



PO Box 50563
MUSGRAVE ROAD, 4062

JANUARY - DECEMBER 1996

Mar 1997

Title	Committee Member	Telephone:	
		Home	Work
Chairman	Bill Hyslop	7016638	7056684
Secretary	Glenys Bentley	847632	3020111
Treasurer	Colin Turner	783517	
Day Hike Organiser	Steve Nel	7017796	
Trails Organiser	Philip Gatenby	213592	
Social Activities	Janet Marsh	7681283	
Editor	Jenny Hewitt	812478	260-2405
Marketing	Mary-Lee Arnot	211469	211217

HIKE LEADERS' TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Steve Nel	7017796 (H)	Tom de Waal	474766 (H)
Philip Gatenby	213592 (H)	Dave Easton	728170
Bill Hyslop	7016638 (H) 7018996 (W)	John Van Zyl	429781 (H)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

On the gentle art of the Bivouac

*Bed in the bush with stars to see,
Bread I dip in the river,
That's the life for a man like me,
That's the life for ever*

So wrote Robert Louis Stevenson, and, as a Scot, he will have known about rough weather. It is not clear whether he himself actually experienced the sensation of curling up in the heather to spend a night under the stars, but he certainly writes as if he did. I have spent many a memorable night this way - the rain, snow and brilliant starlight - and I sometimes wonder why people regard such a bivouac as a Fate Worse Than Death.

I remember the time we were anchored from pitons on a narrow ledge in the Itali Dolomites, and as the wind howled around the frozen summit, one of my companions announced that his digestive tract was deeply moved by the experience, and would we dangle him over the ledge on the rope, so that he could lower his trousers? His wails, as the icy wind toyed with his sensibilities, were quite memorable. What fun!

These reflections were prompted by a wonderful week-end, when six of us, led by Barry, were in the Mzimba area of the 'Berg. My companions seemed to have all sorts of hi-tech comforts to ensure a sweet and dreamless sleep, which quite put my rudimentary gear in the shade. But, for me, the days are long gone when I want to carry anything more than the bare necessities; so for the benefit of those who are wondering whether they have all the equipment necessary, take heart and consider the following:

1. It's nice if you can find a convenient cave, but console yourselves with the thought that if you can't, the grass is more comfortable than the stony bed of a cave.
2. Unfortunately, even in our wonderful climate, it can rain, so do not grudge the weight of thoroughly waterproof clothing - anorak, trousers and gloves.
3. Expensive sleeping bags are nice, but the same weight spare clothing is more useful, as it can be worn both night and day.
4. Space blankets are a wonderful invention - with a suitable boulder, and a few stones to hold the blanket in position (shiny side facing you!) you can make your own cave. And, if your feet project outside - put them in your rucksack which, or course, you have taken the precaution of lining with a plastic bag before you left home.
5. As a small submission to the soft life, I carry a sleeping mat cut to fit inside the back of my rucksack, and - wonderful luxury - a small air-pillow.
6. Armed with these simple things, plus a small plastic bottle containing the wine of Scotland, you can float away in the arms of Morpheus with no trouble at all!

When this reaches you I will be inhaling cooking draughts of healthful Manchester fog, from which well-known holiday resort I wish you sweet dreams and the compliments of the Season. I
Yours ever, Bill

RECOMMENDED TRANSPORT FEES FOR BERG HIKES PER PERSON.

Southern Berg R40.00
Central Berg R40.00
Northern Berg R45.00
The above prices include toll fees.

FOR SALE R10.00 EACH

RAMBLERS Sun Hats

Contact: Colin Turner

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Country - R16 - Country Couples R20

Single R20 - Couples/family R25

Entrance Fee R10

Prospective members must do **THREE** day hikes or one Berg Trip.

