



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 1st QUARTER : 2026

6

CHAIR'S RAMBLINGS

Dear Ramblers

As 2025 comes to a close, I am pleased to report that the **Durban Ramblers Hiking Club** has enjoyed a successful and fulfilling hiking season. The club maintained a full programme of Saturday, Sunday, and midweek hikes, complemented by well-supported weekends away. Member participation remained strong throughout the year, reflecting the continued enthusiasm and commitment of our hiking community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our hike leaders, committee members, and all our hikers for the energy, dedication, and camaraderie you bring to the club. You are the reason Durban Ramblers continues to thrive as an active, inclusive, and welcoming hiking club.

As we begin the 2026 hiking season, **safety, preparedness, and responsible trail conduct** will continue to guide all our activities.

Members are reminded that the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on **14 February 2026** at the **Krantzkloof Conference Centre**, commencing at **11:00**, and will be followed by a social braai. I strongly encourage all members to attend, as the AGM provides an important opportunity to engage in the governance and future direction of the club.

I wish all members a rewarding, enjoyable, and safe hiking season ahead.

Rani
Durban Ramblers Hiking Club Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Rani Reddy	082 086 5685	reddyrani06@gmail.com
Secretary	Ruth Grantham	082 466 5580	Durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com
Joint Treasurers	Zarina Ally/Biff Maggs	0837866347 0826099684	allyzee63@gmail.com biffmaggs101@gmail.com
Sunday Hike Organiser	Naadira Limalia	0849278607	nadsl786@gmail.com
Saturday Hike Organiser	Bilkis Khan	0825365961	gizzydob5@gmail.com
Wednesday Hike Organiser	Coleen Seath	082 735 7659	coleensea@gmail.com
Weekend Organiser	Vacant		
Publicity	Gil Krauspe	083 759 9199	gilkrauspe@yahoo.com
Magazine	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	philipcollyer@gmail.com
Social Events Organiser	Vacant		
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	dada@greenit.co.za
Ordinary Member	Navi Naidoo	081 307 9310	navinaidoo123@gmail.com
Honorary Auditor	Rolf Klein	073 982 4976	rolf.klein@telkomsa.net

HIKING ETIQUETTE

A reminder of these few simple guidelines:

- **Follow your leader.** It's impolite to get ahead of the leader – he/she/it is called a **leader** for a reason!
- **Be Aware of your fellow hikers.** Keep an eye on the hiker behind you. If the gap is getting too wide, let the leader know so they the trailers can be given a chance to catch up. By the same token, don't lose sight of the hiker in front of you – attract their attention if you're falling behind.
- **Communicate.** If you want to leave the hike for any reason, make sure the leader knows and that it's safe to leave the group at that particular point.
- **Remember Your Manners.** Be kind, courteous and respectful. Don't hesitate to say hello and smile as you pass by a fellow hiker!
- **Respect the Peace and Quiet.** Keep noise to a minimum. Most people on the trail are looking to experience nature and its natural sounds, or lack thereof. Make sure your cell phone is on silent, and refrain from talking loudly or yelling amongst your group.
- **Absolutely no littering.** This includes orange peel, apple core and banana skin. While they are biodegradable, this is still littering and they are not good for wildlife.

- **Stay on the Path.** If you don't, you could get lost and/or encounter dangerous terrain. Plus, leaving designated pathways causes damage to the environment such as destroying vegetation, erosion and degrading soil quality.
- **Don't Disturb Plants.** Hikers should not pick or remove vegetation.
- **Cell Phones:** Take some time out from your cell phone calls, emergencies only.
- **Booking :** It is essential to book for all hikes, this allows leaders to plan for their hike and ensure that a hike is not oversubscribed.

For our Hike Leaders: Hike leaders are volunteers, we are a social club, please easily follow their lead and direction (unless it is clearly the wrong direction!).

