

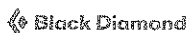
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This is the official newsletter of the Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club. Contributions are very welcome, but the right to edit is reserved. If you have any tales to tell, we would love to hear them. Please email your copy to the Editor at phenduke@durbs.com



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JANUARY – MARCH 2009

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e-mail
Chairman	Jon Stevens	-	082 459 1522 Jon.Stevens@bcx.co.za
Secretary	Lisa Raubenheimer	031 312-4923	076 174 7022 lissarau@absa.co.za
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	031 312-1503	082 900 6965 biff@eastcoast.co.za
Sun Hike Organiser	John van Zyl	031 462-7952	073 129 1928 secretary@montclairsp.co.za
Sat Hike Organiser	Jean Elliot	031 209-2828	083 227 0738
Trails Organiser	Kim Gibb	031 327-7582	082 655 3796 gibbk@ampath.co.za
Publicity	Merle Mackenzie	031 561-3038	082 454 0521 mcmacken@mweb.co.za
Social Organiser	Mike Serrurier	031 312-4923	082 822 3106 mikeser@telkomsa.net
Ordinary Member	Ingrid D'eathe	031 262-3753	083 789 3753
Magazine	Anne Thompson	-	072 791 0261 phenduke@durbs.com

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

By the time you get this magazine the festive season should be in full swing. Enjoy.

I was unable to attend the Christmas party but by all accounts it was a great success. Thanks to everybody who contributed to its organization.

Back to business - the AGM is on Tuesday the 10th of February at the German Club. A large proportion of the committee will be standing down (Biff Maggs, Jon Stevens, John Van Zyl, Mike Serrurier, Jean Elliott and Kim Gibb). For the club to continue we need your help. Don't be shy. Step forward and stand for a position. You will enjoy it.

If you want to know about what you have to do if you are on the committee please ask a current member and they will be happy to explain.

If you have got this far, thanks for reading my last ramble as Chairman.

Jon Stevens
Chairman

Heads Up

The club has booked and paid for 6 slots on the Whale Trail in August 2009. This is a "slack packer" trail where you walk only with a day pack. We will drive down in two cars and maybe take in a wine farm or two! The price for the trail only is R1250 for 5 days. Additional expenses will be petrol, food, drink and other stuff depending on the plan. If you are interested please contact Jon Stevens.

New members...

Francis Hunter – welcome, Francis, we hope you enjoy many happy hours hiking with our Club.

... and Honorary members

We are pleased to announce that Steve Watson has been a member of Durban Ramblers for 30 years and now joins the ranks of our Honorary Life Members. Well done, Steve.

AGM

As previously mentioned in the Chairman's Ramble, the AGM will be held at Westville's German Shamwari Club on 10 February 2009 at 18h30. Further on in the magazine we have included the minutes of last year's AGM, together with the agenda for the 2009 AGM.

We've also enclosed a subscription renewal form (so pay up!) and a Nomination of Committee Members form. The following portfolios will become vacant so get your pens out and let's have your nominations. Remember, to function successfully the Club needs enthusiastic and willing committee members.

- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Socials Organiser
- Sunday Hike Organiser
- Saturday Hike Organiser
- Weekend/Trails Organiser

Office	Elected	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Jon Stevens	Dennis Paxton	Ingrid D'Eathe
Secretary	Lisa Raubenheimer	Jon Stevens	Biff Maggs
Treasurer/Data base	Biff Maggs	Kim Gibb	Colin Turner
Day Hike Organiser	John van Zyl	Jon Stevens	Biff Maggs
Saturday Hike Organiser	Jean Elliott	Merle MacKenzie	Kim Gibb
Trails/Berg Organiser	Kim Gibb	Jon Stevens	Colin Turner
Socials Organiser	Mike Serrurier	Kim Gibb	Sharyn Prowse
Magazine Editor	Anne Thompson	Jon Stevens	Ingrid D'Eathe
Publicity Organiser	To be advised		
Ordinary Member	Ingrid D'Eathe	Kim Gibb	Merle MacKenzie

Appointment of Honorary Auditor:

Colin Turner was nominated auditor for 2008/2009 by Jon Stevens. This was seconded by all the club members.

In Memoriam:

The meeting remembered :- June Biggs

Honorary Life Membership:

Edward Coogan – he is a country single from Johannesburg
Gretel Hartman
Lynda Holmes – she is now living in the United Kingdom.

Club Trophy:

This was presented jointly to Colin Turner and Marge Blake for all the effort they have put into the Club over the past year.

