



1. CLUB NEWS:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: will be held on 13 March 2002 at 20h15 at the Waverley Girl Guide Hall, Scott & Stirling Streets Waverley. Agenda enclosed

GOODBYE

So the time has come for me to say my farewells to the Mountain Club! Sad day! 50 years ago or so, Mervyn and Ronny (Kinsley) introduced me to the Magaliesberg. We climbed "Caterpillar".

That was the beginning of a long happy association with the Mountain Club. Even in those days, older members took me under their wings and warned me against climbers like Merv and Ron!

I made friends for life with individualistic, wonderful members of the Club.

We have the Club to thank for making it possible to live in Johannesburg and still lead an adventurous life. Trips to wonderful mountains; to name a few, Wolkberg, Blouberg, Toverkop, Blyde River, Nepal, Argentina, Gibraltar Kloof and Sekorora -all made possible by membership of the Club!

My message to all the young members of the Club: Guard our precious mountains jealously against vandalism and developers. Especially our beautiful Magaliesberg!

Be constant watchdogs even if you do get reputations like I had and, Marian and Robin before me!

Sacrifice a little time to support Conservation meets!

I will miss all the friends I made in the Club. Goodbye to those I did not see before leaving!

Regards, Jean (Prior)

The Johannesburg section indeed are sorry to bid farewell to Jean and Merv as well as Ann and Boris van der Riet. Thank you for all you have

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contributed to this section. Enjoy the Cape. You will be missed.

END OF YEAR

BARN DANCE

This was very well attended with over 100 young, middle aged and old MCSA members. The enthusiasm was such that Karien had difficulty making herself heard! At one stage, due to a technical fault, there was a break. Our apologies to the patient dancers. Dion van der Riet saved the night by using his car batteries! He parked his car at the entrance. This worked well and once more everyone was back on the floor and dancing with

abundant energy. Thank you Karien and Steve for a very pleasant and energetic evening. Jean Prior

Harry Barker was asked what he would like the committee to do for him as a gesture of our gratitude for all the willing legal help he gives the Section. He declined gifts or a smart lunch and opted for a walk in the Witpoortjie Botanic Gardens. Uschi, Benno and Margaret Boyes accompanied him and, after a good walk, a light lunch at the Cycad restaurant, was enjoyed. Thank you Harry for a really pleasant outing!

MEMBERSHIP:

We welcome Paul Mikula, Brandon Zietsman, David Ho Wing, Varsha Morrar, Ian and Maureen Dunnnett, Sue, Peter, Craig, Grant & Michelle Davies, Kevin Queck, Anthony Reason, Adrian Oberholzer, Paul Brouard, Julia Davies, Erin Peacock, Jonty Pile, Robert & Helen Verseput, and family members Andrew and Evan Margetts, Dan Ginsberg and Kyle Oberholzer.

Transfer to Cape Town: Bruce Spottiswoode, Erina Botha.

DECEASED:

With regret we wish to inform members of the passing away of Eddie Goslin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JOURNAL 2000: has arrived. Please collect yours at the Clubroom on a Wednesday or phone Uschi to make alternative arrangements.

JOURNAL 2001: Martin Wells of the Cape Town section is the editor of the 2001 Journal. Please send all contributions - English and Afrikaans - to Summit Publishing email mdwells@iafrica.com or contact Martin on 082 822 8115 or 021 712 7444

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Reminder that subs are due. Thank you to members who have paid their subs for 2002. Those making direct deposits to our bank account, please remember to email/fax a copy of the deposit slip to mcsajhb@global.co.za or 011 807 1310 so that your current stickers can be sent to you.

Thank you to members for their generous donations to our various funds.

TRANSGRESSION: Recently a member transgressed our rules by going to one of the areas we (Magaliesberg section and ourselves) administer with a large group without getting the necessary permits. We once again wish to stress to members that this is NOT ALLOWED and incidents like this are severely dealt with by the committee. Apply for

permits timeously . REMEMBER ONE MEMBER ONE GUEST. Please also respect the privacy of the landowners on whose property we park. Don't make too much noise, and leave promptly without loud voices, hooting etc.

