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#### 1. LAND AND ACCESS

##### NEWS FLASH

#### LAND & ACCESS BOSBERAAD HELD AT HAMERKOP 16 JUNE 2001

A successful workshop took place attended by 19 people made up primarily of Johannesburg section and Magaliesberg sections of the club together with representatives of the Johannesburg Hiking Club and a few other interested parties. The object of the workshop was to re-visit policy, which is already in place in relation to land ownership and also to plot a way forward for the future. Arising from this the following can be highlighted:

- The message came across loud and clear that the club should seriously continue its policy of buying up mountain land in the Magaliesberg in particular, but also further afield. The object of so doing was to ensure access in the future.
- To continue negotiating and purchasing servitude rights of access wherever possible.
- Collaborate with the Johannesburg Hiking Club and other similar groups in the purchase of mountain land.
- In terms of an outreach program give consideration to making our properties available to school groups and in particular to further an awareness of mountain conservation through education. Such a program could ideally be run during the week by commercial operators or otherwise and provided that this is carried out under strict supervision and within the framework of the club's conservation policy. This outreach effort could operate under the current permit system but being offered free of charge during the week.
- In terms of commercially operated ventures it would be expected that the proceeds there from would be used to ensure the preservation of our lands in the form of path building, eradication of alien vegetation, preventing soil erosion etc.
- It was suggested that a senior or retired member would be ideally suited to run with an outreach program and possibly on a commercial basis for reward. Any takers please call Oliver Oppler at:

Tel.: (011) 726-3272 (office)

Tel.: (011) 678-3168 (home)

Cell: 082 553 0575

#### 2. CLUB NEWS

#### HAMERKOP BOSBERAAD

The 16<sup>th</sup> of June saw our Chairman, various committee members, members (many of them young climbers), 4 Magaliesberg Section members, the Chairman of the JHB Hiking club and the Junod family, gathered at Hamerkop.

A very professional presentation / workshop was led by Ian Slatem.

Among the more important issues discussed were land use (see Oliver Oppler's report under Land & Access), meets and meet leaders, sports climbing and membership of these climbers. The day finished with a sophisticated display of the Website by Rodney Franks under the PR topic. A very worthwhile exercise.

#### 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Section hosted a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary party on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and, appropriately, some 70 members attended. Some Magaliesberg Section members were also there. Thank you for coming. Harry Barker, the only surviving member whose membership dates from the club's first year of existence, gave a very funny talk to the meeting and had it roaring with laughter with his account of a committee meeting in Fox Street in December 1932 when his gaze was transfixed by the sight of a naked woman across the street in the old Carlton Hotel 'struggling to invest her amplitudes in a two-way-stretch'. He also related a story of how, according to Bob Davies, Jannie Graaf was challenged at a camp fire on the summit of Blouberg to translate into Afrikaans "THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN". Jannie's response was said with appropriate solemnity DIE KAPOK BOGGER. Liz Boyes, whose grandparents joined the Section in the 1930's, and who is a third generation member, spoke about being brought up in MCSA

circles. She added that the calibre of Johannesburg Section mountaineers was very evident during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, where the MCSA Journals of the time, reported that the Transvaal Section members taken prisoner, had almost all escaped!

Thank you Uschi and her band of helpers for organising the party.

Congratulations were received from the MCSA President, Andre Schoon, who sent good wishes to the Section on the occasion of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Johannesburg Hiking Club also sent congratulations.

Johannesburg Section 1931-2001 commemorative items for sale: waiter's friends (bottle opener) and mugs R30. ea

### WOLKBERG HUT GOLDEN JUBILEE

On the 28 April 2001 we commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wolkberg Hut and the late Clifford (Pottie) Thompson who was the initiator and driving force behind its construction. A plaque as well as a picture of Pottie was placed in the hut.

We were joined by the Thompson family and the McCoombes from Haenertsburg. Ted Rudnick, who was very involved with the construction of the hut, came all the way from Clarens to join us for this special event, Merv Prior, who was there when the site for the hut was chosen, Francois & Sheila Junod as well as Ian and many others.

