



P O Box 50563
4062 Musgrave Road

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1998

TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	HOME TEL	BUSINESS/CELL OR FAX NUMBERS
Chairman	Colin Turner	708 3517	
Secretary	Pam Podmore	21 6160	Fax : 202 8404
Treasurer	Chris Dobson	765 1824	082 4611954
Day Hike Organiser	Adrian Rowe	764 4721	
Trails Organiser	Margret Kirsten	7658052	
Weekend Organiser	Cedric Blggs	86 4053	
Social Organiser	Denise Warburton	462 9781	
Editor	Jenny Hewitt	28 1522	083 3254781
Publicity	Mary-Lee Arnot		082 4600454
Ordinary Member/Sat Hike Organiser	Philip Gatenby	213592	

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

At a recent committee meeting, it was agreed that in future, the club fee for participants on trails will be R5 and Berg trips R2 per person. The booking of trails often requires trunk calls, registered mailing of cheques was well as the faxing of registered slips or bank transfer documents, plus a number of calls to participants to confirm arrangements. Due to these costs incurred, a R5 fee was considered a justifiable charge.

Our social diary has for some time now not had many alternatives to the scrabble/games evenings and social get-togethers, which have a good following. Denise would very much like to know what else members would consider being a worthwhile evening meeting to attend. She is appealing to all you members out there to let her know your suggestions. Surely someone has worthwhile slides to show us or knows of someone who would come along and give us a slide show or a talk related to our activities? Come on – put on your thinking caps and give her some ideas.

It is nice to report that we have recently met two former members of our club. Mr Smythe, who was a member 60 years ago has given us some photographs of Ramblers of his day,

while I met up with Gerry Yates, who held membership for 3 years prior to and 3 years after the last world war. I must say that Gerry is an outstanding example of what a Rambler should look like in their eighties. We are looking at the possibility of these two gentlemen meeting with us and telling us about Ramblers and rambling in their day.

Due to financial constraints, the KwaZulu Natal Nature Conservation Services are not able to maintain paths in the Drakensberg Park to the standard expected by hikers, and have appealed to hiking clubs, which use these paths, to contact them with a view to assisting over a weekend with the improvement of a particular section of a berg path. As we have only limited members who undertake Berg trips and may not be able to put together a workman-like team, we have agreed to donate R1000. For your information, there is now a sign-up at the Kloof and Nqutu Gorge ablation blocks, which are KZNNC areas, stating that they can no longer supply toilet paper. So, it is BYO from now! If you would be prepared to be part of a work party restoring a berg path, then please contact Cedric by the middle of July, otherwise we will make a cash contribution to be used only for a specific purpose.

In view of the many new members that our club has been delighted to welcome into the fold, a list is available of items that are essential to bring along on Berg trips, trails and weekend-aways. If members have any suggestions for tasty meals in the bundu, please let us know so that we can share that information.

Yours in hiking
Colin Turner

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a friendly Ramblers' welcome to the following new members: Stephen Behrens, who is a full member and Estelle Travers and Shelagh Webber who are aspirant members. We hope you will enjoy the friendship of your fellow hikers as you step out with us over the weekends.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Couples/Families R25 Single R20
Country Couples/Families R20 Country Single R16
Entrance Fee R10 per person.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for '998 are reminded that the 30 June is the deadline, after which membership will lapse and no further magazines will be forwarded to you. Individual reminders are no longer sent out to members who have not yet paid, so if you fall into this category, please "DO THE RIGHT THING" and pay your dues.

HIKING PROGRAMME : JULY TO SEPTEMBER

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 Pinetown 08h30

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	HIKE LEADERS COST OF HIKE	TELEPHONE NOS.
5 July	Clive Cheeseman Nature Reserve to Nqutu - hike from this small Reserve near the top of Fields Hill via Wyebank into Krantzklouf Nature Reserve, lunch at Sora's Pools and end at the Nqutu Picnic site. A little bit of Kloof history included.	Adrian Rowe Members R10 Visitors R15	Adrian Rowe 7644721(H)
12 July	Hike to be announced <i>Umbilo Moss Trail</i>	<i>Andrey Vickers</i>	Adrian Rowe 7644721(H) <i>R7</i>
19 July	Drumdoroch-Montezuma - hike on a lovely South Coast farm in natural bushveld, stocked with wildebeest and various types of buck	George Archibald Members R22 Visitors R27	Adrian Rowe 7644721 (H)
26 July	Msimduzi - hopefully this year we can cross the river successfully and enjoy the pretty scenery	Steve Nell Members R17 Visitors R22	Adrian Rowe 7644721 (H)
2 August (also see notice at the end of the weekend programme)	McMuddles - we join the weekend members at Mick and Gloria McConnell's farm in the lovely Curry's Post area for today's hike. NB start time : Dbn 7.30 am Ptn 8.00 am	Margret Kirsten Members R27 Visitors R32	7658052 (H)
9 August	Ladies Surprise Hike - our lady members will take us on an interesting hike to commemorate National Women's Day - NB starting times : Ptn 8.00 am and Durban 8.30 am.	Glenys Bentley & Jenny Hewitt Members R7 Visitors R12	Jonny Hewitt : 281522 (H) <i>Umbhangu</i>
16 August	Fudu- Mbokodweni - a new hike	<i>Krauser</i> Peter Krauser	7657208 (H)