Evidence of camp fires in the Magaliesberg has been brought to our attention. NO FIRES ALLOWED and please do not camp in the kloofs. If you have proof of a transgressor, please take name and contact number, report to the administrator or Magaliesberg section.

SAFETY CONCERNS: reports of incidents at Monteseel, Boven (a theft at night from a tent), Mont-aux-Sources (despite 'normal precautions') and a car hi-jacking at Injasuti.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE IN THE WESTERN CAPE: Cape Town section's Search & Rescue Operation is now called Mountain Rescue. Contact person is Nico van Gijzen (021 461 2067 h & w and 082 881 3688). Contact numbers for Mountain Rescue: Rescue Operator No 1 - 082 677 6666, Rescue Operator No 2 082 956 5666. Some MCSA members are involved in a separate organisation - Wilderness Search & Rescue (WSAR)

WASP STING! THANK YOU PAWEL, TB AND MY FRIENDS

A wasp on Sunday afternoon (27.01.01) at upper Tonquani stung me. I have often been stung by wasps in the Magaliesberg and have not been concerned. On Sunday however, I had an allergic reaction to the wasp sting. My blood pressure dropped and my breathing was restricted. My hands were swelling and my head felt as if it wanted to explode. None of us had antihistamines and I could not get down to the farmhouse. That is when two angels arrived with antihistamine tablets. Thank you Pawel and TB. I do not know what would have happened without these tablets. On following up with the doctor it turns out that I should be carrying an adrenaline injection around with me at all times. According to Prof. Harry (702 radio) it is not explainable why a person develops an allergy after being immune to the substance previously. I am sure to carry a medical kit from now on. Also thanks to Heather & Russ. Love Paola.

LIBRARY: we have maps of Mt Kenya, Kilimanjaro and the book 'Guide to Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro'; a map of Mount Mulanje, and the book 'Guide to the Mulanje Massif' kindly loaned to our section by Ian Dunnett. Maps of Carhuas, Corongo, Yanahuanca, Huari areas in Peru and a book on 'Climbs of the Cordillera Blanca of Peru'. These are available to members. Contact Uschi if you wish to loan or look any of these.

FOR SALE: Mountain Club of South Africa: Properties Handbook for the Western Cape R20. A new route book 'The Ledge' (Table Mountain) by Rust R90 (members) as well as Spitzkoppe and Pondoks R80 (members), Western Cape Crags R90 (members), Table Mountain Classics R80 (members).

MCSA Silver Badges R50, cloth badges R15, Ties R50. Contact Uschi

FREE STATE SECTION are selling sets of six glasses 'International Year of the Mountains 2002' with profiles of Brandwag (Golden Gate), Amphitheatre (Drakensberg), Maltese Cross (Cederberg), Spitzkoppe (Namibia), Table Mountain, and Towerkop (Swartberg). These are available in Highball R60, Willie Beer R70 and International Wine Tasters R90. Courier charges are extra. These are on view at the clubroom. Place your orders with Uschi.

FOUND AT DOME: fold-up groundsheet found at river crossing - club meet 10 Feb. Contact Ollie Oppler h 678 3168

2. LAND AND ACCESS

Patrollers needed for Easter weekend. Members who are not going away please help with patrolling over the holidays. Thank you. Contact Uschi.

3. CONSERVATION:

A NEW PLANT INVADER IN THE MAGALIESBERG!

Spotted in the Magaliesberg VERBENA, briefly described below: (hope to have pictures available on the website soon)

690* *Verbena bonariensis* L. Wild *verbena* / *Blouwaterbossie*

Erect, *sparsely branched* herb up to ± 2 m high; covered with *rough hairs*. Leaves *stalkless* and ± clasping at the base; Margin toothed. Inflorescences terminal, *congested*, *more robust* in appearance than those of **V. brasiliensis**.

A common weed of disturbed and often moist places; native to South America. Widespread. Summer. Compare 691.

691* *Verbena brasiliensis* Vell.

