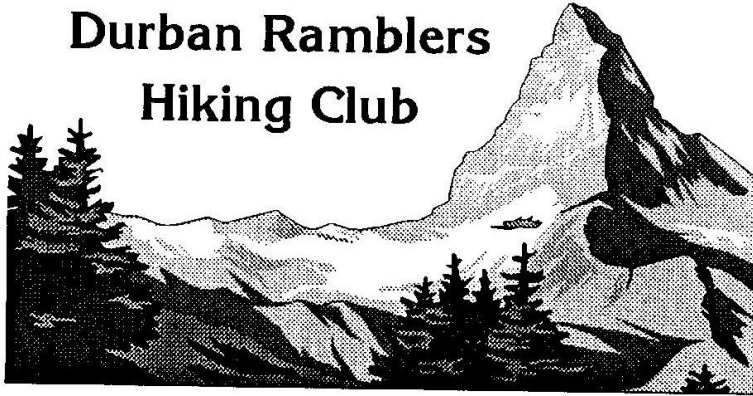


## Durban Ramblers Hiking Club



PO Box 1063 - DURBAN 4000

AUGUST \ SEPTEMBER 1994

Title	Committee Member	Telephone:	
		Home	Work
Chairman	Bill Hyslop	7016638	7018996
Secretary	Lynda Holmes	3051188	3005911
Treasurer	Margret Kirsten	441467	
"Ordinary" Member	Philip Gatenby	213592	
Day Hike Organiser	Sue Ferguson	7013852	7064055/6/7
Trails Organiser	Steve Watson	211172	
Social Activities	John van Zyl		9032374
Editress	Jean Jacobs	472483	
Weekend Organiser	Nevil Walmsley	7052919	7018481



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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Tel No. (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward to:**

The Secretary  
Durban Ramblers Hiking Club  
31 Kingslynn  
60 St Andrews Street  
Durban  
4001

**RECOMMENDED TRANSPORT FEES FOR BERG  
HIKES PER PERSON.**

Southern Berg R35.00  
Central Berg R40.00  
Northern Berg R40.00

The above prices include toll fees.

**FOR SALE R10.00 EACH**

Ramblers T-Shirts  
and  
Sun Hats

Contact: Joe Strayton 723480H

**TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY IS BETTER THAN TO  
ARRIVE**

Anyone interested in participating on  
the 1st Thursday of each month in  
hikes, which are about three hours in  
length should contact Vic on 237165  
home.

**QUOTABLE QUOTES**

The best mirror is an old friend.  
Knowledge in youth is wisdom in age.  
Inflation is something that makes  
balloons larger and chocolate bars  
smaller.  
God could not be everywhere, so he  
made mothers.

**HIRING OF EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBERS**

TENTS R7.50 p/day  
deposit R50.00  
Contact Gerald Hall 251089

BACKPACKS  
newish R5.00 p/day  
oldish R3.00 p/day  
deposit R50.00

SLEEPING MATS R1.00 p/day  
deposit R10.00

STOVE  
with fuel R5.00 p/w/end  
deposit R20.00  
Contact Philip Gatenby 213592

**DEEP SEA FISHING**

Every Thursday with Irvin Johnston, from Durban down the coast  
Phone 4001696



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ME

t to get to our meeting places at least

NB: CORRECT MONEY ONLY, WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE DAY HIKE  
ORGANISER DOES NOT CARRY LOOSE CHANGE.

Day hikers, do not forget your two litres of water, a hat, and a cup for lunch time tea and coffee.

MEETING PLACES (Durban) Musgrave Park, Berea  
(Pinetown) Union Main Centre Old Main Road.

**PLEASE NOTE** All day hike fees have been increased by R1.00 to enable more money to be paid to the drivers, as you know petrol prices have gone up.

6 August - Saturday

**SHONGWENI**

A hike and braai at Janet Marsh's place. B Y O .  
Leader Bill Hyslop but contact John Van Zyl W9032374  
Dbn 2.00 Ptn 2.30

Janet has a super little rondavel on her property that she is quite happy to have hikers stay in over night. So if you fancy sleeping out, but under thatch in preference to the stars, then bring your sleeping bag, pillow etc; and really have a night out. However don't forget to take what ever you may need for the hike the next day.

