

DIARY: 1998

JANUARY

1 Thursday

All day at the office.

2 Friday

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3 - 4 Saturday - Sunday

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5 Monday

22°C. Nadine back to school. [Now in Form 2] Former president of China during the 1989 crackdown (Yang) in HK.

6 - 7 Tuesday - Wednesday

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8 Thursday

YF back from the US.

9 Friday

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10 Saturday

23°C, ~90% humidity. Run - same time as last year.

11 - 15 Sunday - Thursday

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16 Friday

Government to develop HMS Tamar site itself rather than selling it. [New government offices and Legislative Council building open there in 2011.] Closing day for voter registration.

17 Saturday

Cool at about 15°C but still humid. Run not bad.

18 - 21 Sunday - Wednesday

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22 Thursday

Another hospital bungle; a patient given a contaminated substance which might cause CJD. Posted the second article today. Another financial company goes broke.

23 Friday

Nadine off to Switzerland in the evening [for a school skiing trip]. Leonie back from Canada/US. A big drop in temperature.

24 Saturday

Cold, down to 7°C in Shatin overnight. Cold during the run, especially on the tops of the hills. Run slower than last year.

25 - 26 Sunday - Monday

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27 Tuesday

[Holiday] Chinese New Year's eve. Last vehicular trips today; only getting about 100 cars per day compared with a peak of 500!

28 Wednesday

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29 Thursday

New Year fireworks display in the evening. Leonie gives me my permanent ID card (picked up on Tuesday).

30 Friday

A Citybus double-decker overturns; several killed.

31 Saturday

About 19°C. Tough second half of the run; think I was 'starving' - no lunch. University of Otago pack arrives [for Leonie]. Gavin off to NZ.

FEBRUARY

1 Sunday

Leonie and I to airport to collect Nadine [returning from Switzerland].

2 Monday

Got a bank draft for Leonie's fees [at Otago].

3 - 5 Tuesday - Thursday

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6 Friday

Cold, 11°C maximum! Anniversary of the Munich air disaster 40 years ago [which killed many of the Manchester United team when returning of a flight after a match].

7 Saturday

About 15°C. A 'pullover' hike. OK. Chicken imports from China begin again.

8 - 13 Sunday - Friday

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14 Saturday

About 21°C (during the run). Light rain then a torrential thunderstorm in the middle third of the run. Still very fast. Nadine's hockey team loses again!

15 Sunday

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16 Monday

A China Airlines Airbus crashes on landing at Taipei - all 200+ killed.

17 Tuesday

CMB [China Motor Bus] loses its franchise [to operate buses on HK island]. Labour importation scheme scrapped.

18 Wednesday

Heavy rain again. Warm.

19 Thursday

Leonie leaves for NZ in the evening.

20 Friday

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21 Saturday

About 19°C with high humidity and light overcast. Run fast: Stage 3 'cliff' - 16 minutes; KLH to Ma On Shan [turnoff] 1:01. Sai Kung → Pak Tam Chung down to 31' as I kept up with a guy who had passed me!

22 Sunday

Two bus crashes. One bus near Kam Tin; 9 seriously hurt. HK marathon today - based at Chek Lap Kok.

23 Monday

Cool. Lunch at Royal Park hotel with a group from Macmillan's.

24 Tuesday

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25 Wednesday

Nadine to a netball tournament after school - against my wishes. E-mail from UCLA for Leonie's Bursary [NZ Form 6 exam] results.

26 Thursday

Chris Patten changes publisher due to interference by Murdoch! [??] Principal of KGV school suddenly resigns! All ID cards to be replaced - again!

27 Friday

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28 Saturday

15.5°C. Damp and rain near the end of the run (pullover temps). Interesting "Horizon" programme on TV about BSE. Two more not-too-serious bus accidents.

MARCH

1 - 2 Sunday - Monday

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3 Tuesday

A 10:40 pm phone call from the police about Helen and V's flat - wanted to speak to Nadine.

4 Wednesday

Second bomb scare in a few days - at a jewellery shop (earlier one at a nightclub). Got picked up in the morning on the way to work just as a downpour was starting.

5 - 6 Thursday - Friday

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7 Saturday

Foggy. 20°C. Water bottle fell and split while on my way to the bus. Hike not bad [even without water!], especially the first half which was 24 minutes faster than last year. Nadine's hockey team lost - again - by 13 - 0 to a second division team. Many flights diverted (about 125!) because of fog. BSE:2 on TV in the evening.