Erect, *sparsely branched* herb up to ± 1,5 m high; covered with *rough hairs*. Leaves *distinctly stalked* or with the base narrowly tapering; margin sharply *toothed*. Inflorescences *slender and smaller* than in **V. bonariensis**.

A native of South America and now a common weed of disturbed and moist places. Widespread. Summer. Cf Compare 690.

***V. officinalis** L. (European *verbena* / European *verbena*), a common weed of European origin, is similar but has deeply *lobed* or *pinnately divided* lower leaves. The flowers are ± well-spaced on *long*, narrow, terminal spikes. Widespread in disturbed places.

A big screwdriver should become a standard item in one's pack/daypack – as it is also a very handy for digging out larger Crofton Weed plants which we continue to fight!

Please make a note of the following weeding weekends:

1. 27 /28 April – Dome; pulling up Crofton Weed and Pompom weed

Joint Eco Meet : Magaliesberg/Johannesburg Sections

1. 11/12 May – Mhlabatini; Crofton Weed regrowth and the big plants on the cliffs that could not be removed last year, so we need climbers!

Magaliesberg Section Eco Meet – any of our members who can join in, please diarise this weekend and lend a hand.

Please everyone, you all have a responsibility to help with this – if you want your kids and theirs to be able to enjoy the Magaliesberg the way you can do it now!

4. CLIMBING NEWS:

UIAA International Youth Meets 2002

The following opportunities are available in 2002 to youth members or children of MCSA members

DATES: 2002	AGE GROUP	COUNTRY (HOST)	MAIN ACTIVITY	MOUNTAINS
13–22 July	15-22	Romania (FRAE)	Mountain Adventure: Caving, hiking, mountain biking	Carpathian Mountains
26 Jul–11 Aug	16-25	South Tyrol plus Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, France (AVS, CAI, JDAV, OAV, PZS)	"YOUTH ON THE MOVE" – a project for IYM. Crossing the Alps by foot and by bus	Alps: France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Slovenia
Aug	14-20	Wales, UK (BMC)	Rock climbing	Plas y Brenin, Wales
16-25 Aug	16-18	Russia (ERMF)	"ACROSS TWO CONTINENTS" - a project for IYM. Rock climbing and mountaineering	Ural Mountains
16-23 Sept	18-25	Ukraine	'Crimea Rock Festival' Rock climbing	Crimea

Except for "Youth on the Move", for which applications close 30 March 2002, all applications close 30 April 2002. Detail and applications forms are available from Petro Grobler petrogabler@icon.co.za; tel/fax 012-341 1804.

"Youth on the move" ("living, working, climbing together") is the initiative of the UIAA Youth Commission for International Year of the Mountain. It is a project which will involve a group of 25 young people (18- to 25-years-old) from many countries crossing, in 17 days, a large part of the Alps from west to east (Chamonix to Trieste) by foot and by bus; aiming for publicity, interaction with mountain communities, international understanding, discussions on the Alps and mountains as 'living spaces' etc. The organisers (several alpine federations, with Alpenverein Süd-Tyrol as the main organiser) aim to "sensitize participants and the population for our living space, the Alps." A reforestation project will also be done to accentuate the importance of high alpine forest as protection and living space for people. The MCSA will provide some financial support to its candidate for this meet. It is a unique opportunity! A superb and detailed itinerary is available from Petro Grobler 012 341 1804. Remember closing date for this **30 March**

5. EXPEDITIONS:

Duncan Souchon and Catherine Dalglish have returned safely from Chile. Their attempt at Topungato was stopped at 4 900m where Duncan fell ill to HAPE and they had to retreat. Duncan has since recovered well.

This is a reminder that our expedition fund now has first aid and climbing equipment available that can be loaned to expeditions to help reduce their costs. We are currently negotiating with Cencom for them to get involved in this project as well and we hope to establish a more comprehensive expedition equipment fund nation wide for all MCSA members. If you have any old or obsolete climbing equipment, please donate it to the expedition fund. Someone might still benefit from it. We are currently looking for crampons and ice axes to assist young members wanting to train in winter at Giants Castle.

