



P O Box 50563  
4062 Musgrave Road  
(Please note the club's new address)

JANUARY - MARCH 1998

TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	TELEPHONE / FAX NUMBERS	
		HOME	BUSINESS
Chairman	Colin Turner	783 517	
Secretary	Glenys Bentley	847 632	
Treasurer	Tony Livingstone	251 654	
Day hike organiser	Bill Hyslop	705 5770	082 455 2217 <i>lee</i>
Trails organiser	Margret Kirsten	303 3418	
Weekend/berg organiser	Mary-Lee Arnot	211 469	082 61 0428 <i>MA</i>
Social organiser	Denise Warburton	429 781	
Editor	Erica Jacobs	217 690	300 9721 (fax)
Publicity	Adrian Rowe	764 4721	
Ordinary member	Christine Giblin	474 187	

*Joe Strayton 7013550*

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Another year in our club's history has come and gone and it is pleasing to report that we have welcomed a large number of new members during the past twelve months. As some of these new members have, and others will be, taking part in our berg trips, trails and weekends away, I feel it is necessary to bring to the attention of all members the club's requirements in regard to bookings.

When trips of this nature are planned, organisers are required to make the booking with the relative authority immediately in order to secure the trip for the club. In these instances (other than cave bookings), the full cost or a substantial portion thereof, has to be paid to the booking authority shortly thereafter. It is for this reason that participants are required to pay to the club their individual cost when making their booking and so ensure that the club recovers its outlay timeously. A club fee of R2 at present is also levied to cover the costs of telephone calls, faxes etc. Should participants after paying their dues request cancellation, it is up to them to find a replacement as it may not be possible to obtain a refund from the booking authority. The

payment for the booking of caves is different in that the fee is payable at the Natal Parks Board office at the commencement of the hike.

It is also the organiser's responsibility to arrange transport for the participants on the hike/trail etc and members who are prepared to use their cars must receive reasonable compensation for their running costs. Recommended transport fees for berg trips are listed in each issue of our magazine, whilst journeys to other destinations will be stipulated in the advice of the hike / trail or conveyed to participants when bookings are made. The transport fees are normally collected by each driver from his passengers when setting out.

I make a pleas to all members to appreciate that organisers put an enormous amount of time and planning into these weekends and trails and request those of you who partake of them to co-operate and to understand the situation should you not be able to obtain a refund when a cancellation is made and you have no-one to take your place. Late cancellations also upset the transport arrangements and can lead to willing drivers being out of pocket.

On behalf of your committee I would like to wish every one of you a happy and peaceful Christmas time and many enjoyable hikes with pleasant company in 1998.

Yours in hiking  
Colin Turner

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**NEW MEMBERS** ☺

We would like to welcome the following new members: Dennis Engel, Jaya Wilson, Justin Fletcher, Geoff Foster, Sue Wellbeloved, Malcolm Ferris, Geraldine Dobson, Joe Bologna, Llewellyn & Gareth Evans, Howard Lundie, Nora Price, Romina Arend, Doreen Aves, Jane & Eric Duck, Merle Lubbe, Gerda Kinsey, Jayasagaren & Charmaine Naidoo, Thunabalan & Juliet Veerasamy and Astrid Fraser. We wish you many happy years hiking with us.

The following are aspirant members whom we hope will be joining us in due course: E H Millar, Carol McLean, Pat Sweet and Ann Vat.

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**Food for thought**

I have found that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to have to travel with them.

Mark Twain

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**HIKING PROGRAMME : JANUARY - MARCH 1998**

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, Berea  
Pinetown: Union Main Centre, Old Main Road

**NB: PLEASE BRING CORRECT MONEY - NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN!**

**PROGRAMME OF SATURDAY AFTERNOON HIKES**

These hikes are for beginners and members who are unable to attend full day hikes. Unless otherwise stated depart Musgrave Park at 13:30 and Union Main Pinetown at 13:45. Otherwise contact the leader for meeting at the venue. The hikes cost R5 (R4 for the driver and R1 for the club).

☞ *Volunteers are urgently needed to help with the meeting place at Pinetown - Contact the organiser, Gavin Thomson on 284 342.*

DATE	DESTINATION	LEADER	☎
3 Jan	Umbilo Moss - Pinetown meet at venue. Musgrave 13:45 (note time change)	Gavin Thomson	284 342
10 Jan	Kloof gorge	Fred Corniere	849 724
17 Jan	Treasure beach. Musgrave meet only, or at venue	Tom de Waal	474 766
24 Jan	Palmiet Nature Reserve, New Germany Road, Westville	Philip Gatenby	213 592
31 Jan	Springside - <del>xxxx</del> Golf Club <i>Embeter Emberton</i>	Ron Georges	726 523
7 Feb	Virginia bush - BYO braai afterwards	Barry Busby	849 988
14 Feb	Winston 1 - end of Jan Smuts	Joe or Gavin	723 480 284 342
24 Feb	Kloof - Uve Road	Fred Corniere	849 724
28 Feb	New Germany - Pinetown please meet at venue	Ismail Vahed	290 902
7 March	Mariann Hill Monastery	Ron Georges	726 523
14 March	Paradise Valley. Musgrave meet 13:45, Pinetown meet at venue. BYO braai afterwards at Denise Straub tel: 839 554 (Please note Mary-Lee will be moving in March hence no home phone number)	Mary-Lee Arnot	202 6568 (B)
21 March	Umbogavango. Please phone leader re meeting place and cost <i>RS</i>	<del>Ismail Vahed</del> <i>Tom de Waal</i>	290 902
28 March	Nqutu Gorge - end Valley Drive, Forest Hills	Gavin Thomson	284 342