7 August - Sunday

**KRANZKLOOF CIRCUIT**

Hiking in this beautiful spot so close to home is always a pleasure.  
Medium length hike, but fairly strenuous.  
Leader Margret Kirsten H441467  
Dbn 8.30 Ptn 9.00  
Members R7 Visitors R9

13-14 August - Weekend

**GXALINGENWACAVE** (Cobham Area)

A beautiful hike using part of the Giants Cup Trail to this popular cave. Return by Emerald Stream. Medium hike.  
Leader Nevil Walmsley H7052919

14 August - Sunday

**MZUNDUZE**

This will be a moderate hike with two river crossings. One will be wet, so bring along extra shoes. We will be going down stream into the gorge to the Cascades. Magnificent riverside scenery. Bring the cameras and binoculars.  
Joint leaders Steve Nel and Bill Hyslop. Contact Bill W7018996  
Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30  
Members R9 Visitors R11

21 August - Sunday

**SHONGWENI CIRCUIT**

Moderate hike with a touch of everything. This hike was scheduled for May 22nd but had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Let's hope for a nice day.  
Leader Dave Easton H728170  
Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30  
Members R7 Visitors R9 plus entrance fee payable at Reserve R3.00.

27-28 August - Weekend

**HAVENROCK FARM**

Another visit to our friend George Archibald, on his lovely farm. Some ups, some downs but not too strenuous. Stayng in a warm and comfortable old homestead. Maximum 12 people.  
Leader Tom de Waal H474766

28 August - Sunday

**HAVENROCK FARM**

Once again George Archibald has given the Club 'open house' on his farm. We will be joining the weekend hikers to see what's on offer.  
Contact Sue Ferguson W7064055/6/7 H7013852  
Ptn 7.30 Dbn 8.00  
Members R13 Visitors R15

4 September - Sunday

**SKEILAM**

This is Bill's "Last Frontier" Strenuous hike, climbing the highest peak in the Nagle Dam area. Wonderful scenery from the top. Bring a torch for the tunnel just in case there is no electricity.  
Leader Bill Hyslop W7018996  
Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30  
Members R11 Visitors R13

10-11 September - Weekend

**ZULU CAVE**

Enjoy a hike to this popular and comfortable cave, with a visit to Intunja on the return. medium hike, reasonable fitness required. Distance + - 24 km  
Leader Jack Aumord H423245 W3015131

11 September - Sunday

**MOUNT SHANNON**

We will be hiking for the first time in the 'Boston Conservancy' on one of their many trails. This hike has yellow wood trees, cascades, many pools and falls. We will have a guide with us to look after us? or to keep us in line? which ever!!  
Leader Sue Ferguson W7064055/6/7 H7013852  
Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00  
Members R13 Visitors R15 plus R3.50 entrance fee payable at Reserve.

17-20 September - 4 days

**NGELE TRAIL**

Come walk in the beautiful forest of Ngele. From houses providing comfortable accommodation, with the luxury of hot water and baths.  
Deposit R45. to Philip Gatenby. Estimated cost including transport R90  
Leader Philip Gatenby H213592

18 September - Sunday

**GWAGUMBETRAIL**

This hike was greatly enjoyed last year by all who attended, not least the ride to and from the hike area on an open backed truck, especially the return trip in the mist and rain. We will again be escorted by the Game Guards.  
Contact Sue Ferguson W7064055/6/7 H7013852  
Dbn 7.30 Ptn 8.00  
Members R13 Visitors R15 plus R1 per person collection for the Game Guards.

25 September - Sunday

**HIBBERDENE**

This is a hike that the Club used to do a long time ago. Barry has offered to take us there once again. However at time of going to press, we were still trying to get permission from various owners, as the friend that Barry had contact with has moved to Pmb.

