



PO Box 50563  
4062 Musgrave Road  
JANUARY TO MARCH 2002

TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	HOME TEL	BUS, CEL & FAX Nos
Chairman	Phillip Gatenby	2013592	
Secretary	Dieter Becker	4627445	
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	3121503	0829006965
Day Hike Organiser	Bill Hyslop	2626792	0835412228
Berg Trails Organiser	Ray van Reenen	7058939	
Socials Organiser	Vacant		
Magazine Editor	Steve Watson	3127108	
Publicity Organiser	Celia Vergari	7644608	0839255938
Sat. Hike Organiser	Clive Siepman	7655051	after hours
Ordinary Member			

*Recipe for a Great Marriage (from "Stoop Talk" in the Star)*

*Twice a week my wife and I go to a nice restaurant with a romantic atmosphere. We have a little wine, some good food and companionship. She goes Tuesdays and I go Fridays. We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops. I try to take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back.*

**CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER**

The last quarter of the Club's year is once more upon us – sooner than expected, and I am reminded of the smart remark that, inside every elderly person is a young person, wondering what happened. I hope there are not any of you who feel excessively elderly – if so, perhaps you had better try hiking again.

It has been a momentous year for some and a difficult year for others, with surgery having complicated the lives of a few whilst still pending for at least one. Colleen would like to thank all those who 'phoned, or visited, to extend their wishes for her rapid recovery.

Our Saturday Hikers are, at last fully on board. I suppose some two thousand Saturday hikes and almost a thousand Sunday hikes have been completed in the year – not too shabby for a club in its seventieth year.

On the grapevine front, I believe some people have expressed interest in the club finances. I am pleased to advise that the books may be inspected, by arrangement with the Treasurer. Alternatively, those who attend the Annual General Meeting will be presented with a copy of the financial statements.

There seems to be a certain amount of confusion over the number of Saturday hikers who obtained full membership recently. Here are the facts:-

Since some very weak hikers enjoyed full membership and some very capable hikers, who chose to hike on Saturdays, including a hike leader, were denied similar treatment. I tried to get out of the ludicrous situation by suggesting full membership for the hike leader and two others. The majority of the Committee voted to postpone this until the Constitution had been changed and then grant full membership to all members who had completed at least six Saturday hikes.

I, personally, felt that some Saturday hikers, who had been members for years, and had completed at least twenty (in some cases more than one hundred) hikes, should have been allowed to vote immediately after the Constitution was changed. There would have been about ten people who qualified thus. Since the members at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting expressed such overwhelming support for the Committee, there was no need to put this proposal to at least six hikes, were granted full membership, as reported in the last magazine.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish you and yours all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Philip

Heard at a Rambler's Social  
Clinton :- "What do you do if a bird craps on your windscreen?"

John :- "Don't ask her out again."

**HIKING PROGRAMME : JANUARY TO MARCH 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, Pi'town 08h30.*

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADER	TEL NOS
Jan 6	<b>Hurricane Hill.</b> One of our hotter hikes, but very rewarding.	Steve Nel Members R11 Visitors R16	0835405669
Jan 13	<b>Beach Walk (Umdloti Area).</b> A medium hike which includes both beach and bush.	Brian O'Connell Members R12 Visitors R17	0835446379
Jan 20	<b>Upper Nqutu Valley.</b> Medium hike amidst gentle scenery.	Bill Hyslop Members R11 Visitors R16	2626792 0835412228
Jan 27	<b>Mwabe.</b> A shortish hike onto high ground overlooking the Umlazi River.	Bill Hyslop Members R9 Visitors R14	2626792 0835412228
Feb 3	<b>Chairman's Choice.</b> Kranzkoof Area.	Phillip Gatenby Members R16 Visitors R21 <i>inc reserve fee</i>	2013592
Feb 10	<b>Peacevale.</b> A medium hike amidst rolling hills in the Kay Ridge area. Very popular.	Bill Hyslop Members R13 Visitors R18	2626792 0835412228
Feb 17	<b>Charleclair Skyline.</b> A popular hike which is less strenuous than some of Steve's.	Steve Nel Members R12 Visitors R17	0835405669
Feb 24	<b>Ifudu Umlazi Meander.</b> A popular unspoiled riverside hike of medium length. Practical for a hot day.	Brian O'Connell Members R11 Visitors R16	0835446379
Mar 3	<b>Shongweni Heights &amp; Falls.</b> A variant of one of our most popular places. Medium in length & varied in scenery.	Dieter Becker Members R11 Visitors R16	4627445

