

Trails/Berg Organiser	Sandra and Derek Pretorius	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer
Socials Organiser	To be advised		
Magazine Editor	Anne Thompson	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer
Publicity Organiser	Merle Mackenzie	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer
Ordinary Member	Fay Fenn	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer

Appointment of Honorary Auditor:

Colin Turner was nominated auditor for 2009/2010 by the committee members. This was seconded by all the club members.

In Memoriam:

The meeting remembered :- Erica Jacobs and Luciano Columbo (Backpackers)

Honorary Life Membership:

Awarded to Steve Watson

Club Trophy:

This was presented to Mike Serrurier for all the effort he has put into the Club over the past years.

General:

- 1) Colin Turner advised hikers to bring their own medical aid kits.
- 2) Merle Mackenzie reminded the committee that the supper for the hike leaders has not yet been organised.
- 3) Werner Vanslebrouck pointed out the need to find new venues for hikes. He suggested that the committee ask members to join in on recesses on a voluntary basis mainly for safety purposes, as farmers are becoming very restrictive. They no longer allow only two people to scout their land. He also suggested the committee organise short hikes and picnics on public holidays.
- 4) Ingrid D'eathe suggested doing some fact finding regarding new members' skills in the event that they could be elected to serve on the committee.
- 5) When new members are recruited, Ray Van Reenen suggested somebody from the Club take down their details and contact them within a week as a follow-up / welcoming exercise.
- 6) Biff Maggs complimented Ingrid D'eathe for sorting envelopes for so many years.
- 7) The Umgeni Steam train outing was mentioned and anybody interested may contact Biff Maggs for details.
- 8) Philip Gatenby suggested having the A.G.M. on a Sunday with a braai to follow.
- 9) Colin Turner thanked the committee for all they've done in the past year.
- 10) Anne asked the committee members to please submit their information for the magazine before the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 19h20

Next meeting: Thursday, 5th March, at 18h00. Venue: Anne and Trevor Thompson's house.

Chairman..... Date.....



P O Box 474
NEW GERMANY 3620

www.durbanramblers.co.za

Banking Details:
Standard Bank Musgrave Road
Branch Code: 04262610
Account No: 051257653

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JANUARY - MARCH 2010

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e-mail
Chairman	Trevor Thompson	-	079 525 9230 phenduke@gmail.com
Secretary	Lisa Raubenheimer	031 312-4923	076 174 7022 lisarau@absa.co.za
Treasurer	Margot Barraclough	031 705 1188	084 256 7867 margotb@corokraft.co.za
Sun Hike Organiser	Jenny Rooks	-	084 952 0622 jennyh@camclo.co.za
Sat Hike Organiser	Werner Vanslebrouck	031 767 2969	werner.v@iafrica.com
Trails Organisers	Derek & Sandra Pretorius	031 765 5029	084 355 4832 derek@webbis.co.za
Publicity	Merle Mackenzie	031 561-3038	082 454 0521 mcmacken@mweb.co.za
Social Organiser	Vacant	-	
Ordinary Member	Fay Fenn	031 767 3907	072 508 0484 fenncon@mweb.co.za
Magazine	Anne Thompson	-	072 791 0261 phenduke@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Firstly, many thanks for all the good wishes and flowers I received following recent surgery. My back is slowly improving but there doesn't seem much chance of me hiking in the near future. However, I'm pretty confident that you haven't seen the last of me yet (you should be so lucky!).

I'm pleased to report that the Club had a very successful and enjoyable end of year party at Krantzkloof. Once again it proved to be a popular venue and approximately fifty Ramblers let down their hair and boogied the afternoon away, the music was excellent and the ambience great. Thanks, guys, for your support.

Now to a more serious note – we are all fairly experienced hikers and we should all be aware of the dangers of dehydration, especially in the KZN summer months. Please, guys, make sure that you have plenty of water with you – what you consider enough for the hike, plus, plus, plus. For various reasons a hike may sometimes last longer than estimated and I can't stress too strongly the need to make sure you carry enough water with you, it's dangerous not to do so!

