



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 2nd QUARTER : 2025

CHAIR'S RAMBLINGS

Dear Ramblers

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM on February 8th – it was wonderful to have 41 members present! Your participation and support are vital to the continued success of our club, and I deeply appreciate your confidence in my ability to chair the club this year.

I'm thrilled to work alongside both the returning and newly elected committee members as we tackle the exciting challenges ahead. A huge thank you also goes to the outgoing chairman and committee members for their unwavering dedication to the success of our club.

A Special Recognition,

We were pleased to present the floating trophy to Biff Maggs, a true embodiment of the Ramblers spirit. Since joining the club in March 2000, Biff has taken on numerous roles, but most notably served as our incredibly competent Treasurer. We're grateful for her years of service and the positive influence she has had on the club.

Introducing Our New Committee Members

As we start the new year of hiking, we welcome a few new faces to the leadership team:

- Treasurer – Zarina Ally
- Sunday Hike Organiser – Naadira Limalia
- Saturday Hike Organiser – Bilkis Khan

Looking Ahead

Here's to many more successful hikes, new adventures, and a great year of camaraderie and exploration!

Happy hiking!

Rani
Durban Ramblers Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Rani Reddy	082 086 5685	reddyrani06@gmail.com
Secretary	Ruth Grantham	082 466 5580	Durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Zarina Ally	0837866347	allyzee63@gmail.com
Sunday Hike Organiser	Naadira Limalia	0849278607	nadsl786@gmail.com
Saturday Hike Organiser	Bilkis Khan	0825365961	gizzydob5@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 TITBITS

1. If you are on your phone, you'll miss 80% of it.
2. The wrong path is a learning one.
3. A learning path is one that is not easily forgotten.
4. New paths are the elixir to a younger mind.
5. And if the heavens open, you may get wet, but there is nothing like rain on the land or hiking for the soul.

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:

Tholsie Ridhoo
 Elaine Lester
 Alan Moodley
 Sheila Moodley
 Jacobus Johannes Pienaar
 Marinda Gronbeck
 Fathima Amod
 Imraan Amod
 Charmaine Moodley
 Tazden Jéan Sewell
 Liza Du Plessis
 Lieve Leroy
 Jean May Naidoo
 Alaric Naidoo
 Joëlle Pienaar
 Christina Pienaar

We wish you many happy years of rambling with the Club.

CONGRATULATIONS



Well-deserved accolade to Biff Maggs, our outgoing Chair Merle Mackenzie presenting the floating trophy.

AGM PICS





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	Name
2025/01/12		900		Springside Nature Reserve
2025/01/29	340			Kloof Conservancy
2025/02/01		450		SPCA Kloof
2025/03/01		510		GIBA
2025/03/01		280		NU Driving range
TOTAL	340	2140		2480

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 Ana, our Publicity person. You may also ask Ana 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.

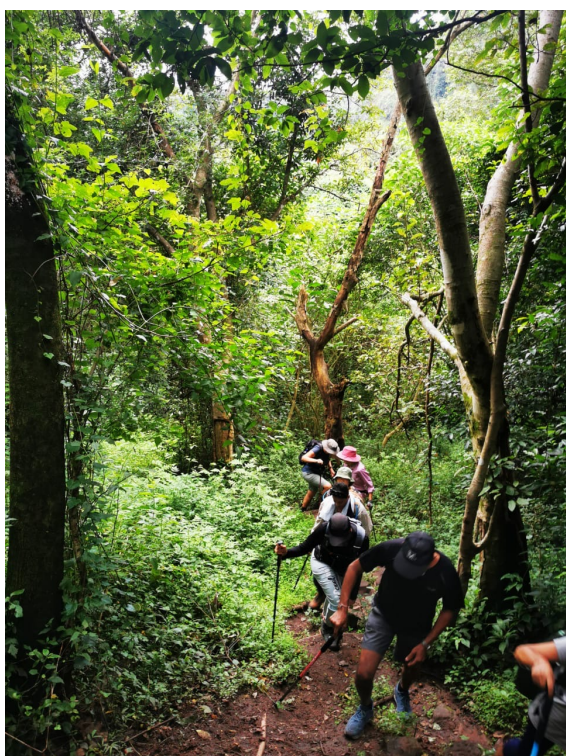
HIKE REPORTS (a limited selection from recent hikes – some hike reports were only photo's this round)

Saturday : MacIntosh Falls

Rob led a superb hike this afternoon through enjoyable forest trail. Some steep climbing to the top of magnificent, refreshing MacIntosh falls. Thank you, Rob, for an outstanding hike.

