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Black Diamond



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

JANUARY TO MARCH 2008

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Chairman	Jon Stevens		082 459 1522 Jon.Stevens@bcx.co.za
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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

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Welcome to the new year. Well, not quite the new year yet but it will be in a few days. The most important event coming up is the AGM. First, a few hikes in January to get us all fired up, and then the AGM.

The AGM will be held in February at the German club. A chance for a few beers, a few laughs and a vote.

The AGM **IS** very important. If you are not at the AGM and you don't vote, then you have no say in what you want your club to be.

As a club member it is both your right and your duty to get involved. Stand for a position on the committee. Help move the club in the direction you want it to go. We need everybody to rotate through the committee so that the burden of running the club is not left to the same old, tired people every year.

If you have done your stint, then thank you. If not then stick your hand up.

After the AGM the weather will begin to cool and we can start hiking seriously again.

Wishing you all wonderful hiking in 2008.

Jon Stevens
Chairman

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 12 February 2008 at 18h30

At the German Shamwari Club,
7 Barham Road, off Essex Terrace.

NB - Snacks will be provided.

Please support your club by attending the AGM

(and then do stay on for a social evening and a reasonably-priced meal afterwards)

Members who have rejoined

The Chairman and Committee would like to extend a warm welcome back to Erica Clark and Heidi Bussy who have rejoined the club. May you have many more 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. Her e-mail address is biff@eastcoast.co.za.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Organiser – Mike Serrurier - 082 822 3106

Feb 12	Supper/social evening at the German Shamwari Club after the AGM.
Feb 22	German Shamwari Club
7 March	Supper with Lois and Werner. Lois will be hosting an evening at her home. She will cook - all you have to do is bring your crockery, cutlery and drinks. For more info and to book please contact Lois at 031 7672969 by the 4th of March at the latest. The price will be R30 per person. You must pay Lois directly.

	arrangement for this. Contact Alta 033 7011269. Cost R120 pp. Final booking date for Accommodation is 10/01/08.		
21 st – 22 nd March	Highover Wild life Sanctuary. Camping R60.00 pppn. Bunkhouse R90.00 pppn. Chalets R150.00 pppn. Final booking date 27/03/08.	Merle 082 454 0521	Kim 031 277582 082 655 796
25 th – 27 th April	Corian's Pennington Caravan Resort. R96.00 pppn and R15.00 per site. Power available.	Merle 082 454 0521	Kim 031 75820 82 655 3796

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.

Cumberland Weekend - Biff Maggs writes : "Our Cumberland weekend was a great success. Great campsite. wonderful day hike on Saturday with Brian leading. I believe the Sunday hike was very good too. On Saturday night, we were struck by a big storm, and Roy stood with an umbrella over the braai fire and kept it alight for us to cook our food when the rain went away. Thank you Roy".

Members' News ; Congratulations to Fay Fenn for her for winning a prestigious Garden ar Competition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Club usually pre-books and pays deposits upfront for weekends away and social functions. 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.

22 Mar	PALMIET NATURE RESERVE - Shady walk along the river. Meet at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel at 13h45. BYO sundowners afterwards	Philip	031 201 3592
23 Mar	DELVILLE WOOD – waterfalls, tunnels – what more could you want? R15 petrol sharing costs	Dieter	031 4627445
26Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
29 Mar	FAREWELL TO THE BARN SWALLOWS AT MT MORELAND – View them before their return to Europe in April. Meet at the at Mt Moreland village green at 1.30 pm to start our walk at 1.45 pm. Braai, and sundowners afterwards until the viewing of the swallows at about 6.15 pm. BYO, binoculars, chair and R10 donation to the Conservancy. Directions: Take the Umhloti Beach/Verulam turnoff from the N2 or M27. Turn left towards Verulam. After 1 km, at the white Tongaat/Hulett pillar, take the 1st right (D757) to Mount Moreland. After 3 kms, take the left fork and over the low water bridge then the next right and 1st left up the hill into Mount Moreland. Park on the village green on your right.	Jenny	0849520622
30 Mar	VIRGINIA-UMHLANGA RAMBLE. Glenys again us on her beach ramble. Please note that we will meet at Virginia airport at 6.00 to leave at 6.15.	Glenys	0833752252

Please note : the hike leader may refuse to allow a member or visitor to participate in his or her hike if there are any doubts about the member or visitor's level of fitness required for the hike. It is a privilege and not a right to participate in a hike.

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME – JANUARY – MARCH 2008

- Please contact the name of the "Contact Person" below to confirm bookings for 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. NB - payments to some of the venues need to be settled in advance. Please note the cut off dates for booking and paying. No late bookings will be accepted.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER	Contact person:
25 th + 26th Jan	Sani Pass flower walk. Varied accommodation available. Phone Kim for more info. R90, R120, R140 or R150 pppn. Passports required for trip up Sani Pass in 4x4, to walk back. Own booking required for flower walk. Bookings for 4x4 open on 2 nd Jan and is popular!!!! Need to make own	Brian 072 995 6565	Kim 031 327 582 082 655 796