And here I quote:

'Today the hut is taken for granted by many who are unaware of the efforts which brought it into being. Let us hope that future users will continue to use the hut with the respect it deserves and that in turn it will provide pleasure to many generations of mountain-lovers'. – (taken from an article written by Pottie from our archives which also appeared in the MCSA journal 1997).

We had a super day with a braai following the 'official' proceedings. Uschi

An interesting booklet was made with extracts from the club hut book – Uschi has copies for anyone interested. Please ask her.

### NAME AND NEW DESIGN FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Please send in suggestions for a name for our newsletter. The Cape Town Section's is called 'Mountaineers'. Among the ones I have received already are: Rock and Rope, Mountain Message, Kloof and Krantz, The Knife Edge, Foot and Mouth, Out of the Abyss, Mountain Mouth ... and so on. Have fun thinking up some and maybe someone will come up with a brilliant name.

The committee agreed that a new design would also be welcome. Put pen to paper and send in designs, please. Telephone or email Margaret Boyes with your suggestions.

### BARN DANCE

A Barn Dance is being organised for Saturday 8 December. Please diarise and come along for the fun. The entry will be affordable, the dancing will go on till we drop.... please come and socialise with us and your climbing mates for the evening. In the past these have been very popular events.

### ARE THERE GORILLAS IN TONQUANI?

Judging by the size of the rocks some people pile onto the monkey-proof cages at Tonquani, there are obviously those who think so!

The lid of the 'Kitchen Corner' cage has been damaged to such an extent by being overloaded with boulders that it can no longer close properly.

Benno Magg went to a lot of trouble to make those cages and carry them to the climbing areas. It seems a shame that they should be damaged in such a way.

Monkeys are small animals and not very strong (except for gorillas, of course). They are not capable of working out how to open even a simple catch. Please treat these useful facilities with care and respect. Thanks so much to those members who made them and carried them in especially Benno.

The unfortunate alternative is to loose these facilities and have the monkeys ripping up our rucksacks and stealing our food again? Also, please note that the intention of the cages is to store your food, not rucksacks. -Jean Prior

**PATROLLERS AT CEDARBERG & TONQUANI:** please note that the Exploratio Club of the Pretoria University has been issued with 10 access cards by the Magaliesberg section. These cards entitle the students to be on the property. The same applies to Wits students who have the MCSA sticker on their student cards. Francois Junod, the owner of Tonquani sometimes takes walks with his dogs on the property. Once you have established his identity, please do not reprimand him over his dogs.

**KRANSBERG:** members visiting Kransberg must obtain the key from Uschi. Apparently the hinges have been loosened from the gate. Members are requested to refrain from doing such damage. Anyone willing repair this ??

Low flying **helicopters in the Magaliesberg** - Pictures and affidavit. R100 will be rewarded to any person who can provide photographs and the registration number of such offenders and who is prepared to give an affidavit stating the occurrence, time, date and place of observation. These are needed if we wish to take this up with aviation department.

**Car break-ins at Calabash** – please do not leave any valuable items in your car. A large bunch of office keys was stolen from a trailer. The thieves may have discarded the keys near the parking area, if found please telephone Deidre at 012806-8115

**Overnight parking at Tonquani:** Otto Bertram has kindly offered to allow members who are spending the night at Tonquani to park nearer his house.

**MEET LEADERS:** first aid lectures. Are there any meet leaders or members who would like to attend a course on first aid? Please contact Graeme King. Or Bruce Spottiswoode

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

Adi Attar, David Shaw, Peter Kröll, Sue Blaine, Christina Chambers, Joanne Kirby, Lester Jackson, Paul Jackson, Willem le Roux (trf from Stellenbosch) Nicole Hemphill, Andrew Spottiswoode, Phyllis Coven, and family members Luke and Ruth Shaw.

Applications received from: Vivienne Preston, Gideon Havenga, Johannes & Mariette Maritz.