Photos Anne, Zarina & Kubendri



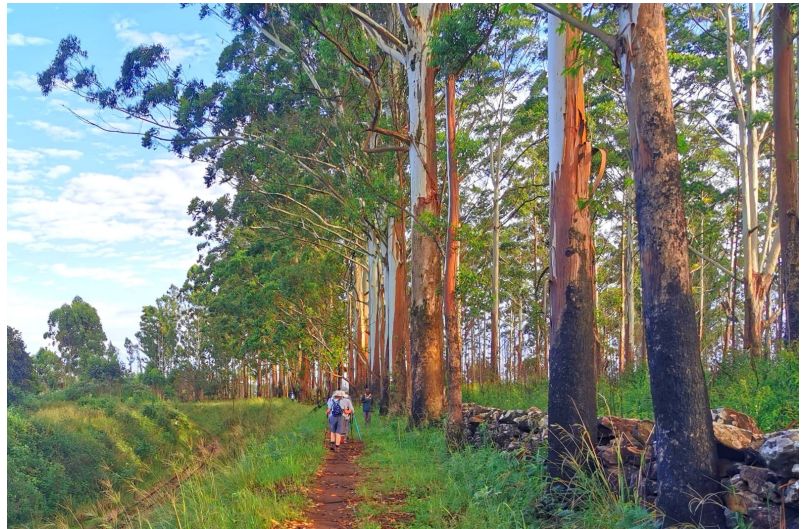


Sunday : Shongweni Hike Review (Jenny Rooks).

It was a Muddy Boots Adventure 🥾 . We had lots of fun trying to navigate our way after all the recent rain. The hike could have been a disaster, I had to change the route about 5 times as we were continually confronted with flooded paths and broken bridges. Nevertheless all said, it was an adventure and we managed t o do 13km. 🧑🏻🧑🏻 Well done to Jenny and her group of hikers 🙌🙌🌟🌟.



Wednesday Hike : Pink, Purple and Blue



I am not describing the bruises of some unfortunate rambler who has perchance hit the dust, but the profusion of Plectrathus bushes that lined our path and the Tibouchina Trees along the road. The morning temperature was comfortable and Jenny led the perfect pace for her group of nine rambler, giving us time for a few photos and a keen look at our surroundings.

Following the railway path, and peeling off to walk through well tended verges of suburban homes, we arrived at the old Hillcrest Station. Yet again a sad and abandoned building. Most of us have fond memories of lunches and suppers enjoyed in the once iconic railway station/restaurant. With a few variations to the return journey we reached our cars and enjoyed our picnic at a spot that Jenny had cunningly found within a 5

minute drive from the car park. Here we whiled away time comfortably chatting and enjoying the company of friends.

Thank you Jenny, (in the words of Goldilocks and the three bears) it was just right.

Photos courtesy of Jenny A

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 Coleen Seath

Please check details of the Wednesday Hikes with Coleen Seath on 031 202 2279 / 082 735 7659 (who will co-ordinate with leaders.)

SATURDAY HIKES (AFTERNOON): Organised by Bilkis Khan.

- Should you wish to participate in any of the hikes, please phone the leader by no later than Friday evening to book your spot.
- 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 to the starting point, please PHONE the organiser between 12.00 and 12.:45 on the day of the hike, don't SMS, or ask for directions when booking.
- 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.**
- **Always** phone the hike leader the day before at the latest, to confirm details and let him/her know to expect you on the hike. Be mindful that the leader is also preparing for the hike on the Sunday morning.
- 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 phone the leader** or you might find yourself left out and left behind. **You can also check on Facebook which may reflect changes or cancellations.**
- 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.

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 2nd QUARTER 2025

(Check Facebook for any changes)


