



MONTHLY MAGAZINE & DIARY

DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB.

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MARCH 1966 - FIXTURES.

- Tuesday 1st Executive Committee Meeting at Rob Philp's home, 106 Chelsea Drive, Durban North, at 8.00 p.m.
- Sunday 6th Table Mountain Hike, Nagel Dam area, with Bob Ferns leading. Lorry leaves market place at 8.00 a.m. Members 50c Visitors 75c
- Saturday 12th Hawaiian party at Roger Markham's home, 3 Kew Avenue, Westville. Further details to follow.
- Wednesday 16th Photographic meeting at Joan and Det Sewell's home, 8 J. H. White Road, Pinetown, at 8 p.m. The subject is "Mountains".
- Sunday 20th Shongweni Dam Hike with Lindy leading. Members 45c Visitors 50c Lorry leaves market place at 8.30 a.m.

APRIL.

- Sunday 3rd Hippo Pool Hike with Rob Philp leading. Lorry leaves market place at 8.30 a.m. 50c/75

A BERG TRIP.

On the 16th December, 1965 Vic Hodura, Colin Regnard and Mike Woods undertook what proved to be an interesting but somewhat exhausting trip, from the Royal National Park Hotel via the escarpment (Poor-man's Tibet) to the Cathedral Peak Hotel (about 60 miles).

We left National by 10 a.m. in cheerful moods. Charming gapers wished us luck. How we needed it! By midday we walked into a summer storm which stayed with us right to the Sentinel Cave (6 hours). Next day the rain was replaced by strong winds. Fortunately it was blowing most of the time in the right direction and enabled us to reach our night stop, Mbundini, in record time, jet propelled so to speak. The wind also succeeded in drying on us the wet clothing and boots that we had worn the previous day.

Most of the Saturday we spent in by-passing Umweni Cutback. How we envied the Basuto herdsman we met, his lack of problems and packs.

Our navigation was made very tricky when we arrived nearer the Escarpment, as thick clouds totally obscured all landmarks. The whereabouts of our objective, the Mponjwane Cave, remained to us a 60,000 dollar question and mystery.

Sunday was not the day of rest for us. Sun-burnt and sore we pressed on towards the next objective, Twin Caves. Unfortunately, carried away by a comfortable "mule" track, we followed it blissfully past Twin Caves right to the Keni Cutback. When we discovered our error it was too late to go back, so we decided to pitch our tent next to a stream. As our supply of Marsala evaporated we found the night rather long and cold.

On Monday, after a few attempts, we found the

Cockade Gully and came back to the Promised Land -
the Cathedral Peak Hotel - very thirsty.

Vic Hodura.

HIKE TO KWA N. ETC 23. 1. 66.

When four or five hardy souls gathered at the market place on this fateful morning the weather gods seemed quite disposed to be kind to us, but by the time the Grand Tea Room had been reached this illusion had been dispelled. The rain was coming down and the grey skies held forth no hope of abatement. But not discouraged we carried on our way with most of the company taking shelter under the tarpaulin. Along the way and at Pinetown we added to our numbers until there were twenty-one taking shelter on the lorry.

But at the pre-appointed spot along the Inanda road the truck came to a halt, and resigned to our fate we disembarked and followed the large and already muddy boots of our leader further along the road. And it rained. and we became wet. Exceeding wet. But with fortitude we bared our teeth and sloshed onwards. It became so bad that some even discarded the cover of their anoraks and rain-coats and braved the elements in their bear - I mean bare skins. Dainty little feet that had set out clad in lovely white socks rapidly became lumps of mud, and the white socks were no more. Where we went? Who knows? Certainly not I. Like Good King Wenceslas' page I trod my master's footsteps, but luckily it was summer so that winter's rage had no effect on my "bloodless coldly". Mind you, I wish I knew what a "bloodless coldly was, because I have since developed a hell of a cold, and I am becoming rather worried about the effects of rain on one's "bloodless coldly".

Anyway we pressed on regardless, and once

nearly caught a glimpse of a great view into Kloof Gorge, but the mists closed too quickly, or perhaps I blinked at the precise moment that they parted. There are some who claimed to have seen Kloof Tower, but then there are people who claim that there are Abdominal Snowmen.

After bashing around in the bundoo for a while, with a minimum of stops, we forded a raging river (just like Running Bear) to reach the lunch spot. Lunch was eaten in the minimum of time, and despite the efforts of one braggart at lighting a fire it was a coffee-less lunch, and then it was "onward sodden Ramblers". Finally when we reached the road where the lorry was to collect us we were rewarded with a brief spell of sunshine which presented us with the opportunity to do a little clothes-drying and to change sodden articles for that only slightly damp clobber that we had been carrying in our rucksacks.

and finally, oh bliss, the lorry arrived to transport damp but not dampened ramblers back to Durban, home, hot baths and whisky. Cle.