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I'd like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2010.

Best regards

Trevor

New members

- ☺ Roseanne Dix
- ☺ Christie Exall
- ☺ Frans Prinsloo
- ☺ Margaret Forbes
- ☺ Gavin Johnston

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	
Sunday 21 st Feb	<p>AGM time - this year it will be held at Krantzkloof Interpretative Centre at 12h00. This has proved a popular venue for a number of reasons so the committee thought it would be a good idea to have the AGM and follow by it with a bring and braai. Fires will be provided by the Club. Please bring your picnic baskets and a salad or pudding to share.</p> <p>Philip has kindly offered to lead a 3-hour hike before the meeting, starting at 09h00. Please contact Philip on 031 201 3592 if you are interested.</p> <p>Further on in the magazine we have included the minutes of last year's AGM, together with the agenda for the 2010 AGM.</p>

Firstly, the issue of collection of fees from visitors. There appear to be potential problems in "charging" for a hike. We assume more responsibility by this charge. Although all extra money is welcome, the amounts raised and the collection effort did not justify the legal risk, so it was decided to waive this fee.

And now the issue of First Aid kits. We have discontinued the supply of a "Club" first aid kit for hikes. This was for two reasons. Firstly, it was almost impossible to keep the kits up to date and with no expired medication etc. Secondly, and more importantly, we open ourselves up to litigation for administering medication without being registered. I am not sure of the full legal ramification, but Backpackers took it seriously enough to do away with Club first aid kits. It does sound a bit over the top, but we decided that members must carry their own medication and first aid kits.

Any other issues that need discussing?

Thank you, goodbye and happy hiking.

Jon Stevens
10th February 2009

Financial Report:

2008 was a good financial year for the Club. The books showed a surplus of R4600.00. The following attributed to this surplus;

- 1) Fewer committee meetings were held
- 2) The magazine costs were cheaper
- 3) No dinner was held for the committee members

The Club fixed deposit with Standard Bank will remain untouched. There will be no increase in subscription fees this year.

The report was approved: Proposed: Lisa Raubenheimer Seconded: Mike Serrurier

Amendments to the Constitution:

It was agreed upon and approved that;

- 1) Visitors fees are to be waived. Potential new members will still have to be monitored to ensure they attend three hikes before they may join the Club. Records are to be kept accordingly.
- 2) Meetings are to be held quarterly or whenever summoned by the Secretary.

Election of Office Bearers:

The following office bearers have been elected to serve on the committee.

Office	Elected	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Trevor Thompson	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer
Secretary	Lisa Raubenheimer	Mike Serrurier	Jon Stevens
Treasurer/Data base	Margot Barraclough	Biff Maggs	Lisa Raubenheimer
Day Hike Organiser	Jenny Rooks	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer
Saturday Hike Organiser	Werner Vanslebrouck	Mike Serrurier	Lisa Raubenheimer

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

**Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday
10 February 2009 at 18h30 at the German Club in Westville**

Welcome:

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

Present:

36 members as per attendance register.

Apologies:

Norman Radford, John Van Zyl, Denise Warburton, Jeanette MacMahon.

Minutes of 2008 A.G.M.:

Confirmed: Proposed – Colin Turner; Seconded – Daphne Bushell.

Matters Arising: Merle Mackenzie thanked all the hike leaders for their input during the past year.

Chairman's Report:

Welcome to the 77th 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.

To business. Firstly, Hike Leaders. Once more I want to thank all leaders: Saturday, Sunday, Weekend and Wednesday. Without them the club would not exist. As I have mentioned in my ramblings a few times, they are not professionals and give of their time for free. Snide comments about a leader and how he is leading the hike are not productive. If you have some constructive comments, then approach the leader directly and give some feedback in a positive way. All leaders would like to enhance the members enjoyment of their hikes and, I am sure, would welcome constructive feedback.

