



P O Box 50563
4062 Musgrave Road

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1998

TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	HOME TEL	BUSINESS/CELL OR FAX NUMBERS
Chairman	Colin Turner	708 3517	
Secretary	Pam Podmore	21 6160	Fax : 202 8487
Treasurer	Chris Dobson	765 1824	082 4611954
Day Hike Organiser	Adrian Rowe	764 4721	
Trails Organiser	Margret Kirsten	7658052	
Weekend Organiser	Cedric Biggs	86 4053	
Social Organiser	Denise Warburton	462 9781	
Editor	Jenny Hewitt	812478	083325478/812478
Publicity	Vacant		
Ordinary Member/Sat Hike Organiser	Philip Gatenby	213592	

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

We are entering the last quarter of our Club's 67th year and thoughts should now be focusing on the composition of the committee for next year. I appeal to you, the members, who are the Club, to seriously consider putting your name forward as a candidate for any of the positions on the committee. You are welcome to phone me, or any member of the committee, or to speak to us on a hike if you require details on what the various positions entail. Let us be overwhelmed with your responses!

On reflecting on our Sunday hikes over the year so far, I feel that we have been able to put together some worthwhile outings, in spite of circumstances often working against us. While we try to keep costs within reason by arranging a number of hikes closer to our departure points, this is becoming increasingly difficult due to development in these areas, and the erection of fences for security reasons, or where wildlife has been introduced. The safety of hikers also has to be taken into account. As it is not always possible to do a recce on some of our hikes (due to distance or unavailability of volunteers), I ask participants to bear with us when the leader has to do minor cutting along the paths. Please offer your assistance on such hikes.

At the request of some members, we introduced more 'Berg trips than previously into this year's programme. However, the support has been rather disappointing, leading to the cancellation of some of them. Would those of you who are backpackers or potential backpackers, give us feedback on your views of this section of our hiking. Unfortunately, Cedric Biggs, our weekend organiser, underwent a hip replacement operation in July, but I am pleased to report that he is progressing well at home and hopes to be able to join us on certain hikes in the future.

On behalf of the Club I recently took possession of club magazines covering the period from the fifties to the early eighties. These are at present with Mick McConnell, a former chairman of our club, who has volunteered to put together a history of the Club. If any member has in their possession magazines, articles, photos etc., concerning the Club, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Our Annual General Meeting has of recent years been held on a weeknight. What do members feel about reverting to the previously held Sunday afternoon AGM with a hike in the morning and a braai or whatever you like, at lunchtime? Members can then partake in all 3 activities or 2 or the AGM only.

Please feel free to discuss any or all of these matters with committee members on hikes or by telephone.

Yours in hiking
Colin Turner

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

HIKING PROGRAMME : OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

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.
4 October	Burman Bush-Virginia - enjoy a mixture of indigenous bush, mangrove swamps, beach and suburban streets all rolled into one NB Times: Dbn 8.30 Ptn 8.00	Glenys Bentley Members R7 Visitors R12	847632 (H)
11 Oct	De Magdenberg Forest Reserve - a hike through indigenous forests up into the rolling hills above the beautiful Karkloof valley Times: Dbn 7.25 Ptn : 7.45	Stephanie Rogerson Members R27 Visitors R32	Stephanie 214543(H)
18 Oct	Old Baldy - rained out in August, so we will try this old faithful in the Valley of 1000 Hills	Steve Nel Members R15 Visitors R20	Adrian Rowe 7644721 (H)
25 Oct	Otto's Bluff - hike up forested slopes near PMB to the top of Otto's Bluff and enjoy the view across Albert Falls <i>with 9/11 Hillier</i>	Tony Livingstone Members R22 Visitors R27	Tony 0331-63967
1 Nov	Inanda Dam - we will enjoy the panoramic view overlooking the dam and hike past Topp's Needle down into the valley	Colin Turner Members R10 Visitors R15	Colin 7083517
8 Nov	Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve - Enjoy this South Coast gem and learn a little more about the flora and fauna with which we are blessed. Times : Dbn : 7.30 Ptn 7.30	Tom de Waal Members R27 Visitors R32 (includes Park fees)	Tom: 474766
15 Nov	Upper Nqutu Gorge - a pretty valley with abundant indigenous trees leading round to the Krantzkkloof Nature Reserve Times : Dbn 8.00 Ptn : 8.15	Peter Kaiser Members R8 Visitors R13	Peter 7657208 (H)
22 Nov	Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve - owing to the distance we have not hiked this beautiful South Coast valley for over 2 years Times : Dbn : 7.45 Pinetown : 7.45	Steve Nel Members R35 Visitors R40 (includes Park fees)	Adrian Rowe 7644721(H)
29 Nov	Craig Lea - a return to the pretty valley near the Cato Ridge Abattoir	Adrian Rowe Members R17 Visitors R22	Adrian 7644721(H)
6 Dec	Hornets Krantz - a lovely hike into the Valley of 1000 Hills near Drummond and then enjoy the magnificent views after climbing up onto the escarpment	Steve Nel Members R10 Visitors R15	Adrian 7644721 (H)