**DAY HIKE PROGRAMME**

☞ *All meeting times, unless otherwise stated are: Durban 08:00 and Pinetown 08:30*

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADERS COST OF HIKE	☎
4 Jan	Ekhukanyeni. A new, short - medium hike on the north side of 1000 hills. Starts and finishes at a well-stocked bottle store!	Bill Hyslop Members R16 Visitors R21	705 5770 (H)

*John & Denise*

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADERS COST OF HIKE	☛
11 Jan	Cedara state forest. Hike through shady forest in the Hilton area. Note earlier times: Durban 07:30, Pinetown 08:00.	Tony Livingstone Members R18 Visitors R23	251 654 (H)
18 Jan	Upper Nqutu gorge. Medium hike with plenty of shade in the first half. We are repeating this after only six months in order to keep open the way through the bush.	Bill Hyslop Members R8 Visitors R13	705 5770 (H)
25 Jan	Mpambanyoni River valley. Easy hike with plenty of opportunity to splash about in the river. Note different times: Pinetown 07:30, Durban 08:00	<i>Don Stanger</i> Fern de Walt Members R15 Visitors R20 <i>Sen Foster</i>	474 766 (H)
1 Feb	Peacevale. A hike which can be lengthened or shortened according to the heat of the day. Under emergency conditions a pub can be included!	Bill Hyslop Members R9 Visitors R14	705 5770 (H)
8 Feb	Assagay. A new shortish hike - should be good for hot weather.	John and Denise Members R12 Visitors R17	429 781 (H) <i>NR</i>
15 Feb	Chairman's choice. A new hike in the Umgeni valley which was due to take place in December, but because of the river crossing might be easier now.	Colin Turner Members R10 Visitors R15	783 517 (H)
22 Feb	"Hurricane Hill" Cliffdale. This reinstates the hike rained off last November. Medium in length, it provides good views over the Sterkspruit valley.	Adrian Rowe Members R8 Visitors R13	764 4721 (H)
1 Mar	<i>Salisbury</i> Umgeni bend. We will hope for volunteers for bush-clearing beforehand so that we can complete the route which was overgrown last year.	Bill Hyslop Members R16 Visitors R21	705 5770 (H) <i>John &amp; Denise</i> <i>No buses</i>
8 Mar	Salt Rock area. Paula Baxter will lead a toughened and lengthened version of her well-known half day hike to convert it into a medium full day trip. Parties will leave simultaneously at 08:30 from Durban and Pinetown.	Paula Baxter Members R12 Visitors R17	214 619
15 Mar	The hidden Umbilo. This newly opened hike was greatly enjoyed when we first tried it last year. It is fairly long, but mostly on fairly easy ground.	Steve Nel Members R6 Visitors R11	Contact Bill on 705 5770
22 Mar	Ifudu. This long ridge, which borders the beautiful Umlazi valley, has not been walked for three years. Medium to long. Good, safe parking (we think!)	Adrian Rowe Members R7 Visitors R12	764 4721 (H)

29 Mar	Valley of 1000 hills. An old route which we have not done for some time. A medium hike along wooded paths.	Bill Hyslop Members R10 Visitors R15	705 5770 (H)
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**ADVANCE NOTICES**

9-13 April Easter w/e	Blinkwater trail. Deposit R60 with booking please. Petrol R30. Limited to 12	Philip Gatenby	213 592 (H)
July / Aug	Blydepoort / Malalotsha. Phone John van Zyl on 429 781 (H) if interested	Ian Stewart	

**WEEKEND AND TRAILS HIKE PROGRAMME**

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADER	☛
30 Jan - 1 Feb	Loteni base camp. Camp site + reserve fee + club fee - Details from John. Petrol R40	John van Zyl	429 781 (H)
13 - 15 Feb	Royal National camping. Petrol R45, club fee R2 plus camp site fee. Phone Barry for arrangements.	Barry Busby	849 988 (H)
20 - 22 Feb	Havenrock. Farmhouse sleeps 12 - R20 per night. Tents allowed - R10 per night. Petrol R20, club fee R2. Book by 13 Feb - Limited numbers.	Mary-Lee Arnot	211 469 (H)
27 - 29 Mar	Silo trail, Greytown. Limited to 16. R30 per night. Petrol R30, club fee R2. Deposit with booking by 13 March.	Chris Dobson	751 824 (H)

*Spitzkop* - New hike near Lion Park. A new hike has been opened in the hills on the Pietermaritzburg side of Little Table Mountain. Apparently walks were held in this area many years ago.