Resigned: Junior members Anja Seppa, Amy & Gordon Jones

#### **MARRIAGES**

Chris Vind and Michelle Gathercole were married in Krugersdorp on 24 March 2001. Colin Ralston and Chantal Clemens were married in Cape Town on 15 April 2001 and have returned to Sydney, Australia where they are now living.

Alex Harris married Britt Ellefsen were recently married in the Drakensberg and are now honeymooning in Zanzibar. Kate Buckley and Ryan Lishman also got married recently.

The club congratulates them all and wishes them all the best for the future! Please let the editor know of any other engagements, weddings, births etc. within the section to liven up our social column.

**PROVISIONAL DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 30 JULY; 10 SEPTEMBER; 22 OCTOBER; 3 DECEMBER.**

#### **3. CONSERVATION**

##### **STOP PRESS:**

**At the World Environment Day celebrations held in Rustenburg on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, the MEC, Mrs Edith Molewa, promised to revive the Magaliesberg Management Advisory Board. Advertisements for nominations will be placed within the next 2 weeks.**

**Good news! And another step in the right direction! Well done to everyone who has been fighting for its revival.**

##### **BIG MAGALIESBERG CROFTON WEED BASH**

The Magaliesberg and Johannesburg Sections, together with Johannesburg Hiking Club, are planning a joint effort on **25/26 August** to keep Crofton Weed in the Magaliesberg kloofs from seeding this year. We want as many members as possible to participate. The plant flowers in September, so we plan to pull out as many plants as we can in the affected kloofs, but at least also cut off all the stems with flowerbuds so that they do not seed. The reasoning behind this is that Crofton seeds can stay viable in the soil for up to **15 years**, so all our efforts to eradicate this weed will lead to nothing if we do not also stop it from making new seeds every year. As you will realise, this is a **LONG TERM** [+15 years] project! The kloofs are **Dome, Mhlabatini and Castle Gorge**. These kloofs are our responsibility to protect, so please make a note NOW in your diary to keep those days open for the bash.

The co-ordinators for the weekend are **Ottie Nesor** [(h) 012: 361-6573 (w) 012:323-8540], **Petro Grobler** [(h) 012:341-1804], **Jenny Paterson** [(h) 011:888-3693] **Ken Dalglis** (JHB Hiking Club) [083-457-4161].

Meet Leader for the JHB Section will be **JEAN PRIOR** [011: 673-5584] who will be "leading" at Castle Gorge (above the waterfall). You can choose to work in any of the 3 kloofs.

To prepare and stimulate members for this effort, **STEFAN NESER** will give a slide show on the **plant invaders of the Magaliesberg on 11 July at the Johannesburg Clubhouse**.

**We appeal to all of you for your support.**

##### **DISRUPTIONS IN CASTLE GORGE**

The Rand Water Board's pipeline that runs through our property at Castle Gorge has to be repaired. This will entail the digging up of the pipe every 200 meters (or so) and will be done by contractors. The Rand Water Board and their Environmental consultants are working closely with our Conservation project group and have promised minimal impact and complete rehabilitation. Revil Mason has identified sensitive Heritage Sites that need to be especially protected if they are in any danger, and during the repair phase will be on call for the RWB team and contractors. Thank you Revil.

The entire project will take two to three years and has already started at the Randfontein end. Work will probably start on our property towards the last quarter of this year and then again a year or so later.

The Conservation project group will keep you informed.

#### **4. EXPEDITIONS**

##### **KUKSAY**

The climbing team of the Kuksay Expedition led by Ulrike Kiefer leave on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. Members of the climbing team are Roy Kendall, Martin Bruning, Pawel Wuzyk, Roland Magg and Laubie Laubscher of Jhb section, Andrew Kendall and Jaana Ball of Cape Town section, Ian Bailey, Greig & Iona Stewart of KZN and Marc van Reenen of Magaliesberg section.

We wish them all the best. The trekking party, who will spend 4 days at the base camp, leave on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. The Section looks forward to some good slide shows on their return.

