

found for everyone in the commodious farm house. Gathering round the kitchen table sampling Ray's home made bread was a special moment, washed down by alcoholic beverages of course. We migrated to the large dining room after supper and Herb set up his guitar. We gave good voice to the popular songs he strummed. Ann and Brian arrived in the midst of our singsong and a lounge was allocated to them for sleeping accommodation; car trouble had delayed them.

Saturday dawned dry and clear. Sixteen of us set off to conquer Inhlosane Mountain. The day became hot and humid and the climb to the top was hard work. Along the way Watsonia made beautiful splashes of pink and then on the slope going up to the top we were greeted by the sight of a full field of Watsonia in bloom. Occasionally interspersing the deep pink was the gorgeous lilac of the Agapanthus. How beautiful is creation!

Jeanette gave us a start as she yelled snake (and a few other words!) and went leaping into the air and over the rocks at great speed!! We did not see the hapless creature, I think it had been intimidated by the antics of Jeanette and slithered quietly away! Anything for a quiet life (must have been male!)

We thankfully relaxed on top of Inhlosane for lunch. Views of Midmar Dam, the Berg, the green and fertile Midland valleys and waterfalls below were our reward. A steep descent and a bit of bundu bashing brought us out behind the Everglades Hotel and home to the traditional Saturday night braai.

Sunday was hot and clear, not a cloud in the sky. Everyone was rather lethargic, enjoying a late breakfast and doing as little as possible in the way of energetic thing - it was just too hot. As Marge had trouble with the starter motor, Herb taught her how to hot-wire her car with a screw driver (hope that doesn't lead to a new career for Marge!) and very kindly travelled all the way behind her making sure that she got home safely. A few of us did a bit of Midland meandering on the way home.

The camaraderie, the venue, the evening get together, the fun and chat and lastly of course the exercise is what makes these weekends so special. Thank you Sandy and Derek for arranging it and all the great people who made it such fun.

--oo0oo--

And now for news of another sort of trip, this time not on terra firma, but traversing the high seas:

4 Day Cruise on the Sinfonia 31 Jan to 4 Feb 2011 - early booking discount prices range for the basic 4 berth cabin from R1764 per person to R2170 for a cabin with an outside window. This includes all meals and entertainment but excludes drinks. The cabins have a shower, loo, air-conditioning, TV, mini-bar, etc. If anyone is interested, please contact Jenny on 0849520622 or jennysa@telkomsa.net. A deposit of R1500 will be required.

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

APRIL - JUNE 2010

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### CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

On behalf of the incoming committee I'd like to thank you for the confidence you've shown in electing us into office and assure you of our wish to serve the Club to the best of our ability. After all, this is your Club, we're just looking after it for you. Names and contact details of the new



Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	park. Drinks at Assegay Hotel afterwards.		
Sun 30 May	<b>Summerveld</b>	Gary	072 902 4899
	Summerveld area. This is a joint Backpackers/Ramblers hike being led by Gary Sharpe. Meet at Stokers at 8.30 am.		
Wed 2 June	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 5 June	<b>Burman Bush</b>	Rob King	083 417 7805
	Moderate hike from Jamieson Park (opposite Mitchell Park) to Burman Bush along roads and into natural coastal forest.		
Sun 6 June	<b>Eston Area</b>	Margie	073 437 6915
	New hike being led by Margie Forbes on a farm past the Tala Game Reserve. Petrol sharing costs R35.		
Wed 9 June	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 12 June	<b>Crestholme Meander</b>	Colin	031 708 3517
	A new hike with magnificent views of Inanda Dam and Umgeni River Valley. Meet at Waterfall Shopping Centre at the intersection of Inanda/Link Roads at 13h45. Due to limited parking at destination we will have to share transport from here.		
Sun 13 June	<b>Killarney Rockery</b>	Jon	082 459 1522
	This is a moderate 12 km hike with beautiful rock formations in the Cato Ridge area. Fantastic viewing of aloe. R15 donation to the conservancy.		
Wed 16 June	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 19 June	<b>Virginia Meander</b>	Glenys	031 5647632
	Meet at Virginia Airport at 13h45. Beach walk and suburbs. Meet for drinks afterwards at Virginia Airport Club.		
Sat 19 June	<b>Karkloof NB: Sat hike, not Sun</b>	Jenny	084 952 0622
	All day hike in Karkloof area - numbers are limited so you need to book a place. 07h15 start from Pinetown.		
Wed 23 June	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 26 June	<b>Ashburton</b>	Werner to coordinate	084 206 7836
	Saturday and Sunday hikers join the PMB Hiking Club for a hike in the Lower Umpushini Valley, with lovely scenery and a chance of seeing game. Parking on the property of conservancy member. Stay on		

## HIKING SCHEDULE

April - June 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 3 April	<b>Alverstone Nature Reserve</b>	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13h45 - Grasslands and up and down dale with some game viewing. Entrance R15.00. Braai at Boma afterwards.		
Mon 5 April	<b>Easter Monday</b>	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Morning walk, followed by lunch or a braai still to be arranged if sufficient interest.		
Wed 7 April	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 10 April	<b>Umbilo D'Moss trail</b>	Philip	031 201 3592
	Meet at old Durban Drive-in site. Hike along parklands and Umbilo River. Easy hike.		

