



JUNE \ JULY 1994

Title	Committee Member	Telephone:	
		Home	Work
Chairman	Bill Hyslop	7016638	7018996
Secretary	Lynda Holmes	3051188	3005911
Treasurer	Margret Kirsten	441467	
"Ordinary" Member	Philip Gatenby	213592	
Day Hike Organiser	Sue Ferguson	7013852	7064055/6/7
Trails Organiser	Steve Watson	211172	
Evening Meets Organiser	John van Zyl		9032374
Editress	Jean Jacobs	472483	
Weekend Organiser	Nevil Walmsley	7052919	7018481

1993 & 1994 SUBS

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS YET?

Please send your subscriptions to:
 Margret Kirsten 441467 (h) 447911 (w)
 P.O. Box 1063
 Durban
 4000

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM:

Name: _____
 New Address: _____

 Old Address: _____
 New Tel No. (H) _____ (W) _____

Please forward to:

The Secretary
 Durban Ramblers Hiking Club
 31 Kingslynn
 60 St Andrews Street
 Durban
 4001

RECOMMENDED TRANSPORT FEES FOR BERG HIKES PER PERSON.

Southern Berg R35.00
 Central Berg R40.00
 Northern Berg R40.00

The above prices include toll fees.

FOR SALE R10.00 EACH

Ramblers T-Shirts
 and
 Sun Hats

Contact: Joe Strayton 723480H

TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY IS BETTER THAN TO ARRIVE

Anyone interested in participating on the 1st Thursday of each month in hikes, which are about three hours in length should contact Vic on 237165 home.

SALE OF EQUIPMENT

We are considering reducing our number of tents due to the difficulty of maintenance and administration. If anyone is interested in buying a club tent, phone Bill or Philip
 Bill 7018996 W
 Philip 213592 H

HIRING OF EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBERS

TENTS R7.50 p/day
 deposit R50.00
 Contact Gerald Hall 251089

BACKPACKS

newish R5.00 p/day
 oldish R3.00 p/day
 deposit R50.00

SLEEPING MATS R1.00 p/day
 deposit R10.00

STOVE

with fuel R5.00 p/w/end
 deposit R20.00

Contact Philip Gatenby 213592

JUNE JULY 1994 HIKING PROGRAMME

Check starting place and times for individual hikes. Hikers, please make every effort to get to our meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier so that fees can be collected and lifts arranged timeously.

NB: CORRECT MONEY ONLY, WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE DAY HIKE ORGANISER DOES NOT CARRY LOOSE CHANGE.

Day hikers, do not forget your two litres of water, a hat, and a cup for lunch time tea and coffee.

MEETING PLACES (Durban) Musgrave Park, Berea
 (Pinetown) Union Main Centre Old Main Road.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THIS MONTHS LEADERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Aumord Jack	H 423425	W 3015131
Blow Reg	H 7001860	
Conrad Vic	H 237165	
de Waal Tom	H 474766	
Easton Dave	H 728170	
Ferguson Sue	W 7064055\6\7	
Gatenby Philip	H 213592	
Hyslop Bill	W 7018996	
Kirsten Margret	H 441467	
Nel Steve	H 7017796	W4651503
Turner Colin	H 815351	W3094720
Walmsley Nevil	H 7052919	W7018481
Watson Steve	H211172	

4-5 June - Weekend

CAMP AT EVERGLADES

Join Bill for a weekend exploration of Megeni Cascades and Nhlolane area. Camping at Parkside Farm.

Leader Bill Hyslop.

5 June - Sunday

MGENI CASCADES

We will be joining Bill Hyslop and the weekend campers at Parkside Farm in the Midmar District to explore this new area.

Dbn 7.00 Ptn 7.30

Members R14 Visitors R16

Contact Sue Ferguson

12 June - Sunday

MOUNT GILBOA

Once again we will do this very popular medium hike, over rolling hills, with magical views on a clear day.

Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00

Members R12 Visitors R14

Leader Dave Easton

DEEP SEA FISHING

Every Thursday with Irvin Johnston, from Durban down the coast
 Phone 4001696

18-19 June - Weekend

BUSHMANS CAVE EXPLORATION

Jack will be taking us to one of his favourite places, with fantastic views and scenery in the Bushmans Nek area.