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

HIKING PROGRAMME :2nd QUARTER 2025

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 05 April	Monteseel and Valley of Thousand Hills.	Philip Collyer	
	A hike with steep inclines and rock – hike up 400 meters. Meet at the Hacienda Pub at 13:00 – Note the earlier starting time. Hike along the flat at Monteseel and go down to the lookout point of a Valley of a Thousand Hills. Then, up to Drummond and into the valley to join cattle paths. The route is along grasslands and bush forest. At the bottom of the valley, we hike up to the top of Monteseel path past the rock climbers walk. The views are spectacular - fitness is required. Refreshments at the pub afterward - courtesy for using their parking. Donation of R40pp to the Monteseel Conservancy.	0824170204	Grade 5, hard, 8km
Sun 6 April	Westville eco trail	Steve Phaup	Grade 2 +-14 kms
	Meet at Westville Country Club , 1 Link Rd. Park next to Eco Trail entrance at 7:45am to start hiking at 8:00am, R20 entrance fee for eco-trail. Stroll through natural grassland and riverine forest of the Westville Eco Trail. Venture through the small swamp forest of Jubilee Park. Continue on to Portsman Park. Both parks have their own charm and experiences. Whatsapp to book.	083 799 7744	
Sat 12 April	Tanglewood	Jenny Rooks	
	Meet at 13:45 R30p/p donation Tanglewood is a beautiful small private nature reserve in the heart of Kloof, and we have been given permission by the owners to hike on it. It is a short hike, but a bit of steep climb up to the waterfalls (not for anyone nervous of heights). Directions to the meeting point will be given to those booked on the hike. BYO afterward.	0849520622	Grade 3 Mod. ±6km Vertigo Warning
Sun 13 April	Molweni -Inanda Dam	Mthobisi Ndlovu	Grade 3-4 +-14kms
	Hike from Overrock Rasta Cave to Inanda Dam. Featuring 2 breathtaking waterfalls! This challenging trek requires a	073 812 8623	

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	high level of fitness. Cost R80 p/p. Guide included, hike in collaboration with Green Corridors and Amatata Adventures.		
Sat 19 April	Renishaw	John Steven	
	Beautiful trails around Renishaw. The meeting place and time is to be confirmed, but it will be near the village of Renishaw.	0824591522	Grade 2/3 +-8km
Sun 20 April	Weke Weke Falls	Mthobisi Ndlovu	Grade 2-3 +-13kms
Long Weekend	Park at Denny Mushroom. Hike via Shongweni Nature Reserve to the bottom of Weke Weke Falls. Meet at Denny Mushroom Farm at 7:45am to start hiking at 8am.	073 812 8623	
Sat 26 April	Old whaling Station	Divesh	
	Bluff Military to the old Whaling Station Meeting place, time, and description to be confirmed.	0722353104	Grade 3 6
Sun 27 April	Rocky bay	Jon Stevens	
Long Weekend	Walk the lovely coastal forest trails of Rocky Bay, passing streams, the causeway, the dam, and wetlands where a variety of birdlife can be seen. Beautiful seaviews on the way back. Meet at 8am at Rocky Bay cycle trails car park, Old Main Road, Park Rynie. Entrance fee R30 cash.	082 459 1522	Grade 2 +-15kms
Sat 3 May	Honey Trails	Divesh	
	Meet at Honey Trails on Old Main Road, Monteseel, at 13:30, 30pp. Look for big Honey Trails sign on the left of Old Main Road before the Monteseel turn on the right. Enjoy expansive views on trails through grasslands and bush. BYO sundowners in grounds afterward.	0722353104	Grade 4, Mod, 10km
Sun 4 May	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve	Abdullah Dada	Grade 2 +-13kms
	Hike through coastal forest. grassland, and across a few streams. View Zebras, Bushbuck, Impala. Beautiful Reserve next to Yellowwood Park. Entrance Fee R60pp. Meet at 8am.	084 478 6779	
Sat 10 May	Umhlanga Rocks Promenade, Dune Forest and Beach.	Gil	
	Park at Durban View parking lot (Marine Drive and Durban View Rd) by 13:45. Walk along the promenade to the new walkway and through indigenous dune forest. Cross the lagoon over a wooden bridge to a steep dune incline and then descent onto the beach for a tea break.	0837599199	Grade 1, easy 8km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	Option of beach walk back or return along the same path (depending on the tides). Drinks at a local restaurant afterward.		
Sun 11 May	Ballito to Salt Rock	Abdullah Dada	Grade 2-3
	Meet at 8am at Tedder Way ,Ballito. Beach hike from Ballito to Salt Rock with rocky outcrops(some difficult sections),lovely rockpools teeming with marine life and soft corals. Tidal pools for a quick dip. Return same route or through coastal suburbs.	084 478 6779	Grade 3 +-13kms
Sat 17 May	Pigeon Valley Nature Reserve and Glenwood Park	Tina Regnard	
	and meet outside the main gate to Pigeon Valley Nature Reserve in Princess Alice Ave, Glenwood, by 13:45. We will explore this 10 hectare indigenous gem nestled in suburbia, then walk through the surrounding suburb to make our way back to Pigeon Valley, NR. Expect a couple of steep hills along the way. Drinks at Stella Sports Club afterward.	083 2896 276	Grade 2/3 Moderate, 8km
Sun 18 May	Monteseel	Philip Collyer	
	Meet at 8am at the Hacienda and park to the right, R30 donation to Monteseel Conservancy. Hike will take us along the top areas of Monteseel, down steep areas to Botha's Hill, to the historic railway line. Down the foothpaths into the Valley of a Thousand Hills to join cattle paths, then up the escarpment to the top of Monteseel. The ascents are steep and the climb is about 300m up from the base of the mountain. Requires a good level of fitness due to the uneven and undulating terrain.	082 417 0204	Grade 3-4 +-10kms
Sat 24 May	Palmiet Nature Reserve Westville	Linda Smith	
	Park at main entrance to the Palmiet Nature Reserve, Old New Germany Road, Westville meet at 13:45, R20pp. Hike across the river up to the grasslands, through the forest to the cascades and back. Some steep areas. Drinks at Waxy's, Afterward.	0833538319	Grad 3, moderate , vertigo warning
Sun 25 May	Giba Twin Peaks	Rob Krogh	s
	Hike from the Bike Park to Clifton lookout and the Cucumber Farm via Mackintosh Falls. Return via NU Driving Range and St Helier Rd. 800m vertical gain. Physical fitness essential.	083 380 5278	Grade 4 +-15km
Sat 31 May	Sugar Loaf-Botha's Hill Rail, and Assagay	Philip Collyer	