13 Dec	New Germany Nature Reserve – enjoy a short Sunday hike in a nearby Nature Reserve and maybe see more buck and zebra. Afterwards, an early afternoon braai BYO	Margret Kirsten Members R7 Visitors R12	Margret 7658052 (H)
20 Dec	Soras Pools – hike down to the Nqutu Falls and then across the ridge to the Moweni River and enjoy a dip during lunchtime	Jean Foster Members R9 Visitors R14	Jean 721539 (H)
27 Dec	Umbilo Moss Trail to Stainbank Nature Reserve – hike along the Umbilo Canal and through the bush to the pretty Stainbank Nature Reserve for a short circuit and lunch	Audrey Vickers Members R12 Visitors R17 (includes Park fees)	Audrey 237902 (H)

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

Organisers : **Phillip (213592), Gavin (284342), and Fred (849724)**

DATE	DESTINATION
3/10	Springside – first night off Hillcrest OMR after leaving highway
10/10	Winston Park 1 – turning circle at eastern end of Jan Smuts Avenue
17/10	Winston Park 2. Start at the lake – previously St Heliers Tea Garden
24/10	Kloof 1 – Kloof Falls picnic site
31/10	Virginia Bush, 31 Delaware Ave BYO Braai
7/11	SPCA – Kloof & Highway SPCA. Village Road
14/11	Roosfontein – Westville Prison – Spine Road
21/11	Burman Bush – Car park at bottom of Burman Drive
28/11	Christmas Dinner, Mykonos – 12 for 12.30 R10 Deposit by 31 October to Denise
5/12	Palmiet – entrance opposite Westville Hotel
12/12	Kloof 3 – Kloof Falls picnic site
19/12	New Germany – second night off Otto Volek Rd after OMR
26/12	Uve Road – off Krantzview Road.

It doesn't matter which side of the fence you get off on sometimes. What matters most is getting off. You cannot make progress without making decisions – Jim Rohn

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.
- Recommended transport fees for 'Berg hikes per person : Southern and Central Berg R45, Northern Berg R50.

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

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER	PHONE	RATING
2-4 Oct	Haven Rock Farm	Mary Lee	(h) 234158	E
17-18 Oct	Whites Cave	JP de Pesta	H 283296 W 4602426	M
24/25 Oct	Day hikes from Injasuthi Campsite	Steve Nel Phone : Glenys Bentley	(h) 847632 (w) 3020444	E-M
14-15 Nov	Day hikes from Cobham	John Van Zyl	H 429781 W 9032374	M
27-29 Nov	Avondale, near Bulwer. Day hikes from rustic old farmhouse. R25 pp per night	Chris Dobson	(h) 7651824 0824611954	M
1-3 Jan	Camping : flexible – discuss your preference with Audrey	Audrey Vickers	(h) 237902	M

TRAIL CHATTER

It seems as if people are becoming less adventurous ... or ... are we all feeling the pinch of the present economy? Fact is, nobody is doing any trails. Whatever the case, I am urgently requesting any people wishing to do trails, no matter on what length, to contact me.

I will help you organise it and can give you plenty of useful tips on many matters. Please do not hesitate to give me a ring on 7658052 after hours.

Trail Organiser : **Margret Kirsten**

SOCIALS DIARY

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT NOS
1 st & 3 rd Tues every month	Bridge – phone Mary-Lee	234158 (H)
Fri 23 Oct	Social get-together at the Ocean Café, Buxtons Centre, Moore Road from 18h00 onwards	Denise - 4629781
Sat 31 Oct	Afternoon hike and braai at Barry Busby BYO. Meet 13h30 at Musgrave Park	Barry 833235 or Denise – 4629781