HIKING PROGRAMME – January to March 2008

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
2 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-7083517 031- 201 3592
5 Jan	NEW GERMANY NATURE RESERVE Grassland walk, some game viewing. Meet at reserve car park off Otto Volek Rd at 13h45. Donation to reserve. Easy	Philip	031- 201 3592
6 Jan	VIRGINIA/BEACHWOOD. It has become a tradition to start off the new year with Jon's hike, starting from his house, thru the cemetery, coastal forest and the beach followed by drinks at his House. Meet at 8.30 at 180 Park Road, Redhill. BYO.	Jon	0824591522

12 Jan	ROOSFONTEIN NATURE RESERVE – grasslands walk to river. Meet at entrance to Westville Prison at 13h45. Optional drinks/supper at Firkens, Pavillion. Moderate	Werner	031 767 2969
13 Jan	JOINT BACKPACKERS HIKE AT BYRNE – Brisk pace from Minerva Heights Farm House. Hike through grasslands, indigenous forest and plantations. Physical fitness advisable. Approx 6 hrs over rough terrain Hike B : Relaxed pace from Minerva Heights Farm house. Suitable For persons unsure of their fitness The following applies to both hikes. R10 pp donation, braai facilities Available at farmhouse. Meet at Pinetown Civic Centre car park, Crompton Street at 7h30 or at Byrne Church adjacent to the Oaks Hotel turnoff at 09h00.	Dave or Dianne Tighe	031 4649033 0846899384 0845498284
16 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-7083517 031- 201 3592
19 Jan	KLOOF LONGSHADOW - Nice shady walk along river. Meet at 13h45 at Kranskloof picnic site. R10 entrance fee. Bring and braai at Kim and Dennis' home afterwards. Moderate	Ann	031 767 1027
20 Jan	ALVERSTONE AND OTTO'S WALK. Walk thru the Alverstone Nature Reserve then explore the area below the Alverstone TV mast. Hike along Otto's walk against the face of the cliff. About 12 Km all together. Moderate. Followed by a braai at the nature reserve's boma. BYO. R10. – This is a COMBINED BACK- PACKERS HIKE. Petrol Sharing costs R10. NB – this is a good hike for Saturday hikers to join the Sunday hike	Jon	0824591522
26 Jan	SPRINGSIDE NATURE RESERVE/EMBERTON. Grasslands and forest walk. Meet at 13h45 at reserve car park. Bring and braai at reserve. R10 donation to conservancy	Trevor	083 450 7109
27 Jan	HAMMERSDALE. As you all know, this is now Steve's home territory so he might find some hills for us. R20 petrol sharing costs.	Steve Nel	0834540569
30 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
2 Feb	SIBAYA MEANDER. Lovely views. Meet at 13h45 at entrance. Park on the right hand side at the gate (facing the Casino). Drinks afterwards at the Casino	Jenny	0849520622
3 Feb	THORNRIIDGE FARM. This the quarterly recce hike. We will explore the existing Saturday hike to extend it to a full day's hike. Drinks afterwards in the boma. BYO. R20 petrol sharing costs	Jon	0824591522
9 Feb	GIBA GORGE – pretty valley with streams and waterfalls. Meet at 13h45 at the cycle track. Phone Lois for directions. Entrance R10. Safe parking.	Lois & Werner	031 767 2969

	<i>Drinks/coffee at pub afterwards</i>		
10 Feb	GIBA GORGE/SHONGWENI – New hike - Colin is still planning this hike so it will be all new and a surprise. R10 entrance fee and R15 petrol sharing costs.	Colin	031-708 3517
13 Feb	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
16 Feb	KLOOF BEACON. Climb to beacon, stunning views to Durban. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site at 13h45. R10 entry fee. Drinks at picnic site followed by bring and braai at Kim and Dennis	Philip	031-201 3592
17 Feb	Joint BACKPACKERS/RAMBLERS – still to be announced or check their website at www.mountainbackpackers.co.za		
23 Feb	PARADISE VALLEY- not the usual walk. This one takes up towards Paradise Valley Apartments. Meet at 13h45 at the entrance.	Lois & Werner	031 767 2969
24 Feb	ROOSFONTEIN. This is a full day hike thru the nature reserve and into the valley below Paradise Valley. All meet at the Firkin at the Pavilion at 8.30.	Jon	0824591522
27 Feb	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
1 Mar	BARTLETT ESTATES – walk through cane farmlands and grassland. Meet at 13h30 at Assagay Hotel. R10 donation to conservancy. Sundowners afterwards. Moderate	Trevor	084 764 9867
2 Mar	UMHLANGA-MT EDGECOME MEANDER – new hike. This is an extension of Jenny's original Umhlanga estuary hike. Lots of indigenous bush. Meet at the Greenacres Nursery, Herrward Drive at Umhlanga Rocks at 8.30 am.	Jenny	0849520622
8 Mar	IMPHITI NATURE RESERVE - suburban walk through Gillitts to reserve. Meet at Acapulco, Gillitts at 13h45. R5 donation to conservancy. Bring and braai at Lois and Werner's house afterwards. Easy	Lois	031 767 2969
9 Mar	COMBINED HIKE WITH BACKPACKERS – still to be announced or check their website at www.mountainbackpackers.co.za		
12 Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031-708 3517 031- 201 3592
15 Mar	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
16 Mar	No hike. Put your feet up. Do some chores!		