

MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

NEWSLETTER

November 2002 to January 2003

Secretary: Please send letters or payments to PO Box 1100, SSW 7129

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Find more about us and the MCSA on the website: <http://hot.mcsa.org.za>
and in the UIAA website: www.uiaa.ch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 15th November 2002
18h30 for 20h00

The AGM of the Hottentots Holland Section will be held
at the **Environmental Centre**, Helderberg Nature Reserve. See attached Agenda and
Nomination forms !

A bring and braai will start at 18h30.

Drinks will be provided. A slide show of the past year's meets will be held after the AGM.

The membership fees for the year 2002 are as follows:

Single	R130	Couple	R160
Over 60's	R115	Over 60's couple	R145
Country	R120	Country couples	R145
Junior	R115	Newsletter	R20

Please send your subs as soon as possible to MCSA, PO Box 1100 SSW 7129 and we will send you the 2002 sticker for your membership card. The fees also include the journal.

Members who receive their journal through other sections should subtract R50, the same counts for juniors, who are children of a "Mountain club family". Please use attached forms.

INTERNATIONAL ROCK CLIMBING MEET 15th to 23rd March 2003

For the international climbing meet to be held in Du Toit's Kloof invitations have been sent out to most climbing organizations worldwide and hopefully an "interesting crowd" will be attracted.

A fair number of competent trad climbers are required, who can give advice about local climbs, grades and approach routes and who can act as climbing partners or guides to foreign climbers if necessary.

Help is required with transport CT to hut; transport around local crags during the meet; and accommodation for an odd night before and after the meet.

Details and a booking forms can be found at <http://jhb.mcsa.org.za/> or contact Ulli.

PAST MEETS

Houwhoek Mountains

28 July- Adri Gericke

A permit from Nature Conservation is necessary for this outing. The threatening weather reduced the numbers to a total of 3 walker/climbers. The weather was cool after the rains and a cold southeastern wind was blowing. That created just the right weather for a good outing. It is very easy to climb and a lot of variation is possible – a good place to go for a walk with children.

Du Toits Peak

4th August, Neil Hoy

There were six of us going up Du Toits peak on a beautiful day. Du Toits peak was covered in snow to crown it. But the climb was long and hard. Some difficulty was had in walking in the ice on top. Some other group had crampons on, which would have been a great help. The ice formations that still existed were really weird and beautiful. On the one rock ledge there were many icicles hanging down, with some breaking off which stuck into the ice below like spears. It was quite chilly on top but the views were really awesome. We did not spend much time on top. Just had a quick lunch break and took in the views. We got back to the bottom to see Du Toits peak glowing in the sunset. It was a long day but the whole group seemed to enjoy the walk.

GIFBERG - VAN RHYNSDORP

10th & 11th August, Ron du Toit

We all made our independent ways up to Gifberg Rusoord on the Friday, and as usual occupied the conference hall. On Saturday morning we all walked down to the big waterfall on the Doring rivier trail, stopping to look at the San shelters and paintings on the way. At the waterfall some turned back and the rest of us made our way down to the river, where we arrived in time for lunch. The Doring River was still quite full and flowing strongly, and only two of us were hardy enough to brave the cold water, although by this time the temperature was high. After a leisurely meal we started up the trail and the heat started to make itself felt to the distress of some of us, not yet being acclimatised after our cold winter. We made our way to the top by fits and starts frequent rests and arrived back at the farm late in the afternoon. After an early night we walked around the top end of the farm on Sunday morning. The rock formations in the canyon are always fascinating, and there was a wide variety of small flowers among the outcrops. We left for home in the afternoon after a very pleasant stay in an area which always has something of interest to make one want to go back and see a different part of it.

SIMONSBERG

18th August, Eugene Mabile

A small group (Ian, Di and Sarshen Marais; Helmut Meyer; Anelise Steyn and Eugène Mabile) met at the entrance to Tokara on the Helshoogte road. After obtaining the permit from Tokara restaurant, we proceeded to the farm, Tokara. The walk to the river on the southern side of Simonsberg was straightforward despite the steep incline. It became obvious after leaving the river that the route up the southern side of Simonsberg is not used often. The path is overgrown and the cairns not maintained. After some precarious rock scrambling we finally made it to the summit. The weather was good with some cloud and snow on the du Toits Kloof range. After enjoying some lunch and the 360° panoramic view, we proceeded down the western side of Simonsberg. The path is very badly eroded after the winter rains and by the time I realised that we had missed the turn off, we had descended almost 1/3 of the way down. From our position the walk down seemed pretty straightforward to the farm road directly below. As we approached the base, the density of the vegetation increased substantially and progress was slow and strenuous. We finally reached the road but our trials were not over yet. The maze of farm roads are not linked and after some wrong turns and doubling back, a very weary group made it back to the car park. My sincere apologies to everyone on the hike for missing the turn off on the path. I hope that this experience has not put you off hiking.