I also want to thank the committee. This is the year of change and the majority of the committee will be stepping down for constitutional or other reasons. To those members leaving, thanks for your support and efforts. To those that return to the committee, even more thanks and good luck. And enjoy yourselves.

During the year, many other people helped either at functions like the Christmas Party, which I believe was a great success, or the hikes themselves, welcoming visitors etc. I thank them and encourage others to help in an ad hoc way.

I think we need to discuss some decisions made during the year that may seem strange to some folk. Like most things that happen in life, there are reasons.

We've also enclosed a subscription renewal form so that you can cough up promptly plus a Nomination of Committee Members form. So let's have your nominations (or you can volunteer!) and remember, to function successfully the Club needs enthusiastic and willing committee members.

HIKING SCHEDULE

January – March 2010

Saturday Hikes

- **Please note:** Saturday hikers intending to meet at Musgrave Park should instead phone Philip prior to leaving and arrange a pickup or travel in convoy with him. Musgrave Park has become hazardous due to roadworks.
- 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 2 Jan	Longshadow	Philip	031 201 3592
	Moderate hike in the Krantzklouf area. Meet at Krantzklouf picnic/parking area. Entrance R15 pp		
Sun 3 Jan	No hike today		
Wed 6 Jan	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 9 Jan	Paradise Valley A shady walk beside river, with some historical interest. Entrance R10 pp.	Ismail	031 209 0902
Sun 10 Jan	Boschhoek : New hike Hike leader : Francois Marais, Chairman of PMB Ramblers. We meet Francois at Midmar Dam at 07h45 to travel on to the Farm Aird on the old farm Petrus Stroom. We will climb to the beacon on the farm Boschhoek (as high as JHB) and on to a waterfall overlooking Dargle Valley. Wonderful views of Midmar and Albert Falls and other mountain ranges. Refreshments afterwards at Aird on a beautiful stoep. 14 kms altogether. NB. Early start because of the heat. Meet in Pinetown at 06h45. Petrol sharing costs R40.	Francois Marais	Phone Jon who is coordinating on 0824591522
Wed 13 Jan	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 16 Jan	Impithi Porcupine Falls Meet at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve picnic/parking area. Entrance R15 pp.	Ann	031 767 1027
Sun 17 Jan	Alverstone A specially shortened version of Jon's Drummond to Alverstone walk for Summer (with no exploratory sections or climbing under fences). A moderate hike, starting off and ending at Dirk's Pub at Drummond. Petrol sharing costs R15.	Jon	082 459 1522
Wed 20 Jan	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 23 Jan	Palmiet Reserve Shady walk beside river. Meet at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel.	Philip	031 201 3592
Sun 24 Jan	Summerveld A hike along various footpaths in the valleys and hillsides of this lovely area. Petrol sharing costs R15.	Colin	031 708 3517 Please phone Colin to let him know you are coming
Wed 27 Jan	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 30 Jan	Roosfontein Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at Westville Prison car park. Drinks at Pavilion afterwards.	Rob	083 417 7805
Sun 31 Jan	No hike today		
Wed 3 Feb	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

**DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB
NOTICE OF 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date Sunday, 21 February 2010
Time 12 noon
Venue Krantzkloof Interpretative Centre, Krantzkloof

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To confirm Minutes of the 2009 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 2010
8. To elect office bearers and the Executive Committee.
9. To elect the Honorary Auditor COLIN
10. To present the floating trophy. COLIN & PHILIP
11. To receive any other business of which due notice has been given.

A bring and braai will follow the meeting, braai fires will be provided by Club. Please bring all your own requirements plus a salad or pudding to share.