General:

- 1) Jon mentioned the Ramblers Website where all information is available
- 2) Glenys brought to light the importance of the Hike Leaders and feels they should also be rewarded with an annual dinner. Jon agreed.
- 3) Colin stressed that hiking is dominant in the club and that Socials are secondary.
- 4) The success of the Cherry Festival which was organised by Coleen Seeth was mentioned by Jon.
- 5) The Club welcomes and encourages any new ideas to do different things.
- 6) Mike White complimented Colin on his exceptionally enjoyable Sunday hike.
- 7) Philip suggested having future Christmas parties during the day as members are reluctant to travel at night due to security risks. Braais and picnics were considered.
- 8) Mike White expressed his thanks to the committee.
- 9) Biff congratulated Jon for making Ramblers a "Happy club".

The meeting closed at 19h50

up to recoup the initial outlay. Now that is the value of the club to take these chances, otherwise we would never do anything.

But let's not get reckless. Where there are options to regain our deposit if we cancel within a certain time, we will do it. What I am saying is the deadline for these type of activities will be strictly adhered to. Don't come at the last minute and get upset if all remaining places have been cancelled. I appreciate that sometimes it is nice to make a last minute decision (hell, I've done it many times myself) and where we can, we will accommodate you, but not always. The moral of this story: book early.

Back to the money. We need some money for the above mentioned reasons. So what to do with our R65000 that was saved up over many years by previous and current members. The committee's strategy is to keep the nominal amount more or less static. In other words, use the interest. This means that in reality the amount in real terms is diminishing by the inflation rate per annum. This will gradually bring the amount down to a reasonable level within a few years.

Now to relationships. And I am talking about the relationships between our club and other hiking clubs. You might have seen in the past two magazines joint Sunday hikes between Backpackers and Ramblers. They have gone extremely well with good numbers and, now that Mike White is out of intensive care, without too much damage being done. I have had meetings with Backpackers and we have agreed on full reciprocity between clubs. They have aligned their magazine with ours on a three monthly basis. We may even publish their schedule in our magazine. Is the club happy with this? *(all were happy with this suggestion)*

Any other issues that need discussing? Thank you and happy hiking.

Jon Stevens 12th February 2008

Financial Report:

There was a deficit of R2774 mainly because of the loss on the Mahai Weekend.

Annual subscriptions have increased as follows; Members R60, Couple/family R75, Country single R45 and Country couple/family R50.

R65 000 is still in fixed deposit and we will continue to use the interest to bolster the income.

As there has been a reduction in costs for committee meeting refreshments over the past financial year, Colin Turner has budgeted for an annual allowance of R1 800.

The report was approved:

Proposed: Philip Gatenby Seconded: Gerald Hall

Amendments to the Constitution:

No amendments to vote on.

Election of Office Bearers:

The following office bearers have stayed on although there has been a slight change.

Please note that for the portfolio of Treasurer, access to a computer is essential. At present our accounting system is Pastel and Biff has kindly offered to give training in this package to the new incumbent, if required.

SOCIAL CALENDAR	
Organiser - Mike Serrurier - 082 822 3106	
Tuesday 10 Feb 2009	AGM at the German Shamwari Club in Westville at 18h30. Drinks and meals are available at reasonable prices.

HIKING SCHEDULE
January - March 2009

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.

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 raining, 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 Morning Hikes

The hikes listed on our programme are the normal hikes on alternating Wednesday mornings as in the past. Should sufficient interest be shown to warrant a hike on the other Wednesdays, then this will be considered by the hike leaders if they are available. Please check with Colin or Philip at the numbers shown. If no response is obtained from the first leader phoned, please phone the alternate leader.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 3 Jan	PALMIET NATURE RESERVE	Philip	031 201 3592
	Shady walk beside river. Meet at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel at 13h45. BYO sundowners. R5 to conservancy. Easy		
Sun 4 Jan	ALVERSTONE RECCY	Jon	082 459 1522
	Let's see if we can go the other way around the mountain. Finished by lunch. R15 petrol sharing.		
Sat 10 Jan	REDHILL CEMETERY.....	Jon	082 459 1522
and other places. Suburban meander. Meet at Jon's house, 180 Park Road, Redhill, at 13h45. Bring and braai / swim afterwards at Jon's house. Easy		
Sun 11 Jan	PALMIET	Jon	082 459 1522
	Mainly undercover to escape the sun. Finished by lunch with a bit of luck. Maybe lunch & pint at Waxy's afterwards. Meet at the main Palmiet Reserve parking area at 08h00.		
Wed 14 Jan	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 17 Jan	SPRINGSIDE NATURE RESERVE	Trevor	079 525 9230
	Grasslands and forest walk through reserve. Meet at 13h45. Bring & braai afterwards. R10 to conservancy.		
Sun 18 Jan	SHONGWENI/SUMMERVELD CIRCUIT	Colin	031 708 3517
	A variation of a theme with Colin conducting. Rained out last time. R15 petrol sharing.		
Sat 24 Jan	SUMMERVELD	Colin	031 708 3517
	Colin has another variation of his hikes in this area. Meet outside Assagay Hotel entrance opposite petrol station at 13h45. Optional drinks afterwards at Assagay Hotel		
Sun 25 Jan	OLD WORLDS VIEW, HILTON	Neville Lee	083 626 9983
	Meet at Pinetown at 07h30 am or Crossways Pub in Hilton at 09h00. Leader will meet at Crossways. This is a Backpackers' hike so please contact the leader to tell him you are coming. R40 petrol sharing.		
Wed 28 Jan	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 12 February 2008 at 18h30 at the German Club in Westville

