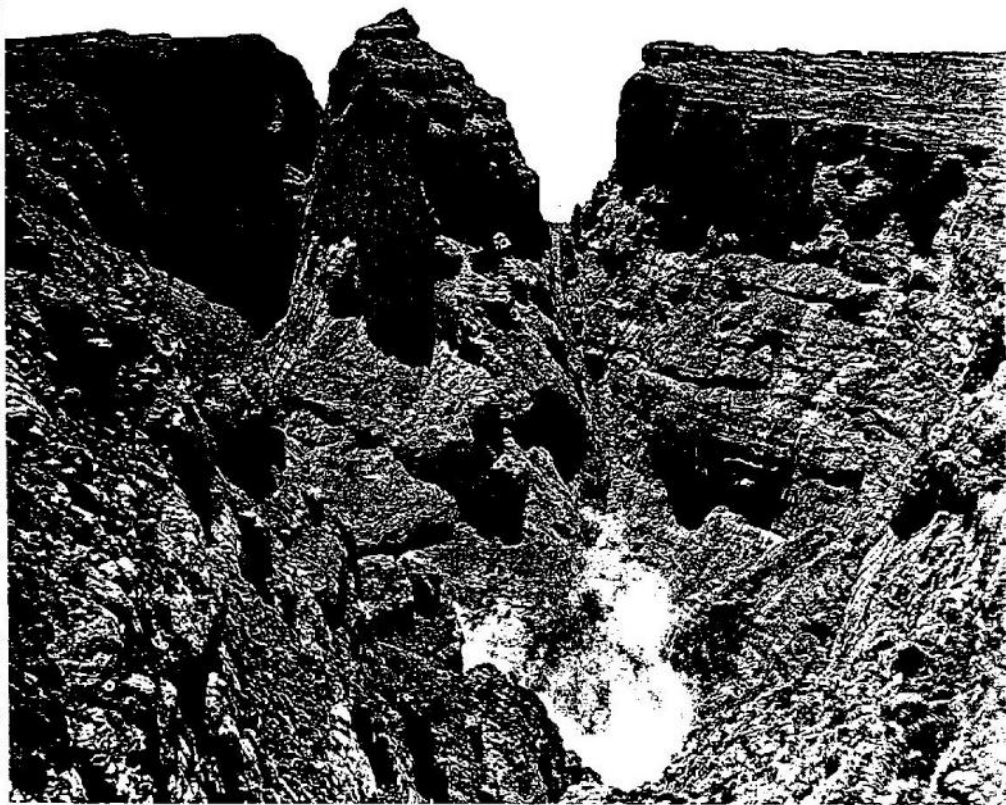


MURBAN = RAMBLERS

KALKING = CLUBS

Feb/March 90



Monk's Crag

CHAIRMAN	SCOTTY VALLANCE	(H)	296409
SECRETARY	JACK AUMORD	(R)	423245
TREASURER	WINNIE JACKSON	(H)	3052515
DAY HIKES	STEVE WATSON	(H)	214512
BERG HIKES	DICK BILLIET	(H)	813672
TRAILS	REGINA BILLIET	(H)	813672
PHOTOGRAPHY	MIKE MORRILLION	(B)	7011758
ENTERTAINMENT	BRUCE MEDWAY	(H)	235895
EDITOR	GUIDA STRAYTON	(H)	727530
SUPPORT MEMBER	JO STRAYTON	(H)	727530

Affiliated to the Hiking foundation of South Africa

P. O. BOX 1063 Durban 4000

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1990

MAG 1/90

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1990

Please note the Annual General Meeting will be held at the home of Phil Caws at 26 Bedale Road, Malvern (directions on back page) on Sunday 18 February 1990 commencing 14h00 sharp.

This will be preceded by a braai from 12h00 onwards. Please bring your own meat, salads and refreshments.

Let's see if we can make this a record attendance and a lively fruitful meeting.

See you there!

A G E N D A

1. Apologies.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Financial Report and Balance Sheet.
6. Election of Office Bearers.
7. Correspondence.
8. Honorary Members.
9. General

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Almost a year ago at our AGM I was running around trying to scoop up a Secretary and an Editor.

Suddenly the meeting was in progress and I found myself elected Chairman. This took me completely by surprise and left me speechless, so I had to write a short note which was sent out to all of you advising the new list of office bearers - to quote - "We all consider it an honour to have been elected and fully realize the tremendous responsibility which all of these positions entail. We wish to stress, however, here and now that no matter how hard we work to steer this great club of ours in the right direction we desperately require assistance from each and every one of you. Any ideas, any advice on recruiting new members or constructive criticism will be most welcome, so rush now to your nearest telephone and tell us."

Well, I was truly blessed because I ended up with an outstanding committee. Winnie did a magnificent job taking care and accounting for all our pennies.

