

A short distance south of Greytown you will find rural Lilani situated deep in a valley on the banks of the Mvoti, a tributary of the Tugela River, surrounded by hundreds of spurs, valleys and rocky precipices. Wonderful hiking terrain where very little is flat!

We were treated to live music on Friday evening when Herbie Edwards brought out his guitar and amplifier. Sandra, Colleen and Ray assisted with the vocals for popular songs from Buddy Holly, The Carpenters, Cliff Richard and tunes from The Shadows.

The hot springs "resort" of Lilani is 600m above sea-level. On Saturday our remarkable leader, Mr Radebe, led 27 of us in a north-easterly direction across several streams and up a challenging hill to 970m, pointing out the site of battles between his "one grandfather and the other grandfather". What went up had to get down, to which many knees and quads ached and complained bitterly. A long soak in the sulphurous hot spring baths revived us remarkably.

Mr Radebe led 20 of us in the opposite direction on Sunday to a daunting height of 1170m, in one and a half hours! Views of the juxtaposed valleys and spurs, and many luminescent Coral trees against the "vaal" grassland backgrounds were breathtaking. After lunch break at the top we were ably led down the fairly precipitous rock face onto steeply declining grassland.

We were highly amused by the "bush communication" whereby Mr Radebe (cannot pronounce, let alone spell his first name), was questioned about what he was doing and where he was going with the "mlungus". He gaily replied that they (mlungus) wanted exercise! His tactful way of seeing off over-curious local hangers-on was appreciated. He warned to us and we to him as he showed us houses he has built, talked about invading Lantana, battle sites, wagon tracks and an old site of an attempt at gold-mining.

On Monday a very reduced party set out for the mud pool - site of another hot-spring where geyser activity results in hot sulphurous water bubbling up from the bowels of the Earth. Werner and Jeanette plunged into the dark, grey mud for a wallow, but no one else was persuaded to join them.

Lilani means "crying". It could be the springs are evidence that the Earth is crying. A more recent local story is that "the hot water was taken over by the whites, and now "the place of crying" has been handed back to the black man.

oooOooo

Help!!

Pat and Field Boucher have lost a green Camcraft chair and in its place have acquired a smaller green chair of similar design. Please check if you have picked up the wrong chair and if so, please give Pat or Field a ring on 031 702 7917.

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

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009

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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Once again it's party time and this year the committee has decided to repeat the excellent braai we held last year at Kranskloof Nature Reserve. So let's have a good turn out to start the festive period off in great style. Details of the party are printed later in the magazine.

As a development in the constant search for new hiking venues, I've recently had contact with a chap from eThekweni Municipality who has been tasked with opening up the area bordering the Umgeni Valley for adventure tourism (hiking, mountain biking, abseiling, rock climbing etc). I feel this could be a really worthwhile project for our Club to get involved in and so I've agreed to help with reccies. I'll keep you posted on progress. In the meantime if any of you can spare the time to help please give me a call.

It's with sadness that I advise of the death of two of our hiking friends - Rosemary McCallum and Norman Radford. Unfortunately I didn't know Rose very well, but I know she'll be sadly missed by all her friends and fellow hikers. Norman became a regular Saturday hiker after his wife Shirley died. On hikes I really enjoyed Norman's company and appreciated his quiet sense of humour. At his funeral and the "party" afterwards a lot of previously unknown facets of Norman's life were revealed and we really got to see what a well-loved and multi-talented person Norman was. I personally will miss him. RIP Norman.

Regards
Trevor

PS: Please note my new email address on the front of the magazine

New members

- ☺ Ismail Vahed
- ☺ Charlotte Steel
- ☺ Jean Rees
- ☺ Carol Kristensen
- ☺ Dalene Sadler

We wish all our new members a very warm welcome to the Club and hope you enjoy many happy hours hiking the hills and dales with us.

SOCIAL CALENDAR	
5 December	Christmas party time! From 12 noon to 6pm at Kranskloof Interpretive Centre. Please bring picnic baskets, meat and drinks. The Club will provide braai fires, salads, rolls, dessert and music. To assist with catering please confirm numbers with Trevor on 079 525 9230 or Anne 072 791 0261 before 1 st December 2009.
20 December	Point Yacht Club lunch - 12 noon. Seats limited to 40 so please contact Denise (072 157 3664 or 031 462 7952) by 14 th December to reserve.