8 - 12 Sunday - Thursday

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13 Friday

Sunny day at last; about 19°C. Nadine decided not to go to hockey practice. Some schools [who had to teach only in Chinese] allowed to teach using English as medium of instruction following appeal. Number of cholera cases up to 17.

14 Saturday

18.4°C and foggy. Good run (jogging trail 18'). Cholera cases now 18. Watched the Super-12 matches on TV.

15 Sunday

Nadine to a movie in the evening.

16 Monday

30th anniversary of the My Lai massacre [by US forces in Vietnam].

17 Tuesday

Cholera cases up to 48. TB on the increase (HK has the highest rate in the developed world).

18 - 19 Wednesday - Thursday

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20 Friday

About 28°C and very humid. Run OK for the first half then very slow; 15 minutes slower than last year.

21 Saturday

Interviews for next year's full-time programme in the afternoon. Nadine - another hockey game - lose 3 - 1.

22 - 23 Sunday - Monday

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24 Tuesday

Senior gambling official in Macau shot dead in the street. The movie “Titanic” gets 11 academy awards.

25 Wednesday

Two boys (aged 11 - 13) shoot dead five others at their high school in Arkansas.

26 Thursday

Police man shot dead in Macau. Brunei schools to close for two weeks because of forest fire haze from next-door [i.e. Indonesian Borneo].

27 Friday

Turned out to be very warm at 29°C. HK Rugby 7s begins early evening.

28 Saturday

Shorter run in the morning. 26.2°C. Watched the 7s on TV.

29 Sunday

No TV coverage of the Rugby 7s - only a late-night review! Fiji beat Samoa to take the HK 7s title again. Nadine goes to 7s in the afternoon with a friend.

30 - 31 Monday - Tuesday

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MARCH

1 Wednesday

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2 Thursday

Elections for the Electoral commission. Voted in the education sub-sector (only 23% turnout).

3 Friday

Term ends for Nadine.

4 Saturday

24.5°C. Good run; part of it on a new track.

5 Sunday

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6 Monday

[Holiday] Ching Ming festival. Many hill fires (especially yesterday). At the office all day. Hot.

7 Tuesday

The legislature passes a controversial bill to replace the word 'crown' by 'state'. A TVB official scolded by a Chinese official for questioning the [Chinese] premier in France!

8 Wednesday

Last day of the provisional legislature. It passed the controversial 'state' (to replace 'crown') law. Hot at about 28°C.

9 Thursday

First day for candidates to register for elections. Our faculty computer server packs up in the afternoon - again.

10 Friday

At the office all day revising the Chemistry book.

11 Saturday

A red tide wipes out half of HK's fish production. At the office all day.

12 - 14 Sunday - Tuesday

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15 Wednesday

Another civil servant shot dead in Macau. More concern about the spread of red tide.

16 Thursday

Pol Pot dies (of a heart attack?) in his sleep.

17 Friday

Air pollution index exceeds 100 - hazardous! Leonie's US forms arrive from NZ. V off for a month!

18 Saturday

Hot! No run. At office most of the day.

19 Sunday

Wang Dang released on 'medical parole' to go into exile in the US.

20 Monday

Nadine back to school. Swimming starts - 20 lengths. (On a "Quantum TV" programme, Wellington mentioned as the asthma capital of the world!)

21 Tuesday

Got all of Leonie's forms posted to US universities. My toothache getting worse. No gym today.

22 Wednesday

About 30°C. Swim. Nadine for a swim after school with a friend. I went to the dentist due to excruciating toothache.

23 - 24 Thursday - Friday

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25 Saturday

ANZAC day! At the office; almost finished preparing course materials for next year. Nadine returns from overnight at a friend's in Residence 14. Watched the TV documentary "The battle of Lon Tan" on Ues TV, about ANZAC forces vs the Viet Cong in 1996; outnumbered about 108 to 1200 but won.

26 Sunday

Think I saw Salvador Baldizon [neighbour at Escondido Village, Stanford] on a CNN advertisement for 'CARE' (www.care.org).

27 Monday

Thunderstorms all day so no swim. ICAC arrests Customs officers in connection with CD piracy and police officers for passing information on examinations for promotion.

28 Tuesday

Got Windows 95 installed [on office computer].