##### **NORTHERN NAMPULA (Mozambique)**

We wish Alard Hufner, Mark Seuring and the impressive BMC team (Dave Turnbull, Leo Holding, Ben Bransby, Peter Robins and Andy Donson) all the best with their climbing on these big granite domes.

##### **UIAA YOUTH CLIMBING CAMP IN FOROS, CRIMEA, UKRAINE**

On behalf of the UIAA Youth Commission the Ukrainian Mountaineering and Rock Climbing federation is pleased to invite the youth of the UIAA member associations to an international youth camp in the Crimea.

"CRIMEAN ROCK FESTIVAL": 17 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2001

Only one member (Cape Town Section) has applied to attend the Youth Climbing Camp in the Ukraine ('Crimean Rock Festival'), in September 2001.

Our Chairman would like to see as many young aspirant mountaineers, with limited ice exposure, as possible get on these training meets overseas

For information on the criteria for going on such a meet contact Ian Slatem.

Date: 17-24 September 2001

Place: Foros, Crimea Highlights: Rock climbing, competition, training, excursions, songs, exchange of experience

Accommodation: Tourist centre.Meals: Full board

For further information contact Petro Grobler (UIAA Youth Commission Corresponding Member).

## 5. CLIMBING NEWS

Marianne Pretorius redpointed "Faberge" 28 in Fernkloof. As far as I know it was the second woman ascent. Very impressive stuff.

As if that were not good enough Marianne and Tessa Little did (as far as we know) the 1st all women ascent of Blouberg. The two of them climbed Hey Jude (20) together.

Pieter Martin redpointed "Snapdragon" 28 at the restaurant.

In Namibia, Spitzkoppe.

Mark Seuring, Alard Hüfner and Marianne Pretorius did a second ascent of Herero Arch 26, 12 pitches. It is a good route, and well bolted. All the pitches were climbed 'on-site' except for the second 26 pitch, Mark got that on his second attempt.

Marianne Pretorius was also the first woman to climb the "South West Wall Route" 13 pitches with Alard. They did the route in a new time of 6 hours and 28 minutes from campsite to campsite. The 24 pitch route was aided as it was wet. The route was opened in 1982 by members of the Transvaal Section.

New routes opened at Spitzkoppe:

"Watersports" a 5 star 20 trad route follows a layback crack for 3 pitches just to the right of South West wall route. You can place as much gear as you can carry, ranging from small nuts to cam 4. Descent: abt off bolts at top of 3 pitch

Opened by: Alard Hüfner, Voitec Modrzewski and Marianne Pretorius

"Fig Arch" 17 opened solo by Alard Hüfner "A cup of tea and 2 chimneys" 18. These 2 chimneys are located on the Klipdachswand between 'Rhino Horn' and 'Open Ocean'. They run parallel to each other and were opened solo in an afternoon. They are each 2 or 3 pitches long.

"5;4;3" 16 opened by Mark Seuring, Alard Hüfner and Voitec Modrzewski. The name comes from the number of bolts per pitch, the first pitch has 5 bolts in 50 meters, the second pitch 4 bolts and the 3 pitch 3 bolts. This route is the 1st on "the Hippo" which is located left of the huge South West wall.

### Madagascar:

A successful climbing trip was to the Tsaranaro Massive in Southern Madagascar. It is a very interesting and diverse country with its French / Malagasy influences. Matthew Munting, Mike Mason and Alard Hüfner put up a new line on 'Tsaranaro Be(?)' up the huge right facing corner system to the left of 'Gondwanaland'. Hunt Cheney accompanied us for the first 7 pitches. We spent 7 days opening the route. 5 continuous days on the wall.

The new line is called "Vazimba" which is named after the first inhabitants of Madagascar, a hairy dwarf-like people. The route had 3 previous attempts in 1997 by L. Campagna and Italian friends, then in 1998 by Gilles Gautier and Arnaud Petit and then later that year by Michael Piola and Emanuele Pellizzari, (info from High Magazine No. 199).

The route is about 800m with 19 pitches.