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

Visitors are permitted to join Saturday and Sunday hikes, subject to limiting numbers in the group to a maximum of 30, but this is always at the discretion of hike leaders. Once visitors have done their three hikes, they may apply for membership and pay the required fees. It is important to state your name as a reference when doing the EFT payment.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Julia Ndou
 Mehmood Kadwa
 Stephen Nicholson
 Stephanie Pais
 Lauren Myles
 Noelle Stakes
 Nicole Stakes
 Susan Thixton
 Robin Thixton
 Alice Thomson
 Margaret Wilson

OAKS WEEKEND AWAY – 24- 26 OCTOBER 2025

For some the highlight of the Oaks Weekend Away was the food and for others the lowlight of the weekend away was the food 😊. There were three hikes, two on Saturday on one on Sunday. Despite the weather on the Sunday we hiked up to the Minerva Nature Reserve and then had to turn back due to weather!



YEAR END / XMAS AT GIBA ON 7 DECEMBER

Members had a great time at the Xmas gathering at Giba on 7 December!



INFORMATION

MAGAZINE:

The magazine is distributed via email using durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com as a sending address. If you know of anyone who has not received the magazine, please ask them to check their SPAM folder.

Note: If you have been receiving the magazine by post and now want the speedier email version in full colour, advise the editor and send us your email address. This helps reduce the printing and posting costs and possible delays with getting the magazine to you.

HIKE DONATIONS:

On some of the hikes, hikers are asked for donations and in some cases the club makes donations on behalf of the members.

	Wed	Sat	Sun	Hike Name
2025/09/27		360		New Germany
2025/09/28			300	Umdoni Conservancy
2025/10/01	400			Hill n Dale
2025/10/18		660		Springside Nature reserve
2025/10/25		450		Crowned Eagle Conservancy
2025/11/22		990		Monteseel conservancy
2025/11/29		300		Hill 'n Dale
2025/11/30			450	Alverstone
2025/12/16		70		Summerveld lodge parking
2025/12/17	480			Averstone
total	950	1770	1740	4460

WEBSITE:

The website (www.durbanramblers.co.za) as well as the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club Facebook page may be viewed for updated information regarding the club, hikes, etc. Should you wish to contribute photos to the Facebook page please send your contributions to Gil, our Publicity person. You may also ask Gil to

remove photos you would rather not be there. The website also includes an archive containing lots of history of the Club which was formed way back in 1932.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

While hiking and rambling is usually all good fun, we should also be aware that sometimes something can go amiss and we might find ourselves in a stressful situation. There is an emergency app you can download to your mobile phone from www.mysos.co.za which will provide you with all the emergency numbers in the area where you need it.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Please have your emergency contact number(s) under ICE (In Case of Emergency) in your cell phone and on the new cards issued, or a label of some sort attached to your day pack. Details should consist of your name, ID number, name of medical aid and membership number (your medical aid card should be with you too) and the name/number(s) of someone to contact. Emergency personnel will look for your ICE details. Hospitals will not send an ambulance/paramedics if your medical aid details are not available. Please carry these important details with you on each hike. Ask a member of the committee for a card holder or a lanyard. Biff Maggs always has available.

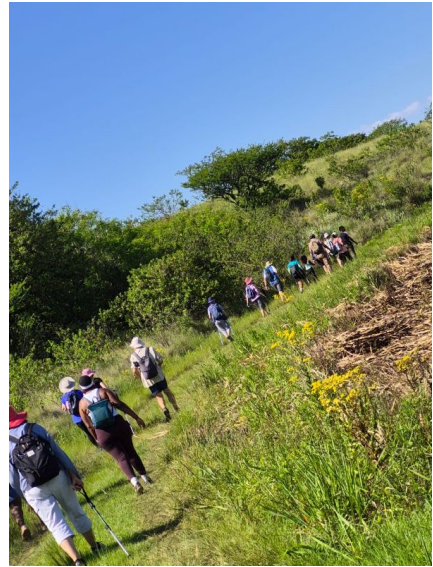
HIKE REPORTS *(a limited selection from recent hikes – some hike reports were only photo's this round)*