On Sunday 16 November 1997, 22 Ramblers descended upon and parked four vehicles at the ramshackle Spitzkop Mission Church where "George", who cared for our cars for a modest fee, now lives. To add to the rigors of the hike, the tea/coffee kit-bag had unfortunately been left at Union Main parking lot where the watchman cared for it.

This moderate hike takes a circular route through a variety of landscapes and vegetation. Starting in flat, rocky scrubland it drops through thorny scrubland into a shaded and somewhat muddy donga. Following a week of dimly wet weather, the humidity was very high. Fortunately a gentle breeze became effective as height was gained and the day was blessed with perfect hiking weather. A steep slope climbs through thorny grassland to join a path on the shoulder of Spitzkop, with spectacular vistas in every direction, one finds the path through a forest and on to the dry western side of the kop up to the summit of shaded granite boulders.

*Final returns*



The start of the hike with Spitzkop ahead

Comments from appreciative Ramblers confirmed that this hike met their expectations which made the effort that went into finding and opening the hike worthwhile. Some Ramblers enjoyed the pub back at the car park where they were able to make good the damage caused by the total lack of tea or coffee.

My appreciation and thanks go to Bill Hyslop for his companionship, navigational skills and enthusiastic path clearing abilities. Together we managed over a number of Sundays to link paths and cattle tracks for this hike with assistance from Ingrid (my favourite lady) and Barry Austin (a friend I met in July on a climbing trip on Spitzkop in Namibia as he rode by on his bicycle on a year long, 17005km trip from Somalia to Durban.



Little Table Mountain on the descent of Spitzkop

Everyone who enjoys hiking may not appreciate the effort that goes into making their enjoyment possible. Were each member to contribute by joining in on *just one recce a year*, apart from contributing meaningfully toward the club and hiking in general, they would discover a sense of satisfaction knowing that they had helped.

Lee D'Eathe

Recommended transport fees for berg hikes per person:

Southern berg R40.00  
 Central berg R40.00  
 Northern berg R45.00

45.  
 45.00  
 50.00

The above prices include toll fees

Annual subscription fees:

Country: R16 - Country couples: R20  
 Single: R20 - Couples: R25  
 Entrance fee: R10

Prospective members must do three day hikes or one berg trip.

## SOCIAL DIARY

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
6 Jan	Bridge - Rehab centre	Mary-Lee 211 469
14 Jan	Corsica slide show. See note below. 19:30	Bill 705 5770
20 Jan	Bridge - Rehab centre	Mary-Lee 211 469
23 Jan	Social evening at Ocean Café, Glenwood / Buxtons shopping centre, Moore Road. 17:30	Denise 429 781
3 Feb	Bridge - Rehab centre	Mary-Lee 211 469
6 Feb	Scrabble / games evening, 48 Beach Road, Bluff. 19:00	Anorra 466 4728
11 Feb	Talk by Greg Mackenzie (physio specialising in sport injuries) on strapping sprains and minor injuries while hiking. A doctor will also talk to us on first aid. Rehab centre 19:00 for 19:30. BYO	Denise 429 781
17 Feb	Bridge - Rehab centre	Mary-Lee 211 469
18 Feb	AGM - New Germany Sports Club. Show your support for your club by attending this important meeting.	
27 Feb	Social evening at La Veneto (next to Hyperama) at Pavilion, supper at Centre Court 17:30	Denise 429 781
3 Mar	Bridge - Rehab centre	Dee 254 462
6 Mar	Scrabble / games evening 19:00	Marge Blake 862 426
11 Mar	Slide show by Derek McGillewie on Namibia - Rehab centre 19:00 for 19:30. BYO	Denise 429 781
17 Mar	Bridge - Rehab centre	Dee 254 462
27 Mar	Social get together at Point Yacht Club 17:30	Denise 429 781

### Corsica 1997 : 19:30 Wednesday 14 January 1998

Illustrated by slides and photographs, the intrepid members of last year's expedition will describe their adventures on the GR20 high-level mountain route. The venue will be the New Germany Sports Club where meals and refreshments can be obtained before the meeting, time 19:30.

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### For Sale:

Ramblers sun hats for sale @ R10 each - Contact Colin Turner on ☎783 517.

Size 6 ladies HiTech hiking boots - R50. contact Erica on 217 690 (H) or 300 9823 (B).

Gaiters R20 a pair. Phone Mary-Lee on 211 469

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### Hiring of equipment for members:

Tents: R7.50 per day (R50 deposit)  
 Contact Gerald Hall on ☎251 089

Backpacks: Between R3 and R5 per day (R50 deposit)  
 Sleeping mats: R1 per day  
 Stoves with fuel: R5 per day (R20 deposit)  
 Contact Philip Gatenby on ☎213 592