--0000--

We chose a sheltered campsite, and discovered we would have the use of our own kitchenette and bathroom! The seven campers were very comfortable indeed. The other fourteen or so Ramblers occupied a variety of log-cabins. The wind dropped before sunset as we all gathered around the pool for sundowners and getting reacquainted.

On Saturday we drove to the KZN Ezemvelo Park gates to the Umlalazi Nature Reserve. From there we walked up the road to approach the Palm Nut Forest from the railway side. It was a very bright, warm morning, and although some palm fruit was evident, we did not see the Palm Nut Vulture. Our walk continued into the indigenous coastal dune forest to the south, and the sunny day got steadily hotter. The ablution facilities at Umlalazi Beach car-park were "dry" – the water appeared to have been turned off! After observing the bathers on the beach for a while, we returned to the shade of the forest and headed north.

We eventually emerged from the forest to face the long beach stretch to Umlalazi River mouth. The sun burned down and the walking pace slowed as we headed into the wind. The river mouth is wide and shallow at low-tide, in spite of recent rains.

Our leader, Brian, led us south along the river bank looking for shade for sixteen very hot and tired hikers. We took our time over lunch, resting in the welcome shade out of the wind. Water was becoming a problem for a few people. Progress through the Mangroves and the forest to the road was slow. Brian then sent an advance party on to the boat club to replenish some water supplies, and bring a car back from the gate to assist a few exhausted hikers. Thank you Audrey, Steve and Lyn, 'young' Brian, Derek and Sandra.

After plenty to drink, a shower and some rest, the party around the braai fire was surprisingly cheery that evening, but most of us turned in quite early, I'll admit.

On Sunday morning a few people went off in search of the Palm Nut Vulture again, but without success. Most of us packed in the morning and moved out about 11h30, ahead of the rain.

Xaxaza was a very good spot with beautiful forest walks and a lovely mix of people - thank you for the organisation, Sandra.

oooOooo

And here's a request for old hiking equipment:

"I am busy establishing a self-sufficient hiking club at Winston Park Primary School and enquire whether any members of Durban Ramblers Hiking Club have old hiking equipment they are no longer using. I am particularly on the lookout for the Trangia meths cooking sets, external frame backpacks, etc."

If anyone can help, please contact Nick Greville on 082 353 3470.

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@gmail.com

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 6 Feb	Umhlanga Lagoon Shady mangrove and beach walk. Meet at parking area in front of Cabana Beach hotel. Braai afterwards at Merle's house.	Merle	031 561 3038
Sun 7 Feb	Bluff Meander John's Bluff hike has not been done for some years now, so it will be a new hike for some. Meet at the BP garage in Edwin Swales at 08h15.	John	073 129 1928
Wed 10 Feb	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 13 Feb	Summerveld Walk in horse country. Meet at Assagay Hotel at 13h45. Drinks afterwards at Assagay Hotel.	Colin	031 708 3517
Sun 14 Feb	Recce hike Area to be advised. Pls phone Jenny if you would like to join the recce	Jenny	084 952 0622
Wed 17 Feb	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 20 Feb	Red Hill Ramble Meet at Jon's house for a walk round the suburb of Red Hill. Braai afterwards at Jon's house.	Jon	082 459 1522
Sat 20 Feb	Ferncliffe Nature Reserve to Otto's Bluff NB. This is a Saturday hike! We are joining Midlands Hiking Club for this 17 km hike. Spectacular views of PMB and Albert Falls Dam. NB Meet in Pinetown at 06h30 to be at the Reserve by 07h30. Leader: Brian Henwood. Petrol Sharing costs R35	Jenny	084 952 0622 Phone Jenny on 084 9520622 by Thursday 19 th at the latest.
Sun 21 Feb	AGM at Krantzklouf See Social Calendar insert for details		
Wed 24 Feb	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 27 Feb	Streets of Winston Park A new hike, all street walking under shady trees. Meet at Gillitts Post Office at 13h45. Lasagne, salads and dessert (bring your own drinks + crockery and cutlery) at Lois and Werner's home afterwards. Cost R25 per person. Booking for the supper to be made with Lois not later than Thursday 25 February 2010.	Lois	031 767 2969
Sun 28 Feb	Eston area NB: new hike and new hike leader: Margie Forbes is leading this new hike on a farm in the Eston area, just past Tala Game Reserve. R30 petrol sharing costs.	Margie	073 437 6915

