


Saturday night we gathered in the boma for a braai under a full moon, but the clouds gradually started gathering and blotted out the stars. Jeanette and Lois produced some unusual treats by way of a marshmallow fondue which we all thoroughly enjoyed – thanks Werner for the generous supply of chocolate sauce! Unfortunately, not long after that it started drizzling slightly and this was sufficient to chase us all to bed for an early night.

We woke on Sunday morning to a persistent drizzle which resulted in Brian announcing there would be no hike as it would be far too slippery in the wet, and not very pleasant. We kept hoping that the sun would somehow break through, but no such luck and we eventually had to pack up wet tents and head for home. Nonetheless - an enjoyable weekend with lots of laughter.

Thanks to authors for contributions. If you have any tales to tell, we would love to hear about them. If you do not see your article in the magazine following provision of copy, please do not despair or become despondent. It will be used in the next edition. Please send copy to the editor at PO Box 888 Mount Edgecombe or e mail to Jferguson@canegrowers.co.za (text only please)



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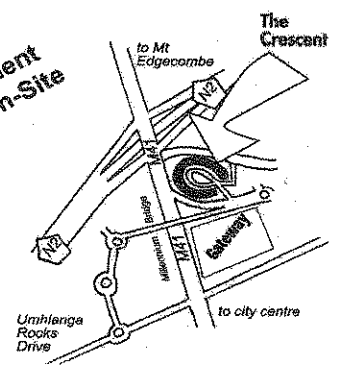
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This is the official newsletter of the Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club. Contributions are welcome, but the right to edit any contribution is reserved. The opinions expressed in any published article or insert do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club.



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FOUNDED 1932

OCTOBER– DECEMBER 2005

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Christmas Party

Book Early

Date & Time Saturday 26 November 2005 18:30
Venue Northlands Bowling Club Margaret Maytom Ave Durban North
Cost R65 per person.

Cash bar at club prices, glasses provided. Good quality plastic plates and metal cutlery will be provided. Please feel free to BYO cutlery etc if preferred. Lamb on the spit with salads and pudding. Vegetarian option vegetable lasagne. Secure parking with car guard. We are looking for a good DJ. Please phone Biff with any ideas. Need to confirm numbers by 1 November 2005. Please contact Mike on 312 4923 (a/h) or 082 822 3106. You can pay by cash before 1 November 2005 or deposit direct into Ramblers account. Friends are welcome but this is essentially for members of Ramblers and partners as the Club is sponsoring the cost of the venue & DJ.

From the Chair

Hello fellow Ramblers

Thanks to all for the brilliant support for the Sarie Marais boat cruise. Thanks too to Mike for his
his function.

Sunday hikes has been good. Please remember to always check for the
find you – and holler if you are getting left behind.

Reminder - the GPS system is available for use. Contact Jon (details on cover) should you wish to
make use of this nifty gadget.

Happy hiking
Biff Maggs, Chairman

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Members

Welcome to new members : Heidi Bussy, Paddy Shuker, Andrew Yardley, Denise Straub and Kobie
Duwe. . We look forward to hiking with you.

Resignations

Many of you will know long time Rambler, Maeve Kay. Maeve has relocated to Prince Albert in
the Western Cape and sends you this farewell letter :

“Dear Ramblers,

Please accept my resignation. I miss you all. Thank you for a wonderful time of about 14 years
tramping on God's beautiful earth. Your company and the leaders were well appreciated. So much
so, that my life has become the way of a hiker or pilgrim – all the different stories we can tell! My
story is I've settled in the Karoo with my husband Nic and my dog Chelsea. The dog is my daily
hiking companion, as we have no formal hiking club here. We go into a miniature-hiking world.
Koppies to climb, boulders to hop on, thorn trees for shade, rainwater now and again for my dog.
The odd klip springer, plenty of tortoises, lizards - large and small, the odd puffadder, hares and
rats. Bird sounds, flat land, with rocks and stones to manoeuvre through. I've fallen once! Flat
stone slabs to walk on often near a dry riverbed. To learn about the special Karoo bossies and
growth which turns green over night when we have rain. The wind changes all the time. Walking
in a certain area on the farm's koppie, one is secluded from the town and buildings. You find
yourself surrounded by mountains and their foothills and gentle Karoo mounds, the open space and
no one in sight. It's sunny right now with the wind singing. I'm having my break sitting on a stone
next to a little stream. God bless and keep you all. Maeve Kay.

PS. I forgot to mention the delicate Karoo wild flowers of yellows, pinks, purple, mauves –
I passed a patch of wild irises – purple and yellow.” 30 May 2005.

