
RUCC TURNS 20

June, 2023

RUCC

Twenty years of history filled with spirit, rapids, and memories.

Clio Glenister

The line of the day

Calling for ‘blasts from the past’

In 2003, the Rhodes University Canoe Club was just starting out. In 2004, the RUCC cemented itself as a sports club at Rhodes University with over a hundred students having signed up.

Back then training happened in Thomas Baines Nature Reserve, at Settlers Dam as it does today. How exciting to think each new face that passes through RUCC shares the same waters as their predecessors. Although, the dams and rivers constantly transform, in level to shape.

For most of us RUCC members, being part of the ‘most gees club at Rhodes’ has been the best part of our university careers. From spending afternoons paddling, swimming, or fixing boats at the shed in Thomas Baines to weekends in Cradock on the Fish cruising down the weirs and bracing down the rapids.

Canoeing as a sports at Rhodes is a holistic experience, it is empowering in how it is all student run; from the training to the driving of the buses to the fixing of the boats to the learning on the river which sometimes (usually) involves a bit of carnage. Fellow RUCC members become friends become family with all the laughter, sweat, drinks, and much time spent together on and off the river.



Daniel Dillon and Matthew Lunney sending Cradock Weir at the 40th Fish River Canoe Marathon, October 2022.



Some of RUCC’s members last year en route to the Fish River Canoe Marathon.

All *Rhodes* lead to the Fish

The highlight and most anticipated event for RUCC always has, and hopefully always will be, the Fish River Canoe Marathon.

It is such a privilege to spend so much time in the Eastern Cape landscape, on and off the water.

Our trips to Cradock, to train on the Fish River, always constitutes some epic views and incredible sunsets. Although, almost all the trips start a little too early for us students on a Saturday morning after a fun Friday night. The Sunday afternoon drives are always picturesque.

There are several tripping weekends that happen each year building up to the Fish River Canoe Marathon. We accumulate milage in paddling (and a bit of drinking), some reeking (several broken paddles and boats), some swimming (many grumpy faces if the water is icy), and lots of memories (mostly laughter and gees).

This all builds to the climax of the Fish River Canoe Marathon, which is preceded by Pre-Fish. These two special events bring out all the joy and pride after a year of hard work (well mostly just having fun) and usually, our most questionable lines (driving and paddling). There is always a boat (or two) to serenade its end on the river and a tire or two that must be changed.

The current faces of the RUCC have their own encapsulated experience and stories with the club and are excited to be part of the big 20 year in the club’s history.

We would love for old members to reach out to share your most fond, outrageous, and special RUCC memories.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR BEST
RUCC STORIES! PLEASE SEND
YOUR FAVOURITE RUCC
PICTURES!**