6. STORIES AND MEMORIES

TOM BRIGHT

Never was a man more aptly named than Tom Bright. I have a few recollections of him which may be worth adding to previous accounts.

Tom shone with happiness and with fun. He would pick up songs in a flash. Presented with the musical score of any song he would read it off at once in his dead-true mellow voice, however unusual were the accidentals or rhythms or key changes.

He revelled in the exhilaration of height, and when World War Two began he joined the parachute unit. Unluckily for him he damaged his back in a bad drop and was forced to abandon parachuting.

One day in the 1950's I was on some business in Rissik Street which took me to the old General Post Office opposite the Johannesburg City Hall. The building was flush-full of government servants implementing apartheid. The day was 11th November "Poppy Day", a British occasion if ever there was one. The customary collection was in full swing in the streets. Tom was a collector, but, for him, not the streets. My eye followed the glances of people around me. They took my gaze to the top floor of the Post Office Building where I saw the bareheaded Tom, clad only in a flapping shirt and long underpants, moving confidently along the face of the building from window to window, above the sheer drop, flourishing his collection box. He was traversing along a small ledge and using holds invisible to me below. At each window he stopped to request largesse from the astonished inmates, and not without success.

He once told me of a hostile reception at a polling station during an election. "Wat is jou naam?" he was asked. BRIGHT he had responded in his own brand of happy impudence. "Hoe spel jy jou naam?" They asked "B", he had retorted. "B for British, R for Right, IGH and T for Tom."

My last memory of is meeting him in Cape Town and of spending a glorious morning doing Barrier Frontal and sharing the lead with him on the easier pitches.

I guess that he now sings in the Angel Choir and roams the hills of Paradise.

January 2002-Harry Barker

SOME OF MY MEMORIES OF MCSA MEETS

About 40 years ago, on MCSA meets, I would be found pregnant, or dragging five children out with me. I can still remember my indignation when I heard myself described in MCSA circles as the "Pregnant Prioress"!

I suppose we were a bit unusual. Once, in Cedarberg Kloof, eight months pregnant and with two small children and fed up with waiting for Mervyn to finish climbing, I set off to walk back to the car. I lost my way! It became dark, I could faintly see the roof of a farmhouse in the moonlight. Dragging the children through fences and bushes I finally knocked at a door. A farmer opened it a crack, saw me and slammed it shut. He told his wife that there was a mad woman out there. Luckily for me, curiosity made her open the door again and I was taken into the warmth and fed tea and rusks in front of a fire, while they tried to work out where I had come from. Meanwhile all the Mountain Club meet members were out looking for me. The strategy was that, if I was found, a gun would be fired. Was my face red!

I remember camping in Kransberg, with five small children, on a joint MCSA and Wits meet. The noise level in the early morning was too much for Tony Dick. His revenge was to stand outside our tent at 4 am and sing 'Cock a Doodle Doo' at the top of his voice. Again in Kransberg we arrived at the campsite and I placed baby Kathleen on the grass – I spent the next hour picking pepper ticks off her. On another weekend all my baby's nappies were used to beat out a runaway campfire.

Despite five children, I still tried to climb. I remember trying to climb 'George' at Trident. Finally an inpatient Sinclair Perry grabbed me by my neck and pulled me up!

We had our share of snake encounters. At Kransberg, I was lying peacefully under a tree reading, when a boomslang dropped on top of me with a bird in its mouth. Once we walked under a tree and heard rustling. We looked up and realized that it was an enormous snake. It was impossible to see where it began and ended. Merve was determined to see what type it was. Then Jane pointed to where its head was - immediately above us. Mamba!

Camping with Merve was interesting. I always battled to keep our children away from the campfires so as they would not hear his dirty songs! He had by far the warmest sleeping bag in the family and I used to climb into it, gleefully, as soon as I realized he was benighted on his climb. Once we drove down to the end of a non-existent road with the gear linkage held together by Merve's pyjama cord.