Please phone Barry or Sue prior to this date for confirmation of this hike. Obviously we will have a hike this day, but the

Leader Barry Busby H849988 W722382  
Ptn 8.00 Dbn 8.30  
Members R10 Visitors R12



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**KILLARNEYVALLEY** (New hike)

This moderate hike which is new, consists of two deep gorges which are tributaries of the Umlazi River. No doubt we will have great scenery again. We will have to pay R5 per car for this pleasure, but I have built this cost into the fees for the day. Drivers, please try to go 5 up in your cars, it isn't a long drive.

Joint leaders Steve Nel and Bill Hyslop

Contact Bill W7018996

Dbn 8.00 Ptn 8.30

Members R10 Visitors R12

**LEADERS WANTED FOR WEEKEND HIKES, ALL TYPES OF VENUES, BURG, COASTAL RESERVES, FARMS.** If you are interested in leading/assisting, or have any suggestions for venues, please contact Nevil Walmsley H 7052919.

## HOME AND PETCARE SERVICES

"Are you going away this year?"

How would you like personalised, reliable home and petcare while you are away?

As part of our service we offer to:

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| * Feed your pets          | * Turn your lights on and off |
| * Open and close curtains | * Collect your post           |
| * Check your deep-freeze  | * Put chemicals in your pool  |
| * Water your plants       | * Walk your dogs              |

THE SPCA SAYS LOVE THEM DONT LEAVE THEM,

BUT IF YOU MUST LEAVE THEM,

LEAVE THEM WITH US, WE CARE!

Call the Home and Petcare Team on Tel. (011) 476-7300.

**LORNA DOONE HOSTEL 1-4TH APRIL 1994 BY DAVE EASTON**

FRIDAY

It had been reasonably predictable, (at least to the writer) in the weeks that preceded this annual event, that the majority of the party animals of the previous year, would be else where. Phew! On the other hand it would be fair to say, that any party element really takes second place to the priority for a peaceful environmental release from the stresses of current life, eg: the pre-election syndrome. Thirdly, many people may not realise that singing and playing guitar, can become a demand and form of work for one who normally makes his living by it, especially when he is on holiday as well! Okay, back to the descriptive bit, but a little more of the latter later on.

On arrival, Philip dutifully switched to programme "auto" and blew his whistle for the first hike. The vast majority responded, while a few flopped around, just glad to be there. A private company called SAFCOL have taken over the Weza Forest from the State. Wood, lamps, paraffin, (but few toilet rolls) had been provided, but no labour. Lorna Doone looked a little run-down. This meant work, (but that's what you came here to get away from I argued with myself) After some consultation with Tony and Dora, I tackled the boiler fire, hoping the water would be warm when the hikers returned. Now for the braai area, tidy it up!! Ingla was in the kitchen complaining about a cold stove. This proved a little more difficult, but not insurmountable. The afternoon hike returned. Marcia helped fashion a coke tin into a funnel to fill the lamps, at Lynn's request. This was a messy business, and by now I looked, (and probably smelt) worse than a chimney sweep from 'Mary Poppins'. Outside, old Jack Van Reenen, aided by Tony and Mike, had built a pyramidal structure of paper, wood and twigs, as large as Pharaoh's Tomb. The braai was a smoky affair, while most people had hit the sack before ten.

On Saturday, although some still looked mentally 'wiped out', most were fit enough for the Blackwater hike. I found an old pair of hiking boots on the trail, another conversation piece, as we slowly became 'ourselves'. Jean Jacobs soon had her "coffee club" in progress, while the rest dozed underneath the pines at our lunch spot. Ah bliss! The Maritzburg ladies broadened our knowledge of bird calls from the courses they had been taking. It's a Sombre Bulbul that cries "Willie, Willie". Wow! The stream lunch spot from the previous year was difficult to identify as the gums had been chopped down. We waited impatiently as Philip hauled the sign to a new location. The close proximity of the cars to Blackwater tempted us away from ferreting around for the remains of the Old Weza Village and gravestones. Back at Lorna Doone, Mike had taken on the role of Jack's keeper. Later in the shower, I was choking with suppressed laughter as I over heard detailed and explicit instructions given to the old man, on the washing of private areas etc: Unfortunately this entertainment did not avail Mike for too long. As Mike had not brought his guitar along, he received a certain amount of 'spurring' from his music loving friends. Lynn complained that Mike's squeaky boots got on her "nerves", while Emily bubbled over with Bacon-itus comments. Trapped within the horns of his own dilemma, Mike retreated to his bunk and the Land Of Nod. I decided to salvage the sing-along with a few 'pop' song books, and this went fairly well, (although there was no danger of an other wise placid hike organiser from shattering the noise levels with a single blow to the table from a tenderising hammer.) A few of the girls, plus the writer, undertook a moonlight hike for variety.