MEETING PLACES :

DURBAN - Musgrave Park, Berea

PINETOWN - Union Main Centre Old Main Rd

HIRING OF EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBERS

TENTS R7.50 p/day (R50 Dep)

Contact Gerald Hall 251089

BACKPACKS

Between R3 and R5 p/day (R50 Dep)

SLEEPING MATS R1.00 p/day

STOVE :

with fuel R5.00 deposit R20.00

Contact Philip Gatenby

NEW MEMBERS in 1996

The following became members of the Durban Ramblers and Hiking Club in 1996 : Liz Ashley, Marinda Coulon, JP Depester, Chris Dobson, Fred Esterhuizen, Ana Fernandez, Christine Giblin, Pat Foster, Annett Lombard, Brian O'Connell, Ann Olds, Carol Oom, Coleen Seath, Peter and Jenny Siegling, Joan McCosh, Derek McGillewie, Mrs M Springett, Lenn and Ronnie Steinhart, Dense Straub, Strydom Kobus, David and Sandra Cohen, Denise Gibson, Lyn Olver, Arthur and Judy Wibberley, Michael Wakefield, Arlette Stevenson, John Whorrie, Shirley Wilson.

With the increase in popularity of the Saturday afternoon hikes, a new class of membership was introduced in 1996 and the following Saturday hikers became 'aspirant' members : Lesley Dodds, Fred Corniere, Helga Drewes, Wendy Glover, Dee Ording, Jill Weatherley and Marie Thorpe.

**JANUARY- MARCH 1997 : HIKING
PROGRAMME**

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 lunch time tea/coffee. Saturday afternoon hikers, bring 1 litre of water and a snack for half-time.*

NB: PLEASE BRING CORRECT MONEY.

SATURDAY HIKES

Depart Musgrave Park 13h30 and Union Mall, Pinetown at 13h45. Alternatively, meet at the venue - hikes usually start at 14h00. The hikes cost R5 (R4 for the driver and R1 for the Club). NB : A call for volunteers to help with the meeting place in Pinetown. If you can assist, please call Mary-Lee on 211469

DATE	VENUE and STARTING PLACE	Leader and tel NUMBER
4 Jan	Winston Park 1-End Jan Smuts Ave	Joe - 7013550
11 Jan	Nqutu Gorge - Nqutu Car Park	Gavin - 287417 / 284342
18 Jan	Kloof 4 & bit - picnic area	Ron - 7013346
25 Jan	Palmiet - phone leader	Lee - 823753
1 Feb	Beach walk - phone leader	Tom - 474766
8 Feb	Clifton Falls- phone leader	Mary-Lee - 211469
15 Feb	North Park - phone leader	Ron - 7013346
22 Feb	Harbour/Beach walk and braai	John 429781
1 Mar	Paradise Valley + reserve fee	Gavin - 287417 / 284342
8 Mar	Umbilo Moss	Mary-Lee - 211469
15 Mar	Beach walk and braai at Salt Rock. Meet at Musgrave Park at 12.45	Mary-Lee
22 Mar	Burman Bush - Mitchell Park :Bring tea money	Len -239551
29 Mar	Kloof 3 - Picnic area	Arlette - 814041

PROGRAMME OF SUNDAYS AND WEEKEND HIKES

NB - All meeting times, unless otherwise stated are :

Durban 8.00 and Pinetown 8h30

M = Members V = Visitors. (NB : Hike leaders telephone numbers are on page 2)

DATE	HIKE LEADER S/cost	DESCRIPTION
Sun 5 Jan	Jean Foster M10 V R15	SORA'S POOL - Jean Foster will take us down our favourite spot for water sports in the Kloof Gorge area. Bring your costume for a lunch-time dip. A short hike with steep hills. RATING - Medium
Sun 12 Jan	Dave Easton M R20 V R25 Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00	SALIMBA FARM (Richmond area) - a lovely hike which has not been done for some time. NB - starting times RATING : Medium
Sun 19 Jan	M R15 V R20 STEVE NEL	Surprise hike - Leader's choice. RATING : Medium
Sun 26 Jan	Tony Livingstone M R20 V R25	CEDARA STATE FOREST (Hilton area) Hike through some lovely forestry areas. RATING : Medium
Weekend 24/26 Jan	GEORGE ARCHIBALD	Qxalingenwa Cave - leave on Friday after work and sleep at Pholela House. Deposit of R30 by 15 January to Mary-Lee (Tel - 211469)
Weekend 24/26 Jan	TOM DE WAAL	ROSELANDS - Wild flower meander. Leave Frid afternoon. Spend time looking & photo-graphing flora - R20 deposit.
Sun 2 Feb	M R8 V R13 STEVE NEL	KLOOF GORGE - MOLWENI AREA. RATING : Medium
Sun 9 Feb	Durban 7.30 P 8.00 M R25 V R30 BILL HYSLOP	McMUDDLES - the famous, nostalgic visit to mine hosts - Mick and Gloria McConnell's beautiful home at Curry's Post. Hiking, partying, jokes and song are all included. Start rehearsing your party piece now ! Bring your meat and salads for a braai as well as a change of clothes. RATING : EASY - NB - STARTING TIMES
Weekend 8/9 Feb	BILL HYSLOP	McMUDDLES - in addition to the usual Sunday trip, the option is to include Saturday as well - there is plenty of space for a Saturday night camp. Also, see Mick's advert in this magazine.
Sun 16 Feb	M R15 V R20 PHILIP GATENBY NB - R4 entrance fee.	BAYNESFIELD -hike in the lovely rolling hills of the Thorneville area. RATING : MEDIUM
Sun 23 Feb	TOM DE WAAL P - 6.30 D - 7.00 M R20 V R25	HAVEN ROCK - George Archibald has invited us to hike in this lovely area. RATING : MEDIUM

