Chairman's Report 1975. Extracted from mag.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 1975

Dear Ramblers: We have once again had a very successful year; the committees have worked hard and the members have supported the functions. The fund of talents available within the Club never ceases to amaze me, may it always prosper.

1975 was the year of the woman, in our case, Margaret Moore. She has guided the Photographic section out of the doldrums and acted as secretary and co-ordinator for our contacts with outside clubs and organisations. In her spare time, with Mr & Mrs Donaldson, she organised the hiring and rethatching of the Club Hut.

Ivan Antonowitz and Pip Gatenby have led the camps through a physically active year, proven by the amount of correspondence in the magazine. Our stock of equipment for hire has been increasing in quantity and this has been reflected by greater use of

We are no longer dependent on bulk transport for even our largest camps. Colin and Barbara Mercer have had great success with entertainments this year. Our thanks go to them and all the members who helped, lent houses, provided daughters etc...to make the parties really bounce.

Our thanks must also go to Mike Gill and Chris Hodges for the hikes this year Robbie Booker was unfortunately unable to continue as Chief Leader and Mike and Chris have organised new hikes, new activities and made a good start in defining our existing

hikes on Natal Ordinance Survey maps.

We have had our first full-time magazine Editor this year, Mike Hooper. The 1975 magazines with artwork by Amedeo must surely rank as gems of their serial. Once again Club members have contributed generously to make the total magazine possible.

The whole circus has been kept on the road by constant reminders from Gill Bourne, an almost perfect secretary, while our treasurer, Kelvin Dippnall has shown positive glee in recording the cash flowing into the coffers.

Ken Gillings and John Castleden have proved invaluable with their background

knowledge of the Club, its activities, responsibilities and functions.

1975 has seen the start of a National Federation of Rambling and Hiking Clubs A preliminary meeting was held at Golden Gate in November with five clubs and the Forestry Department represented. John Castleden was elected as Chairman of the new association ... congratulations, John. You will be our bulwark against the plethora of official boundaries swamping the open areas of the country. We now have many active members and if the proposed constitution of the National Hiking Federation is ratified, we shall be part of a National Body. If we seize this opportunity, we could use 1976 as the biggest recruiting year in our history. The public is becoming aware of the countryside and we can serve a positive function in our society by attracting as many people as possible and showing them the sheer beauty of our outdoor heritage at first hand. Everybody has now ridden through a game park in a motorised tin can. We could show many people the real countryside, the peace and grandeur of the mountains and plains. We car no longer rely on commercial organisations for cheap and efficient access to the outdoors. A larger Club would allow a bigger range of activities and better value for the time and money we all contribute.

George Carr

STATISTICS

2004 6100 - 10	<u> 1974</u>	1975
New Members	27	45
Photographic Attendance on average	18	27
Hike Attendance on average	27	30
Entertainments Attendance on average Spring Ball	. 40-50	+-35
	135	110
Camps/Berg Trips Attendance on average	+-20	32

DURBAN RAMBLERS' CLUB.

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