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	From Old Main Road. Hillcrest, through robot at Kassier Rd, Sugar Loaf Center on left at bottom of Bothas Hill to park at 13:45. Hike along railway up to the historic Botha's Hill Station, continue past Heidi's Farm Stall, snack break at river, Return through small holding land and suburb of Assagay. 	0824170204	Grade 2, moderate, 9km
Sun 1 June	Waterberry Close	Divesh Maharaj	
	Meet and park at NU Driving range Hillcrest, Shongweni Rd off M13 at 8am. Walk down Waterberry Close through farmland onto 4x4 trail and loop into Giba. Circular route.	072 235 3104	Grade 3 +-12kms
Sat 7 June	Marianhill Monastery	Divesh	
	Meet and park at Monastery Road off Abott Francis, opposite tea garden book/ shop at 13:45, 30pp Explore and enjoy the rich culture, history and architecture precinct and historic buildings, and scenic pathways of the Marianhill Monastery.	0722353104	Grade 1 easy, +- 7km
Sun 8 June	Marshal Dam	Rani Reddy	Grade 2-3 +-13kms
(Comrades day)	Explore the area around Marshall Dam and further. Meet at Cornubia Shopping Mall undercover parking at 7:45am.	082 086 5685	
Sat 14 June	Alverstone	Ismail	
	Meet at 12:30, R40p/p. Exit 33 from M13, right over M13 into Kassier road left opposite Hillcrest private hospital and into Alverstone Road(D435). Hike over grasslands and through riverine forest with some game viewing. BYO picnic after	Please contact Bilkis 082 536 5961 for Bookings	Grade 3, +- 8km
Sun 15 June	Hilton	Philip Collyer	
Long Weekend	Meet at 8:00 at the Hilton High School Gate; R40pp. Hike in the Hilton Conservancy up to the 3 waterfalls and back down. Elevation 400-meter climb. Fitness required.	082 417 0204	Grade 4; +/-8 km
Sat 21 June	Shongweni/ Wekeweke stream	Rob Krogh	
	Meet Shongweni Club at 13:45, R10 per car for the car guard and R30p/p for the club. A circular loop from the Shongweni Club to the Wekeweke stream. Walking upstream and then returning to the Club over the ridge below Jenny Dean Wild Flowers.	0833805278	Grade 3 +-11km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 22 June	Mount Moreland – Part 2	Rani Reddy	
	This is a continuation of the exploration from last year of the EMBA trails. Come prepared for an adventure. BYO drinks & snacks to celebrate afterwards. R30 donation to the Barn Swallow site. More Info. To follow	082 086 5685	Grade 2-3 ±12-14km
Sat 28 June	Iphithi Nature Reserve	Tina Regnard	
	Meet and park at Gillitts Shopping Centre, 1 Clifton Rd, Gillitts at 13:45; donation 20pp. We will make our way through the leafy suburb of Gillitts toward Ashley Park, then on to explore the paths in Iphithi Nature Reserve, which boasts 12ha of reclaimed wet-land Enjoy a refreshment stop next to the dam before heading back. Drinks afterward at Hayways.	0832896276	Grade2, 8km
Sun 29 June	Old Baldy (Isithumba)	Abdullah Dada	Grade 4 +-10km
	Scenic hike through the Isithumba village, along the Umgeni River followed by a steep climb up Old Baldy(400m alt) to some spectacular views of the valley.Path is steep and some scrambling is required. Meet at Isithumba Adventure Park at 8am. Fee may apply.	084 478 6779	