Sun Tom 2 Talard

Weekend 23/24 Feb	TOM DE WAAL	HAVEN ROCK - birthday bash. R30 Deposit to Mary-Lee by 7 Feb. <i>Mdudu W. M. M. M.</i>
Sun 2 March	TOM DE WAAL M R15 V R20 P 7.30 D - 8.00am	MPAMBAYONI (South Coast area) A very popular hike with lots of river crossings <i>Suburban Scottburgh area</i> RATING : MEDIUM NB : note the time change.
Sun 9 March	M R10 V R15 STEVE NEL	PEACEVALE VALLEY AND RIDGE - excellent views from the ridges. RATING : MEDIUM
Sun 16 March	M R20 V R25 PHILIP GATENBY	FERNCLIFF hike on the tree-covered hills overlooking Pietermaritzburg. RATING : MEDIUM
Sun 23 March	M R10 V R15 STEVE NEL <i>BILL</i>	CRAIG LEE - Hike in the beautiful Valley of a Thousand Hills. RATING : STRENUOUS
W/End -21 23 March	JEAN-PIERRE	LAMMERGEYER CAVE Bushmans Nek Area. Travel on Frid. R30 deposit to Mary-Lee by 28 February
Easter 28/31 Mar	COLIN TURNER	Kroanna Trail in the Eastern Free State. To book, phone Colin Turner or Glenys Bentley (see below)
Easter 28/31 Mar	GEORGE ARCHIBALD R70 Deposit to Mary-Lee by 7 March (Tel 211469)	NTABANHLENYANBA -First leg of his Sani to the Sea via Cobham to Amahaqwa - leave on Thurs afternoon. Urgent : numbers needed for booking.

**KROANNA HIKING TRAIL
28 TO 31 MARCH**

We have an Easter Weekend Booking for 10 people (possibly 15) on this highly rated two-day trail of 32 km in the Eastern Free State. Cost for 2 nights is R55, plus food and transport. Other suitable walks and a further night's accommodation in the region will be planned at an extra cost to complete the weekend. Please contact Colin Turner 783517 (H) or Glenys Bentley 847632 (H) or 302011 (W). A deposit of R55 will be required to confirm the booking.

ADVANCE NOTICE

- * The second leg of George Archibald's Transkei trip - St Johns to Coffee Bay in May. Phone George at 0323-611621. Also, the second leg of his Sani to the Sea in August
- * Tony Livingstone is leading the Giants Cup Trail 26 to 28 April. Tel 252654 or 0331-63967
- * Shlebatebe - 19/21 July. Midmas Theme - Christmas in June. Phone Mary-Lee 211469
- * Otter Trail 12/19 Oct - R50 deposit - Phone Mary-Lee 211469

*30/3 Mt Oubou ?
31/3 Krantzbloof*

SOCIAL DIARY

****Please read through the diary very carefully as you will be required ****
to book well in advance for many of these functions