Best wishes to Maeve, Nic and Chelsea for a happy time in the Karoo. Should anybody wish to
contact Maeve, her address is P O Box 177, Prince Albert, 6930 Western Cape.

Condolences

To fellow Ramblers

George Archibald on the passing of his mum
Dieter Bekker on the passing of his wife

Thanks all for coming and contributing to a most enjoyable evening - and a big thank you to Mike
Serrurier for arranging the evening , collecting the money and keeping the ship afloat.

Anybody lost a little striped red and grey beanie – contact Biff.

Weekend Reviews

Umlalazi - Mtunzini : 22-24 July

Only 13 hikers took advantage of this weekend, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The weather
was perfect, the camp grounds as beautiful as ever with the little red duikers in attendance during
the day and the bush-babies calling at night.

Some of us went down to the beach on Friday night to watch the full moon rise over the sea,
although it wasn't as spectacular as we'd hoped due to the haze on the horizon.

On Saturday morning we set off with Steve leading through the beautiful coastal bush and then
made our way through the mangroves alongside the river. The hundreds of tiny crabs scampering
for cover as we approached along the sand fascinated us. Then came the l-o-n-g walk along the
beach till we persuaded Steve we needed a break, after which we made our way over the dunes and
walked along the shady road to the car park. From there Steve led us back into the coastal bush
where we stopped for lunch and rested a while, before completing the loop through the forest.

Saturday night we all got together for a braai, and later some of us once again wondered down to
the beach to await the moon.

On Sunday we headed for the Raffia Palm forest but this time were disappointed as there was no
sign of the Palm Nut Vulture. We did however, spot a black-breasted snake eagle soaring above the
forest.

We were sad to hear of the possibility of losing this campsite to development, as it is truly a lovely
place to camp, with beautiful natural bush and wildlife. It would be a great pity if we were deprived
of this venue for future weekend hikes. Thanks Steve for a great weekend.

Oribi : 19-21 August

The dreaded flu-lurgy resulted in man-down on Friday and Simone phoned to say that Roger was
really quite sick and couldn't possibly make the weekend. So sorry, Roger, we missed having you
both along! The remaining 11 had a superb hike on Saturday. It really is a beautiful part of the
world with incredible scenery. Brian led us down the road from camp and then we took a path off
to the left and headed down the gorge to cross the river before meeting up with the Hoopoe Falls
Trail. From there we made our way along the river to the one-way bridge back across the river.
Then came the long haul up to the top of the gorge – we wished Roger was there with his pedometer
to tell us how many steps we took! Somehow Brian managed to coax us up to the top to enjoy the
stunning views, before stopping for lunch above Samango Falls. After resting for a while we
continued our way along the top of the gorge on the Mziki trail, which took us back to camp in the
early afternoon.

Sun 18 Dec	Longshadows. Fay's favourite walk. Meet at Pinetown at 08:00 if you need a lift. Followed by bring and braai. R10 - only if you need a lift.	Fay Fenn	082 530 3758
24 Dec.	No Hike. Happy Christmas to all our Walkers.		
Sun 25 Dec	Christmas Day		
31 Dec	Springside Nature Reserve.** Short walk, followed by quick New Year's drink at reserve. Note late start 14:45. R5 donation to conservancy.	Trevor	765 5133

Weekend & Trails Programme : October- December 2005

NOTE: Philip Gatenby will be co-ordinating transport arrangements for weekend away for those wishing to share lifts or travel in convoy. Telephone 031 201 3592

Date	Description	Leader	Tel
October 14-16	Eagle View. New venue in the Wartburg area. Camping at R35 per person per night. Also large fully equipped farmhouse with 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at R85 pp pn, linen included. Full day hike to "the Crack" on Sat - absolutely stunning views. Short hike on Sunday. Contact Merle for bookings	Werner Van slembrouck	031-7672969 (H) 0829276926 Merle 032-4394317 (B) 031-5613038 (H) 0824540521
November 11-13	Monks Cowl. Champagne Castle area. Day walks from Parks Board campsite. Rate applicable for two-night weekend is R38.50 per person per night + R15 for electricity. Booking for 1 night only is R55 + R15 for electricity. Contact Merle for bookings by 30 October	Brian O'Connell	0729958585 Merle 032-4394317 (B) 031-5613038 (H) 0824540521
No weekend away in December			

AND, TALES OF TRAILS

Hey ho and up she rises Sarie Marais

A cheery and festive bunch boarded the creaking Sarie Marais at 18:30. The gentle swell of the water lapped around the boat as we weighed anchor at 17:00 sharp.

