

**CAMPING
& OUTDOORS**

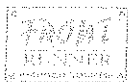
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This is the official newsletter of the Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club. Contributions are very welcome, but the right to edit is reserved. If you have any tales to tell, we would love to hear them. Please email your copy to the Editor at phenduke@durbs.com



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2008

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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Lecture time again! No, don't stop reading, it will be good for you.

Last quarter I said that hike leaders have a right to get lost. And so they have. This quarter I want to remind you that hike leaders are like the captain of a ship. They are in charge. They decide where the hike goes and who goes on it. And like a captain of a ship mutiny

will not be tolerated. We will swing you from the yardarm (or maybe keel haul you). Here are the rules if you have forgotten them

- Respect for the hike leader by all hikers. Even if a hiker feels he knows a faster/better route, he or she is not to attempt to take over the hike from the leader.
- No hiker is to get in front of the leader, even if they are fitter or faster than the hike leader.
- The group is not to split up under any circumstances
- The hike leader can refuse to take anyone on his/her hike if they are not fit enough, don't have adequate water, etc.
- Stay with the hike. If you can't keep up tell the leader and he/she will make allowances.
- No removal of plants, rocks etc
- And, it goes without saying, no litter.

Even if you think you know better, live with it. The leader needs your support.

Jon Stevens
Chairman

New members

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Club. May you all have many happy hours hiking the hills and dales with us.

- Susan Graham
- Sandra Clements
- Linda Smith
- Max Ramseier
- Jenny Goshawk.
- Carol Glass

SOCIAL CALENDAR	
Organiser - Mike Serrurier - 082 822 3106	
Sun 17 August	Meet at Point Yacht Club at 12 noon for a delicious traditional Sunday braai. Take advantage of the wonderful Durban winter weather and spend the afternoon chatting to old friends over a few drinks.
Fri 26 Sept	German Shamwari Club, Westville - meet at 7pm - put away your hiking boots, get out your glad rags and dance the night away to all the old favourites (and some new ones!). Reasonably priced meals available.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
21 Sept	ASHBURTON FARM New hike in a fantastic area for plants and wildlife. Petrol sharing cost R25.	John van Zyl	031 462 7952 073 128 1928
24 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
27 Sept	HIDDEN BLUFF Third leg of Mike's trilogy of interesting Bluff hikes. R10 entrance fee. Numbers limited to 40 made up of 30 club members and +/- 10 visitors. Meet at Dutch Club, Tara Road, Bluff at 13h45. This is a 2 to 2.5 hr hike. Book by phoning Jean on 031 209 2828 or 083 227 0738. Very easy to easy	Mike	083 325 5348
28 Sept	UMHLANGA VALLEY Jenny has perfected this fine walk that explores the Umhlanga estuary. No costumes are needed if you want to swim at the mouth of the river! Meet next to Breakers Hotel at Umhlanga Rocks, i.e. just outside the nature reserve parking at 08h30. Moderate 15 kms.	Jenny Hewitt	084 952 0622

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2008

Please contact the "Contact Person" below to confirm bookings for weekends **before** depositing the money in the bank. This will ensure your space is reserved.

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
8 th & 9 th August	Escort, Acacia Springs Farm, famous for its ostriches! Bushcamp has bunkrooms x 2 and a permanent tent for 2. Camping available. Fully equipped. R 120.00 pppn. Map available on request. Weekend not to be missed!	Dennis 083 320 4951	Kim 031 327-7582 082 655 3796

Recruitment of new members

Please will anyone recruiting new members to the club make sure that the application forms are filled in correctly. We've had forms handed in with vital bits of info missing, such as address, contact numbers etc. which makes it virtually impossible to let the new members have magazines or membership cards

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
27 Aug	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
30 Aug	KLOOF MPITI FALLS Shady, uphill walk to top of waterfall. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site at 13h45. R10 entrance fee. Bring & braai afterwards at Dennis & Kim's home Easy to moderate	Ann	031 767 1027
31 Aug	STAINBANK WITH A TWIST Hike in the Eston area. Petrol sharing R30.	Steve Nel	083 454 0569
6 Sept	UMHLANGA LAGOON Walk through shady mangrove forest returning via the beach. Meet at 13h45 opposite Cabana Beach Hotel. Bring and braai after hike at Merle's home. Easy	Merle	031 561 3038
7 Sept	INHLOSANE 'NORTH RIDGE' Walk from Watershed Farm to Everglades Hotel where refreshments will be enjoyed! No path, rugged terrain, brisk pace. Meet at Everglades Hotel, Upper Dargle at 8.30am. Please phone leader by Friday 5 July if you intend joining this hike. This is a Mountain Backpacker's hike.	Philip Grant	033 997 1817 082 417 9163
10 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
13 Sept	SIBAYA MEANDER Lovely views, both inland and seaward. Meet @ 13h45 at entrance of casino car park on the right hand side. Drinks afterwards in casino. Moderate	Jenny	084 952 0622
14 Sept	BACKPACKERS Short hike with bring and braai afterwards at farmhouse. Meet at Mugg and Bean, Pinecrest Centre at 08h00. This is a Mountain Backpacker's hike. See their website for more details: www.mountainbackpackers.co.za	Dave Honour	0829064875
20 Sept	ALVERSTONE NATURE RESERVE Grasslands walk up hill and down dale, some game viewing. Meet in front of Assagay Hotel opposite petrol station @ 13h45. R10 entrance fee. Bring & braai afterwards in boma at Reserve. Moderate	Trevor	079 525 9230