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
23 - 25 October	<p>New venue - Xaxaza Caravan Park, Mtunzini (north coast) (2 nights).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log cabins (bring own bedding & towels) R85 pppn sharing. • Camping R55 pppn. • 10% discount on both for pensioners. • Lovely pool, games room, tv room, kitchen area. • Hike in Umlalazi (Parks Board) coastal forest etc. 	TBA	<p>Sandra 084 355 4832 till 26 Sept</p> <p>031 765 5029 after 26 Sept</p>
21 - 22 November	<p>Overbyrne at Minerva Private Nature Reserve, Byrne</p> <p>Malcolm and Judy Millar of Overbyrne, Minerva Private Nature Reserve in the beautiful Byrne valley, are offering Ramblers accommodation at half the normal rate for this weekend. Prices range from R75 per person in the bungalow and R100 per person in the cottage, and dinner is R60 a head. See their website at http://sites.google.com/site/overbyrne Meet there on Saturday, do a short walk in the afternoon and on Sunday Malcolm will take us on the Byrne Horseshoe Hike. For more information, contact Jenny on 0849520622.</p>	Malcolm Millar	<p>Jenny 084 952 0622</p>

And tales of trails.....

Weekend at Lilani – Place of Tears : 7-10 August

Many thanks to Ann Olds who sent in this delightful description of the Ramblers August weekend away:

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 29 Nov	No hike today		
Wed 2 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 5 Dec	Christmas party at Kranskloof		
	No hike today		
Sun 6 Dec	Umhlanga Rocks	Brian	083 228 1981
	Morning hike and bring-and-share braai afterwards at Brian's Merryweather's house in Umhlanga Rocks. Meet at Brian's house at 9.00 am.		
Wed 9 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 12 Dec	Burman Bush	Werner	031 767 2969
	Moderate hike from Jamieson Park (opp. Mitchell Park) rose garden to Burman Bush, along roads and into natural coastal forest.		
Sun 13 Dec	Ballito	Steve Nel or Jenny	083 454 0569 084 952 0622
	NB new hike in progress : Steve Nel will be doing an exploratory hike in this area. Some beach and some inland walking. Meet at the Pick n Pay Hypermarket at 8.00 am. R15 petrol sharing costs.		
Wed 16 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 19 Dec	Umbilo D'Moss	Philip	031 201 3592
	Meet at old Umbilo Drive-in site. Hike along parklands and river. Easy hike.		
Sun 20 Dec	No hike today		
Wed 23 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 26 Dec	No hike today		
Sun 27 Dec	To be organised (if sufficient interest)	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Please let Jenny know by 20 December.		
Wed 30 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME

4rd 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 Sandra if you wish to share lifts or coordinate transport for weekends away.

HIKING SCHEDULE October - December 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)

- Always** phone the hike leader beforehand to let him/her know to expect you on the hike.
- 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