Leader Jack Aurnord

19 June - Sunday

CAMELOT new hike

A short hilly hike, discovered by three lesser known knights of the Round Table. Namely - Sir Steve, Sir Glen and Sir Bill. This hike is in the area between Cato Ridge and Umlazi River Valley.

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R8 Visitors R10

Leader Sir Bill

25-26 June - Weekend

UMLAZI NATURE RESERVE

Join Vic at this lovely camp site once again, which is a nature lovers paradise. A weekend of walks on the beach and through dune forests. Arrive Saturday for an afternoon walk followed by a braai. Sunday joined by the day hikers for a walk by the river and on the beach. Tents for Saturday night

Leader Vic Conrad

25 June - Saturday

HIKE AND BRAAI

Palmiet Nature Reserve, day packs required as we have to hike to the braai area. Also bring a torch as it will be dark when we start the half an hour walk back to our cars, after braaiing. B Y O food and drinks.

Leader Sue Ferguson

Dbn 3pm Ptn 3pm also

Or you can make your own way to the Westville Hotel car park, next to the garage, be there 3.30 sharp, where those of us who are coming from Dbn and Ptn will meet you.

Members R4 Visitors R6 this does not include petrol money for drivers, but has to be paid to the Borough Of Westville at R2 per head. Sue will as usual sort monies out.

26 June - Sunday

UMLAZI North Coast

We will be joining Vic Conrad and the weekend campers in this lovely area. Last done in 1991 and enjoyed by all. This is a mixed hike with beach, dunes, swamps and a swim in the sea (for the brave)

Ptn 7.00 Dbn 7.30

Members R12 Visitors R14 plus entrance fee R3.50 at the gate

Contact Sue Ferguson

29 June - Wednesday

EVENING MEET

Andrew Haliburton will give a repeat of the slide lecture on Nepal, which was acclaimed for the quality of the photography, and the marvellous insights he gave, of the people and the customs, as well of course, as the glorious mountain scenery.

New Germany Sports Club Campbell Road, which is an extension of Glenugie Road. 7.00 for 7.30.

2 - 9 July 8 days

MINI GRAND TRAVERSE from the Sentinel to Organ Pipes Pass, along the top of the escarpment. Rating 3 in ideal weather conditions, becoming 5 in the unlikely event of inclement weather. A trip you will remember for the rest of your life. Phone Philip 213592 H

3 July - Sunday

TABLE MOUNTAIN

The rocky climb up this mountain is not for the faint hearted, there is an escape route for those with no head for heights. Fairly strenuous, however the views from on top are well worth the effort.

Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00

Members R8 Visitors R10

Leader Reg Blow

9-10 July - Weekend

CHERRY CAVE

Join Dave on a relaxing and fun trip to Cherry Cave with it's magnificent views. An opportunity to view some Bushman Paintings. Suitable for beginners, but not sleep walkers.

Leader Dave Easton

10 July - Sunday

AASVOEL KRANZ

We will be walking the lower reaches and rolling hills on the Pietermaritzburg side of Table Mountain, on private land

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R10 Visitors R12

Guest leader Rene Els. Contact Sue Ferguson

17 July - Sunday

NGOMANKULU

Moderate hike in the Eston area, near the source of the Umlazi River. High ridges and sleepy valley.

Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00

Members R10 Visitors R12

Leader Dave Easton

23-24 July - Weekend

BARKSTON ASH FARM (Mooi River)

Enjoy a weekend of hiking in the beautiful hills near Mooi River. Arrive Saturday for a gentle hike followed by a braai. Sunday a full day hike in the area of Craigeburn Dam. We will be camping on the farm Barkston Ash, as the guests of Mr. Brian Boyd

Contact Nevil Walmsley

24 July - Sunday

KIZWANE

This hike lies in the Valley Of A Thousand Hills, midway between Cato Ridge and the Laager Farm hike. Medium to strenuous, with magnificent steep valley scenery.