Grade 26 A0 (French 7b). The A0 is pulling on bolts on the last pitch. To do it free, one would have to pull on very hard prickly plants and cacti that have filled the cracks. The route is bolted, as are all the other routes there.

The 26 pitch is a flaring off-width crack/chimney, too small to fit in your body but too big to fist jam. Quite strenuous!! We had no gear large enough to fit. Cam 6 or 7 or bongos would be needed.

The 26 pitch has not had a clean redpoint. My shoulders and elbows were raw in patches and very tender (from bolting it on lead and having no gear to hang on whilst bolting) thus prohibiting me from redpointing the pitch at the time.

Matthew Munting and I also bolted another 2 pitch flaring chimney on the left side of 'Lemur' wall called "Gypsy Crack" at 24.

Thank you to our sponsors: The Mountain Club of South Africa JHB section, Upat, Scavenger, Rock on Climbing, Benfab Stainless steel.

## 6. STORIES AND MEMORIES

Some Memories of a few months in 1939 with the Transvaal Section of the Mountain Club:

In those days few young people owned cars. We hired a bus and driver to take us to the Magaliesberg on Sundays. It was more like a rickety van with seats put in. We had to be at "Sogots Corner" on Oxford Road sharp at 6 a.m. The drive, largely on gravel roads, with drifts and wandering animals, was long and rough. Once we stopped to watch a huge leguaan, like a young crocodile, waddling in front of us.

If lucky we got to the farm about 10.30. Then we must have 'koffie and gesels' with the farmer. This was a bit trying as few people came out from the 'city' and we caused great interest. And, of course we were longing to get on the mountain.

The idea was to climb and open new climbs on the Southern escarpment. By the time the climbers had reached the top and we had lit fires and had a meal it was time to start down again for the bus.

One evening the farmer asked us to take his wife to the city with us. She wore a kappie and long black dress and spoke only Afrikaans. On the journey we sang. Some of the songs had hymn tunes and words by Harry Barker, highly unsuitable for the ears of a good boere vrou. When she said goodbye she told us how pleasant it was to hear young people singing hymns after their day out. We were gratified.

It was a very small club. The leaders and 'pioneers' were mainly Harry and Margo Barker, Jean and Berry Malan, Paul Houmoller, Simon and Erica Biesheuvel, Karl and Emile Rhule, Porky Harris, Hans and Else Wongchowski. They opened climbs, kept descriptions, marked paths and routes, named everything, kept in with the farmers, whose friendship was highly valued, kept records. We treasured the area and looked on it AS OUR OWN SPECIAL FIEFDOM. No one could have foreseen the great changes that were to come. Very few of the general public bothered to go out so far. Those friends are gone now except Harry, Jean and Erica. I remember them all with gratitude and affection. We had great times.

The idea of trying to find time to explore the North facing kloofs was slowly taking shape. Those who drove cars spent much time underneath them with tools, and camping kit was heavy army stuff – no plastic, or lightweight foods in those days. Work stopped at midday on Saturdays, so those camping weekends were short and hard going. But we found the kloofs pristine and enchanting and worth every minute.

One Sunday night in September 1939 we piled out of the bus in the dark at Krugersdorp to have our halfway cup of coffee. There by the light of the café lamp was a poster, WAR DECLARED. A shock seemed to run through the group. Of course this was not entirely unexpected, but now it had HAPPENED. Everything would change, and for all those young men most of all. And so it was. Del Houmoller May 2001

Jean Prior writes ... my first climb was Caterpillar. I used, at one stage, Mervyn's foot as a handhold.

I remember falling off so often when climbing, that someone labeled me as "a climber with no pride." I hear there is no disgrace now-a-days if you fall off.

More reminisces in the next Newsletter. Please send any contributions, to the editor.

### **Three Musketeers and a Cell Phone**

- by Andrew Porter

The journey to Blouberg started out as they all do. Rodney, Rance and I (Andrew) set off from Joburg early in the morning. We got lost in the forest on the walk-in, had a real scare at the first sight of the main wall, and prepared for an early start the next day in the dark. It was during that first scramble into the darkness that it all started going wrong. Rance's torch died after about 10 minutes, and mine passed away halfway down the ramp. Rodney's saw us through to light and the start of the climb.

