



# **MCSA**

THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA

**EXPLORE • DISCOVER • CONNECT • PROTECT**

## **February 2023 Newsletter**



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KZN 2022 Year End Party, hikers on Summit of Nhlozane.  
Photo Steve Cooke

## **1** President's Rambles



Spitzkoppe. Dustin, Louis, Roger, Odette, Andre, Paul, Victoria and Rob. Photo Roger Diamond

Although it seems only yesterday that we returned from the Meet to Spitzkoppe, since the October newsletter, much has happened in the life of the MCSA (and in all our lives), including a New Year, I wish all MCSA members an extraordinary 2023 filled adventure, beautiful, quiet, memorable moments in the mountains, in the company of mountaineers.

However, to end 2022 I found that there was no better way to do this than to join our KZN Section in the celebration of their now legendary KZN Year End Party. Despite constant drizzle at the Mount Park Guest Farm in Dargle, we managed to hike up Nhlozane and to keep the spirits flowing! Highlights included a Polar Beer Challenge in the dam and the Underachievers Awards, at which many worthy members received the Piolets D'ork Award!



Piolets D'ork KZN

## New MCSA Limpopo Section

The MCSA continues to grow, develop and evolve. To this end we are excited to welcome a new section: the Limpopo Section of the MCSA. The idea for this section was first suggested to me by Neil Margetts, and after a visit to the granite slabs, (then owned by MCSA member Deon Richter) at Thabaphaswa Mountain Sanctuary, Mokopane, Limpopo, the idea of a new section got traction. Unfortunately, Deon passed away before the section could be established, but at the national committee meeting in November 2022 the Limpopo Section was born with approximately 73 members, nine of whom are existing MCSA members.

The section is under the enthusiastic, expert and experienced guidance of a long standing MCSA member and a number of new members have since been attracted to this section and to the MCSA. We are grateful to Vince Egan for chairing and bearing the administrative burden, (along with his wife Bronwyn), of establishing a section, which is now focused on crag development including at Mohlapitse Vally, Thabaphaswe and Musina, access to hiking venues, a newsletter and the like. The club has been given permission to use the facilities of the Warriors Academy at Magoebaskloof for their clubhouse. The new section has had a number of climbing meets, including 2 beginners meets, to the Mohlapitse Valley and Thabaphaswa and a combined meet with Magaliesberg Section to Hanglip and Wellington's Dome. In addition, hiking meets have been held at Blouberg, Leolo Mountains, Mohlapitse Valley and Eastbrooke.

This brings the number of MCSA sections to 15 and other sections are encouraged to contact Vince arrange joint meets and to explore the mountains in the Limpopo section's backyard.





All photos of the National Camp. Photos Stewart Stiles

The 2022 National Camp was hosted by MCSA South Cape Section at the Swartvlei Caravan Park in Sedgefield in October 2022. This was an extremely well organised, busy event well managed by Ed and his team, who used technology to keep the Camp orderly! Campers had the extraordinary privilege of being able to choose between two or three mountain hikes every day! Activities included Brenton coastline hike, hikes to

Peak 1067, Groenweide Forest, Camphers Ridge, George and Cradock Peaks, Vandalens Cave, the summit of Peak Formosa, and many more in the Tsitsikamma and Outeniqua mountains. On Saturday 15th at the end of the first day of activities 66 MCSA members convened at Rosies Upstairs Steak Restaurant above the Sedgefield Golf Club for the occasion of the National Annual Dinner.





National Camp 2022 George Forest Hike

We were entertained between courses by a masterful geological explanation from Fred van Berkel who successfully condensed 140 million years of geological history into 15 mins and enlightened us all on the formation of the Baviaanskloof “Slot” canyons. A highlight for me was rock climbing on the sea crags of Mossel Bay with Greg Devine, a past Chairman of both Johannesburg and South Cape Sections. We climbed on routes at the 70’s Crag, opened by Greg for his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday! I am sure this event will encourage MCSA members from all round the country to attend the 2023 National Camp, hosted by the Free State section in April 2023. Information can be obtained on the brand-new website of the Free State Section:

<https://freestate.mcsa.org.za/>



Lowering off 70’s Crag

## **4** MCSA National Committee News

The national executive committee is elected by the National committee which meets twice a year, and which consists of the chairs of each of the 15 sections. Currently the executive committee consists of Carl Dreyer (KZN), deputy president; Lester Coelen (CT), treasurer; Brent Jennings (CT), Kuba Miszewski (PW), Jenny Paterson (JHB) and me.