ROIKAT TRAIL

24TH & 25th August, Richard Loos

Maoliosa, Mike, Ron, Bobby and myself set out from the Vrolikheid parking area on the Saturday morning under clear skies with the promise of a warm day ahead. We were not to be

disappointed the succulents and shrubs at their best after the good rains. As the day warmed up numerous spring flowers began to open adding to the beauty of the landscape. The 19 km trail winds through and over the hilltops offering scenic views of the Langeberg and Riviersonder end Mountains. Springbok were plentiful as well as the occasional Ostrich. The rookatte were elusive but not the birds of prey soaring around the crags. We took our time as one seldom sees the Karoo landscape in such splendour, which makes this a worthwhile springtime trail.

We spent the Saturday night at De Bos in Montague, roughing it in the barn, always a pleasant experience. The following day after a stroll along the Bad kloof trail and a Sunday roast lunch accompanied by a very agreeable Sauvignon Blanc we returned home to relax after the exertions of the weekend.

DIKKOPTRAIL

1st September, Wulf Eilers

Spring Day walk at Dikkop Trail (just north of the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station). There were only four members, joined by some friends (the Jones couple who live nearby) and 2 foreign exchange students (from Switzerland and Austria) and some of their friends. The weather was lovely for a family walk, starting cloudy but clearing eventually. We followed the 16km trail through "strandveld" and its spring flowers, with an interesting excursion across a dune field of white sand. There was excitement when a Cobra raised its body in the grasses just ahead of us. We returned along the beach, passing the seal island a few hundred metres away, just black with seals. We even found two seals on the beach, a dead adult and a live pup which dashed into the waves and expertly swam away as we approached. I just thought it will not survive on its own. We were greeted by the magnificent view of Table Mountain across Table Bay. The last few kilometres got quite hot, and I was glad I brought sun hats and sun cream for the European visitors. Most stopped over at the Jones for a cup of tea, to conclude a lovely walk. A pity it is such a long drive away.

IYM EVENTS: WESTPEAK HELDERBERG

15th September, Ulli Deutschlander

The schools which I approached to climb the Helderberg let us down on that day and so a group of our section did it themselves. As the weather was not promising we approached the Westpeak through the protecting forest of the Helderberg College; then the wind hit us and the stay at the top was very short. The international part of this IYM event was Eden from the Mountain Club of Zimbabwe, Juergen a German student and Nina and Marsha discussing the contents of their lunchboxes in Russian.

In the meantime the following peaks were climbed overseas by some of our members:

Mount Fuji, Japan, 3770mtr by Wojtek (see report below)

Mount Diana on St Helena, 823mtr by Richard and Bobby

Mt Carrig Gollighan, Ireland, by Mike o Keeffe

BRANDWACHT / FONTEINTJIESBERG

20th & 21st September, Neil Hoy

The four of us set off with the hope that we would have more fellow hikers. The wind on the weekend was against us and the hut and Brandwacht were covered in mist. The climb up to the hut was arduous. But walking in the cool mist made the walking pleasant. Also the spider webs were bejeweled with water droplets from the mist. We got to the hut just after lunch and luckily the mist lifted. Two of us grabbed the opportunity to go up to Brandwacht peak while the others enjoyed the peace and quite by the hut. From Brandwacht we could still see some snow in the lee of the wind on Fonteintjesberg. Peaks towards Hex river also seemed to have snow on top still. The view down to Worcester was fabulous. On the following morning the mist and clouds were back. After an extended breakfast at the hut we decided to make our way home as the clouds were not going to lift. We would be back to go up Fonteintjesberg some other day!

VICTORIA PEAK

29th September, John Saunders

It was fine but chilly as we started the ascent to Bergriver Nek from Witbrug, about 8am. The mountains at the head of the valley were covered in cloud and a stiffish wind was blowing, but both of these had disappeared by the time we reached the Nek, where we enjoyed breakfast in warm sunshine whilst admiring the view down Assegaaibos Kloof and beyond. The weather

continued to improve as we proceeded to the summit of Victoria Peak, which we reached shortly after noon. No encouragement was needed for everyone to tuck into lunch and have a quiet siesta on this spectacular vantage point. Leaving the summit at 13:15 we proceeded to the top of Kurktrekker where a further summoning of energy took place before we plunged down into the last lap of the day. We arrived at Witbrug at 17:00, all of us enjoying that contented feeling that one has after a really good day in the mountains.