Wednesday Hikes: Wednesday dawned a beautiful day and our group led by Rob set off from the Jockey club at Summerveld. The lovely wide country roads are flanked by large properties and fields with horses grazing contentedly. As the day became progressively warmer Rob kept to as many shaded routes as possible, but there was no escaping the heat and humidity. We crossed over the river a few times using the well constructed wooden bridges. Taking many water breaks and one snack break we eventually faced the home stretch. Out in the open and the long pull up the hill and then the long stretch back to the cars, thankfully now mostly shaded. Flagging in the heat a few of us slowed down and rested before continuing back to the cars. Kudos to us all. 10.18km and a temperature of 28 degrees! Thank you Rob it was a challenge and we all triumphed. Thank you for leading us. Photos courtesy of Nicole.



A Saturday Hike:

Our Hill & Dale hike this morning with our hike leader, Jenny, was absolutely spectacular 🙌. A gentle, cool breeze made the walk even more enjoyable — truly a blessing. The surrounding hills were alive with an array of colourful flowers, creating a breathtaking backdrop throughout the hike. Along the way, Pavesh spotted huge birds circling the cliffs, which Rob identified as ravens — a special sight indeed. Stephi, Tina, and Gill found the perfect shaded spot for brekkie on the hill, where we soaked in stunning countryside views: the coffee farm, grazing cows, and sugar cane being transported. A huge thank-you to Jenny for an awesome hike, and to our wonderful Ramblers members for making it such a memorable and joyful experience 💖.



A Sunday's Hike

****Chasing Waterfalls****

We started our adventure at the beautiful Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (Howick), led by Naadira with Zohra as our sweeper. What an incredible hike it was Chasing 4 Waterfalls! We explored Fish Jump Falls, Cascades Falls, Shelter Falls, and finally Howick Falls. We made it all the way to the bottom of Howick Falls before climbing up to the top for a breathtaking view from the lookout point. The group kept an amazing pace throughout the hike, and we always felt safe and supported between Naadira and Zohra with Zarina assisting along the way. It was truly a beautiful day spent chasing waterfalls and creating unforgettable memories in nature. *A heartfelt thank you to Naadira, for planning and leading such an amazing hike everything was perfectly organized and beautifully executed.



HIKING PROGRAMMES:

Every week members will be able to book a hike with the hike leader; booking cut off time will be the day before. Numbers on hikes will be limited to a **maximum of 30**, or less subject to discretion of hike leaders.

WEDNESDAY MORNING HIKES: Organised by Ann Olds

Please check details of the Wednesday Hikes with Ann 083 666 5630 (who will co-ordinate with leaders.)

SATURDAY HIKES (AFTERNOON): Organised by Bilkis Khan.

- Should you wish to participate in any of the hikes, please WhatsApp the leader by no later than Friday evening to book your spot. Bookings to each hike open 7 days before the hike only.
- Please get to starting point by 13.45 or 13.15 on occasion (please check schedule below) in order for the hike to begin on time.
- For directions etc, please communicate in the WhatsApp group.
- Children are welcome but check suitability of the hike with the leader.
- Please bring at least 1 litre of water each, a snack for half time and a hat.

SUNDAY HIKES (FULL DAY): Organised by Naadira Limalia.

- **Please be aware that a certain level of fitness is required to do Sunday hikes. If you don't exercise regularly, or aren't an experienced walker please complete three Ramblers' Saturday afternoon hikes before joining the longer Sunday hikes.**
- Please note that the meeting point and/or time in the programme might change, or the hike route might change, or it might be raining and the hike cancelled therefore **you must check the WhatsApp group.**
- Please try to get to the meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier to help with arranging lifts. Bring the correct amount of money as change may not be available.
- It is advisable to bring at least 2 litres of water, mid-morning snack, lunch and a hat. It is recommended that hikers carry their own water
- Keep Rehydrate in your pack in case of dehydration in the hot months.
- Use tick spray.

