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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JANUARY – MARCH 2007

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e Mail
Chairman	VACANT		
Secretary	Ingrid D'eathe	262 3753	083 789 3753
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	312 1503	082 900 6965 biff@eastcoast.co.za
Sun Hike Organiser	Jon Stevens		082 459 1522 Jon.Stevens@bcx.co.za
Sat Hike Organiser	Jean Elliot	209 2828	083 227 0738
Trails/ Organiser	Sharon Prowse	701 2688	082 654 3400
Publicity Organiser	Jenny Hewitt	303 3258	084 952 0622 jennysa@telkomsa.net
Magazine Editor	TBA		
Social Organiser	Mike Serrurier	312 4923	082 822 3106 mikeser@mweb.co.za

Hike Leaders : If you are booked to lead a hike, you are expected to arrive at the start regardless of the weather. This is in case hikers arrive and a decision needs to be taken whether or not to continue with the hike as scheduled. If you cannot make it, you must nominate someone to go to the starting point. Thanks

Details of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting appear inside this magazine. An urgent appeal is made to members to consider serving on the Committee. Positions vacant Chairman, Publicity Organiser and Weekend Organiser.

New Year's Eve. If anybody is interested in getting together and partying at the German Club please contact Mike Surrurier at the above number.

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Members

Welcome to new members : Claude Poole, Monica and Peter Gibson, Norma Cassells, the Pollard family, Irene le Tourneur. We look forward to hiking with you.

Well wishes to ..

Mick McConnell who is unwell. Mick was a stalwart Rambler for many years and well loved by all. Ken Sclanders. We look forward to soon seeing your cheerful face on the hikes.

75th Anniversary Celebration – 19 May 2007

Please diarise now. To celebrate Ramblers' 75 anniversary, there will be a morning hike followed by a lunchtime braai at the Springside Nature Reserve in Hillcrest. We would like as many members and past members to attend. Transport can be arranged for those who are unable to get to the venue. The Club will provide meat, braai fires and rolls. Members are welcome to provide their own refreshments and bring and share salads. Contact details etc will appear in the next magazine. In the meantime, put this in your diary and let's make this a memorable day.

Christmas Day Hike

Philip Gatenby has offered to lead a Christmas day hike that will take place in the Palmiet Nature Reserve. Bring and share lunch. Please phone Philip for further details 2013592

Monthly Get Togethers

Meet at 19:00

Contact Mike on 082 822 3106

26 January	Simply Fish	219 Florida Road
23 February	Charlie Crofts	Wilson's Wharf
30 March	Royal Natal Yacht Club	Esplanade

NOTE **It is accepted practise to tip 10% of the bill to the person waiter. Serving a big table like Ramblers is not an easy job.**

Wednesday Walks

Colin Turner and Philip Gatenby organise a morning hike every other Wednesday. All welcome. Phone Colin on 708 3517 or Philip on 201 3592 before the day to find out details and meeting place.

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 : JANUARY– MARCH 2007

Saturday Hikes

Hikers may meet at Musgrave Park Medical Centre before 13:30 sharp, 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
6 Jan	Summerveld Conservancy. Cane/grassland. A variation on Colin's previous walk. Meet at 13:45 at Assagay Hotel entrance. Optional drinks/supper at Assagay Hotel.	Colin	031 708 3517
7 Jan	Virginia/Beachwood. Starting from Jon's house thru the cemetery, coastal forest & the beach. Drinks at Jon's House. Meet at 8.30. BYO. R0	Jon Stevens	0824591522
13 Jan	New Germany Nature Reserve. Grass/forest reserve, some game viewing and walk in aviary. Meet at 13:45 in reserve car park, off Otto Volek Rd, R5 donation. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
14 Jan	Rest weekend.		
20 Jan	Mpiti Nature Reserve. Walk through streets of Gillitts to nature reserve – pretty, lots of butterflies. Meet at 13:45 at Acapulco, Gillitts. Bring & braai at Werner & Lois. Easy	Lois	031 767 2969
21 Jan	Giba Heights & Woods. Moderate to strenuous, dizzy heights, distant views, indigenous forest & waterfalls. A steep descent & after lunch a steep climb (to be consistent). R10	Dieter	462 7445
27 Jan	Stainbank Nature Reserve. Shady walk with game viewing. Meet at 13:45 at reserve car park. R10 entry. Bring & braai at Herbie & Gail. Easy	Errol	031 469 1189
28 Jan	Inanda Dam. Medium hike with great views of the dam.** To make this different and fresh we will meet in Pinetown at 5 am for an early start **. R15	Steve Watson	3127108
3 Feb	Clifton Watch Tower. Fairly steep climb to stunning views. Meet 13:45 at Assagay Hotel entrance. Optional drinks/supper at Assagay Hotel. Moderate to stiff	Dennis	083 320 4951
4 Feb	Rest weekend.		