Welcome:

Jon Stevens welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance.

Present:

33 members as per attendance register.

Apologies:

Coleen Seath, Clare Taylor, Judy Conlin, Anne and Trevor Thompson, Field and Pat Boucher.

Minutes of 2006 A.G.M.:

Confirmed: Proposed – Biff Maggs; Seconded – Derek Pretorius

Matters Arising: None

Chairman's Report:

Welcome to the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Durban Ramblers Club. Once more, like I did last year, I want to reiterate that the club exists for our enjoyment. It's a fun thing. I like to mention this because it puts the club into perspective. All decisions and how we make them are guided by this idea. Well, at least in my case.

To business. Firstly, Hike Leaders. I want to thank all leaders: Saturday, Sunday, Weekend and Wednesday. Without them the club would not exist. Don't moan at a leader if the hike doesn't go perfectly. He or she is only doing their best. They want you to enjoy the hike. That is what gives them pleasure. If you don't like the hikes and want some new ones, lead some yourself. We will all support you.

I also want to thank the committee. To the longer serving members, Biff, Jean, Mike and Ingrid, thanks for staying, and to the newer members, John, Kim, Anne and Lisa. Being on the committee is a thankless task though we try to make it as much fun as possible. Remember, nobody is a professional, but it's not so bad, is it? Jenny hasn't been on the committee but she has done a fine job on the magazine, made our bits and pieces look very professional.

Other people have helped through the year: Colin Turner and Marge Blake on the very successful 75th birthday party, Sandra and Jeanette at the Christmas party, Trevor and Field at the Saturday hikes. If I have forgotten anybody it is advancing age and I am sorry.

Now I want to talk about two important subjects: Money and Relationships.

First of all money. We have R65000 in fixed deposit. I do not believe we should have so much money but it is handy at times. I'll come back to this while I digress for a moment. This year we lost money on two occasions where we booked for something and then not enough people pitched

**DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB
NOTICE OF 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date Tuesday, 10 February 2009
Time 18h30
Venue German Club, 7 Barham Road, off Essex Terrace Westville

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To confirm Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.
4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.
5. To receive and approve the Chairman' report.
6. To receive and approve the Financial report
7. To consider and ratify subscription fees for 2008
8. To approve any proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution and Rules;
 - i) The Executive Committee to meet at least once per quarter or whenever summoned by the Secretary
 - ii) To discuss the waiving of visitors fees and indemnity forms
9. To elect office bearers and the Executive Committee.
10. To elect the Honorary Auditor
11. To present the floating trophy.
12. To receive any other business of which due notice has been given.

Refreshments and snacks will be available. There will be a cash bar and we hope you will stay and have supper afterwards. The Club's prices are very reasonable.

