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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2007

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e-mail
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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The end of the year is rushing towards us again. The Christmas party will be upon us before we know it. So before it hits me, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on this year and to look forward to the next year.

The highlight of this year was undoubtedly the 75th Birthday celebration, which was extremely successful and enjoyed by all who attended. A very big thank you to Colin and Marge for their hard work in the organization of it.

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.

The hikes and weekends-way have all enjoyed good support, especially the Saturday afternoon hikes. Special mention must be made of the debt of gratitude that we owe to our Saturday, Sunday and Weekend/Trails hike leaders. They are, after all, the most important people in our club for without them, hikes would not happen. So, a very big thank you to all of them.

In the new year we need to enlarge the pool of leaders to relieve the load on existing leaders and to widen the selection of hikes. If you have any ideas for hikes please contact the hike organisers who will ecstatically welcome your suggestions.

We are making plans to widen the selection of activities for our members. You will see in this magazine a expedition the Cederberg, a weekend at the Cherry Festival and an advance notice about a hiking tour of the Dordogne region of France next year.

You will notice in the programme an interesting new development; we have arranged 2 joint hikes with Mountain Backpackers this quarter. We will each lead a hike and I hope that this new venture will be well supported.

The Christmas party will move this year back to the Highway area and we hope as many members as possible will attend the festivities. Come and have some fun.

Finally, this is the last magazine of the year, so enjoy the festive season, relax, put your feet up and be ready for some fun hiking next year.

Jon Stevens

New Members

The Chairman and Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to Steve and Patti Eslick, Clare Taylor, Justin De Wet, Natalie Adams, Jenni Hern and Rosemary McCullum. 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.

SOCIAL CALENDAR Organiser – Mike Serrurier - 082 822 3106	
Oct 13	Braai at Dennis/Kim's house after the Saturday hike from 5.00pm onwards. All are welcome to attend.
Nov 24	Braai at Jon Stevens' house after the Saturday hike from 5.00pm onwards. All are welcome to attend
December 8	CHRISTMAS PARTY this year will be at the Hillcrest sports club on the 8th of December at 6.30 pm. Eat, drink and be merry for R100 per person. This includes a buffet supper, complimentary cocktail on arrival and a jukebox with music for everybody. We need to know how many people are coming so all money must be in the Ramblers account by the 1st December . If you want to stay up in the Hillcrest area Kim and Dennis have kindly opening their garden to anybody who wants to camp there overnight.

14-18 Nov	CHERRY FESTIVAL AT FICKSBURG, EASTERN FREE STATE. Accommodation is bunk bed, two dorms for 10 people. Bedding supplied. Electricity, gas fridge, hotplate, kettle, toaster, table/chairs/braai area, social room, two showers (hot water) two toilets. Where: o a farm, Fleur-de-lis, 10 km outside Ficksburg. Activities- pick cherries, attend the Festival, visit Sandstone estate, boat trip on Caledon river, etc And of course hiking. The farm itself has its own koppies and dams. Farm produce and farm cheese/ homemade bread is for sale. Evening meals by arrangement. Scenic route from Durban over Oliviershoek Pass, through Golden gate, stop at Clarens about five hours. Or slightly quicker route via Harrismith Bethlehem. Cost R75 pp per night.	Colleen on 0312022279 or e-mail her at scotcoleen@telkomsa.net
May/ June 2008	Advance Notice – walking tour of the Dordogne, France in 2008. We need to gauge the interest in it so please contact Jon or Jenny if you are interested by 22 October.	Jon – 0824591522 Jenny - 0849520622

NB - In order to keep bank charges to the minimum, it would be appreciated if you could you pay your 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Club usually pre-books and pays deposits upfront for weekends away and social functions, such as the Christmas party.

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.

19 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
22 Dec	SUMMERVELD CONSERVANCY – Another variation of Colin's popular walk in the beautiful grounds of the academy. Meet at 13h45 at Assagay Hotel entrance. Drinks at Assagay Hotel afterwards.	Colin	031 708 3517
23 Dec	LONGSHADOWS. This is the annual year-end walk and bring-and-share braai hosted by Fay in her stunningly beautiful garden. It is medium walk starting from Fay's house in Everton at 8.30 am. Meet at Pinetown at 8.00 if you need a lift (R10 if you need a lift).	Fay	031-7673907
25 Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY - 12 Noon. Enjoy Christmas Day with Rambling friends and a BYO lunch at a local beauty spot. For details phone Philip	Philip	031-201 3592
29 Dec	PARADISE VALLEY NATURE RESERVE – shady walk, historical interest. Meet at 13h45 at reserve. R5 entrance fee.	Philip	031-201 3592
30 Dec	No official hike but phone John Van Zyl to see if there is sufficient demand for an unofficial hike	John	0731291928

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME – OCTOBER - DECEMBER 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
13 Oct – 21 Oct	HIKING TRIP TO THE CEDERBERG : Jon and Jenny are organising a week's hiking trip to the Cederberg staying in self catering accommodation. The trip will be a mixture of hiking and sight-seeing. Hiking trails are the Heuningvlei Trail, the Sevilla Rock Art Trail, Heiveld Arch trail, Wolfberg Cracks and Arches, and of course, the famous Maltese Cross. Excursions will be made to the Cederberg Astronomical Observatory, Stadsaal Caves and even some wine-tasting at some of the cellars in the area. Total cost is approx R2000 per person. For a detailed itinerary, contact either Jon or Jenny.	Jon – 0824591522 Jenny - 0849520622
26 – 27 Oct	Cumberland. Camping, no electricity but hot water available. Birders paradise. 18 kms outside PMB on the old Wartburg Road. Great walks. R45 pppn. Map available.	Brian - leader 072 995 6565 Contact : Kim 031 327 7582 or 082 655 3796