Jenny

Chris

	led by a new leader, and hopefully the preamble of many more. Lovely scenery and a pretty valley not far from Mariannhill	Members R9 Visitors R14	
<i>Denise</i>	23 August <i>rain</i> Old Baldy – our old faithful in the Valley of 1000 Hills, overlooking the Umgeni River	Steve Nel Members R15 Visitors R20	Adrian Rowe 7644721(H)
<i>Philip</i>	30 August Table Mountain – another old faithful. A strenuous hike up from Nagel Dam, which may include a rocky climb for the adventuresome!	Philip Gatenby Members R19 Visitors R24	213592 (H)
<i>Adrian</i>	6 Sept Umlazi Meander – hike down into a lovely stretch of the Umlazi River above the Shongweni Dam and enjoy the abundant bird life	Adrian Rowe Members R13 Visitors R18	7644721 (H)
<i>Colin</i>	13 Sept Lower Umgeni Gorge– starting from Wyebank area and heading for Inanda Dam	Colin Turner Members R8 Visitors R13	7083517
<i>Chris</i>	20 Sept <i>Inverella</i> Vernon Crookes to Montezuma – through the seldom hiked western part of Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve and ending at George's lovely farm, and possibly seeing wild life. NB start time – Dbn 7.30 am and Pinetown 7.30 am	George Archibald Members R22 Visitors R27 NB : Bring R5 for the entrance fee	Adrian Rowe 7644721 (H)
<i>Colin</i>	27 Sept Shongweni Heights and Falls – through cane fields and natural bush, past Shongweni Station and Delville Wood. Lunch at the top of Ngede Falls, overlooking Shongweni Dam	Steve Nel Members R9 Visitors R14	Adrian Rowe 7644721 (H)

4/10 *Glynn*
PROGRAMME OF SATURDAY AFTERNOON HIKES

These hikes depart from Musgrave Park Medical Centre at 13h30 sharp, and cost R5.00. (Hikes marked * involve a small payment to the reserve – please bring some small change). Would those for whom the above 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.

Those who have led a particular hike and/or would like to lead a hike, should approach the organisers at the start, and their wishes can normally be accommodated (with open arms).

Organisers : Philip (213592), Gavin (284342), and Fred (849724)

DATE	DESTINATION
<i>20</i> <i>27</i> <i>26</i> <i>34</i>	ATF Springside – first night off Hillcrest OMR after leaving highway
<i>11/17</i>	Winston Park 1 – turning circle at eastern end of Jan Smuts Avenue
<i>18/17</i>	Winston Park 2. Start at the lake – previously St Heliers Tea Garden
<i>25/17</i>	Kloof 1 – Kloof Falls picnic site

<i>31</i> <i>26</i> <i>25</i> <i>3 Rain</i> <i>37</i> <i>27</i>	1/8 SPCA – Kloof & Highway SPCA, Village Road
9/8	Roosfontein – Westville Prison – Spine Road
15/8	Burman Bush – Car park at bottom of Burman Drive
22/8	Palmiet – entrance opposite Westville Hotel
29/8	Kloof 3 – Kloof Falls picnic site
5/8	Nqutu Gorge – Valley Drive near causeway
12/9	New Germany – second right off Otto Volek Rd after OMR
19/9	Uve Road – off Krantzview Road, <i>Ron Georges Rtn 1.30</i>
26/9	Kloof 2. Kloof Falls picnic site

WEEKEND AND TRAILS PROGRAMME

Please note:

- Hike leaders will collect R2 from each member and R5 per visitor for club expenses.
- Where the leader has to pay in advance, the hikers will have to pay the leader in advance. Such payments will be non-refundable unless the hikers organise for other hikers to take their places.

VE = VERY EASY, E = EASY, M = MODERATE, S = STRENUOUS, VS = VERY STRENUOUS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER	PHONE	RATING
11-12 Jul	Redi peak from Loteni Reserve	Hill Hyslop Cedric Biggs	864053	M-S <i>Cancelled</i>
18-19 Jul	Pillar cave and Rhino peak	Luciano Colombo	H 9036333 W 9027470	M-S
25-26 Jul	Zulu cave from Monks Cowl	Jack Aumord	H 463245 W 9027470	M
1-2 Aug	McMuddies, Curry's Post	See the notice below		
8-10 Aug	George Archibald's farm carry tents	Mary Lee	0824600454	E
8-11 Aug	Engagement cave – Pillar cave eroded rock extravaganza	Philip Gatenby	213592	M
11-12 Aug	Climb Rhino Peak (optional)			
28-30 Aug	Day hikes from Injasuthi base <i>Wonder cave</i>	George Archibald	Mary Lee	M-S
5 Sept	Explore Bannermans Pass area from comfortable accommodation at Bannermans Hut. Numbers limited. Deposit of R35 on booking to cover cost of hut.	Neville Walmsley	H 7052919	M-S
24-27 Sept	Contour path to Ndumeni	Philip Gatenby	213592	M
Sept	MALAWI – Exploring Mount Mulanje	Bill Hyslop	0824552217 after 1.7.98	
Oct				
2-4 Oct	Haven Rock	Mary Lee	0824600454	E
17-18 Oct	Whites Cave	JP de Pesta	H 283296 W 4602426	M
24-25	Day hikes from Injasuthi campsite	Steve Nel <i>Glynn</i>	W 0351-	E-M