10 Feb	Kloof Longshadow. Shady walk along the river. Meet 13:45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. Bring & braai at Dennis & Kim. Easy	Ann	031 767 1027
11 Feb	Inkonka Meander. Kloof gorge area. Medium hike. Entrance R10.00 Petrol R10.00	Brian O'Connell	072 995 6565
17 Feb	Roosfontein Nature Reserve. Grasslands walk to river. Meet 13:45 at entrance to Westville prison. Optional drinks/supper at Firkins, Pavillion. Mod	Werner	031 767 2969
18 Feb	Virginia-Umhlanga Ramble. Something different for a hot summer's day. Start the hike as the sun rises. Low tide to Umhlanga. Start Virginia airport at 6.00. Bring breakfast. We'll be back to the airport before lunch.	Glenys	'0833752252
24 Feb	Brian's Meander. Kloof Gorge downriver. Meet 13:45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. BYO sundowners.	Brian	072 995 6565
25 Feb	Vernon Crookes Reserve Umzinto: A restful hike in this lovely reserve. Leave Durban and Pinetown at 8:00, meet at exit 104 N2 (Umzinto & ParkRynie turn off) at 8:45. R10 entrance fee to reserve. R30	Dieter Becker	'4627445
3 Mar	Springside Nature Reserve/Emberton. Circular grasslands & forest walk. Meet 13:45 at reserve car park. Bring & braai at reserve. R5 donation to conservancy.	Trevor	031 765 5133
4 Mar	Wingfield, mid-Illovo area. This is a new route in this lovely area. Last time we hiked down into a scenic gorge, along the river & gently up & out after lunch, what we'll do this time I don't know. Leave Musgrave & Pinetown simultaneously at 8am. Meet Kingsburgh turn-off on southern freeway - Exit 133, R603 - 8.30am. Cost: R40 (includes donation to reserve).	Neville	3092298
10 Mar	Kloof Mpiti Falls. Shady uphill walk to top of waterfall. Meet 13:45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. Bring & braai at Dennis & Kim. Easy to moderate.	Ann	031 767 1027
11 Mar	Week end away – no hike		
17 Mar	Umbilo D'Moss. Walk through parklands alongside river. Meet 13:45 at old Umbilo Drive-in. BYO at park afterwards. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
18 Mar	** New** Umhloti / Sibaya. A new walk ranging over the area between Sibaya and the Umhloti River - moderate. Leave Pinetown & Durban at 8am to meet in Umhloti at the parking lot by the sea across the road from the Bush Tavern at 8.45. R15	Glenys	0833752252
24 Mar	Alverstone Nature Reserve. Grassland walk up hill and down dale, some game viewing. Meet 13:45 at Assagay Hotel. Bring & braai at boma in reserve. R10 entry fee. Moderate	Trevor	031 765 5133
25 March	To be announced		
31 March	Virginia Meander. Beach and suburb walk. Meet 13:45 at Virginia airport. Drinks at Virginia airport club bar. Moderate.	Glenys	031 564 7632

Weekend & Trails Programme : January - March 2007

Please contact the name of the "Contact Person" indicated below to confirm bookings of weekends before depositing the money in the bank to ensure your space is reserved.

Please liaise with Sharyn if you wish to share lifts or co-ordinate transport for weekends away.

Date	Description	Leader	Tel
9-10 March	L'Abri Outdoor Centre. Two three-bedroomed cottages in beautiful indigenous forest in the New Hanover area. Medium shady hikes planned. R100/p.p.n – self catering. Optional camping is also available.	Dennis 083 320 4951	Sharyn 031 7012688 082 654 3400
6-9 April	Keep the Easter weekend free. Camping at Injasuthi. R55/p.p.n. Details in next mag.		
27 – 1 May	Camping at Mahai. R65/p.p.n Details in next mag.		

AND, TALES OF TRAILS

Christmas Party – 2 December 2006

64 jolly Ramblers gathered at the Northlands Bowling Club. Whilst it was a wet but hot night, we managed to rock till we dropped to the great disco sounds provided by Julian's Disco (Yvonne's grandson) and feasted grandly on the gastronomical delights provided by Thyme Out.