HIKING PROGRAMME – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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.
- 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. 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
30 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
6 Oct	GIBA GORGE – new hike. Walk through grasslands to waterfalls. Meet at Acapulco to leave at 13h30 sharp. From Durban, take exit 26 on the N3 (last off ramp before MarianHill toll plaza. Cross highway to T-junction. Meet with members from Acapulco at 13h45 sharp. Entrance fee R10. Safe parking. Drinks at pub afterwards	Lois and Werner	031 767 2969
7 Oct	CAMELOT – medium hike in the upper valley of the	Steve	0824434155

	Sterkspruit. A continuation of Mustang Mountain and Bartlett's Estate hike. We will see how they all link together. Petrol Sharing cost R20	Watson	
10 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-7083517 031- 201 3592
13 Oct	KLOOF NKONKA FALLS - Grasslands walk, lovely views. Meet at 13h45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. Bring and braai at Kim and Dennis' home afterwards. Moderate	Ann	031 767 1027
14 Oct	INKONKA MEANDER in the Kloof Gorge area. Medium hike. R10 entrance fee and R10 petrol sharing costs.	Colin	031-7083517
20 Oct	HAWAAN FOREST/UMHLANGA LAGOON - shady mangrove forest walk returning via the beach. Meet at 13h45 opposite Cabana Beach Hotel. Bring and braai afterwards at Merle's house	Merle	031 561 3038
21 Oct	UMHLOTI/SIBAYA - This walk ranges over the area between Sibaya and Umhloti River. Moderate. Meet at Umhloti parking lot by the sea across the road from the Bush Tavern at 8.45 am.	Glenys	083375225246 27952
24 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
27 Oct	GIBA GORGE - something different! Plant identification for those interested. Same travel arrangements as for 6 Oct. Entrance R10. Safe parking. Drinks/coffee at pub afterwards	Lois & Werner	031 767 2969
28 Oct	CUMBERLAND - meet up with the weekend-away folks. Hike through open savannah grassland with possibility of seeing game, then down to beautiful Umgeni River Gorge and back up again via spectacular waterfall. NB - this is a joint hike with Backpackers. Entry fee R5. Moderate hike. Petrol sharing cost is R20.	Bruce	031-3329871
3 Nov	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	084 764 9867
4 Nov	FARAWAY FARM in Eston area - an old favourite and a moderate hike. Petrol sharing cost is R35.	Steve Nel <i>Jornets</i>	0834540569 <i>no hike!</i>
7 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
10 Nov	BARN SWALLOWS AT MT MORELAND - the Barn Swallows should be at their peak viewing by now. Meet at the at Mount Moreland village green at 1.30 pm to leave by 1.45 pm. After a 2 hour walk, we will have a brief talk by Hillary Vickers on the Barn Swallows. Thereafter a braai and sundowners until the viewing of the swallows at about 6.15 pm. BYO, binoculars, chair and R10 donation to the Conservancy. Directions: Take the Umhloti	Jenny	0849520622

	Beach/Verulam turnoff from the N2 or M27. Turn left towards Verulam. After 1 km, at the white Tongaat/Hulett pillar, take the first right (D757) to Mount Moreland. After 3 kms, take the left fork and over the low water bridge then the next right and first left up the hill into Mount Moreland. Park on the village green on your right.		
18 Nov	EL OLAM TO WINGFIELD - a linear hike that links the 2 favourite hikes in the Eston area. Petrol sharing costs R35. NB - Joint hike with Backpackers	Steve Nel	0834540569
17 Nov	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
18 Nov	UMGENI NATURE RESERVE at Howick. NB - this is a Mountain Backpackers Hike. Walk on paths with good views and plenty of game. Meet at Pinetown Civic Centre car park, Crompton Street at 8.00 am. Entrance fee of R12 per person.	Peter Brazier	031 705 5645 or 083 661 3545
21 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
24 Nov	REDHILL CEMETRY/ VIRGNIA BUSH MEANDER. New hike - suburb and bush walk. Meet at Jon's house at 180 Park Road, Redhill at 13h45. Bring and braai/swim afterwards at Jon's house. Easy	Jon	0824591522
25 Nov	UMHLANGA VALLEY - Jenny will explore the Umhlanga estuary. No costumes needed if you want to swim at the mouth of the river! Meet at Breakers at Umhlanga Rocks (i.e. just outside the nature reserve parking) at 8.30 am.	Jenny	0849520622
1 Dec	ASSAGAY MEANDER - Assagay suburbs and farming area. Lovely views. Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre, bottom of Bothas Hill at 13h45. Pizzas at Papatzis afterwards. Easy	Lois	031 767 2969
2 Dec	SOROS POOLS - Steve explores the Kloof Gorge, but with a different view of a familiar area. Entrance fee of R10. Petrol sharing costs R10	Steve Watson	0824434155
5 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
8 Dec	PALMIET NATURE RESERVE - Shady walk along the river. Meet at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel at 13h45. BYO sundowners afterwards	Philip	031 201 3592
9 Dec	PIGEON VALLEY/ lunch short walk followed by lazy lunch afterwards at a venue in Davenport Road. Phone Jenny for details.	Jenny	0849520622
15 Dec	VIRGINIA BUSH NATURE RESERVE - Indigenous bush walk. Park in Kensington Drive outside the reserve. Meet at 13h45. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
16 Dec	No official hike but phone Jenny to see if there is sufficient demand for an unofficial one	Jenny	0849520622