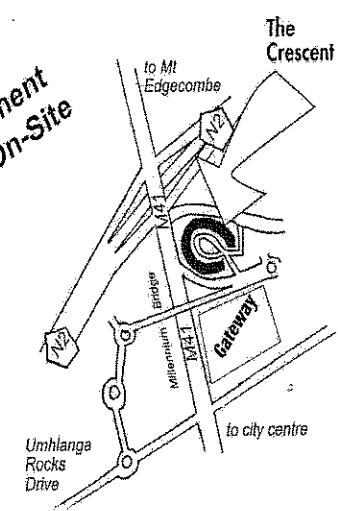


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This is the official newsletter of the Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club. Contributions are very welcome, but the right to edit any contribution is reserved.

If you have any tales to tell, we would love to hear about them. Please e-mail your copy to the Editor, Jenny, at jennysa@telkomsa.net.



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2007

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Social Organiser	Mike Serrurier	312 4923	082 822 3106 mikeser@mweb.co.za
Ordinary Member	Ingrid D'eathe	262 3753	083 789 3753

New Members

The Chairman and Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to Colin and Jillian Horwarth, Sandy Miles, David Burton, Lynn Carter and Patricia Gardner-White. May you have many happy years of hiking with Durban Ramblers.

Change of Address/E-Mail Address

Please send your e-mail address and/or change of contact details to Biff Maggs, who maintains the Club's database, at biff@eastcoast.co.za.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still outstanding subscriptions so we have included printed statements in the magazine for those members who, according to our records, have not paid their annual subscription yet. If your magazine has a statement and you do not wish to renew your membership, or if you have already paid your subscription, please contact the Treasurer, Biff Maggs, on 0829006965 or send an e-mail at biff@eastcoast.co.za.

In order to keep bank charges to the minimum, it would be appreciated if you could you pay your subs or weekend fees either by cheque, bank transfer or internet banking. (See front cover for banking details). Please to mark the deposit slip with your name and item for which you are paying.

SOCIAL CALENDAR	
Organiser – Mike Serrurier - 082 822 3106	
Thursday 19th July	Please join us for a slide show at the German Club, Barham Rd, Westville at 7pm for 7.30pm.. As one of the 75th Anniversary events, Philip Gatenby will be taking us through highlights from 40 years of rambling. Light meals and drinks are available. Phone Philip 031 2013592
27 July	Cockle Jacks - Meet at 7.00 pm
31 August	Thatchers – Meet at 7.00 pm
28th September	German Club at 7.00 pm

HIKING PROGRAMME – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 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. Please note that change is not always available.
- For directions to the starting point, please phone the organiser between 12:00 and 12:45 on the day of the hike.
- 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.
- Visitor's fee is R4.

Sunday Hikes (Full Day)

- 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.
- Visitors' fee is R5.
- **Meeting Place** : Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown to depart at 8.00 am., If there is a change to the meeting time or venue this will be noted in the hiking schedule below.

The "billy" was an essential item on the hikes and tea was brewed during the day, as often the hikes ended after dark. Much fun was had at lunch spots as hikers frolicked in the rivers and under waterfalls. Easter camping trips were popular, with members rising very early to catch the 3.10am train to Inchanga then walking into the Valley of a Thousand Hills whilst the camping gear was carried there by ox wagon.

Annual features were the overnight walk from Pietermaritzburg to Durban – the first man home in 13.5 hours - and an amble from Drummond to Durban!

After the war the club members hired a lorry to ferry them to the start of hikes and to find them at a distant end point for transport home. Songs of the day were sung as the hikers stepped it out in the heat of the day or under a tarpaulin when it rained. The club has many photographs of these outings.

Other activities undertaken down the years were the Annual Ball, Christmas parties, photographic evenings, slide shows, hiking trails, berg trips, socials, weekends away and overseas trails in France, the Pyrenees and the islands of Reunion and Corsica.