Fri 36 Nov	Scrabble/games evening at Monique's home at 7.00 pm	3092729
11 Nov	Presentation by Cedric Biggs on Map Reading and Survival at Stella Club, Davenport Road (opposite Bulwer Park) – Time : 7.00 pm for 7.30	Denise – 4629781
Sat 28 Nov	Christmas lunch at Mykonos, 156 Essenwood Road. R35 12.00 for 12.30. Deposit R10 ASAP.	Denise – 4629781 to book
Fri 4 Dec	Scrabble – Linda Holmes, 11 Elizabeth Court, 31 Chelmsford Road	Linda – 222330
Fri 18 Sept	Social get-together at Point Yacht Club 17h30 onwards	Denise – 4629781
31 Dec- 1 Jan	New Year tent party at Dobson's – pitch your tent late afternoon. BYO for braai. Please bring a salad or pudding and chair. R10 per person to cover incidentals provided by hosts. Confirm with Chrs or Jerry by 30 Dec. Champagne breakfast next morning.	Chris or Jerry 7651824

MEMBERS NEWS

Should life membership be bestowed on Cupid, the unseen, but hard at work on the hearts of Ramblers, honorary member of our Club? Recent successes have seen Reg Blow and Lyn Venter joined in marriage, as well as Christine Giblin and Grahame Davies, while Marie Gurr has become engaged to Nevil Walmsley and Annora Hassan to Clinton Clark.

The Club extends its warmest congratulations to all of you and hopes that you will continue with what was your first love (now your second love, hiking!)

A former treasurer of the Club, Winnie Jackson, who is an Honorary Life Member, has not been well for some time now, and is at present recovering from surgery and treatment. Winnie, our thoughts are with you and we wish you a permanent recovery in the near future.

Our congratulations to the following ramblers who did so well in the recent Guardbank walk : Georgette De Vos, who earned a gold medal by coming 3rd in the Grand Masters Ladies' section, despite suffering with bad cramps in the final few kms; John Joyce, who completed the 80 km in just over 10 hours, and Colleen Seath and Gavin Thomson, who completed the 50 km in good time. Well done Ramblers!

New Members: A warm welcome is extended to Claire Williams, Chris Simpson, Denise Laity, Otto and Beryl Stockl, who are full members while Paul Greening, Pat Liversage and Deirdre Evans have been accepted as aspirant members. Happy hiking to each one of you.

Colin Turner : Chairman

Members should note that the entry fees for Parks Board Reserves have been increased to R7.50 per person. This includes a R1 levy.

THE KOMPASSBERG HIKING TRAIL

In the Northern Cape is a pinnock detached from the surrounding mountains of the Sneeuberg. This is the Kompassberg - at 2 502 m the second highest point in the Cape. If one travels "off the beaten track" between Middleburg and Graaf Reinet, you actually travel around the mountain and see it from different angles. Anyone who has visited The Owl House could not help but see the pinnacle. On my first sight some years ago, I knew I just had to return and climb it. This I did recently accompanied by Margaret Robberts.

The Kompassberg Hiking Trails have been laid out on a farm at the base of the mountain by the farmer's wife. The mountain forms part of the farm and the only climbing route is over their property. We arrived in "The Valley" the day after a cold front had put snow on the mountains of the Eastern Cape and there was still snow in the sheltered valleys on the farms and on the mountain. An old farm cottage, equipped with beds, mattresses and an open fire in the kitchen, has been renovated to form a base camp, to do the trails and climb the mountain. The climb is separate from the trails and requires at least 6 hours.

The first 2 kms to the base of the mountain is across Karoo farmland, no paths. For a short way there is boulder hopping until the mountain becomes a huge pile of rocks going up steeply with sheer drops each side. Definitely not for those who don't like heights, but the rocks are stable, and there are good foot and hand holds. We reached the beacon on top in 3.5 hours to be rewarded with extensive views all around. The return to Klipkoppie Hut took 2.5 hours. One then had the choice of a long or short walk to the next overnight hut, a renovated barn, 16 kms the long way and about 6 kms the short way – or you can opt out altogether and drive there, as we did along a farm track. The next day we did a 14 km hike in the opposite direction to the top of a range at 2 000 m which again gave us extensive views across the Karoo towards Middleburg and beyond. That night we had the comfort of a guesthouse for our last night in the beautiful remote area.

So next time you travel to the Cape, take time to do this diversion. There is talk of a radio beacon being put on top of the mountain in the near future.

Audrey Vickers

FOR SALE: A pair of hiking boots – lubbe leather Size 7 – hardly worn. R140. Tel: 7657208 Shammy Kaiser

RAMBLERS HATS FOR SALE R10 EACH : Contact Colin Turner at 7083517

Hiring of Equipment for Members :

Tents : R7.50 per day. Deposit R50 Contact Gerald Hall at 251089
 Contact Phil Gatenby for the following at 213592:
Backpacks Between R3 to R5 per day Deposit R50; **Sleeping Mats** R1 per day.
 Deposit R10; **Stove with fuel** R5.00. Deposit R20