Mar 10	<b>Table Mountain.</b> Our leader's version of this well-known area includes some new sections, but also includes the amusing, but avoidable, rock scramble.	<b>Lee d'Eathe</b> Members R21 Visitors R26	2623753(h) 3002442(w)
Mar 17	Nothing organised – see week-ends.		
Mar 24	<b>Camelot.</b> A pleasant medium hike in the Upper Valley of the Sterkspruit.	<b>Steve Nel</b> Members R20 Visitors R25	0834540569
Mar 31	<b>Rob Roys Ridge.</b> A well-known favourite in the Valley of 1000 Hills	Steve Watson Members R13 Visitors R18	3127108

**N.B. Don't forget to pay your subs or Biff Maggs will biff you !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON HIKES PROGRAMME**

These hikes depart from Musgrave Park Medical Centre at 13h30. The cost is R8.00 for transport which is payable to the relevant driver. Hikes marked # involve a payment of R7.00 each for entry into the nature reserve. Hikes marked \* involve a payment of R2.00 for reccees. Hikes marked \*\* are suitable for beginners. Please bring the correct amount of money as change is not always available – thank you. Would those for whom the starting point is not convenient, please proceed to the destination, or phone one of the organisers between 12h00 and 12h45 on the day, to arrange a suitable meeting point.

**CONTACT:- Celia (7644608) or Philip (2013592)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADER	TEL NOS
Jan 5	* <b>Lower Macintosh Falls</b> – meet at Seasons restaurant. Bushy path to spectacular waterfall.	Bill	2626792
Jan 12	**# <b>Kloof 3</b> From Kloof Falls picnic site, forested walk alongside a pretty stream, returning on escarpment.	Celia	7644608
Jan 19	<b>Winston Park 1.</b> Turning circle at eastern end of Jan Smuts Ave. Walk along edge of escarpment.	Celia	7644608
Jan 26	**# <b>Paradise Valley</b> Between dual carriageway and flats. Small nature reserve with variety of vegetation.	Dave	2668602
Feb 2	** <b>New Germany Nature Reserve.</b> Second right off Otto Volek Rd after Old Main Road. Grass/forest reserve with buck, zebra & walk in aviary.	Celia	7644608
Feb 9	* <b>Umhlaluzana Valley</b> Bushy walk through the river valley. Meet at Seasons restaurant.	Bill	2626792

Feb 16	** Roosfontein. Westville Prison, Spine Road. Open walk in grass & river bed.	Dave	2668602
Feb 23	# Nqutu Gorge. Valley Drive near causeway. Walk on sides joined by rugged crossing below waterfall.	Philip	2013592
Mar 2	** # Stainbank. Meet at Stainbank Nature Reserve. Shady walk. Bring drinks & snacks for afterwards.	Clive	7655051
Mar 9	** Palmiet. Meet at the Old New Germany road parking for this lovely hike.	Bill	2626792
Mar 16	# Cella's Kloof. From Kloof Falls picnic site along top of escarpment with magnificent gorge views.	Cella	7644608
Mar 23	# ** Kloof 1. Kloof Falls picnic site. We hike to the waterfall then top of waterfall & grasslands.	Cella	7644608
Mar 30	** Springside. First right off Old Main Rd, Hillcrest after leaving highway. Cross country walk.	Dave	2668602

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and thank you all for your support.

Celia

A blonde, a brunette and a redhead all work in the same office for a female boss who always goes home early.  
 "Hey, girls," says the brunette, "let's go home early tomorrow. She'll never know."  
 So the next day, they all leave right after the boss does. The brunette does some gardening, the redhead goes to a bar, and the blonde goes home to find her husband having sex with her female boss. She sneaks out quietly and returns at her normal time.  
 "That was fun," says the brunette. "Let's do it again some time."  
 "No way," says the blonde. "I almost got caught."

**WEEKEND AND TRAILS PROGRAMME**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER	TEL NOS
Jan 20/21	Camping at "Nip-Inn", Bulwer. Situated in magnificent hiking country, this excellent camp-site also has a very good restaurant in the pub. Camping charge is still the same as last year - R20 - and the petrol costs are approximately R50.	Bill Hyslop	2626792

Feb 23/24	Roselands. This much-loved "home from home" week-end is once again presided over by Neville. Will we make the top of Heila Heila this time? Cost per weekend, including large quantities of food and comfortable beds (remember to bring a sleeping bag) is R90. Probable petrol cost is R50.	Neville Walmsley	3092298
Mar 16/17	Pennington. Once again we ask George to organise this delightfully situated camp-site on private property. Ideal base for exploring the splendid gorge of the Umkumbane River and Umdoni forest. Probable petrol cost is R40.	George Archibald	0399711621

#### Wild Coast Trips

- 1) Jean McCourt, Ann Geraghty and Daphne Bushell are planning a five day walk along the Wild Coast in mid-March 2002. It will be more like a holiday rather than an arduous route march. Accommodation will be at hotels with meals provided - just carry day-packs. The price will be about R1650 plus bus fares per person as long as we have a group of at least 14. Anyone interested, including non-members, let me know by February - please phone Jean on 0828975510.
- 2) George Archibald is leading his annual trip down the Transkei coast three weeks after his Pennington week-end. It is presently fully booked, but it may be worth checking with George if there are any cancellations.