Guida, whom we badgered into the position of Editor was outstanding and our magazine came alive.

The rest of us worked hard to keep up the standard, seeking new trails, organising beautiful weekend hikes, our Barn Dance was a great success and from all reports will be even better next year.

I honestly believe that your entire committee has done a sterling job in lifting the club to new heights and strengths, as the number of visitors and new members will prove.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who has taken an active part in helping to keep our Hiking Club the number one in South Africa.

With everyones co-operation we will go forward and meet the challenges ahead in 1990.

SCOTTY VALANCE
CHAIRMAN

A warm welcome to the following new members;

Miss Sue Isaacson; Miss Jill Bullock;
Mr Gordon Szmid; Mr John Law;
Mr Graydon N Cock; Mr I Schneidermann.

Congratulations to Winnie Jackson for being awarded the Chief Leaders Floating Trophy for the second year running. A well deserved recognition of her dedication and unstinted support over a long period of time.

We are very sad that she'll be leaving Durban - but fortunately not the Club - and wish her well in pastures new.

Please note that Graham Hammond will take over from Winnie the storage of Club Equipment at the following address:

10 Brierley
53 Chelmsford Road
Durban
Telephone: 22 2670

CONGRATULATIONS!! to one of our very popular hike leaders and his fair lady - Eamon and Christine on their engagement.

DEPARTURE POINTS FOR DAY HIKES:

Durban: Musgrave Park parking area - corner Berea/Musgrave Rds.
Pinetown: Union Main Centre - Old Main Road - Outside Tiffanys (formerly Big Bite)

PLEASE BRING THE CORRECT CHANGE!!

VENUE FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETINGS:

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

DIARY OF EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 1990

- Sun 4 FARAWAY FARM: Aply lead by Eamon Bussy. Tel. (H) 473400
Depart Durban 7h30; Pinetown 08h00.
Members R8. Visitors R9.
- 3 - 4 METSI MATSHA TRAIL: Royal National to Oliver's Hoek
Pass Traverse. Leader Dick Billiet.
Tel. (H) 813672
- Sun 11 ENON FOREST: Lead by the able pair Eamon and Scotty.
Tel. 473400 or 296409. Depart Durban 07h30;
Pinetown 08h00. Members R8. Visitors R9.

- 10-11 LAID BACK SOUTH COAST WEEKEND: Day walks from luxury Beach cottage. Leader Bruce Medway.
Tel. (H) 235895
Depart Durban 07h30; Pinetown 08h00.
Members R8. Visitors R9.
- Sun 18 ANNUAL GENERAL METING:
Dont' forget the show of the year.
- Wed 21 PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETING AT 7.45 P.M.
R1.00 per person includes refreshments
Wildlife/Nature videos covering the
"Rift Valley" in East Africa, and the
"Hamerkop" at Serengeti will be shown,
Courtesy of Bruce Medway.
- Sun 25 MPAMPANYJONI: Bring your swimwear. Tom de Waal will show the way. Tel. (H) 474766. Depart Durban 7h30 only. Members R8. Visitors R9.
- 24 - 25 MIDDEN VALLEY EXPLORATION:
Tents required.
Leader: Jack Aumord. Tel. (H) 423245

MARCH 1990

- Sun 4 ISMONT FOREST: Scotty promises a lovely day along a new route. Tel. (H) 296409
Depart Durban 7h30. Pinetown 8h00.
Members R8. Visitors R9.
- 3 - 4 EXPLORE NDEDEMA GORGE
Boulder hopping and swimming, staying in Poachers Cave on Saturday night.
Leader: Steve Watson Tel.(H) 214512
- Sun 11 VERNON CROOKS: Tom will show us a completely new side of Vernon Crooks. Tel. (H) 474766.
Depart Durban only 7h30. Members R8. Visitors R9.
- 10 - 11 NORTHERN BERG CAVERN:
Day walks from Hlalanathi camp site.
Tents required.
Leader: Doug Hopper Tel. (H) 522045.
- Sun 18 MT ASHLEY: A new hike in one of our favourite spots.
Lead by Steve Watson Tel. (H) 214512
Depart Durban 07h30; Pinetown 08h00.
Members R8. Visitors R9.
- 17 - 18 FIND SINCLAIRS SHELTER:
and explore Ka Nontshivovo Ridge.
Tents required. Leader: Dick Billiet
Tel. (H) 813672

- Wed 21 PHOTOGRAPHIC MEETING AT 7.45 P.M.
 R1.00 per person includes refreshments.
 Malcolm Leehman of Durban North Colour
 Slide Club, will entertain with
 audio/visuals of Sunnyside Farm (OFS),
 Jerusalem, Nyasaland, Highlights of
 Israel & the "Blue Train" DON'T miss
 this one!!
- Sun 25 INGWENI TRAIL: Jo tells me he has done a new "reccce
 along this popular route. Tel. (H) 727530.
 Depart Durban 8h00. Pinetown 8h30.
 Members R5. Visitors R6.
- 24 - 25 INJASUTI: Leader: Tom de Waal. Tel. (H) 474766