Oct			928443	
14-15 Nov	Day hikes from Cobham	John van Zyl	H 429781 W 9032374	M
3 Nov	Gxalingenwa Cave	George Archibald	Mary Lee	M-S

1-3 Jan Belg

Audrey Walker

TO ALL RAMBLERS – YOUNG AND OLD:

Mick and Gloria McConnell have invited ramblers to **McMuddles on the Hill**, a B&B, B&B Catering and Function Centre at Curry's Post for the weekend of Saturday to Sunday 2 August 1998. Should anyone wish to stay on the Saturday night, please contact Barbara on 0322-306802 to make a reservation, as there is a limited amount of accommodation.

There are 3 self-catering cottages, which sleep 4 people at R180.00 per night, and 1 cottage, which sleeps 2 people at R140 per night. There is also plenty of space for Campers and Caravaners – free of charge.

A hike will be organised on Saturday afternoon with an evening braai, as well as a Sunday hike and then a luncheon braai before heading home. Bring along all your braai requirements and salads, etc. and join in the fun. Bring plenty of warm woollies.

SOCIALS DIARY

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT NOS
1st and 3 rd Tues of every month	Bridge – phone Mary-Lee	0824600454
Fri 3 July	Scrabble/games evening at Monica's home at 7.00 pm	27293
Fri 24 July	Social get-together at the Deck 17h30 onwards	Denise - 4629781
22/23/24 July	Slide show on Drakensberg, Bushman Art, Ice climbing —R25 pp at Westville Town Hall, presented by John Hone in aid of Wildlife Society	John – 2671707 (H) 295161 (W)
Wed 12 Aug	Talk by Charles "Bunny" Smythe who was a member of our club about 1933. He will speak about hiking in those days. Also talk by Greg Mackenzie (Physio-specialist in sport injuries/on strapping sprains and minor injuries while hiking Venue : Stella Club, Davenport Road (opposite Bulwer Park) – Time : 7.00 pm	Denise - 4629781
Fri 4 Sept	Scrabble/Games evening at Reg & Lynn, 133 Marianridge Drive, Pinetown	7001860
Fri 18 Sept	Social get-together at <i>Horse with No Name</i> , Greyville Race course from 17h30 onwards	Denise - 4629781

CAPE TRAILS

Six Ramblers experienced trails with a 'difference' when we undertook the Alexandria Harkerville and Kowie River trails in March. The Alexandria, near the coast just south of Port Alfred, covers indigenous forest, grasslands, empty beaches (except for four dead dolphins washed up on the beach) scrubland dunes, and dune forests, all on a two-day walk of 35 km. Fascinating footprints of varying patterns on the dunes, considered the largest shifting dune fields in South Africa, conjures up in our minds what nocturnal animals and insects roam the dunes. It is a very fascinating trail, and unique in South Africa.

The Harkerville Trail, between Plettenberg Bay and Knysna, is again totally different to other trails in that often walking through natural forests for some kms, you descend steeply down to the water's edge, and for the rest of the day and the following morning, work your way around the rugged rocks on the shoreline. To assist hikers to cling to the rock face and not fall into the sea, handy foot and hand pegs, together with fixed chairs, are embedded into the rocks at dangerous places, while wooden and chain ladders/steps are further aids to getting around and over the rocky terrain. Truly, an adventurous hike!

The third two-day trail put our paddling knowledge to the test, as Ramblers for a change used the arms and shoulders instead of their legs to paddle double canoes up the Kowie River at Port Alfred for a distance of 20 km each way. With the zigzagging and initial lack of co-ordination which took place, we probably covered much more than that distances. A walking trail at the overnight hut, which produced magnificent views over the horseshoe bend in the river, was a welcome break for aching shoulders.

Good spirit among the participants made this a highly successful and memorable ten days holiday of sorts, and my thanks go to Myrtle, Margaret, Jean, Tony and Audrey for being such pleasant companions.

Colin Turner.

FOR SALE: new/used hiking, camping and yachting equipment, including 6 backpacks, daypacks, closed cell mattresses, water bottles, size 9 boots, gas stove and light, stretcher, 8x and 10x binoculars, compass, 3 tents, life jackets, pulleys, ropes, most of SA and Namibia survey maps, filing cabinets, books etc. Phone Cedric 864053

HAS ANYONE BEEN TO ZANZIBAR?

Jenny Parmentier would like to know if anyone has been to ZANZIBAR.
If so, please contact her or Andre at 5612716