FOR SUNDAY HIKE BOOKINGS:

- 1.) Members must book a hike using the group link posted on the Sunday Ramblers WhatsApp group.
- 2.) There is no need to message the hike leader to book unless you are a non-member.
- 3.) All further details for example : fees, meeting time and directions for a specific hike will be posted on that group.
- 4.) Once a hike has reached the maximum number of hikers those that join the link, will be on the pending/ waiting list, if there are any cancelations then you will be added to the group.
- 5.) If you have booked for a hike and are unable to attend, please remove yourself from the group before the hike starts, so people on the waiting list they can be added and the numbers of hikers for the hike will be accurate.
- 6.) All members who are not yet on the Sunday WhatsApp group can join using the link below: https://chat.whatsapp.com/CbHxaVb2kjl9tBeoPaUiqG?mode=ems_share_c Or contact Naadira 0849278607 to be added to the group.

HIKE GRADING (Note Saturday and Sunday grading is different as Saturday is a 3 hour hike, whereas Sunday is a 5+ hour hike).

Hikes are described as being Easy, Moderate or Strenuous and are graded from 1 to 5, as follows:

1. A flat even walk
2. A hike without big and steep inclines
3. A hike with some steep inclines - Fitness recommended
4. A hike with steep inclines and rock scrambling - Fitness essential
5. A hike with many inclines and rock scrambling - Fitness very essential

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKING PROGRAMME 1st QUARTER 2026

RAMBLERS HIKING PROGRAMME – 1st QUARTER 2026

NB – IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT INDIVIDUALS HIKE AT ENTIRELY THEIR OWN RISK. THE CLUB, ITS OFFICERS, HIKE LEADERS AND MEMBERS CANNOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY INJURY/LOSS SUSTAINED BY PARTICIPANTS IN CLUB ACTIVITIES. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR EACH HIKE VIA WHATSAPP.

Date, Hike Title, Leader & Contact	Meeting Place, Time, Description, Grade & Booking
Sat 03 Jan Nu Driving Range Rob 083 380 5278	Meet at Nu Driving Range, Hillcrest Time: 13:45 Hike through farmland to the top of the breathtaking Mackintosh Falls. Enjoy expansive views. Grade: 3 Distance: ±7 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 04 Jan Burman Bush Philip Collyer 082 417 0204	Meet at Burman Bush Time: 07:30 Lovely hike through this 55-hectare reserve. Some road walking. Grade: 2–3 Distance: ±14 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 10 Jan Stainbank Nature Reserve Philip Collyer 082 417 0204	Meet at Stainbank Nature Reserve Time: 13:45 Enjoy the beautiful trails of Stainbank Nature Reserve with wildlife and large trees. Tick spray advised. Grade: TBC Distance: TBC Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 11 Jan Ballito to Salt Rock Abdullah Dada 084 478 6779	Meet at Tedder Way, Ballito Time: 07:00 Beach hike with rocky outcrops, tidal pools and marine life. Return through coastal suburbs. Grade: 2–3 Distance: ±13 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 17 Jan Everton Park Ann 083 666 5630	Meet at Everton Park Time: 13:45 Mostly private land and conservancy trails with river crossings and ladder. Stunning gorge views. Grade: 3 Distance: ±7 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 18 Jan Umdloti – Greet the Sun Rani Reddy 082 086 5685	Meet at 2nd Umdloti Beach public parking Time: 04:30 Sunrise hike through Sibaya Forest and surrounding sugarcane fields. Grade: 2 Distance: ±11 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 24 Jan Willow Way (Committee) Bilkis 082 536 5961	Meet at Willow Way, Assagay Time: 09:00 Ramblers committee and hike leaders only. Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 25 Jan	Meet at Everton Park area