An exciting progressive decision taken at the last national committee meeting was the finalisation of the agreement to provide the MCSA journal in digital format to members. This has been a process which is taken a number of years but has finally come to fruition. The digital journal will be in exactly the same format and style of the original hardcopy journal and will commence with the first journal. This means that all MCSA journals in an electronic “smart” format (which will be

“searchable”) will be available to all current paid-up MCSA members who wish to access the product. A number of sections of already engaged with their members and introduced their members to a “test” version of this digital journal. The national camp was “abuzz” with compliments! Of course, the hardcopy journal will still be available to all members who wish to receive same. The committee of each section will roll out the digital journal to those of their members that wish to receive same. Each section will send the service provider “DocWize” the email, name and membership number of those members who wish to receive the digital journal, then those members will receive an invitation and will be able to log in to the programme. This will ensure that the journal is only available to members, that the requirements of POPI and copyright are not breached.

## **5** National Committee Levy

The national committee is funded by a levy on each voting members subscriptions. For 2023 the levy will be R38pp and based on the current total number of voting members for 2022. The budgeted costs of the national committee include: administration: R51 800.00 (the main expenses being advertising, audit fees and computer expenses); complimentary journals: R17 500 (sent to libraries, government

departments, VIPs and overseas countries and clubs); cost of airfares and fuel costs for national committee meetings: R26 500; UIAA subscriptions: R69 000; cost of airfares and accommodation to attend UIAA meetings: budgeted at R30 000 (but these costs have not been incurred due to the meetings being held virtually).

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## Supertramp Award

Congratulations to Cape Town member, Timothy Larsen, the recipient of the 2023 MCSA SuperTramp Award! Timothy aims to hone his ice climbing skills in Chamonix, France: an adventure in an international playground, and plans, on his return, to mentor other South African climbers. This is in the true spirit of mountaineering and the MCSA. We look forward to hearing the stories of his experience through presentations to the Club and by our members benefiting from his newly acquired skills.

So, if you are a young, adventurous MCSA member and need funding for a trip of a lifetime head over to our national website and read up



<https://mcsa.org.za/supertramp-award/>

about how to sign up – the deadline for the 2024 Award is 15 November 2023.

## 7

## Meet Our Supporters, Sponsors & Partners

Although our generosity partners, sponsors all appear on the MCSA websites and have from time to time been featured in these newsletters, it still appears that number of members are not aware of the fact that discounts and support is available! Thus, each newsletter will focus on one or two of our partners.

Firstly, Forever Fresh Foods! Forever Fresh makes premium freeze-dried meals for hungry adventurers, made in South Africa for South Africans using renewable solar energy and sustainable processes. The hassle-free precooked meals rehydrate in minutes and have a cook in the bag convenience. There is chicken, beef, vegetarian and vegan options. They are highly nutritious and delicious! Forever Fresh

offers 10% discount on any purchase of the product to MCSA members using the online facility, but an additional 10% of all earnings from MCSA members is donated to the MCSA.

Secondly, Drifters! Drifters Adventure Centre and Shop have been around since 1988 - as long as most of us can remember. They offer MCSA a 10% discount to members with an up-to-date membership card. Their aim is to supply good quality outdoor gear, and to meet their objective of being South Africa's premier outdoor, climbing, and mountaineering store, and to ensure that their staff are adventurer themselves and go into the outdoors and use the gear in order to offer MCSA members the benefit of their experience.



UIAA Mountain Protection Award 2022  
Peru Self managed, Sustainable Climbing Parks

## 8

## UIAA General Assembly And Management Committee

Although the general assembly and management committee meeting was held in Banff Canada, I attended virtually. The GA confirmed UIAA Management Committee recent decision to create two new UIAA Commissions – Legal Affairs and Training, the MCSA is represented on the Legal Affairs Commission.

In a special vote, Club Alpino Italiano, a founding member of the UIAA, was re-elected as a full member. This marks a significant development which sees one of the world's most pre-eminent Alpine clubs return to the UIAA family. In addition to the return of CAI, the UIAA welcomed three new member federations. This included the election of two new full members from South America: Ecuador: Federación Ecuatoriana de Andinismo y Escalada; Peru: Federación Deportiva Peruana de Escalada. From 1 January 2023, the UIAA will represent 94 member organisations from 69 countries on six continents. A new associate member from India was also elected: India: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS).