When George Langmore joined the family life became even more interesting. I will never forget a 'George Walk', struggling up and over a thorny, hot mountainside to hear his cheerful voice claiming he had found a 'highway'. This turned out to be a baboon path through bush that we had to crawl along. It was covered in baboon poo and our Japanese friend, Kazu, tried to karate kick some of the impenetrable thorn bushes (they won).

George and Boris (van der Riet) managed to jointly lead us up the wrong slope of the Devil's Tooth, one July Camp. After a hair-raising climb we reached the precipice in the dark. We slept the night on a vertical slope, with no water. Early the next morning, as Anne van der Riet and I opened our eyes, we both spotted an icicle. Simultaneously, we both shouted 'TEA!' I am afraid we gave no thought to the beauty of the icicle glistening in the early morning light.

I have always been active in conservation and in enforcing the MCSA's permit system. I will never forget the Conservation Meet when no one turned up to carry poles from Boulder Gully to Tonquani for the building of steps. So, I used five trespassers for the job - in return for free access. Jean Prior

MAGALIESBERG-THE NAME

In 1962 I conversed with old Engelbrecht in Afrikaans for an hour and a half when he was still the owner of Trident. He told me how his grandfather had trekked into the area not long after Mzilikatze had left and how the 'Kaffirs had absolutely nothing'. They were only too glad to work for the Boers and would work for a whole year for just one little beast.

"Those skanse which you find everywhere in the range were the little kraals which they built for shelter from the Matabele. The tribe nearby was called the Bamagali and the local chief was MAGAAL (Afrikaans for Mogale) hence the name Magaliesberg.

My grandfather had a Slaamse meid who came up with him from the Cape. She would tell us all the stories about Dingaan and Mzilikatze. The Kaffirs had no live stock. Mzilikatze took away or destroyed everything which they had".... (from my diary 30/9/62) Harry Barker

Thank you Harry and Jean (Ed.)

It can happen to us all

Joey is a typical sport climber. He climbs about 2 twice a month. This story picks up on his most recent trip to a popular crag.

Joey's usual climbing partners had been unable to make it, but he was determined to work a new 'project' that had been recommended by a friend, so he set off with his girlfriend. Sarah had only been climbing once before. They arrived late in the afternoon. The warm-up climb went well, and he nervously walked to the base of his 'project'. Wildly overhanging, long and very pumpy, the route is over 20m long, and overhangs by almost 10m. The ground slopes steeply away from the base of the crag, providing great exposure.

He tied into the rope and up he went. Desperate moves through the first overhang, followed by a dyno up the following face form the crux of the route. But, the overhangs above started taking their toll. Just before the final roof, he stopped for a rest where he realised that the rope was not tied in correctly. He desperately clipped a quickdraw from the bolt into his harness, and hoped that this bolt would hold - it did. Then, things got worse and he fumbled the rope and watched helplessly as the rope slipped back down to the ground.

There were no other climbers around, leaving it up to Sarah to get the rope to Joey. She tried throwing it up, but it was useless. Next came an attempt to tie a heavy stick into the rope. The tree branches that give shade to the base of the cliff, got in the way. It took 15 minutes to free the rope. The large overhang above the top of the rope made running to the top of the cliff a near useless exercise, but with darkness rapidly approaching, it was the only option left.

Sarah slogged up to the top of the cliff where she found a suitable tree. She wrapped the rope around it and started, nervously, abseiling down. Nothing could narrow the gap between her and Joey. It seemed he was going to be stuck for a long time. The bottom of the doubled rope ended a full 10m above the rather rocky ground below. Joey tried tossing his prussic loop across, but the throw went astray and they too fell to the ground. This meant that Sarah was also stuck high up there.

The outlook was not pleasant. Buy now, it was starting to get dark. The long, lonely night was interrupted by a thunderstorm at about 2 am. It rained so hard that even Joey got soaked through, thanks to the seepage through the roof crack above. Sarah was completely drenched. The wind eventually died down at about 5 am, in time for a very welcome sunrise. A long wait eventually saw other climbers make their way to the crags.