APRIL 1990 - ADVANCE NOTICE

- 6/7/8 LOTENI, SYMES COTTAGE:
 Day walks from Rustic Cottage. R26 deposit.
 to be paid before acceptance of booking.
 Leader: Dick Billiet Tel. (H) 813672

BAMBOO MOUNTAIN 25/26 November 1989

Leader: Dick Billiet

As normally happens, a few last minute hitches always occur to put our scheduled departure time way off mark, and this weekend was no exception! A late Friday afternoon call from Regina asking us to fit in one more person resulted in a series of frantic phone calls to locate the lady in question which fortunately, for her, I finally did. Our other passenger, Mac, loathe to keep us waiting one second after 5pm, arrived breathlessly on our doorstep, clothes & beer in hand but, alas, no food! As I hastily threw in extra provisions, we all cooled off with a couple of beers and at last we were on our way - only to make two "pit-stops" before Cato Ridge (thanks to the beer!)

Driving through the usual heavy mist and stopping to investigate an abandoned motor bike on the side of the road we finally arrived at Underberg Hotel where we were meeting the rest of the party of 16 hikers. (Dave had also come across this accident and apparently the driver & passenger were somewhat intoxicated and had hit a cow. The cow had to be destroyed and I'm only too glad that they had all dispersed before we came on the gruesome scene!). We had a quick drink before being urged on our way by Dick.

Arriving at Restmount in fairly heavy rain, we all floundered around a little helplessly until the kindly manager was located and we were led to our accommodation which turned out to be rather quaint school type dormitories with about 16 beds in each and a communal shower which raised a series of risque remarks! We each claimed a little bed and settled our belongings -- unfortunately for Jackie her down sleeping bag had been inadvertently knocked out of the car boot at the Underberg Hotel and was lost for good.
 (Some lucky so and so slept very warmly that night in Underberg!!)

Restmount is a sponsored children's holiday farm and although a little run-down was clean and comfortable with a charming English country garden and a big kitchen complete with huge coal stove, on which a very welcome kettle boiled merrily at all times.

Next morning after breakfast and a tour of the place, we set off up Bamboo Mountain, making a short detour to walk through a lovely little indigenous forest to view the waterfall. Dick pointed out a very rare old plant called an "elephant foot" which is unfortunately sought after by the local blacks for medicinal uses. It was a particularly long uphill slog to the ridge and we lost a few of the not-so-fit or brave along the way. The rest of us hikers, followed our intrepid leader round the precipitous mountainside until we could go no further other than up! Standing with trembling legs for my turn to ascend this forbidding rock face, I watched my fellow hikers disappear upwards. I needn't have worried as, assisted by 3 pairs of brawny arms, my nervous booted toe had no sooner found the first foot hold when I was manhandled rapidly skywards and was soon standing safely on top. A much deserved break gave us the chance to view the surrounding countryside which was magnificent and to nibble on something delicious for energy and stamina to tackle the rest of the walk, because, knowing Dick, we would need it! What goes up must come down and no one knows that better than a hiker. In places it was pretty steep and rocky but for the most part easily negotiable and the route was definitely easier than the way up had been. Intermittent rain kept us going until lunch time which we had next to a dam. The sun came out again and while Adolph and Steve tried out their birthday suits in the dam the rest of us relaxed or dozed in the sun until it became too hot and drove us into the welcome shade of a pine forest walk. A long circular route over the hills and down the road brought us back to Restmount, hot showers and cold beers!

Dinner was an individual affair with everyone vying for the hottest places on the stove to cook their meat and the kitchen was soon filled with the most mouthwatering aromas. Gretel enticed a few people into the dining-room for a sing-song round the piano but most preferred the warm cosy kitchen and conversation.

Next day after a latish breakfast, Dick took a party of stalwart hikers off to conquer yet another mountain leaving the rest of us to do our own thing. It was a very hot day and the river proved to be the big attraction and that's where we spent a couple of leisurely hours.

Returning to the base camp for lunch, Richard and I found huge mushrooms under the pine needles and gathered arms full. Dick verified that they were indeed edible and saving some for ourselves for home, gave Regina the rest. After lunch we gathered our belongings and passengers together, bade farewell and headed back home.

Thanks again to Dick for yet another one of his interesting and different hikes and thanks also to Bruce for organising such comfortable accommodation.

(P.S. I must admit to being filled with trepidation as I cooked and ate the mushrooms the next night, however they were really delicious and I'm happy to say that I did wake up the next day to tell this tale!!)

DIRECTIONS FOR AGM AT 26 BEDALE ROAD, MALVERN