The club now hosts hikes on Saturday afternoons, alternate Wednesday mornings and all-day hikes on Sundays. Many of the hikes in the Highway area and the Valley of a Thousand Hills have been lost to hikers due to the rapid development taking place or areas becoming unsafe to walk. Much use is made of the various nature reserves, both in the Highway area and in Durban and donations have been made by the club to several of them. With a current membership of over 200 the club has a solid base of members to take it forward into the future.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
<p>The Club usually pre-books and pays deposits upfront for weekends away and social functions, such as the Christmas party.</p> <p>So that the Club does not lose any money where it commits itself by pre-paying for weekends or social functions, it is important that participating members pay their deposits before the cut-off date. This will enable the organisers to assess final numbers and make any necessary adjustments or cancellations.</p>

	instructions available from Kim. R 100 pppn.		
21 - 23 Sept	Eagle View Caravan Park- Wartburg. Electrified sites, hot showers, scullery available. Dam, river, waterfall for swimmers. Great birding. Anyone for tennis? Directions and information available from Kim. R45 pppn.	Merle 082454521	Kim 031 327 7582 082 655 3796

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS by Colleen Seath

75 years of Rambling! That is what Durban Ramblers celebrated this year. A weekend up at Glengarry at the beginning of May was a wonderful event organised by Marge Blake. It was booked out by past and present members.

A celebration dinner was held on the Saturday night. Posters with Ramblers of yester-year were hung in the hall and it was fun picking out the then young faces of many of us still rambling today. The birthday cake depicting a Rambler on green hills was very imaginative, and also good to eat!

Nearer home on the 19th of May a gathering of ramblers spanning many years (one Rambler in his nineties) took place at Springside Nature Reserve; for a morning hike and a lunchtime braai. We were blessed with a beautiful day. Colin Turner regaled us with anecdotes of early activities undertaken by the ramblers. Life has changed, so has the average age of ramblers but the love of walking in our beautiful country remains the same.

Thanks to all those who worked hard to arrange these events; and especially to Marge Blake for bringing alive old memories.

DURBAN RAMBLERS' HISTORY by Colin Turner

The Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, was inaugurated in February 1932 with 20 members. It adopted the slogan "Hike for Health" and this slogan still applies today, though to it has been added "making friendships and enjoying scenery only accessible by foot".

Hikes were undertaken on two Sundays each month, the first was on the 6 March 1932 when 20 members took the tram to the Umgeni Road terminus and hiked up the Umgeni River to the Natal Estates pump house. In those days the Natal Mercury printed a detailed report on each hike and copies of these reports are among the club's permanent records.

One such hike was from the Umbilo tram terminus across the Umbilo River, through Sea View, Coedmore and then across country to the Ngozi Falls. The return journey was down to Isipingo where some hikers caught the train and others walked back to Durban. Tram and train journeys further afield to the starting points were necessary as in those days not many members owned cars. Popular areas hiked were Pinetown, New Germany, Kloof, other Highway areas and up and down the coast.

- If it is pouring with rain, please check with the hike leader before setting out for the meeting place.
- **NB : 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.**

Wednesday Walks

Colin Turner and Philip Gatenby organise a morning hike every other Wednesday. The dates are 4 and 18 July, 1st, 15th and 29 August, 12 and 26 September. All are welcome. Please phone Colin on 708 3517 or Philip on 201 3592 before the day for details.

NB All members should keep medical aid and emergency contact details in their backpacks.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
1 July	Umgeni Bend - Hike along the Umgeni river from Nagle dam, return via a pretty valley. Fairly long but easy going. Petrol Sharing Costs R25	Steve Watson	0824434155
Wed 4 Jul	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-7083517 031- 201 3592
07 July	PALMIET NATURE RESERVE - Shady walk beside river, Meet at 13h45 at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel. BYO sundowners Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
8 July	Gwahumbe Game Reserve - Mid-illovo. Good selection of game including rhino and hippo. Hike across rolling grassland down into and along valley lined with lush riverine vegetation. Optional drinks on lodge veranda afterwards. Meet at Pinetown at 7.30. Conservation. Petrol Sharing Costs R25.	Bruce Aiken	332 9871.
14 July	Alverstone Nature Reserve - Grassland walk up hill and down dale, some game viewing. Meet at 13h45 at Assagay Hotel. Bring and braai at boma in reserve. R10 entry fee. Moderate.	Trevor	031 765 5133
15 July	Urban Jungle Ramble. Meet at Point Yacht Club at 9.00 am a hike followed by pub lunch and drinks at Royal Natal.	Denise	4627952
18 Jul	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
21 July	Kloof Mpiti Falls - Shady uphill walk to top of waterfall. Meet at 13h45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. Bring and braai at Kim and Dennis' home afterwards. Easy to moderate	Ann	031 767 1027
22 July	Hammersdale. A new hike in the Hammersdale area. Petrol Sharing Costs R20	Steve Nel	0834540569
28 July	Umbilo D'Moss : Walk through parklands alongside river. Meet at 13h45 at old Umbilo Drive-in. BYO at park afterwards. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
29 July	Uwe Road - Krantzklouf. Hike along top (panoramic views) to beacon then down into gorge and back	Bruce	031-3329871