Footnote: Joey still climbs regularly, and has completed his 'project'. Joey double checks everything in the belay / rope system. Joey and Sarah have both invested in a few slings, which accompany them on all climbing trips. Anonymous

7. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS:

Please see the meets schedule attached, but take specific note of the following:

MARCH 6TH 20h15 SLIDE SHOW "Mountains of the World" by Willem Daffue. JHB Clubhouse.

R10 for non members; Member's donations will go to Conservation Fund.

This promises to be an exciting and stunning slide show. Please support it!

APRIL 21 'The Geology and History of the Magaliesberg' when VINCENT CARRUTHERS will be taking us back in time at CASTLE GORGE! Numbers have been limited so get in early and contact Penny Ludwig 082 959 1112 to secure your place.

PEOPLE ON PEAKS

Mountain Day: 14 September 2002 and 14-24 September 2002

The Aims:

•to promote awareness of the objectives of the International Year of Mountains 2002

•to mountaineer, climb and have fun

•to see how many peaks can be summited and how many people can summit peaks during the period 14 – 24 September 2002

THE PROJECT WILL HAVE TWO THRUSTS:

•14/15 September 2002: Main Section events with mass participation. "Peaks" are to include "koppies" near or in cities (eg: Melville Koppies; Northcliff Hill).

On Sunday 15 September 2002 we will have a special outing to Melville Koppies for the more senior members of the Johannesburg Section. If you would like to join this group, please contact either Margie Boyes (011) 788-6528 or Jenny Paterson (011) 888-3693 to book and secure your place!

•Saturday 14 to Tuesday 24 (Heritage Day) September 2002: Independent parties will bag peaks of their choice over this period, especially over the long weekend of 21-24 September.

THIS WILL BE A NATIONAL INITIATIVE and we hope to reach most of the highest peaks in the provinces and neighbouring countries.

HOW TO GO ABOUT IT:

Register your peak with PETRO GROBLER petrogrobler@icon.co.za on telephone (012) 341-1804, or join a party who already has booked and plans on bagging a peak! For a list of peaks already booked check the website: <http://mcsa.org/>; click on EVENTS; mouse over and click on BOOK AND BAG YOUR PEAK on the relevant date – information is being updated regularly!

If you don't have access to the web, contact Jenny Paterson on (011) 888-3693 for details.

8. GENERAL

Our Chairman has been approached by Sean Friend of Club Maluti in Lesotho, to discuss the possible use of their lodge and its environs in the Maluti Mountains near Oxbow, by our Section.

Good hiking routes, kayaking, mountain biking, 4x4 trails, trout fishing and of course skiing are possible in the area. The lodge sleeps 40 and, as it is used by a relatively small group of people, Sean would like to encourage a broader usage by like-minded people from other clubs.

Sounds good! We will keep you informed of developments.

VISIT SIBERIA - voluntarily!

A trekking/climbing trip to the Altay Mountains in Siberia in August 2002 has been investigated. The tentative 23 day itinerary will commence in Moscow, fly to Barnaul, overland to the beautiful Ak-Kem Valley. An ascent of Mt Belukha (4506m) is proposed for experienced climbers and for the 7 days that the climbers are doing that, the trekkers will hike up the Ak-Kem Glacier to climb Bronya Peak (3260m), trek to Karaoyuk Valley to climb Karaoyuk Peak (3950m), trek back to Ak-Kem Lake base camp to join up with the climbers. There's a very good chance that this will be a joint South African/Russian expedition.

Accommodation will be varied, viz: hotels, guest houses and camping (in own tents). The itinerary includes 2 days of sightseeing in both Moscow and St Petersburg (said to be the most beautiful city in Europe!) Costs will be dependent upon the size of the group. Anyone interested please contact Jenny Paterson on (011) 888-3693 or email her at jennyp@telkomsa.net by the 15th March 2002.

From the Chair

Thanks to the committee for all the help and hard work this past year. Especial thanks to Russ for the Members Information Booklet, Jenny for all the IYM project work, Uschi for her tremendous commitment to the club, Galeo Saintz for the Banff success, and fondest farewell to Ann, Boris, Jean and Merv.