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R12 Visitors R14

Leader Bill Hyslop.

27 July - Wednesday

EVENING GET TOGETHER

Let's all meet at O'Hagens, cr: Kings and Glenugie Road, for a chat, a drink and if you are hungry a meal. Hope to see lots of people there at 7.30.

Queries contact Sue Ferguson

31 July - Sunday

UMGENI RANCH NATURE RESERVE

This moderate hike has it all. Ups, downs, rolling grasslands, waterfalls, great views and wildlife, always well supported.

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R10 Visitors R12 plus R4 entrance fee at the gate.

Leader Sue Ferguson

ADVANCE NOTICE

7 August - Sunday

KRANZKLOOF CIRCUIT

Hiking in this beautiful spot so close to home is always a pleasure. Medium length hike but fairly strenuous.

Dbn 8.30 Ptn 9.00

Members R6 Visitors R8

Leader Margret Kirsten

LEADERS WANTED FOR WEEKEND HIKES, ALL TYPES OF VENUES, BURG, COASTAL RESERVES, FARMS. If you are interested in leading/assisting, or have any suggestions for venues, please contact Nevil Wahmsley H 7052919.

Higher Ground

Moon and stars sit way up high
earth and trees below them lie.
the wind blows fragrant lullaby
to cool the night for you and I.
On the wing the birds fly free
leviathan tames angry sea,
the flower waits for honeybee
the sunrise wakes new life in me.

And every hour of every day I'm learning more
the more I learn, the less I know about before.
The less I know, the more I want to look around
digging deep for clues on higher ground.

The fishes swim while rivers run
thru fields to feast my eyes upon,
intoxicated drinking from
the loving cup of burning sun.
In dreams I'll crave familiar taste
of whispered rain on weary face
of kisses sweet and warm embrace.
another time, another place.

And every hour of every day I'm learning more
the more I learn, the less I know about before.
The less I know, the more I want to look around
digging deep for clues on higher ground.

Dave Easton

The Outeniqua Hiking Trail 79.4kms 21 - 25 February 1994

Steve and nine cheerful and healthy Ramblers left a hot and humid Durban on Saturday 19th February, and arrived at the Beervlei hut the following day. Beervlei is in the Southern Cape, some 16km North West of Sedgefield on the beautiful Garden Route.

I being from George, joined the group on Monday morning and was heartily welcomed by Steve, Jane, Rosemarie and the other hikers. I also met Johan from the nearby town of Oudtshoorn, who had joined the Natalians the night before.

Immediately I felt at home amidst my fellow club members, The Durban Ramblers.

The first day we went through the well known Cape fynbos, plantations and forests. We had our first swim in a natural pool in real cold and coffee coloured river water. The discolouration is due to the humic acids leached from the forest soil. The evening in the Windmeulnek hut, situated at an altitude of appr; 750 mtrs made us almost shiver.

The second day was eventful, and after a steep climb, another lovely swim and direct exposure to the blazing sun, we eventually arrived at the Platbos hut.

The third day was even more eventful, the crossing of the Homtini River, a tea break at the popular picnic spot of Jubilee Creek and the walk through the ghost village of Millwood. The story of the Millwood Goldfields is that in 1876 a gold nugget was discovered in the Karatara River. The gold boom following this event was short lived. The collapse of the goldfields was as dramatic as it's boom. By 1890 it's fate was sealed. We found no trace of any gold digger, but were greeted by many handsome baboons.

The fourth day from Millwood to Rondebosie was the day of the elephants, we had now entered their territory. I believe that George followed the footprints of one of the four surviving animals, and Mouse picked up the smell of urine. Steve felt a vibration when he touched the electrified wiring installed at roof height around the hut. The purpose of this installation, was not to keep HIM away, but the elephant bulls.

The fifth and last day to the Diepwalle hut was merely a walk, although the very steep climb to the beacon near Jonkersberg is still fresh in our minds, no wonder!!! It was 34c in the shade.