Date, Hike Title, Leader & Contact	Meeting Place, Time, Description, Grade & Booking
Everton Park to Gillitts Waterfall Arshaad 071 609 4179	Time: TBC Hike through Longshadow and Molweni trails with canopy cover, inclines and stream crossings. Grade: 2–3 Distance: ±12 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 31 Jan Umdloti Beach Forest Abdullah Dada 084 478 6779	Meet at 2nd parking on Beach Rd Time: 13:45 Forest shaded walk and beach section to river mouth with expansive coastal views. Grade: 2 Distance: ±10 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 01 February TC Robertson to Renishaw Jon Stevens 0824591522	Details to follow
Sat 07 Feb Paradise Valley Philip Collyer 082 417 0204	Meet in Oxford Rd Time: 13:45 Indigenous bush, river bridge and cascade views. Grade: 2 Distance: ±7 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 08 Feb Krantzklouf Nature Reserve Abdullah Dada 084 478 6779	Meet at main entrance Time: 07:00 Full reserve traverse including Mpiti, Longshadow, Molweni and Beacon trails. Many hills. Grade: 4 Distance: ±16 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 14 Feb AGM – Longshadow Trail Ann 083 666 5630	Meet at Conference Centre Time: 14:00 Members-only AGM hike upstream to Porcupine Falls and back. Grade: 2 Distance: ±6 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 15 Feb Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve Philip Collyer 082 417 0204	Meet at entrance Time: 07:00 Forest, grassland and stream crossings with wildlife viewing. Grade: 2 Distance: ±13 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 21 Feb Marianhill Monastery Divesh Maharaj 072 235 3104	Meet at monastery parking Time: 13:45 Cultural and historical gardens with peaceful surroundings. Grade: 1 Distance: ±5 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 22 Feb Weke Weke Falls Rob Krogh 083 380 5278	Meet at Shongweni Polo Club Time: 07:30 Circular route to Weke Weke Falls with Summerveld loop. Grade: 2–3 Distance: ±17 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 28 Feb Hike TBC Jenny Rooks	Details to follow closer to the time. Booking is essential via WhatsApp.

Date, Hike Title, Leader & Contact	Meeting Place, Time, Description, Grade & Booking
084 952 0622	
Sat 07 Mar Westville Eco Trail Linda 083 353 8319	Meet at Westville Country Club Time: 13:45 Shaded eco trails with river crossings and birdlife. Grade: 1 Distance: ±5 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 08 Mar Whaling Station Divesh Maharaj 072 235 3104	Meet at Bluff Military Base Time: 08:30 Coastal shoreline walk to the whaling station. Grade: 1–2 Distance: ±8 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 14 Mar Beacon Trail Ann 083 666 5630	Meet at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve Time: 07:15 Steep ascents and descents with expansive gorge views. Vertigo warning. Grade: 3 Distance: ±8 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 15 Mar 3 Bridges Hike Mukesh Mawalall 083 265 4335	Meet at Cornubia Mall underground parking Time: 07:00 Scenic circular route over landmark bridges. Grade: 1–2 Distance: ±10 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 21 Mar Bluff WESSA Divesh Maharaj 072 235 3104	Meet at Transhaven Resort, Bluff Time: 13:45 Environmental hike through dunes with marine education experience. Grade: 3 Distance: ±7 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 22 Mar Karkloof Mthobisi Ndlovu 073 812 8623	Meet at Karkloof Country Club Time: TBC Hike to Woodhouse Falls and Karkloof Falls via forest paths and riverbanks. Grade: 2 Distance: ±9 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sat 28 Mar Umhlanga Promenade Kumaran & Pavesh 084 404 4015 / 082 401 0193	Meet at Marine Drive & Durban View Rd Time: 13:45 Promenade walk, forest paths and beach return. Grade: 1 Distance: ±7 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.
Sun 29 Mar Giba Twin Peaks Rob Krogh 083 380 5278	Meet at Giba Bike Park Time: TBC Steep hike via Mackintosh Falls to twin peaks. 800 m vertical gain – fitness essential. Grade: 4 Distance: ±15 km Booking is essential via WhatsApp.