KROMRIVIER PEAK AND - DOME

12th & 13th October, Ulli Deutschlander

This time the weather was right! After a jolly evening at the Kromrivier hut we climbed the Kromrivier Peak with the morning mist waving through the valleys and over the mountain. Soon we sat on the big boulders on top and enjoyed fantastic views over the wild and rugged landscape. In the background some snow was seen on the Matroosberg. Then down we went into the marshy valleys below the Witteberg with a variety of different grasses in pastel colours of ochre, khaki and lime green. We didn't climb up the Grassy Dome as the mood was much too peaceful for rushing up a peak, but settled down for a relaxing lunch along a sparkling streamlet. An easy trail led us up to the Kromrivier Dome which was covered with big, fluffy proteas of white colour and on the steep way down of often pink colour. I was happy to see the joy in Fritz Scheffler's eyes of having been there after so many years. Memories?!

BOLAND 90 Challenge

Some 160 hikers went on this tough 3 day challenge. The first day they were fighting their way up to Landroskop Hut in hail, rain and gusting wind. The windchill factor was about minus 20°C and they were very busy warming and drying around the big fire in the hut. Our S&R team helped one girl with a very sore knee down the Mountain, but otherwise there were no casualties. The next day the weather turned to 28°C on the Orchard trail, but not warm enough to enjoy the compulsory swim over the ice cold river. After that the marshals checked if the swimmers clothing was still dry in their rucksacks. The last day it rained only lightly. Our rescue team set up a river crossing and obstacle course, which was very much appreciated by the onlookers who cheered on loudly the exhausted but happy hikers.

A big "Thanks" must go to Duane, Ian, Kirran, Len, Stephen, Ulli and Wayne for their dedication and good work often till late and in unkind weather!

ANNUAL DINNER

The food was good, the speeches short, the atmosphere jolly, with 60 mountaineers from all over the greater Cape and the chairmen of upcountry sections.

Greg Devine just back from the Karakorum gave an exciting slideshow from his national meet. Then there were some lucky draws of backpacks, fleece jacket etc. very generously donated by Cape Union Mart and Cape Storm. "An evening very well spent", we were told by everyone.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MOUNTAINS :

Wojciech Przybyłowicz managed to climb Mount Fuji. Here is his story:

On Sunday 15th I reached the Fifth station (about 2300 m) by bus and walked to Sato Goya mountain hut (ca. 2250 m) with all the heavy stuff needed for our week of travel in Japan. Heavy stuff was left in the hut. Next I started to walk up as much as I could to return to the hut before darkness, just to get some altitude training. On Monday 16th at 4 a.m. I started the real walk up. It was cloudy, but did not rain. Unfortunately at about 7 am it became foggy and rainy. I reached the top at 9.30 a.m. Due to bad weather (rain and fog, a bit of wind) I did not go around the crater, only went a bit further inside it. I was accompanied by other people, mostly Japanese and some Australians. Everybody was fully satisfied by just reaching the final station at the top and they did not do any walking around. On the way down, I used the recommended path on which one can go down fast, by sliding on finely grained volcanic ash. I reached the Sato Goya hut again at 12 a.m., completely wet. There was no snow at the top, despite so many pictures showing Fuji in snow. I could see Mount Fuji in sunlight while flying back. Good weather came too late for me!

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Wayne Kitney is our rescue Convenor !

His cell phone is **082 335 3896**

There are regular rescue exercises on Helderberg College, concerning ropework, stretchers, helicopter approach, search strategy etc. Please phone in if you are interested to join.

In case of an mountain accident phone Metro: 948 99 00 or 948 9917 !!!

ROCKCLIMBING

Stephen Tilleman is responsible for rock meets. Contact him at **082 548 8414**

JOHNSON HUT

Viljoen Thom is our hut convenor. He can be contacted at **855 5647 (h)** or **072 1786918** for hut bookings, which should be done at least 3 working days in advance.

The **hut fees** are R5.00 per member, R10 per nonmember and R3 per child under 18.

Access to Cape Nature Conservation (WCNCB) Areas :

The new TELEPHONE Nr. In Bellville is 945 4570/71 Fax: 945 3456

For trails at Nuweberg (Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve) you can book now directly at the gate there or phone 028 840 4301/2, 028 840 4826

Please carry your permit and membership card with you at all times!

If the club permits are not available, and/or if non-members are in the party, the required fees must be paid at the WCNCB booking office. Our year permit is not valid for Wilderness areas. Even, if you have the club permit with you, you must still give the forester of the area a courtesy call !

MCSA car stickers and felt badges are available from the secretary in English or Afrikaans.