29 Wednesday

Fire at the new airport in rooms for UA [?United Airlines].

30 Thursday

Feeling lousy in the afternoon. Had a fever so went to bed early.

APRIL

1 Friday

Still not feeling good, but went to work for most of the day; even went to the gym. Centenary of the Star Ferry.

2 Saturday

A jet hydrofoil on its way to Macau hits a submerged object; more than 200 injured. Boss of the 14K triad gang in Macau arrested. Nadine overnight at a friend's.

3 Sunday

Spent five hours sorting out "Find out more" [science magazines]. Nadine back (late) from overnight.

4 Monday

Now it's pigs! Pig offal from China found with illegal clenbuterol (also used as an asthma drug)! Good swim but still tired. Wing On [department store] lays off several hundred staff.

5 Tuesday

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6 Wednesday

30°C. Sunny. To part of a seminar for problem-based learning then home because of a gas check. Ting Kau bridge opens for traffic.

7 - 12 Thursday - Tuesday

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13 Wednesday

Three cases of CJD found in HK. India announces that it has carried out several underground nuclear explosions.

14 Thursday

Gavin's birthday!

15 Friday

Some heavy rain. To the dentist in the morning to get a permanent filling, to smooth a broken tooth and to fill a wisdom tooth cavity. Over 100 looters burnt to death in Indonesia when others set fire to a supermarket.

16 - 19 Saturday - Tuesday

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20 Wednesday

Suharto resigns as president of Indonesia. The riots and protest there subside.

21 Thursday

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22 Friday

To the dental hygienist.

23 Saturday

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24 Sunday

Torrential rain all last night and most of today. Legislative Council elections today! More than 300 mm of rain falls in places such as Sha Tau Kok.

25 Monday

Democratic party and other pro-democracy parties win a majority of the geographical constituency seats but are still a minority overall. Phone call from Gavin to tell me his friend's suicide. Very upsetting. Spoke again to Gavin with V and Nadine early evening. N has her ballet examination; she didn't go to school today. Cooler today.

26 Tuesday

High Island detention centre closes down; the 260 refugees sent back to Vietnam by air. A few still remain in HK.

27 Wednesday

Pakistan explodes two nuclear devices. Nadine's netball team came second (last!!) in an inter-house competition. Gavin goes to Dunedin to stay with Leonie on the way to Invercargill [for the funeral of his friend].

28 - 31 Thursday - Sunday

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JUNE

1 - 3 Monday - Wednesday

—

4 Thursday

June 4th anniversary; 30 - 40 000 in Victoria park for the candlelight vigil. "Pillar of Shame" statue not allowed a permanent home in the park. (It is to be kept in a container until it gets a home.) [Many years later erected at Chinese University.]

5 Friday

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6 Saturday

Australia defeats a second-string England Rugby team 76 - 0!

7 - 8 Sunday - Monday

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9 Tuesday

Torrential thunderstorms and rain overnight and all day. Schools closed. In Sai Kung, 400+ mm of rain in 16 hours. Nigerian 'strongman' dies of a heart attack. Posted Leonie's UCSD housing material to NZ. A man dies/drowns after being swept down a nullah after rescuing two boys.

10 - 15 Wednesday - Monday

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16 Tuesday

Very hot and humid this week. To Nadine's school in the morning for an 'Open day'. Used the bedroom air-conditioner for the first time in the evening (for about 2 hours).

17 - 18 Wednesday - Thursday

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19 Friday

Another hot and humid day; very unpleasant weather. HK soccer player admits to fixing games for HK to lose World Cup [qualifying] games.

[No more entries until the end of August; must have been on holiday in NZ. Departed from Kai Tak airport for the last time before its closure. New airport at Chek Lap Kok opened sometime after. In NZ, with Leonie after she finished at Otago. Went for a trip down to Milford Sound.]

AUGUST

Attempts at shooting down a Canadian helium weather balloon that didn't deflate and drifted into Atlantic air lanes! [sometime late August/early September]

23 Sunday

Back at 8:30 pm arriving at Chek Lap Kok for the first time after its opening. Didn't get back home until about 10:30 pm! To bed at midnight.

24 Monday

To the office in the morning; walked, as the car was 'dead'. Hot and humid. To the supermarket in the afternoon then back to tidy the flat.

25 Tuesday

At the office all day though didn't get much done. Supposed to have dinner at Shatin but didn't eventuate.