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Sat 31 Jan	KLOOF LONGSHADOW Nice shady walk along the river. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site at 13h45. R15 entrance fee. BYO sundowners. Easy	Ann	031 767 1027
Sun 1 Feb	THORNRIDGE FARM Trevor, our highly experienced Saturday leader, will explore one of his favourite areas. About 11Kms. Petrol sharing R20, conservancy donation R10. Bring and braai afterwards at farm. Meet at Assagay Hotel entrance at 08h30.	Trevor	079 525 9230
Sat 7 Feb	ALVERSTONE NATURE RESERVE Moderate grassland walk up hill and down dale, some game viewing. Bring and braai in boma afterwards at reserve. Meet outside Assagay Hotel entrance opposite petrol station at 13h45. R10 entrance fee.	Trevor	079 525 9230
Sun 8 Feb	URBAN JUNGLE Starting from John & Denise's home, followed by a swim in the school pool & braai. Address: Montclair Senior Primary, 35 Bangor Road.	John	073 128 1928 or 031 462 7952
Wed 11 Feb	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 14 Feb	IPITHI NATURE RESERVE Walk through streets of Gillitts to nature reserve - pretty, lots of butterflies. Meet at Acapulco, Gillitts at 13h45. Bring and braai afterwards at Werner and Lois'. R5 to conservancy. Easy	Lois	031 767 2969
Sun 15 Feb	UMHLANGA ROCKS - MT EDGECOMBE MEANDER A varied hike with wonderful views and lots of indigenous bush. Moderate hike. Meet at the end of Herrwood Drive, Umhlanga Rocks at 08h30.	Jenny	084 952 0622
Sat 21 Feb	ROOSFONTEIN NATURE RESERVE Grasslands walk to river. Meet at entrance to Westville prison at 13h45. Moderate	Werner	031 767 2969
Sun 22 Feb	REST DAY		
Wed 25 Feb	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Sat 28 Feb	HIGH STAKES - CATO RIDGE Open grasslands walk with pretty views. Entrance fee R15 pp includes safe parking, tea/coffee and cake. There's also a clubhouse / pub. Meet outside Assagay Hotel entrance opposite petrol station at 13h30.	Werner	031 767 2969
Sun 1 Mar	RECCY Area to be decided	Jenny	084 952 0622
Sat 7 Mar	KLOOF NKONKA FALLS Grasslands walk to falls, lovely views. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site at 13h45. R15 entrance fee. Bring and braai at Dennis and Kim's afterwards.	Ann	031 767 1027
Sun 8 Mar	KLOOF GORGE Hike through the Gorge. Meet at Stokers' Arms at 07h00. Don't forget WATER as the gorge can be very hot. This is a Backpackers' hike so please contact the leader to tell him you are coming.	Greg Walker	082 053 1315
Wed 11 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 14 Mar	FAREWELL TO THE BARN SWALLOWS View them before their return to Europe in April. Meet at the Mt Moreland village green at 13h30 to start our walk at 13h45. Braai and sundowners afterwards until the viewing of the swallows at about 18h15. BYO, binoculars, chair + R10 donation to the conservancy. Directions: Take Umhloti Beach/Verulam turnoff from N2 or M27, turn left towards Verulam. After 1km at the white Tongaat/Hulett pillar, take first right (D757) to Mt Moreland. After 3km take left fork over low water bridge then next right and first left up hill into Mt Moreland. Park on village green on your right.	Jenny	084 952 0622
Sun 15 Mar	AMANZIMTOTI CIRCUIT A mixture of coastal hills and beach. Meet at Musgrave at 08h00 to meet John at Doonside/ Warner Beach glide off at 08h30. Petrol R15.	John	073 128 1928 or 031 462 7952
Sat 21 Mar	PARADISE VALLEY Shady walk of historical interest. Meet at 13h45 at entrance. R 7 entrance fee. Easy	Philip	031 201 3592

Sun 22 Mar	VIRGINIA/BEACHWOOD Starting from Jon's house, through the cemetery, coastal forest and the beach followed by drinks at Jon's House. Meet at 08h00 at 180 Park Road, Redhill. BYO.	Jon	082 459 1522
Wed 25 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 28 Mar	MONTESEEL Meet outside Assagay Hotel entrance opposite petrol station to leave at 13h30 for onward journey to Max's farm at Inchanga. Steep hills at beginning and end. Views of Valley of a Thousand Hills. BYO for drinks afterwards at the farm. Moderate 2 Hr 30 min walk.	Max/Jenny	031 783 4173 084 952 0622
Sun 29 Mar	HAVEN ROCK Hike to Drumdorige farm via Montezuma Ranch. Meet at Musgrave at 07h30. Petrol sharing R40.	George Archibald	083 419 1191

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME – 1st QUARTER 2009

Please phone 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. (Kim 082 655 3796, Dennis 083 320 4951).

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
21-22 Feb	Cumberland Nature Reserve. Camping, non - elect. R40.00 pppn plus entrance fee R10.00. Booking cut off date 9 th Feb.	Brian	Kim 031 327 7593 082 655 3796
10-12 April	Injisuthi. Camping, non-elect. R132.00 pp for weekend. Booking limited, first come, first served. Ablution has a gas geyser. Do not travel at night. Booking cut off date 27/03/08.	Brian	Kim 031 327 7593 082 655 3796