On Sunday, I decided to volunteer as leader for Mackton-Middlebrook hike as an alternative to the traditional Blackwater-Kings Halt long haul. Some people chose to do their own thing, photography or one hour to Middlebrook and back. Mike dropped Jean, Lynda and I at Mackton. The start was a little vague, but we soon found ourselves in the indigenous forest where Jean and I played a guessing game with tree identities. It was nice to be in a small group. After lunch, Lynda bowed out as we passed near Lorna Doone. We waved to returning 'slack' hikers near the Goose Dam. Jean and I soldiered on. It was hot. We threw off boots and socks to relax on the verandah at Middlebrook. Yes, the wooden floors and ceilings are magnificent, but the addition of electrification did not impress me, in consideration of this once grand, but aging dwager.

On Monday, short hikes were programmed and we departed after lunch, where Jack had generously distributed huge melon portions.

Thank you Philip, for your unflinching and efficient organisation of hikes. Perhaps what is now needed, is access to the other half, the mountain area, for a change of venue and hike itinerary, but retaining the 'formula'. Or a new area with the same ingredients?



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in Jacobs

this walk in August 1992 will know how we struggled and suffered. This time though I must add, the weather was definitely in our favour. The half way cut off was The Valley Of A Thousand Hills Hotel, which incidentally is under new ownership and is in the process of being smartened up, noticeably so. The time for the walk was ten hours, ending at five pm. On Marcia's advice we started at a pace that we could keep up, and reached the hotel on Saturday after eight hours walking. Yes, we were a little sore, but except for Tracey who now knows her feet are "not made for walking" we were in reasonable condition. At five thirty and quite a few beers later, we sat around on the floor of the lounge and waited in anticipation for our numbers to be drawn out of a bucket for lucky dip prizes. Gavin, Tracey and I were lucky with such gifts as fifty rand vouchers for supper at various restaurants. By this time, as arranged, Janet Marsh had arrived to collect us and take us back to her "pad" for the night. Tracey decided that the only place for her was her own bed, she was crying with pain caused by blistered feet.

At Janet's we were made to feel entirely at home, with hot baths, showers or jacusi. John and Gavin chose the jacusi. John had us all in hysterics as he sat, beer in hand amongst the foaming bubbles and luxury of hot water, demanding that his photo should be taken to send to relatives over seas. Janet spoilt us all even further by massaging our feet with a herbal balm. Oh what heaven!

After supper we even managed a little dancing, and that after walking 43.2ks.

Sunday morning at five thirty I was in the kitchen making tea and coffee for us all. Marcia was not well, so opted out of walking. Gavin wandered in looking the worse for the beers he had enjoyed the night before, he was trying to decide within himself whether or not to walk. After his first LARGE mouthful of coffee, he suddenly sobered up, some one had emptied salts in the sugar bowl. On further investigation, Janet discovered that the entire packet of sugar had salt mixed in with it UGH!!

Janet drove us in her combie to The Thousand Hills Hotel where we all had to meet to start the second and final lap of torture. On the way we heard a frightening noise coming from under the vehicle, guess what...a flatty! John, always the little hero with his cheerfulness and helpfulness, jumped out and he and Gavin (moving a little slower) changed the flatty for the spare, which was very low on air, but enough to get us to the nearest garage. We started the walk twenty minutes late and passed all the 'on time' starters as they headed out of the valley, and we were going in.