HIKING PROGRAMME – July - September 2008

Saturday Hikes

- Hikers may meet at Musgrave Park Medical Centre before 13h30 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 13h45 in order for hike to begin on time.
- For directions to the starting point, please phone the organiser between 12h00 and 12h45 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 R5.

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.
- **Meeting Place** : Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown to depart at 08h00. 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 arrange..

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Sunday hikers – please phone the hike leader before the hike to confirm you will be attending. This will prevent the hike leader travelling to a meeting place only to discover that there are no hikers, thus wasting his/her time and petrol.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
2 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
5 July	PALMIET NATURE RESERVE Shady walk beside river. Meet at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel at 13h45. R5 donation to conservancy. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
6 July	DRUMMOND Welcome to new hike leader Max Ramseier. This hike starts from Mike's house in Drummond, and meanders around Monteseel and Inchanga area. Bring and braai afterwards. Petrol sharing R20.	Max Ramseier	083 968 4434
12 July	GIBA HEIGHTS & VALLEY Grasslands and forest walk with spectacular views and waterfalls. Meet at St Helier lake at 13h45. Moderate	Philip	031 201 3592
13 July	KILLARNEY ROCKERY Moderate hike with beautiful rock formations and many aloes, which according to "Aloes of South Africa" are at their best at this time of year. Moderate 12 kms. Petrol sharing R20.	Jon Stevens	082 459 1522
16 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
19 July	ROOSFONTEIN NATURE RESERVE Grasslands walk to the river. Meet at entrance to Westville Prison at 13h45. Optional drinks/supper at Firkins, Pavilion. Moderate	Werner	031 767 2969
20 July	SALIMBA FARM A lovely hike on a farm near Richmond. Moderate 11 kms. Petrol sharing R40.	Steve Nel	083 454 0569
26 July	IPITHI NATURE RESERVE Walk through pleasant streets of Gillitts to this lovely little nature reserve with dams & great birdlife. Meet at Acapulco, Gillitts at 13h45. R5 donation to conservancy. Bring and braai afterwards at Werner & Lois's home. Easy	Lois	031 767 2969
27 July	JOINT BACKPACKERS HIKE No details available at time of going to press. Please consult Mountain Backpackers website : www.mountainbackpackers.co.za		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
30 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
2 Aug	HIGH STAKES - CATO RIDGE Open grasslands walk with pretty views. Entrance fee of R15 pp includes safe parking, tea/coffee and cake. There's also a clubhouse/pub. Meet in front of Assagay Hotel opposite petrol station at 13h30.	Werner/Lois	031 767 2969
3 Aug	SHONGWENI/SUMMERVELD CIRCUIT A hike to two dams via a different route from other hikes in this area. R15 petrol sharing.	Colin Turner	031 708 3517
9 Aug	KLOOF LONGSHADOW Shady walk along the river. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site at 13h45. R10 entrance fee. Bring & braai afterwards at Dennis & Kim's home. Easy	Ann	031 767 1027
10 Aug	CAMELOT Medium hike in the upper valley of the Sterkspruit, overlapping with sections of Bartlett's Estate hike. Moderate 13km. Petrol sharing R20.	Jon Stevens	082 459 1522
13 Aug	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
16 Aug	EMBERTON Nice circular walk to Springside Nature Reserve. Meet at Emberton driving range car park at 13h45. R10 donation to conservancy. Tea and scones at Emberton coffee shop afterwards. Easy	Trevor	079 525 9230
17 Aug	RECCY HIKE Area to be decided	John van Zyl Jon Stevens	073 128 1928 082 459 1522
23 Aug	NEW GERMANY NATURE RESERVE Grassland walk with some game viewing, walk-in aviary. Meet at reserve car park off Otto Volek Road at 13h45. R5 donation to conservancy. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592
24 Aug	KLOOF/NKUTU GORGE This hike connects the two picnic sites. Lunch at the bottom of a waterfall. Entrance fee R10. Petrol sharing R10.	Colin Turner	031 708 3517