'Hey Jude' was always going to be a tall order, but we were concerned about getting off route on 'Moonshadow', and 'Hey Jude' had been recommended as a cool route. We climbed rather slowly at first, and reached the grass ledge just before 10 am. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch that caused the main problems. Rodney earned his wings with a rather long fall from near the top of the pitch, leaving a rather scared Rance and Andrew to second with packs. Lunch was eagerly attacked on the ledge above. By now, 'Hey Jude' presented another two hard pitches and no eager leaders. So, onto 'Bushpig' which had been sold the day before as being easier and quicker. With time running short, that was also an important consideration.

Heavy rain caught us out one pitch from the top, drenching all three of us, and making the last pitch unnecessarily desperate. We coiled our ropes and started scrambling up a rather obvious gully. A short way up, and above a smooth, steep and wet slab we reached a waterfall. Rodney eventually offered to lead the pitch in an attempt to avoid a cold and wet bivvy. On with the headlamp and up he went. We eventually did 3 wet and dark pitches, all with one and a half torches (mine went on and off at will, mainly off).

We topped out proper, quite near 11pm, and had some more munchies. This renewed our hopes and we set off again across the summit plateau. Things were looking really good when mist came in to spoil things. None of us had been on top before, so we settled down for a by now, much reduced bivvy behind a small ridge. Space blankets are actually very small if you want to cover your entire body, but we made it.

Still misty at 6am, we decided to wait another hour to see if the mist would clear. It did not, so we set off again. More stumbling around and we decided to head uphill to the tower and try from there. We found a path leading to a helipad, and another cliff. Strange, but all cliffs look the same in mist if you cannot see the ground below. Back to the tower, to observe that the solar panels must be pointing north. This gave us our first sense of direction in over 12 hours, so we set off east looking for the ridge down into the maze. Another cliff, and not sure whether to go left or right, we settled under a rock and got rather cold. We ate the last of the jellybeans.

Then, Rodney had a brainwave. He pulled out his cell phone, and *called a friend*. Who called another friend, and another until eventually, Alard phoned us back. He gave a different set of directions, so back to the tower we went. We decided while we were there to get into one of the huts and out of the wind for a few minutes to recover. The key was conveniently located on the ground near the door, and in we went. Nothing to burn, but out of the wind at least, we decided to try Alard's directions, and if that failed, we would return to the hut until the mist cleared, probably only the next day.

An uneventful hour later, we had reached the cave, and started making lots of warm food. Rodney disappeared, to find cell phone reception to let Alard know we were safe. Except that by now, the entire Search and Rescue squad had been placed on alert and were almost ready to go.

It should have all stopped there, except that an innocent remark at a well-known climbing store resulted in a query "were you the one who phoned?" - well, um, no, um it wasn't us, um...

### **NAMIBIA EASTER CAMP - as seen by a mother and wife of climbers by Gerlinde Seuring**

Actually it was me who suggested to join the Spitzkoppe Easter Meet this year. I had been there last in 1978 and in my memory it had been a very pleasant stay in those days. After a looing but interesting drive through Botswana we arrived at Spitzkoppe. Everybody was spread out camping and one could hear clanging and rattling of gear and shouting of climbers who were already busy practicing on boulders around the campsite. It had rained a lot recently and the grass was high and green dotted with lots of beautiful flowers.

Around the campfire that night the only subject was CLIMBING, which route to tackle, the difficulty, when to start the next morning and so on. I listened in silence and my heart sank when I heard of Herbert's and Mark's plans. Sleep did not want to come. Before it was light the climbing groups started off, for me no staying longer in the sleeping bag. Herbert went off to Spitzkoppe Standard Route, for the third time in his life. Lucky for me, I could not watch them from camp. So it did not worry me too much. Mark and Voitek started a climb which Marianne and Alard had done the day before. It looked very difficult from below. The climb was called South West Wall with 13 pitches, which was opened by Eckhard Haber in about 1980. I did not want to watch, but could not help looking through binoculars now and then. They made steady progress, first in the shadow, later in the boiling sun. I would have liked to help and give them a cooldrink. It must have been torture for them - but the same for me, the mother, whose son was fighting his own battle on the rock. Eventually I joined a group of hikers who took us out of sight behind the mountain. In the afternoon when we returned, the boys were at the crux - a 21 difficulty - and then through a hole, after that they were almost up at the top. I was so relieved when they were out of sight and I knew then, that the worst was over.