At Kloof with twenty seven ks still to walk, I, and I'm sure hundreds of others, wondered if we were going to make it. I at least had added incentive, as I had approached five businesses asking them to sponsor me per kilometre with the proceeds to go to CROW. I just kept thinking, as the muscles cried out, no more no more. "I'm doing this for a very good cause" At Fields Hill, John quickened his pace and out walked Gavin and I, eventually by about half an hour. Tracey and Marcia had followed us since midday by car, and at the finish which was at Howard University Sports Ground, John, Marcia and Tracey clapped and cheered Gavin and I in. I have renamed John "Twinkle Toes"

At this stage I would like to thank my sponsors who were, Independent Steel in Jacobs, Hyper-by-the-sea, MMI Brickhill Road, the Regional Manager Viv Biggs, Brighton Beach Veterinary Clinic, Drs Roos and Swarts, Fridge and Freezer, Queensburgh. Also Marie Gurr for her donation sent directly to CROW, and a Rambler member we don't see often, Heather Heckler who promised a hundred rand if I finished. Well Heather...I did!!!  
Thank you to you all for your support.

New subscription fees are as follows

Country R16  
Single R20  
Couples/Family R25  
Country Couples R20

A reminder to prospective members. To become a member you must engage in three day hikes or one Berg trip. The entrance fee is R10 plus a yearly sub.

## TONY CARNIE talks to an indefatigable hiker



Climb every mountain... Margret Kirsten of Durban takes a breather at the summit after planting the new flag on South Africa's highest peak.

## No flagging for Margret, the climber

**W**ITHIN hours of Nelson Mandela's Inauguration last week, the new South African flag was fluttering proudly above the country's highest mountain peak... thanks to Margret Kirsten of Durban.

The Queensburgh estate agent had planned a "normal" trip to the top of Mafadi peak in the Natal Drakensberg with hiking colleagues several weeks ago.

But when the new Y-front flag was unveiled recently, she decided on the spur of the moment to make a flag herself and plant it above the 3 447m peak.

"I didn't tell anyone about it at the time, and when one of my hiking colleagues got a bit ill shortly beforehand and suggested cancelling the trip I insisted that we had to go because of the flag."

Margret says she's not the type to sit around at home over weekends watching TV and grabs every opportunity to go out hiking or climbing mountains.

"Besides, if you can't do your

work during weekdays you're probably no good at it. I see too many people pretending they enjoy working seven days a week when there are so many better things to do.

"My boss is not always too happy about me taking time off... but he knows that I make him lots of money."

Born in Holland, she did some climbing in Europe in her youth, but was really bitten by the mountain-hiking bug when she moved to South Africa about 15 years ago.

She's climbed the second-tallest mountain in Africa (Thaba Ntlenyana in neighbouring Lesotho), hiked extensively in the Berg and also climbed or hiked the Rockies, Mont Blanc and the Dolomites.

"Our mountains are really easy compared to the sheer mountain ranges of Europe and North America — but they still need a lot of effort, make no mistake!"

But she makes light of the cuts and bruises on her legs and arms from the recent trip up Mafadi.

Margret, along with Margaret

Robberts and Graham Barratt of Pietermaritzburg and Malcolm Carsten, Wilma Vermeulen and Beverly Lawry of Durban, began their ascent soon after the inauguration ceremony, climbing to about 2 000m on the first day.

At the end of the second day the group reached 3 000m and the Durban contingent — with the exception of Margret — had had enough.

The following morning, when she and her Maritzburg friends reached the top of Mafadi, there was still some snow nearby from a previous fall.

"The temperature was below zero when we started out on the final climb, but it was just warm enough to put on my peace T-shirt for the photograph at the peak."

But she is no stranger to cold weather, having hiked in the Berg before when the temperature was 19C below.

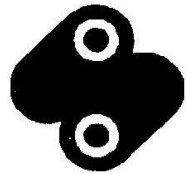
"Everybody needs a break whenever they can," she says.

"I leave my worries at home and sort them out when I get back."



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