**N.B. Pay your subs or be afraid, be very afraid!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Armageddon comes early, everyone on earth dies and they all pitch up at the Pearly Gates, where St Peter announces: "I want the men to form two lines - one for those who dominated their women on earth, the other for those men who were dominated by women. You ladies come inside with me."

When he returns the queue of men who were dominated by women is thousands of kilometres long. But there is only one man in the other line.

"You men should be ashamed of yourselves," Peter storms. "You were created as superior beings and you were whipped by your mates. Behold, only one single descendant of Adam stands proud and alone. Tell them, my son, how you achieved the honour of being the only one in your line."

"Dunno," says the man. "My wife just told me to stand here."

**SOCIAL DIARY**

It is my pleasure to be involved in organising the coming events. The Ramblers Club is 70 years old this year and I am sure we can make this year one to remember socially. We are starting off on the right foot by having a really super New Year's party and followed hopefully by a St Valentine's evening in February. As club members your input is essential to the success of these events.

Please contact me, Ray Van Raenen – Tel/Fax - 031 7058939 or Cel – 083 7992566, or Philip Galenby – 2013592, with your ideas, suggestions and offers to help. Events for the next three months are set out below:-

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
December 31 to January 1	Dave's New Year's Eve Party -- great plans for dress, food, wine and bring your bathing costume.	Dave - 2668602 -or Ray - 7058939
January	Your Suggestions????	Ray - 7058939
February 15 or 16	St Valentine's Dinner / Dance	Ray - 7058939
March 21	Human Rights Day, Your Suggestions????	Ray - 7058939

The Bok team shuffled off the field after being badly beaten by the English at Twickenham. A reporter approached the coach and said: "I have three questions to ask you. First, who were your best players?"  
"We didn't have any," said the coach.  
"How did you let yourself get beaten so badly?"  
"It was a team effort."  
"Obviously you drew up the team strategies. What do you think of their execution?"  
"I'm in favour of it."

**MEMBERS NEWS**

**New Members** :- a big welcome to Sue van der Westhuizen and Elizabeth Carlisle.

**Grapevine** :- Bill Hyslop has had a hernia operation (too much bush clearing?). He is taking things easy and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The club has made a R300 donation to the New Germany Nature Reserve to buy seed for the birds in the aviary, just a small token of our appreciation for the free entry to the reserve.

The year-end party, organised by Diana Blair on Saturday 8 December, was well attended and enjoyed by all, many thanks to Diana for all her work.

**For Sale** :- Ladies hiking boots, size 51/2 – good condition – R250.  
Ring 7051188 a/h or 0827803715.

**Editor's Last Word**

With this publication of the magazine, my stint as editor comes to an end. I have now completed three years and it is time new blood took over. I wish the new editor good luck and I will be happy to offer any help I can. Please give your help and support to the new editor and, of course, to the new committee that will be formed in February.

I have noticed a bit of a depression in the club this last year. A sign has been the absence of members submitting articles for publication in the magazine. Perhaps it is a symptom of concern about the changing South Africa. Just take heart that we are doing very well here compared with what is happening in Zimbabwe. Christine and I recently spent a few weeks in Harare. There, people who do not have access to foreign exchange are locked into a downward spiral of poverty. With 96% inflation their income is falling daily. Officially a Rand is worth \$Zim6 – on the "parallel market" a Rand can be exchanged for up to \$Zim33. If you do not have foreign exchange everything is 3 times as dear as here. If you do and have contacts in the parallel market, things are half the price of those in South Africa. Mugabe and his band of thugs has decimated a beautiful and fertile country.

Thinking about currency, Europe is getting very excited about the introduction of the Euro on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002. In Ireland, the only part of the British Isles that is changing to the new currency, the government has issued a number of decrees regarding necessary changes to existing terminology. One such change is that the phrase "spending a penny" must no longer be used. The correct terminology will be "automating".

May you all have a great year in 2002. Cheers - Grahame

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