As the boat chugged around the harbour, we took in the sights and evening lights of Durban, which is a totally different landscape to daytime. The bring and share array of food was delicious - ask Trevor Thompson for his chicken kebabs with a satay sauce recipe.

Although we took our own CD's, the skipper also had a very good selection and we danced away and sang along to well known songs. Then we were in for a surprise - totally unexpected on a harbour cruise!!! Renee and Heidi took it upon themselves to teach the crew how to **Belly Dance**!!! Yvonne and her daughter were inexhaustible in their efforts. Our male members were very welcoming towards the visitors!

MEMBERS' NOTICES

Monthly Get Togethers

21 October Station Masters Arms, old Swan and Rail, Inanda Road
November No social as we will be organising the Christmas Party
9 December Simply Fish, 219 Florida Rd.

For further information on monthly get togethers contact Mike on 082 822 3106 or office 563 5871.

2 October Walking in Memphis, Barnyard Theatre. R85 double ticket. 14:00 Contact Denise 462 7952

Leadership Course

Mountain Backpackers are running a leadership course from 30 Sept - 2 October 2005. Cost of the course is R352 per person inclusive of food, accommodation in rustic cabins, all equipment and entry to Shongweni reserve. The objectives of the course, which will be led by Eric Penham, are to:

- understand and apply leadership style and principles
- plan and prepare the equipment food and clothing for a mountain trip
- plan a route and navigate successfully by map and compass
- recognise mountain weather patterns and know what to do in adverse conditions
- lead safely in difficult terrain and to cross rivers
- deal effectively with accidents, injury or sickness in the mountains including how to cope in an emergency.

For further details contact Lawrence Bates 031 266 3970.

Climb every mountain

Debra Bouwer of Nomadic Adventures is to give a free talk to Ramblers on hiking up Mt. Kilimanjaro and on the Inca Trail in South America. This promises to be a very interesting and informative presentation and members are encouraged to attend. Who knows - we may get enough enthusiasm going to organise a party to tackle Mt Kilimanjaro !!!

RSVP to Llewellyn on 082 452 2614.

Venue : Westville North Library (Bring your own drinks and Club will provide snacks).

Date : Thurs 27 October 2005

Time : 7.30 pm.

Come and live your dreams !!

NEW

Wednesday Walks

Colin Turner and Philip Gatenby are organising a morning hike every other Wednesday starting 31 August 2005. No set programme. 09:00 - 12:00 followed by picnic and chat. All welcome. Phone Colin on 708 3517 or Philip on 201 3592 before the day to find out details and meeting place.

For Sale and Hire

Sale of 35mm slide projector - R100. Magazines to hold 320 slides - R20.

Hire of backpacks at R5/day and R50 deposit. Contact Philip Gatenby on 031 201 3592.

Communication

Members are requested to let Derek Pretorius have their e mail addresses. This will be used in the event that any urgent messages need to be sent out. Derek's e mail is sandrajp@eject.co.za

General

- Each member should keep medical aid and emergency contact details in their backpacks.
- Note that the hikes are organised in various areas according to the season. Hence many hikes are planned in the Kloof area during summer as this area offers shadier hikes.
- Hikers may only hike on official paths in Palmiet Reserve and not in Wilderness area.
- Change of contact details to be advised to Derek Pretorius who is maintaining the Club's membership data base. Telephone 765 5029.
- If possible, please pay monies due to the Club either by cheque, bank transfer or internet banking. This will keep bank charges to the minimum. Cash deposits are expensive. Remember to mark the deposit slip with your name and item for which you are paying and post copy of slip to the Treasurer. See front cover for banking details.

HIKING PROGRAMME : OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2005

Saturday Hikes

Hikers may meet at Musgrave Park Medical Centre before 13:30, or earlier if indicated in the programme, to travel in convoy or to share transport to the start of the hike. Please get to starting point by 13:45 in order for hike to begin on time. A cost of R8.00 for transport is payable to the relevant driver. Hikes marked ** are suitable for beginners. Hikes marked # involve an entrance fee into the nature reserve. Visitors are to pay R4.00 to the Club. Bring the correct amount of money as change is not always available. For directions to the starting point, please phone one of the organisers between 12:00 and 12:45 on the day. Children are welcome but check suitability of hike with leader. Please bring at least 1 litre of water, a snack for half time and a hat.