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Tuesday 31 Dec- New Years Eve	New Year's Eve party at Monica Mathewson's home.	Monica has offered to host a party at her home. NB - please phone her to let her know by 27 December if you are attending.
Friday 3 Jan	Scrabble	7.00 pm - Tel Monica 285406
Tuesday 7 Jan	Bridge For Beginners	Mary-Lee 211469
Tuesday 14 Jan	Music Choice - Dixieland	Mary-Lee
Sat 18 Jan	All day hike from Durban Harbour to Anstey's Beach and back again, followed by a braai at Point Yacht Club (near the Ski Boat Club - past Addington Beach)	John and Denise will be leading this all-day hike. Meet at the ferry at 9.00 am (it is close to Thirsty's). Bring your lunch and meat and drinks for a braai afterwards. Phone John/Denise at 429781 (H). Ferry cost is R10
Tuesday 21 Jan	Bridge For Beginners	Len Steinhardt
Wed 22nd Jan	Happy Hour at Point Yacht Club	Meet Denise and John at PYC from 5.30 onwards
Wed 29 Jan	MT EVEREST 1996 - a personal video and talk by Daryl Hurter, who was a trekker with the successful South African Expedition	Venue : Centenary Building, Univ of Natal. Time : 7.30 pm. Bring your own drinks and glasses Phone Colin Turner 783517
31 Jan-2 Feb	Jazz Art Dance Theatre	Phone Janet Marsh
Tuesday 4 Feb	Bridge For Beginners	Phone Monica 285406
Friday 7 Feb	Scrabble	7.00 pm - Tel Monica 285406
Tues 11 Feb	JHB Follies - Hilarious	Phone Janet 7681283
Tues 11 Feb	Music Choice - French Comp	Phone Mary-Lee
Friday 14 Feb	Valentine's Day - Drinks/Music and an inexpensive meal afterwards at Thatchers	Phone Jenny Hewitt
Tues 18 Feb	Bolshoi Ballet	Phone Janet Marsh 7681283
Tues 18 Feb	Beginners Bridge	Margret
Wed 19 Feb	AGM	New Germany Sports Club
Sat 22 Feb	John's popular Sat afternoon Beach/Harbour Walk and braai. Bring your costumes.	Meet at 1.30 pm at the PYC Club next to Ski Boat Club in Addington area. Phone John/Denise at 429781 (H)
Wed 26 Feb	Slide Show by Tom de Waal Colour in Nature	Rehab Canteen behind St Aug. Phone Mary-Lee 211469
Tues. 4 March	Bridge for beginners	phone Mary-Lee

Tuesday 4 March	Truth Omission - Pieter Dirk Uys Show	To reserve a place, phone Janet Marsh
Friday 7 March	Happy Hour at Clancys - Cnr of Essenwood & Silverton Roads	Meet from 5.15 pm onwards. Phone Jenny Hewitt - 260-2405
Friday 7 March	Scrabble	Gavin - 287417
Tuesday 11 March	Spanish Classics	Phone Mary Lee - 211469
Sat 15 March	Beach Hike - Sheffield Beach - at 1.30 pm led by Paula Baxter and braai afterwards	Meet at Musgrave Park at 12.45 pm to arrange lifts or proceed directly to Paula's home in Salt Rock. Tel Paula 0322-5644 H/Jenny 812478 - H
Tues 18 March	Beginners Bridge	Len
Wed 26 March	Slides by Jean-Pierre of Ramblers in Reunion	Rehab Canteen behind St A - phone Mary-Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES/ADVERTISEMENTS

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB AGM WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 19 February at 7.30 pm at the New Germany Sports Club. Please show your support for your club by attending this important meeting.

***** McMuddles-on-the-Hill

Mine Hosts : Mick and Gloria McConnell (Cranford Country House Turn-off)
Phone 0332-302403 Fax 0332-305342
En-suite Double Rooms Continental Breakfast R90 Full Breakfast R100
Room only R70

Full Restaurant/Pub in walking distance. Private Guest Lounge Billiard Room, Library, Pool, Squash/Tennis Courts, Bowls/Croquet. Safe walks and excellent birding area.
Rotarians, Pilots and Ramblers welcome

NB Mick and Gloria are offering Ramblers a 'special price' but only if they arrive armed with this magazine.

NB - CHANGES OF ADDRESS
Please send address changes to
The Secretary, P O Box 50563, Musgrave Road, 4062

*Loz Olive
Maureen (friend Paula)
Carol Cross
Pat Alderton*