An **electronic Journal index** is available on the WEB site <http://mcsa.org.za> covering the 1894 to 1991 Journals **or as a booklet** from the secretary Hatfield street C.T.

Update on Voyager Miles scheme:

Another appeal to members to join the SAA Voyager Scheme (all it takes is filling in a form from any travel agent) and then sending on the membership number to Fran. The procedure to be followed when booking is:

Booking can only be made through SAA to SAA destinations (overseas or local).

Once the reservation has been made, send the details to Fran, including booking code. She will arrange for payment to be made. When this is done the ticket must be collected within 24 hours. Airport tax to be paid in cash when collecting ticket. Let Fran know you have collected the ticket. E-mail Fran at: Hunziker@mweb.co.za

Gaiters and Backpack covers can be ordered from Gudrun Anderson 851 1475

“SA Mountain Magazine” : A new full colour, full size climbing -cum- mountain magazine (Editor: Tony Lourens) is on the market! Available at Outdoor shops and certain bookstores . Published 4 times a year. Price : R 19,95 (stories&fotos excellent! Ulli)

Welcome to: Nina Nezura as new member
and Annelie Steyn Dr.Judith Haggood and Richard Poole as a prospective member

***Yet nature's charms
the hills and woods
the sweeping vales and foaming floods
are free alike to all*** Robert Burns

MEETS LIST

November 2002 to January 2003

HERMANUS WHALE WALK

Look down on the whales in the bay. Wulf will lead this family walk starting in Fernkloof Nature Reserve.
Wulf Eilers 852 4967

Saturday 2 November

ROI HEUWEL, BOTRIVIER

Easy walk on private farm in the Botrivier area. Lovely fynbos and beautiful views of the Overberg.
Erina Vorster 853 7762(h) 850 4173(w)

Saturday 9 November

AGM : Environmental Center, (See front Page) 18:30 for 20:00h, Friday 15th November

SPOOKNEK, Kleinmond

A moderate day's hiking in the mountains above Kleinmond - this is a new hike for our Section.
Richard Loos 844 0366 or Bobby Campbell 852 7427

Sunday 17 November

WORK MEET AT THE JOHNSON HUT

Please contact the Hut Convenor for details.

Weekend 23/24 November

Viljoen Thom 855 5647, 072 786918

WESSELGAT EXPLORATORY TRIP

Kloofing -exploring in the upper areas of Wesselsgat -reasonable fitness required. Overnight in the kloof.
Ron du Toit 852 3867

Weekend 30 November/1 December

BEACH WALK: KLEINMOND TO VERMONT

An easy walk for the whole family. Low tide at +-12.00pm. Bring full water bottles and costumes.
Viljoen Thom 855 5647, 072 786918

Sunday 8 December

CEDARBERG

Camp at Kromm River. Hiking and Rock climbing around the Wolfberg Cracks, Maltese cross, Teuntjies kraal and Tafelberg. Book early!
Stephen Tilleman 082 5488414

Long Weekend 14/15/16 December

DU TOITS RIVER, FRANSCHHOEK

An easy, short and fun kloofing trip. Strops and takkies are fine. Ulli 808 3365(w), 887 5393(h)

Sunday 22 December

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you, your friends and your family !

ELANDSPAD, DU TOITS KLOOF

A relatively short day with a bit of a walk to the pools. excursions up a side kloof to a waterfall with a very cold pool - very welcome on a hot day!
Mike O'Keefe 851 2300, 083 2283442

Sunday 5 January

BOBBEJAANSKLOOF, BAINS KLOOF

Lovely pools in various places - a mild rock scramble to the pool below the large waterfall at end (can be avoided, if necessary). A reasonably laid back day geared for swimming after a bit of an initial slog.
Adri Gericke 852 1912

Sunday 12 January

HIGHLANDS TO KLEINMOND

An easy 7 hour walk from Iona farm (in Highlands Forest) along vinyards, orchards, a big dam, through pine plantations, fynbos along the Botrivier lagoon (also wading through a 300 m wide side-arm up to knee deep), viewing the wild horses and finally along the sandy beach to Kleinmond. Very varied and exciting.
Helmut Meyer 851 7368

Sunday 19 January

KRISTAALKLOOF, RIVERSDALE

A circular walk in a magnificent fynbos area. We go in the opposite direction to the Stinkhoutsbos hike. One climb near the start otherwise reasonably easy. We will overnight on Friday at the Ou Toll Huis Hut. Please book early, so we can get the permit
Mike Clemenson 85 54229(h)

Weekend 24/25/26 January

SUICIDE KLOOF

A popular kloofing trip for the more adventurous members of the club.
Early Booking necessary!

Sunday 2 February

Wayne Kitney 082 3353896