26 Wednesday

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27 Thursday

Dinner in Shatin. Government still intervening in the local stock market.

28 Friday

Severe thunderstorm nearby in the afternoon. Nadine arrives back [from the US?] in the evening.

29 Saturday

To the office in the morning. Northwest Airlines pilots on strike. A close call at Chek Lap Kok - a fire vehicle was crossing the runway in front of a Cathay Pacific plane as it was taking off. Watched the NZ vs Australia Rugby test on TV; ABs lose again, now five in a row!!

30 Sunday

All morning cleaning. Washing machine kaput! Nadine goes swimming in the afternoon.

31 Monday

Heavy rain in the afternoon. Started swims; water temperature 30°C. CMB ceases its bus operations at midnight. Anniversary of Princess Diana's death.

SEPTEMBER

1 Tuesday

First class - teaching of chemistry - in the evening.

2 Wednesday

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3 Thursday

Psychology class in the morning. Shatin in the evening - good. [?]

4 Friday

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5 Saturday

Two classes in the morning - teaching of chemistry followed by educational psychology.

6 - 7 Sunday - Monday

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8 Tuesday

Two bomb blasts in Macau, seriously injuring a policeman and journalists.

9 Wednesday

The government delists Sino-Japanese war victory day as a public holiday.

10 Thursday

Dinner and evening at Tai Po. Missed the train. V leaves for the US.

11 Friday

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12 Saturday

'Dim Sum' at Shatin.

13 Sunday

Nadine swimming in the afternoon.

14 - 17 Monday - Thursday

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18 Friday

Nadine to Emma's for the weekend. To Tai Mo Shan again. Term 3 ends for Gavin. My computer drive [office computer] shot.

19 Saturday

Weather getting drier. Nadine again out for an overnight.

20 Sunday

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21 Monday

Drier. To Tai Mo Shan. Had a swim; the only one because of college competitions.

22 Tuesday

Record road-level pollution levels on HK side; index hits 167!

23 Wednesday

No exercise! PAL [??Philippine Airlines] due to cease all operations at midnight. On the TV news - a wind-surfing race across the the Atlantic Ocean!

24 - 30 Thursday - Wednesday

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OCTOBER

1 - 2 Thursday - Friday

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3 Saturday

Nadine to Waterworld most of the day. To Tai Po.

4 Sunday

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5 Monday

Mid-autumn festival eve in the evening. To Tai Po park.

6 Tuesday

[Holiday] All day in the office.

7 Wednesday

Unexpected dinner in the evening. Nadine off to a school camp for three days.

8 Thursday

Another dinner.

9 Friday

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10 Saturday

Heavy rain in the afternoon. A tree branch falls onto a roof above me while sheltering from the rain at the station. Saw the movie "The parent trap".

[No more entries until the end of the month]

30 Friday

Shatin College mid-term break continues. Nadine overnight with classmates.

31 Saturday

Halloween. Nadine 'trick and treating' in the evening.

NOVEMBER

1 Sunday

V off to the US - again!

2 - 11 Monday - Wednesday

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12 Thursday

A United Airlines 747 makes an emergency landing after a bird was sucked into an engine. "Big spender" and some of his gang found guilty and sentenced to death in China for crimes committed in HK!.

13 Friday

"Trailwalker" begins.

14 Saturday

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15 Sunday

All afternoon checking proofs for the Science 2000 Book 2. [Book eventually not approved]

16 - 17 Monday - Tuesday

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18 Wednesday

Big crowds out in the early morning to see a comet and meteor shower. Unfortunately it was cloudy and they saw nothing.

19 Thursday

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20 Friday

Drive from Sek Kong to Tai Mo Shan. A home-made bomb explodes on the track during a practice for the Macau Grand Prix. A grenade also found nearby.

21 Saturday

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22 Sunday

Macau F3 Grand Prix. During one race, a fireman was killed when hit by a second car while attending to a first car.

23 - 26 Monday -Thursday

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27 Friday

Wei Lun lecture on globalisation of education and the effects of a market approach to it.

28 Saturday

Went to the new Park 'n Shop supermarket next to the Kowloon Tong KCR station.

29 - 30 Sunday - Monday

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DECEMBER

1 Tuesday

Two teaching practice visits on HK Island. Very humid.