The next day and day after Marianne, Alard and Mark attempted "Herero's Arch", again visible from camp. Everybody knew that this was even harder to climb. They all watched the first day except me, I could not! They did the Crux, a 27, and abseiled. "Herero's Arch" was opened not long ago by a group of Tyrolians and had 12 pitches. This was going to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> ascent. Next day they started off again early because of the shadow. They made good progress. Marianne jumared up the fixed ropes to take photographs while the boys had to climb it again. All the time my prayers were with them. It seemed endless to watch them on the almost sheer blank wall. Although I told myself that it was their choice I could not stop worrying. It is not very pleasant for a mother to see your child, even when grown up, in a dangerous situation. But once it is over and they are safely down, tired but proud, yes - then I am also proud of my son, that he has accomplished the climb with his reliable and able friends. But one should not forget, it is NOT the most important accomplishment in life!!! One last word. My thanks go out to the organiser of the Namibian Mountain Club, mainly Eckhard Haber and his wife Elise. They were exceptionally helpful in giving advice, and Elise showing people around to bushman paintings and pointing out all the various gemstones on the ground. We enjoyed their company very much.

### **7. GENERAL**

#### **MCSA JOURNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION:**

Thanks to Neil Griffin for organising sponsorship and the judging.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: David Bristow - Milner Amphitheatre

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Mike Scott - Ross Suter on Lambada at Silvermine

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Con Loubser - Waterfall view (Boven)

Special Prize: Anthony van Tonder for an excellent portfolio

Commended: (alphabetical order)

• Demos Anastasiades - Mount Kenya

• Spook Lawrenz - North Peak of the Saddle

•Con Loubser – New routing at Manoutsa (Mpumulanga)

## YEAR 2002-INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MOUNTAIN

United Nations declaration: '2002 International Year of the Mountains'

### MCSA CALENDARS for 2002

MCSA Calendars will again be produced for the year 2002, and it is hoped that the Department of Environmental Affairs will be prepared to endorse the publication. The United Nations in New York has declared the year 2002, the 'International Year of the Mountains', and with this added incentive it is hoped that sales will be increased. We are aware of the late delivery of the calendars during the past couple of years, and every effort will be made this time to distribute by the end of October. We will be covering 'Mountains of Africa' and some stunning slides have been selected of most of Africa's mountain ranges. It is hoped that more corporate orders can be concluded, and anybody with corporate influence for the ordering of calendars should please contact me ASAP! The price for the Multi Page Gift Calendar will be R 65.00 each and the Single Page Gift Calendar, R 18.50 each. For further details, call project convenor, Neil Griffin 083 229 9000, or 011 614 3755.

More news about **what our Section** will be doing to commemorate and celebrate this international event will be in your next Newsletter. **Suggestions most welcome.** Contact Jenny Paterson.

### HUTS:

#### MCSA HUTS IN THE CAPE

Members are reminded that keys for the Cape Town section's huts can be obtained from the administrator, Ushi or the Cape Town Offices. Hut fees are payable and the onus is on the member to see that his dues are paid to Cape Town. Arrangements can be made with Ushi to reimburse the CT Section when necessary.

**MCSA ANNUAL DINNER** will be hosted by the Stellenbosch section on Friday 19 October 2001 at Delaire (outside Stellenbosch on the Helshoogte road) R150 pp contact Dave Weber at 021 852 4623.