	along exceptionally scenic section of river with big pools and lush vegetation. Meet at Pinetown at 8 a.m. or Uwe Road Parking at 8.15 a.m. Petrol sharing costs R5.		
1 Aug	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
4 Aug	Iphiti Nature Reserve - Walk through streets of Gillitts to nature reserve - pretty, lots of butterflies. Meet at 13h45 at Acapulco, Gillitts. Bring and braai at Werner and Lois' home afterwards. . Easy	Lois	031 767 2969
5 Aug	Stainbank with a twist - Eston area. Petrol Sharing Costs R30.	Steve Nel	0834540569
11 Aug	Roosfontein Nature Reserve - Grasslands walk to river. Meet at 13h45 at entrance to Westville Prison. Optional drinks / supper at "Firkens, Pavillion." Moderate	Werner	031 767 2969
12 Aug	Bartlett Estates – A new hike that extends the popular Saturday walk to a full day. R5 donation to conservancy. Petrol sharing costs R20	Jenny	0849520622
15 Aug	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
18 Aug	New Germany Nature Reserve -Grassland walk, some game viewing. Meet at 13h45" in reserve car park, off Otto Volek Rd. Optional drinks /supper at Black Forrest Inn, Pinetown. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
19 Aug	Table Mountain Moderate hike up onto the plateau of Table Mountain. See the sunken forest and other marvels. Great opportunity to drink quarts of ice cold beer at the end. Petrol sharing costs R30.	Lee D'eath	2623753
25 Aug	Thornridge Farm -Grasslands and riverine forest walk. Some uphill. Meet at 13h30 at Assagay Hotel. R10 entrance to conservancy. Bring and Braai at farm afterwards. Moderate to Stiff	Trevor	031 765 5133
26 Aug	Stainbank. Meet at Adele's house for a relaxing hike in the Stainbank Nature Reserve. Followed by a bring & braai. Entrance fee to Stainbank of R10.	Adele	4623078
29 Aug	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
1 Sept	Kloof Longshadow - Shady walk along the river. Meet at 13h45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. Bring and braai at Dennis and Kim. Easy	Ann	031 767 1027

2 Sept	Bluff Wonderland. Visit the remains of the original Cave Rock plus other interesting things. Meet at BP garage on Edwin Swales at 8. Nobody will be in Pinetown do don't go there.	Mike White	0833255348
8 Sept	Sibaya Meander - Lovely views. Meet at 13h45 at casino entrance. Park on right hand side. Drinks afterwards in casino. Moderate	Jenny	031 303 3258
9 Sept	Summerveld Conservancy. Colin knows this area like the back of his hand. This is a continuation of the previous hike - ie this is the other hand. Petrol sharing costs R10.	Colin	031-7083517
12 Sept	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
15 Sept	Lower Burman Bush -Shady walk through indigenous bush. Meet at 13h30 at Rose Garden opposite Mitchell Park. Drinks at Cackle Jacks afterwards (north past vehicle licencing office in Percy Osborne Road. Moderate	Werner	031 767 2969
16 Sept	Umlazi Meader Hike down into a lovely stretch of the Umlazi River above Shongweni dam and enjoy the abundant bird life. Binoculars are handy on this hike. Last done by Adrian Rowe. Petrol sharing costs R20.	Jon	0824591522
22 Sept	Summerveld Conservancy - Walk through beautiful grounds of the academy. Meet at 13h45 at Assagay Hotel entrance. Easy	Colin	031 708 3517
23 Sept	Hornet's Krantz: Explore the heights of the Monteseel area, medium hike with one or two decent climbs. Petrol Sharing costs R15	Dieter	4627445
26 Sept	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
29 Sept	Springside Nature Reserve : Grasslands and forest walk. Meet at 13h45 at reserve car park. Bring and braai at reserve. R5 donation to conservancy. Easy	Trevor	031 765 5133

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME – JULY – SEPTEMBER 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 Kim or Dennis if you wish to share lifts or co-ordinate transport for weekends away.
- Booking and payment must be made in advance **timeously** to secure your site.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER	Contact person:
9-11 Aug	Estcourt – private Game Reserve. No camping. Two bunk rooms, one fixed tent and one double room available, total for 12 people, self catering. Rustic! Map and	Dennis 0833204951	Kim 031 327 7582 082 655 3796