In front of the Diepwalle hut, and in excellent weather, I said farewell to Steve, Jane, Des, Rosemarie, Barbara, Mouse, Ian, Ray, George, Jenny and Johan. To all of you, THANK YOU for sharing with me the pleasures of this wonderful hike. Especially, Steve, thank you for your fine leadership

Tot siens Aris Hofland.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

It's hard to detect good luck - it looks so much like something you've earned.

Life begins when we decide what we want from it.

May you have, warmth in your igloo, oil in your lamp, and peace in your heart.

If we can ever make 'red tape' nutritional, we can feed the world.

TOTI BRAAI

The braai arranged by John and Denise on the 7th May was most enjoyable and successful. The hours walk before we indulged in the usual "nosh" up was quite delightful and the sort of walk one can take ones family on, or just to stroll amid nature on ones own. Denise was "Oh so civilised" with her folding table AND cloth. Something we all made use of, but we never seem to remember to bring our own! Thanks John.

SEHLABATHEBE LODGE 26 - 28 FEBRUARY 1994

The Devil's knuckles, alias The Three Bushmen.....

Just the thought of being up there close to the peaks made us get up at the crack of dawn on Saturday. After a pleasant drive, we parked our cars at the Silver Streams Caravan Park, at Bushmans Nek.

During the approximately five hours it took us to get to the Lodge, from the passport control, we stopped frequently to catch our breath and stretch our breaking backs. Sue urged us up this tremendously steep slope, with Mike White bringing up the rear, and complaining bitterly that he couldn't cope with the thin air.

The traffic up there was considerable, so we had to make sure that we kept well in front of all the pack donkeys and ponies plodding up the mountain to their village carrying such necessities as, Lion beer and luxuries in the form of mielies.

Even in the heat of the day the Basutus wore their traditional gum boots and long woollen blankets. Just the sight of them made us want to jump into the sparkling mountain streams we had to negotiate on the way. Sue took us to an amazing waterfall on Sunday afternoon, where we had a refreshing swim.

The food - Now that's a subject on it's own.

Most of us lugged much of our provisions back down the mountain. (So much for looking forward to lighter packs) Sue "brainwaved" two delicious three course meals, which were enough to feed the village on the other side of the mountain.

Ten out of fourteen dared to tackle the Knuckles on the Sunday morning. I think I speak for most of us when I say, it was a major achievement when we eventually stood on the summit and marvelled at the huge vistas spread out below us.

Monday afternoon it was all over, and we had a last drink at the Mountain Park Hotel in Bulwer before going our separate ways.

THANKS Sue, for a well organised trip.

Barbara Backmann

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

For those who may be uninformed. We have in our midst a Grand Master. She is sixty eight years young, she has, over a six year period run 5000 kilometres. She holds two records for time in the 10km and 15km run in her age group. In April this year she completed the Richmond Marathon 42,2kms. For two years she proudly displayed the Floating Trophy for cross country running. She has won nine gold medals, and now has her Natal Colours. Who is this wonder woman? None other than our little under five feet short??? Jean Foster. Congratulations Jean from all your friendly hikers, we could all take a lesson from you on how to keep fit.

BERG TRIP TO GARDEN CASTLE AREA 16-17 APRIL submitted by Gerald Hall.

John, Stephanie and I arrived at Nevil Walmsley's place where Geoff, Sue, Mare' and Nevil were about to climb into Barry's 'landy'. Within five minutes we were under way, collecting Margaret Roberts en route to the Underberg Hotel for a refreshment stop. Margaret said she was under age to drink, which had a comical repercussion later. Changed arrangements made gate deadline of little consequence, Himeville camp site being selected where the gate was still open. After pitching tents and having coffee and eats, everyone hit the hay.

Some forgotten groceries were collected on the way to Garden Castle Forest Station. Soon we departed to a partly cloudy out look, but by late morning, Sleeping Beauty Cave was approached. The wind was a little chill, but on entering the cave the wind was even colder as it funnelled through following the river course. A sleeping area at the upper end afforded welcome shelter, and in no time tea was made. With a few snacks and some hilarious jokes from Barry and Sue, all were in fine mood. Coming out to bright sunlight, the clouds having cleared, it was quite a grind up to the base of the escarpment, passing Engagement Cave and some unusual rock formations, one looking like a frog. From here on following the contours going South over steep tufty ground, the going was not easy on the ankles. Dropping into a small stream bed for lunch seemed to signal a weather change, black clouds and a minor shower hastening our continued passage. Locating a suitable plateau complete with small stream, tents were soon pitched, but big tufts of grass didn't bode for a comfortable night. Your's truly, Geoff and Nevil performing levelling operations, things were soon fixed up.