**BANFF FILM FESTIVAL** - will be held in Cape Town on 27 & 28 September 2001.

### RECIPROCITY SCHEME WITH THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB

Our President has approached the Swiss Alpine Club requesting admission as an "association agree" member of the reciprocity right convention on the basis of the MCSA purchasing reciprocity stamps. These cost SFR 60.00. For a 10 day climbing trip to the Alps these will pay for themselves over again with a 50% discount on hut fees being the benefit. Once it is seen to what extent they will be used, more will be purchased through the Federation (MCSA). Initially 5 will be applied for and applications to purchase these are to be made to the Executive Committee of the MCSA through Andre Schoon or Ian Slatem. These will also be used to sponsor young climbers venturing into the Alps on application.

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

To have trained and accredited leaders within the Section is highly desirable. Accredited MDT (Mountain Development Trust) trainers within Gauteng are to be identified. We hope to provide a list of trainers in the next Newsletter. If anyone would like more information before then please contact Ushi or Margaret Boyes. If you are an MDT accredited trainer or guide or want to become one, please contact any committee members or Margaret, Ian or Ushi.

**ADVERTISEMENTS** in our newsletter: contact Margaret Boyes for more information.

### FOR SALE:

1 pair Boreal Vectors, Size 3. Recently resoled. R200.00 Contact Heather on (011) 444 4155 or cell 082 6769 786

MCSA Journals of previous years for sale – contact Peter Mimmack or Ushi

Boots for sale: Dachstein (size 44) very good condition R120. Malutis (size 43) R80.00;

Skis & Sticks: Blizzard 1,8m R100. Children's skis 1,3m and 1,2m R50. per pair; Ski Boots size 30, 32, 35 R30 per pair. Contact Benno 803 3703

### Message from Roland Magg

Hi All, You may not have heard that I am off to China on the Kuksay Expedition to attempt to climb unclimbed peaks. Check out [www.inow.co.nz/mcsa](http://www.inow.co.nz/mcsa) for more details. Regards, Roland

### EVEREST RECORD HOLDER DIES

Babu Chhiri Sherpa, who held the record for the fastest ascent of Everest died in April, whilst climbing the peak for the 11<sup>th</sup> time. He fell 200m into a crevasse. Last year he climbed from base camp to the summit in 16 hours and 56 minutes.

### 8. FROM THE CHAIR

Much debate about what the club should do to encourage membership, what the club does for members, "why join if you are a sports climber?"...has been raging over the last while. At the Hammerkop bosberaad there were discussions about using our property through the permit system for 'outreach programmes' during the week at no cost, initiating a 'sports membership' category with slightly different entrance requirements and 'benefits' and of course the ever present call for increased media exposure. The website <http://jhb.mcsa.org.za> has come to good effect to inform members and prospective members of the schedule of events, and has been developed to include expedition information, etc. The club has changed in the way it operates quite significantly in recent years. Land and Access issues have always been important but recently land was purchased for sports climbing specifically, a bolting fund has been established, funding of expeditions has grown under Ulrike's guidance, Chris and members have been providing monthly introductory training close to Johannesburg. Application for membership has adapted to the needs of sports climbers such that four visits to the Restaurant (no not McDonalds) with club members will suffice for membership.

The issue is that the members of the club understand the value of joining. It is up to us to encourage other like minded members of the community to join such that the club strengthens and grows to the benefit of all. Some of the responses include the 'famous quote' "Not what it does for you, but what you do for it..." Thanks to Jenny Patterson who has been a real 'live-wired' convenor of the Conservation portfolio, and of Course Ushi who works tirelessly for the club. Also a special thanks to Russ Dodding who has just compiled a 'Guide to members'. I am encouraged by the co-operation between the various interested parties in our local mountains - the MPA, JHC, the Magaliesberg Section and the Johannesburg Section. I can see a time in the near future where the sharing of resources of these bodies will make for a louder more effective force in preserving our mountains and representing those interested in their enjoyment. Together we will be able to do more than individually. New legislation requiring disclosure about development projects that may impact on us and allowing registration as Interested and Affected Parties is also encouraging for the future. 'Forewarned is forearmed'.