The UIAA also presented the new edition of the Alpine Summer Skills Handbook, produced in partnership with The Petzl Foundation. During a ceremony held shortly after the General Assembly, Establishment of Self-Managed Climbing Parks project by Asociación 7a Escalada, Peru, was named as the ninth winner of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award (MPA). A full report on the GA is available on the UIAA website.

UIAA GA 2022 Italy re-admission



## 9

## Climate Change Task Force

An initial meeting of an informal MCSA CCTF was held on 2022 National Camp. Maretha Alant who is also on the UIAA Climate Change TF chaired the meeting. The members who volunteered for this vital committee are Norman and Margie Owen-Smith, Ed Kay-Shuttleworth, Marietjie Louw, Lesley McGwynn, Christa van Schalkwyk, Hanlie Schmidt, Chris Tobler, Colleen Flanagan, Morgan Griffiths and Bronwyn Eagan. The aim is that each section will nominate at least one representative to serve on the subcommittee.

The purpose of this committee would be to guide and advise sections on how to tackle the climate change challenge in line with the UIAA and UN goals. However, the meeting also decided to: focus on certain other aspects: firstly, a spatial representation of MCSA properties and huts, including to prepare a map showing the

location of mountain club properties with the national parks, nature reserves and biosphere reserves to see how we link in with landscape scale conservation estates, vegetation and if the properties are in Strategic Water Source Areas or Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs). Secondly, assess the ecological/climate change sensitivity of each property and the properties as a whole, thirdly develop a State of Environment Report for MCSA properties based on key indicators that we can monitor. Alien vegetation, fire, biodiversity, erosion, water. Fourthly, run the DFFE web-based Screening Tool for each property to show the environmental sensitivity. Then, to monitor MCSA member contributions to conservation and also to describe how climate change is affecting mountaineering in each section e.g. rock falls, flood damage.

## 10

## Confederation Of African Mountain Clubs

Progress has been made on forming closer relationships with Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kilimanjaro Mountain Clubs. Good news is that Zambia Climbing Federation has recently joined the CAMC and is also interested in joining the UIAA. Regular communication now occurs with the members of the CAMC and includes UIAA news and MCSA newsletters. Following on the proposal of Maggie O'Toole for a Pan-African meet, we received the proposal

for a climbing/hiking meet at Mt Mulanje: Africa's Island in the Sky... Thus, there is a strong possibility that a Pan-African meet will be held in 2023, This would build on the 2022 joint Spitzkoppe Meet between the MCSA (Magaliesberg and Johannesburg) and Namibia Mountain Club (which is also a MCSA section). Johannesburg Section Expeditions Committee member, Marthinus Swart has become involved in this initiative.

Photos by Rob Powell



Following a very enjoyable meet last year, Rob Powell will be hosting the MCSA Spitzkoppe meet in July 2023 (exact dates to be confirmed). Rob has climbed at Spitzkoppe extensively and has numerous first ascents in the area. He is happy to assist attendees and to share his knowledge.

Spitzkoppe is a world class venue with all types of climbing including big sport and trad routes, single pitch routes. There is huge potential for new routing. There is also a range of grades suitable for most climbers.



# MOUNTAIN RESCUE CONTACT INFORMATION



**WESTERN CAPE**  
Cape Town  
Tel: 021 937 0300  
(WSAR)

**HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND**  
Somerset West  
Tel: 021 937 0300  
(WSAR)

**SOUTH CAPE**  
Plettenberg Bay, Knysna, George  
Tel: 10177  
(Metro)

**GAUTENG**  
Johannesburg, Pretoria, Free State,  
North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga  
Tel: 074 125 1385 (MSAR GP 1)  
Tel: 074 163 3952 (MSAR GP 2)

**KWAZULU-NATAL**  
Durban, Pietermaritzburg,  
Drakensberg  
Tel: 0800 005 133 (Metro)

**EASTERN PROVINCE**  
Port Elizabeth  
Tel: 10177 / 041 585 1555  
(Metro)

## SECTION DETAILS

AMAJUBA

CAPE TOWN

EASTERN PROVINCE

FREE STATE

HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND

JOHANNESBURG

KWAZULU-NATAL

LIMPOPO

MAGALIESBERG

NAMIBIA

PAARL-WELLINGTON

SOUTH CAPE

STELLENBOSCH

TYGERBERG

WORCESTER



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