2 Wednesday

Cathay Pacific backs out of a buy-in deal with PAL. Illegal pager transmitters in China interfering with pilot-tower communications [?in HK].

3 Thursday

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4 Friday

Teaching practice visits to Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. To Quarry Bay in the evening [?why].

5 Saturday

Big Spender and some of his gang executed in Guangzhou! Some breathing trouble today and yesterday. Uncle Ernie [father of Janice and Wendy] died today!

6 - 9 Sunday - Wednesday

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10 Thursday

Graduation day at CUHK. Last teaching practice visit in the afternoon. Gavin arrives in the evening [for his summer holidays]. First deaths on the Tsing Ma [suspension] bridge.

11 Friday

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12 Saturday

Nice weather; about 18°C. First hike/run. [Very late starting!] To Shatin for 'green' tea afterwards.

13 - 16 Sunday - Wednesday

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17 Thursday

US and UK launch strikes on Iraq. Early evening got caught in the car in a gang warfare!

18 - 24 Friday - Thursday

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25 Friday

[Christmas day] Work in the morning. Movie in the afternoon.

26 Saturday

Good run in spite of nagging breathing problems. About 21°C.

27 - 29 Sunday - Tuesday

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30 Wednesday

Met Arthur Hinton [former colleague] at work late afternoon - the first time since 1982, I think.

31 Thursday

New Year at home in bed!

Hikes: 1998 - 1999

1998

1		Station → (4) → Ma On Shan	—
2	19/12	Tai Po Rd → lead mine pass (1.04) → loop to Grassy Hill → road (1.40) → 5B	2:33
3	26/12	Station → (4) (52) → Kowloon Peak (1.58) → Shatin/river → station	3:01

1999

4	2/1	Tai Po Rd → lead mine pass (1.04) → top of reservoir (1.16) → around reservoir & track → lead mine pass (2.10) → 5B	~3:00
5	9/1	Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill (42) → reservoir 1 → family walk → Hok Tau reservoir (1.48) → Cloudy Hill (2.25) → Tai Wo park	2:56
6	16/1	Station → (4) (53) → Pyramid Peak → Ma On Shan (1.40) → (4) (2.23) → station	3:03
7	23/1	Tai Po Rd → lead mine pass (1.03) → Tai Mo Shan (2.03) → lead mine pass (2.41) → 5B	3:42
8	30/1	Tai Mei Tuk → Nam Chung → peak (1.45) → Hok Tau res (2.30) → Cloudy Hill (3.16) → Tai Wo park	3:56
9	6/2	Tai Mei Tuk → Brides' pool (45) → village (1.00) → coast → Lai Chi Wo (1.47) → fire lookout (2.23) → Bride's pool (2.40) → Tai Mei Tuk	3:30
10	13/2	Tai Mei Tuk → dam → grave (55) → ridge (1.33) → stream	3:30

		(2.13) → Brides pool/road (2.44) → Tai Mei Tuk	
11	20/2	Chung Chi → lead mine pass (1.00) → top of reservoir (1.13) → road to base of Needle Hill → Needle Hill (2.05) → (lead mine pass) (?via Grassy Hill) (2.49) → 5B	3:42
12	27/2	Station → (4) (52) → TV tower (2.01) → Beacon Hill (3.03) → Tai Po Rd (3.28) → Tai Wai (along road))	4:16
13	6/3	Chung Chi → (7/lead mine pass) (1.00) → waterfall turnoff (1.43) → Kadoorie farm (2.25) → Fanling	4:18
14	13/3	Chung Chi → (7/lead mine pass) (1.01) → Tai Mo Shan (2.02) → Route Twisk (2.23) → Tai Lam Chung reservoir (3.23) → Sek Kong	4.26
15	20/3	Sai Kung → Pak Tam Chung (34) → (3) (1.14) → KLH (2.02) → Ma On Shan turnoff (3.07) → (4) → station	4.17
16	27/3	KLH → around coast → inland to Youth Hostel (1.31) → TV tower (2.42) → KLH [+swim near end as very hot]	(4:00)
17	03/4	Pak Tam Chung → (1) end of road (44) → (2) Sai Wan (1.00) → top of hill (1.37) → Pak Tam Au (2.11) → 3 → KLH	3:55
18	10/4	KLH → village (22+) → Jacob's ladder → TV tower (1.09) → Hoi Ha Rd (1.27) → Cheung Sheung (2.24) → ladder → KLH	3:15