Grahame and Christine came all the way down from Underberg – great to see them. A lot of people came from Hillcrest and Gillits – well done and Roy and Rose took a tour of Durban North on their way to the party!

Thanks to Mike and Lisa for organising the party and decorating the venue. Thanks to Jon Stevens for helping with table layout and opening the wine. Thanks to all who supported and attended.

Haven Rock Weekend

Despite being very wet on Saturday, an enthusiastic group of 9 hikers set out to explore the game farm. They endured rain on and off all day, but stoically completed the entire 15 km hike. As the sarmies were taken out at lunchtime, the heavens opened. Sunday brought a beautiful, sunny hike, with only 4 takers as the boots were wet and heavy. The thoughtful leader, George had arranged for water to be strategically placed along the way. We were blessed to see the giraffe herd up close, as they are comfortable with George whistling to them. We were also lucky to see all the available wildlife. The Haven Rock gardens had been beautifully manicured and it is an ideal place to relax. Thanks George for your hospitality.

And another tale of Haven Rock from Sandra Pretorius

This was the first time Derek and I had visited George Archibald's farm at Havenrock which is situated close to Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve on the south coast road.

The weather on Friday was glorious and the view from the stoep was breathtaking watching the giraffe, wildebeest, impala etc. while sipping our sundowners. There were only 6 of us Ramblers, on Friday night so we all did our own thing in the kitchen, George joined us and related a few stories of his hiking trips in Africa and beyond. On Saturday morning much to our amazement, Kim and Dennis arrived in time from Durban for the walk. When we set off the weather was dry but a few kms. into the walk it started to drizzle and got steadily worse. The scenery was lovely and we managed to see a small herd of impala who soon scampered off as we approached. For our morning tea stop, we managed to get some shelter under a big tree

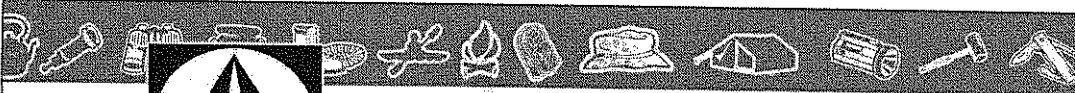
so we were relatively dry. George then pointed out a distant peak that he told us would be our lunchtime resting spot. He was climbing Mt. Kenya the following week and this was to be a good training hike for him. Wet and bedraggled we trudged on, the legs getting heavier with all the mud sticking to the boots. Much to our amusement, Kim's old boots of 20 years finally gave up the ghost and the soles detached themselves from the rest of the boot.


It's now lunchtime and still pouring rain. Shelter was not to be had and we landed up eating soggy sandwiches, yuck. In spite of the rain we could still crack jokes and admire the beautiful veld flowers. George had gone to a lot of trouble for this hike and the previous day had hiked up the hill and deposited 2 large containers of water, needless to say these were not required. We all dreaded the last 3 kms of the walk back to the farm but good old George had once again planned ahead and his bakkie was waiting for us on the last leg of our walk. It was a toss up who would sit at the front with George but I informed everyone that as Pat and I were the oldest ladies we would have that privilege. Bad luck for the guys and Kim at the back of the bakkie. On arriving back everyone made a bee-line for the one and only shower but fortunately there was plenty of hot water to go around. We enjoyed a lovely braai that night and once we had all thawed out we all agreed we had had a super day.

Sunday saw only 3 rambles go for a short walk with George, everyone else's boots were still sopping from the day before so we all enjoyed a late breakfast.

Thanks once again, George for being a super host and we look forward to coming back to Havenrock next year.

If your nose runs and your feet smell when you are hiking, then you must be walking upside down.
(Cedric Biggs)





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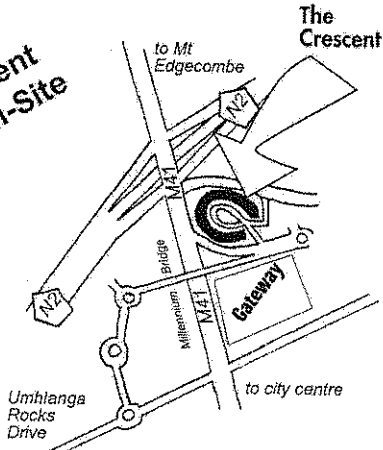

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