"DIAKO".

SORAS POOL FIRE.

"This will be a short easy walk" was the thought in several people's minds as we set out for Soras Pool on 6th February, knowing that we were due back in Pinetown at 2.30 p.m. for the annual General Meeting. There were thirty-one of us aboard the lorry and we were duly deposited at the end of Krantzview Road, Kloof.

Going downhill to the Molweni River was a good test for "leg-brakes" and I think most of us were a bit shaky in the knees when we reached the flat and followed the course of the river up towards Soras

Pool. Signs of the recent heavy rains up-country were obvious from the fast-flowing river, which in some parts had taken over the path.

There was not a breath of wind in the sultry hot valley which is the perfect habitat for dense undergrowth, and particularly the abnoxious weed Lantana. Jungle-bashing just wasn't in it!

Soras Pool was reached about 11.30 where most of us sprawled out like crocodiles on the large flat rocks. The more adventurous ones, however, explored further up the river and discovered a spot where they could "swim the rapids" - hence the origin of the name "Sor-as Pool".

At one o'clock we set off for the Great Trek back, a bit of excitement being experienced by some at traversing the river - at least it cooled them off a bit! And then up, and up, and up, the side of the valley. This was a test of endurance, particularly for the less experienced. I picked up a few tips from various individuals overtaking me, such as "Walk on your toes", "Watch the ground", "Don't rest too often or for too long at a time", "Don't drink too much". Met ander woorde, "Slow and steady wins the race".

Bob Ferns had an unfortunate experience after he had missed the path, but luckily his shouts were heard not far away.

Eventually at the top we all thoroughly appreciated Mick McConnell's kind hospitality at his home where we enjoyed most welcome refreshment.

MARGARET.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at the Scout Hall, Laheo Park,

Pinetown, on the 6th February, 1966 at 2.30 p.m. Did I say 2.30 p.m.? The meeting started at 4 o'clock, one and a half hours late, when a crowd of dirty-looking Ramblers trooped in after a hike to Soras Pool, which proved to be too long and strenuous for a day on which an Annual General Meeting was being held. I should mention that the Ramblers in question were not any dirtier than usual after a hike consisting of up and down-hill walking, crossing rivers and bundu-bashing. They just looked dirty by contrast with those who had not engaged in any such arduous exercise that day.

The future generation of Ramblers was also well represented, although they did not appear to have any interest in the proceedings at this stage. To one side of the hall hovered a fearsome looking eagle or falcon, with wings and talons outspread. The only prey in sight was the Ramblers, which he ignored, perhaps because he was only a stuffed bird suspended from the ceiling.

With Vic Fortmann valiently brandishing chalk and manning the blackboard to write up names of candidates for the various offices, the Chairman and Secretary, Dymock Parr and Diane Harbour, proceeded with the business of the meeting. Apologies were read out, the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, and the Chairman's report which appeared in the last magazine taken as read. The financial report was unfortunately not available, but was accepted subject to there being no great variations in the figures of the draft report submitted to the meeting. After this followed the voting of honoraria to various members of the committee, the appointment of the Club Auditor, and the election of officers.

No contentious matters arose when the meeting was thrown open for general discussion. There was only one suggestion, which was made by Marge Parr, who felt that there were a number of married

members with children, who still maintained an interest in the Ramblers. These members could arrange to go out on hikes together with their children and these outings could be advertised in the magazine. It was decided that the committee would discuss this point.

After the meeting was closed, all made the most of a very good tea. Those remaining after the majority had gone tidied up and swept the hall, but I don't think the Ramblers were responsible for the greater part of the dust which flew up in clouds before the onslaught of the brooms.

'G'.

LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEES

1982.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN	Robert Ferns
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Michael Woods
SECRETARY	Diane Harbour
TREASURER	Robert Booker
EDITOR	Michael Wigley
ENTERTAINMENTS CHAIRMAN	Marlene Kobus
PHOTOGRAPHIC CHAIRMAN	Margaret Moore
CAMP CAPTAIN	Mac Rand
CHIEF LEADER	Lindy Lindhorst
SUB-LEADERS	Michael Woods
	Michael Wigley
ORDINARY MEMBERS	Dymock Parr
	Joan Smith
	Roger Markham
	Robin Philp
	Ton Vriend

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Dick Usher, Margaret Macartan, Vic Fortmann,
Kevin Claudius

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE.