Sunday Hikes (Full Day)

Please try to get to the meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier so that fees can be collected and lifts arranged timeously. Bring the correct amount of money as change may not be available. Please bring at least 2 litres of water, lunch and a hat. Add R5 for visitors. Sunday hikers are welcome to join Saturday hikes and the following social.

Meeting Places Durban Leave 07:30 Musgrave Park, Cnr Berea & Musgrave Roads
Pinetown Leave 08:00 Union Main Centre, Old Main Road

If there is a change to the meeting time this will be noted in the hiking schedule below.

IMPORTANT : if you need a lift from the meeting place, contact the hike leader or one of the hike organisers to ensure that somebody will be there.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
1 Oct	Umhlanga Lagoon**. Meet opposite Cabana Beach Hotel. Walk through bush to lagoon and return along beach. Bring and braai afterwards at Merle's.	Merle	561 3038
Sun 2 Oct	No hike. See Barnyard social		
8 Oct	Longshadows and Porcupine Trail**. Krantzklouf Nature Reserve. R10 entry fee. Drinkers/supper at Tina's Hotel (now Green Man).	Ann	767 1027

Sun 9 Oct	Inanda Dam. Medium hike, great views of dam. Cost R15	Steve Watson	312 7108
15 Oct away w/e	Stainbank Nature Reserve**. Meet at reserve entrance. R10 entrance. BYO Sundowners.	Clive	765 5051
Sun 16 Oct	Butler's Farm. Walk Old Butler's Farm and the Crestholme forest. Cost R10	Alison Steward	082 926 4180
22 Oct	Werner's Magical Mystery Tour. Meet at Hundry Duck, Gillitts. Bring and braai at Werner's afterwards.	Werner	767 2969
Sun 23 Oct	Wingfield. Mid Illovo area. Hike to new nature reserve, great views. Down into scenic gorge, along river & gently up & out after lunch. Leave Musgrave & Pinetown simultaneously 08:00. Meet Kingsburgh turn off on Southern freeway - Exit 133, R603 08:30. Cost R35 includes donation to reserve.	Neville Walmsley	309 2298
29 Oct	Thornridge Farm. Meet 13:30 at Assagay Hotel. R5 donation to conservancy. Bring and braai at farm.	Trevor	765 5133
Sun 30 Oct	Stainbank Nature Reserve. Relaxing hike & guided tour of Coedmore Castle. R25 for tour includes tea and scones. Minimum of 10 people needed for tour. Bring and braai. Entrance fee to reserve R10	Adele Labuschagne	462 3078
5 Nov	Kloof Beacon. Meet at car park. R10 entry fee. BYO sundowners.	Brian	072 995 6565
Sun 6 Nov	Shongweni/Summerveld Circuit. Moderate hike through sugar cane and grasslands with a steep climb to Summerveld. Cost R15	Dieter Becker	462 7445
12 Nov Away w/end	New Germany Nature Reserve**. Meet car park. Drinks/supper at Black Forest Inn, Pinetown.	Cedric	702 4905
Sun 13 Nov	Deville Wood Circuit. Waterfalls, tunnels - what more could you want? Guest leader. Cost R15	Adrian Rowe	764 4721
19 Nov	Umbilo Moss Trail. Meet at old Umbilo drive-in. BYO sundowners.	Philip	201 3592
Sun 20 Nov	Nwabe. Medium hike with good views overlooking Mlazi river. Cost R15	Steve Watson	082 443 4155
26 Nov	Paradise Valley Nature Reserve**. Meet at reserve entrance. Entry Fee R10. Followed by Christmas party at Northlands Bowling Club.	Dennis	083 320 4951
Sun 27 Nov	No hike. R & R after Christmas Party.		
3 Dec	Bartlett Estate. Meet 13:30 at Assagay Hotel. R5 donation to conservancy. Bring and braai at farm.	Trevor	765 5133
Sun 4 Dec	Hornet's Krantz. Explore the heights of the Monteseel area, moderate hike with a couple of decent climbs. Lunch at Inchanga station. Cost R20.	Dieter Becker	462 7445
10 Dec	Roosfontein Nature Reserve **. Meet at entrance to Westville Prison. Drinks/supper at Waxy O'Connors.	Werner	767 2969
Sun 11 Dec	Mushroom Meander. You don't have to be told at school that there is not much room for error as Brian navigates around the Clifton tower. Cost R15	Brian O'Connell	072 995 6565
17 Dec	Mpiti Falls. Krantzklouf Nature Reserve.** Meet at reserve car park. BYO sundowners. R10 entry fee.	Clive	765 5051