Dinner was eaten admiring the beautiful views. Barry produced a trifle for dessert and a cask of wine just as the light was fading, comments were made "What a beautiful evening". Oh! how short lived...with a clap of thunder, down came the rain. A mad scramble ensued for cover, everything being dumped in any dry place. Calls were soon heard, "Who has my red mug, where is the wine?" etc. The rain stopped and all nine of us were squashed into Barry's three man tent, John was nearly doubled in height after being sat on, and Barry extruded into the bell area. Trifle and wine flowed, but Margaret was told she couldn't have any wine being under age?? Jokes and songs started, and mixed up words had everyone laughing fit to burst their sides. In the middle of it all, Barry screamed out in pain with leg cramps, with Sue asking where is the problem, and could it be massaged, only helped add to the hilarity. Intermittent rain kept us all bottled up until after my photo session which seemed to signal "sand man time". During the night the wind almost blew Margaret and Mare's tent away, they having to run the gauntlet of rain squalls to secure tent pegs.

Morning broke highlighting a white cloud blanket over the valleys, super for photos. Trifle was part of breakfast menu to avoid the sacrilege of throwing out such a delicious dessert. The sun warmed us all nicely as tents were stowed, and off we went. We observed another party of hikers climbing a Pass as we contoured the many gullies going South. Mzimude Pass looked only a short way off as everyone settled down for a morning break. Sue was by this time feeling sore, even with a knee support. Barry produced a better type of support from his amazingly comprehensive pack, Sue was quickly strapped up and heavy items from her pack were transferred into other packs. Catching up with Bill Smalls Mountain Club party, previously seen from afar, a discussion ensued pertaining to our proposed continued travel route, which was via Langalibalele Pass and the Giants Cup Trail. As the original route would take an extra three hours, the abort way via Hidden Valley was settled for. From here a steep gully afforded an ideal place to roll Sue's pack down, regrouping at the bottom, John and I carried the pack between us on a stick until a suitable lunch spot was reached, where the cool river had many bathing their feet, and Sue bathed her knee. After lunch a decent path was located and the party speeded up as if on a freeway, Barry stopped for a quick swim, but the rest of us carried on as time was pressing, and we had to get back before dark, arriving at Swiman Hut as the last light faded. The Parks Board gate guard had thankfully stayed behind to let us out, there to wend our way home at the hour of 7.15pm.

Thanks to Barry for a very enjoyable trip.

FEDERATION NEWS from Philip

Natal (Coastal) Region.

- 1) Of our roughly 275 members, only 10 returned the form and only eight completed all three choices, which can scarcely be considered a strong reaction. So no statement can be made on that basis.
- 2) The British Tourist Authority has produced a beautiful brochure called 'Britain For Walkers'. Interested parties, please contact me for the address/phone number, to obtain a free copy. If you are attracted to a three months backpacking trip to Britain, I am at 215392 H Philip
- 3) Our first walk on the Federation designed trail at Baynesfield, was supported by 73 people. It was so enthusiastically received that 15 or so were well into their second lap before they we called to return to their cars.
- 4) A glaring omission from my summary of Federation activity, is that the money used by The Federation to develop trails through out the country, is donated by the PERM. So if you need a loan or a savings account, please support our sponsor.
- 5) Fran Conway of the Mountain Club is organising a trip to the Okavango in the July holidays. Interested??? Ring 867895 afternoon or evenings.

New subscription fees are as follows

Country	R16
Single	R20
Couples/Family	R25
Country Couples	R20

A reminder to prospective members. To become a member you must engage in three day hikes or one Berg trip. The entrance fee is R10 plus a yearly sub:



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