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Wed 3 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 6 Mar	Kloof Nkonka Falls	Ann	031 767 1027
	Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at Krantzklouf nature reserve picnic/parking area. Entrance R15 pp.		
Sun 7 Mar	Richmond (Umkomaas Valley)	Jenny	084 952 0622
	We are linking up with Midlands Hiking Club for this hike along game paths. Distance 12 kms. Leader : Bushy Kirby. Petrol sharing costs R35		
Wed 10 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 13 Mar	Farewell to the Barn Swallows	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Meet at Mt Moreland Village Green at 13h30 to start walk at 13h45. Braai and sundowners afterwards until viewing of swallows at 18h30. 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 D575 to Mt Moreland. After 3km take left fork over low level bridge then next right and first left up hill into Mt Moreland. Park on village green on right. Bring binoculars and chair. R10 pp to conservancy.		
Sun 14 Mar	Ngomankulu	Neville	083 977 2475
	Neville's stunning hike with a variation on the traditional hike as we approach Ngomankulu from the Umlaas Road side. Wonderful views - a hike definitely not to be missed. Petrol Sharing Costs R30.		
Wed 17 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 20 Mar	Emberton-Springside	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Nice circular walk along grasslands and some shade in the Springside Nature reserve. Meet at Emberton driving range car park. Get together afterwards at Emberton coffee shop.		
Sun 21 Mar	Sunrise beach walk - Virginia to Umhlanga Rocks	Glenys	083 375 2252
	Join Glenys on her annual beach walk, with an early start to see the sunrise and home by lunch time. Meet at Virginia Flying Club at 05h45. Distance about 17 km.		
Wed 24 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 27 Mar	1000 Hills	Werner	031 767 2969
	Grasslands and bush overlooking the Valley of 1000 Hills. Meet at the Drum and Bell Restaurant		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	(situated just before the 1000 Hills Hotel coming from Botha's Hill) at 13h45. Drinks at the Drum and Bell afterwards.		
Sun 28 Mar	Inchanga/Monteseel area	Max	
	Max is leading this joint hike with Midlands Hiking Club, starting off from his home at Drummond. The train will be at Inchanga Station so bring money for refreshments. Bring your drinks for after the hike. R5 each for guides on this hike. Petrol Sharing costs R15.	Jenny is co-ordinating. Phone her on 0849520622	
Wed 31 Mar	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME

1st QUARTER 2010

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.

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
22 - 24 Jan	Mount Park, Dargle, Midlands This is a popular venue we haven't been to for a while. Only four bedrooms left in main farmhouse, R100 pppn. Fully equipped kitchen. Camping full. Lovely walks.	Brian/Steve	Sandra 031 765 5029
Easter weekend 2-5 April	Cathedral campsite, Parks Board, Drakensberg New campsite, electrified, lovely ablutions. R80 pppn. Camping only, chalet accommodation at Didima across the road (expensive).	Brian	Sandra 031 765 5029

WEEKEND AT XAXAZA, MTUNZINI : 23 - 25 October

By Ann Olds

As the "rainy week-end" pattern had already begun, we did wonder if a camping week-end was really a fun idea. We got through the Friday afternoon North Coast Road traffic well, in spite of strong winds buffeting the car around quite a bit. Xaxaza Caravan Park is clearly sign-posted very soon after leaving the free-way for Mtunzini. It is nestled on the southern edge of the suburbs before the sugar cane fields. The secure park is very neat; shrubs, hedges and really old trees abound.