Please check details of the hikes with Colin or Philip at the numbers shown. If no response is obtained from the first leader phoned, please phone the alternate leader - don't just leave a message as one of them may be away on holiday.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 3 Oct	Alverstone	Trevor	0795259230
	Grasslands and riverine forest. A good pace with some uphill. Lovely game viewing. Meet at 13h30 at Assegay Hotel before going to the farm. R10.00 for conservancy. Braai after hike at the Boma.		
Sun 4 Oct	NB :No Sunday hike, but we are joining the PMB Ramblers on Saturday 3 October for an afternoon hike in the Lower Umpushini Valley. Lovely scenery and we might see game. Optional braai afterwards. Either meet at Kloof at 1.15 pm or at the top of the Ashburton off ramp on the N3 at 1.55 pm. Petrol sharing costs R25	Please phone Jenny by Friday 2 October if you are coming. 084 952 0622. Francois Marias of PMB Ramblers is leader and Jenny is co-ordinating.	
Wed 7 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 10 Oct	Stainbank Nature Reserve	Philip	031 201 3592
	Moderate hike in natural bush and grasslands with possible game viewing. Meet at car park in the reserve area at 13h45. Entrance fee payable at entrance. BYO sundowners.		
Sun 11 Oct	No hike today		
Wed 14 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 17 Oct	St Helier/Giba	Rob King	083 417 7805
	Some riverine forest, some uphill and open grasslands. An old trail with some new twists. Meet at St Helier Lake parking area at 13h45.		
Sun 18 Oct	Umgeni Valley	Mike	079 672 9109
	New leader : Mike Kirby of PMB Ramblers and an honorary Dbn Ramblers member, will be showing us the Umgeni Valley that he knows so well. Meet at Pinetown at 7.30 am. Petrol sharing costs R35 and R16 entrance to the reserve.		Phone Jenny on 0849520622 if you are coming
Wed 21 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 24 Oct	Clifton Watchtower	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Steep climb from Mushroom farm to top of hill overlooking Giba Gorge. Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13h45 before proceeding to Mushroom farm car park.		
Sun 25 Oct	Vernon Crookes	George	083 419 1191
	A joint Ramblers/Mountain Backpackers hike. Explore the western section of Vernon Crookes with George Archibald, including a visit to the Umzinto waterfall and an old gold mine. A stunning moderate hike of about 14 kms: enjoy the rolling green hills and spectacular spring flowers. George will supply transport to the cars. Meet at Musgrave Medical Park at 7.00 am to share lifts. The hike starts off at 8.15 am from George's Farm. Petrol sharing costs R30 plus R15 reserve entrance fee.		Phone Jenny, who is co-ordinating on 0849520622 to let her know you are hiking.
Wed 28 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 31 Oct	Monteseel	Jenny	084 952 0622
	From Max's farm at Inchanga up steep hills to views of the Valley of Thousand Hills. BYO after hike for drinks at the farm. Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13h30 for onward journey to Max's farm.		
Sun 1 Nov	Paradise Valley to the Pavilion	Jon	082 459 1522
	NB New hike - a moderate linear walk from Paradise Valley to the Firkin at the Pavilion. We have yet to		Phone Jon if you are hiking.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	do this hike as it has been rained off twice already so we are having a third attempt! NB: Meeting point is at Firkin at 08h00, not Pinetown.		
Wed 4 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 7 Nov	New Germany Nature Reserve	Ismail Vahed	031 209 0902
	Easy grasslands with some game viewing and birds in an aviary. Meet at Reserve parking area off Otto Volek Road at 13h45.		
Sun 8 Nov	Lower and Upper Giba Gorge Circuit	Colin	031 708 3517
	Lovely grasslands, forests, streams and a waterfall with good views along the way. Moderate hike. Either meet in Pinetown at 8.00 or at Giba gorge Bike Park at 8.15 am. Petrol sharing costs R10		Please phone Colin if you are hiking.
Wed 11 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 14 Nov	Assegay Meander	Lois	031 767 2969
	Assegay suburbs and farmlands. Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre (bottom of Botha's Hill). Pizzas at Papparazi's afterwards.		
Sun 15 Nov	Delville Wood	Adele	082 779 3828
	Moderate hike to see waterfalls and tunnels in the Shongweni area. NB: New leader - please show your support! Petrol sharing costs R15		Phone Adele if you intend hiking.
Wed 18 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 21 Nov	Giba Gorge	Werner	031 767 2969
	Walk along bike tracks along streams and waterfalls. Entrance R10.00. Relax afterwards in clubhouse for tea/coffee or a beer.		
Sun 22 Nov	Byrne Horseshoe Hike	Malcolm	
	Malcolm Millar of Overbyrne Minerva Private Nature Reserve will take us on moderate linear hike of approx 15 km. Tea and crumpets at the end. This is also a weekend away at Overbyrne (see under weekends for this hike. Sunday hikers joining the Sunday hike are to meet in Pinetown at 7.15. Petrol sharing costs R35 plus R25 entrance fee and tea/crumpets.	Jenny is coordinating the hike and weekend	084 952 0622
Wed 25 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 28 Nov	Kloof Longshadow	Ann	031 767 1027
	Moderate walk in the Kranskloof area. Meet at picnic spot and parking area. Entrance R15.00 per person.		