Joan Young, Roger Markham, Ton Vriend,
Vic Fortmann, Diane Harbour

CAMP COMMITTEE.

Michael Woods, Ton Vriend, Marlene Kobus,
Roger Markham, Bob Ferns, Vic Pammenter

PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER.

It was a wet and misty night and maybe that is why so few turned up for the last photographic meeting which was held at Glen Wessels' home. Only sixteen people attended and twenty slides were entered in the competition, which was "Children under the age of twelve years". There was very little difference in the points gained for the first three positions. Marge Parr came first, Chris Schorn second and Vic Hodura third.

Dick Usher then showed some interesting slides he had taken while down in the Cape. Chris followed with slides taken of the camp at Richards Bay. After that we stopped for tea and what a lovely spread there was; those who did not come really missed something. Dozens of van der Merwe and other jokes were bandied about and after a somewhat long break we saw some very interesting slides taken by Glen's father

COMPETITION SUBJECTS FOR 1966.

March	Mountains
April	General

May	Birds, Animals and Insects
June	Camp Life
July	General
August	Annual Film Show
September	Water
October	General
November	Sunrises, Sunsets and Shots after Dark
December	No meeting

---cCo---

What has happened to all the photographers this year? Come on, don't be shy, and enter your slides in the monthly competitions. We are half-way through our photographic year and only one hundred and ten slides have been submitted so far. Even if you only start now you still stand a chance of winning.

If you are a member of the Ramblers Club you are automatically a member of the photographic section, so you see everyone is welcome to come to the meetings which are held on the third Wednesday of each month. Not only is there a competition each month, but other slides which members have taken are also shown. So come along and have an enjoyable evening, even if you have no slides to show.

---oOo---

The following are the points gained by members for the half year towards the Fred Titterington Memorial Trophy:-

	<u>No. of slides</u>	<u>Points gained</u>
Fred Clark	10	595.3
Charles Smeda	10	551.2
Mac Rand	8	473.1
Mickey McConnell	8	438

	<u>No. of slides</u>	<u>Points gained</u>
Glen Wessels	8	427.8
Vic Hodura	8	421.4
Joanmary Schorn	4	249.7
Harry Tripe	4	248.5
Chris Schorn	4	243.5
Margaret Moore	4	226
Philip Gatenby	4	203
Joan Smith	4	200.2
Robert Booker	4	196
Leila Joyce	4	194
Brian Joyce	4	191
Mike Wigley	4	175.4
Adele Schorn	3	166.3
Rob Philp	2	91

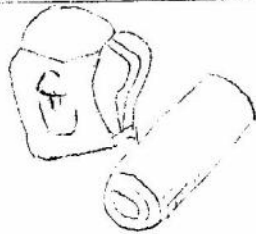
Have you heard this van der Merwe joke?

There were Edmund Hillary and other chaps climbing up Everest with their oxygen masks and all the rest of it. Finally, after much struggling they reached the top where they found a bloke sitting back in the snow, wearing a pair of veldskoens and an old hat. "Hullo," said Edmund Hillary, "Who are you?" "Oh," said the bloke, "I am van der Merwe." "And what are you doing up here?" said Edmund Hillary. "Well you see," said van der Merwe, "The sergeant, he said to me to patrol the koppies, and when the sergeant says patrol the koppies, I patrol the koppies."

EASTER WEEK-END

The Rhinad Horn

Yes, it is time to start thinking about the Easter week-end camp. If you would like to hazard a guess as to where it will be, take a look at the horizon behind the tent. Have you still no idea? It is Drakensberg Gardens and it is three years since we last camped there. All that went then will be able to tell you what a wonderful area it is. What better time of the year is there to go camping in the lovely clear air of the Berg? Tell all your friends, cousins, brothers and sisters to come (but no children, please) and, most important, come yourselves. Further particulars about this camp will be appearing in the next issue of the magazine, so keep a sharp look out.



EDITORIAL.

I would like to thank you for having elected me as your editor and I hope I can fulfil the trust you have placed in me.

To bring out a good magazine each month I need articles, so please write up the hikes you have been on and send any other articles which you think may be of interest to members. For instance, you could write about your hobbies or some recent trip you have been on. A free hike will be given to the author of the best article printed each month.))

I also need photographs, so if you have any that are clear and have been taken on recent hikes, please let me have them. For every photograph used 15c will be deducted from your hike fees.

Let me hear from you all, so that we can have a magazine that will be of interest to everybody.

NEW MEMBERS.

This month we wish a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Joan Young
Colleen Donaldson

May you have many happy hikes with us.))

WEDDING.

Our heartiest congratulations to Charles and Ingrid Smeda on their marriage early in February. We wish them every happiness for the future.