Date	Description of hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 11 April	<b>Hilton Ramble</b>	Colin	031 708 3517
	Ramble around Hilton College estate with a magnificent view of the Umgeni valley and down to Gwen Falls. Meet in Pinetown at 7.30am or at Hilton College at 8.30 am. Petrol sharing costs R45.		
Wed 14 April	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 17 April	<b>New Germany Nature Reserve</b>	Ismail	031 209 0902
	Grasslands walk with some riverine bush. Meet at Reserve car park, off Otto Volek Road at 13h45.		
Sun 18 April	<b>Shongweni/Summerveld Circuit</b>	Jon	082 459 1522
	Medium hike which starts at the Castle in the valley, with a steep but rewarding climb to Summerveld to start the day and back down through the forest at the end. R15 Petrol sharing costs.		
Wed 21 April	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 24 April	<b>Stainbank Nature Reserve</b>	Philip	031 201 3592
	Moderate hike in natural bush and grasslands with some game viewing. Meet at car park inside reserve at 13h45. Entrance fee R15.00.		
Sun 25 April	<b>Summerveld</b>	Gary	072 902 4899
	Summerveld again but a new hike and a new leader, Gary Sharpe. 12 km. This is a combined Backpackers/Ramblers hike. Meet at Stokers at 8.30.		
Wed 28 April	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 1 May	<b>Giba Gorge</b>	Werner	084 206 7836
	Walk along bike tracks, along streams and waterfalls. Entrance R10.00 payable at entrance booth to car park at GIBA. Relax afterwards in clubhouse for tea/coffee or a beer.		
Sun 2 May	<b>Ashburton</b>	Francois	Jenny
	A new hike with our very popular guest hike leader, Francois Marais, Chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers. Meet in Pinetown or at the Ashburton Off Ramp above the N3 at 8.30 am. Drinks afterwards at the bar where we park on the property of a conservancy member, where we can watch the buck feed. Petrol sharing costs R35.		is coordinating 084 952 0622
Wed 5 May	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 8 May	<b>Bhowani Trail</b>	Werner	084 206 7836
	New hike. Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13h30. Travel from there in convoy to Bhowani Lodge (close to Cato Ridge Abattoir) From the Lodge we hike into the conservancy with natural Natal virgin Bush, lovely views of Table Mountain. R10.00 payable to Conservancy. Drinks afterwards at Bhowani Lodge.		
Sun 9 May	<b>Camelot</b>	Jon	082 459 1522
	Medium hike in the upper valley of the Sterkspruit, starting off from the Assegai Coffee Farm. Petrol sharing costs R20.		
Wed 12 May	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 15 May	<b>Assegay Meander</b>	Lois	031 767 2969
	Assegay suburbs and farmland. Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre (bottom of Botha's Hill).		
Sun 16 May	<b>Umdloti - Umhlanga</b>	Peter Brazier	083 661 2545 031 705 5645
	Beach hike Umdloti to Umhlanga and back, followed by optional lunch at the Bush Tavern. Meet at car park outside the Bush Tavern at 8.30 am.		
Wed 20 May	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 22 May	<b>Kloof Longshadow</b>	Ann	031 767 1027
	Easy shady walk alongside river. Meet at Kranskloof Nature Reserve Picnic and Parking area. R15.00 entrance per person.		
Sat 22 May	<b>Pietermaritzburg - note hike on Sat not Sun</b>	Francois	Jenny
	All day figure-of-eight hike with PMB Ramblers, approx 17 km, starting at Wylie Park, to Botanical Gardens over Worlds View. Tea in Botanic Gardens, lunch at Wylie Park and tea at Queen Elizabeth Park. Hike leader is Francois Marais. Meet in Pinetown at 7.30 am to meet the PMB Ramblers at Wylie Park at 8.45 am. Petrol Sharing costs R45.		to coordinate 084 952 0622
Sun 23 May	<b>East Coast Radio Big Walk</b>	-	Jenny
	Join us on the ECR Big Walk this year. Choose between 5km, 10km, 15km and 20km. Contact Jenny if you want to join in.		084 952 0622
Wed 26 May	<b>Wednesday Walk</b>	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 29 May	<b>Clifton Watchtower</b>	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Steep climb from Mushroom Farm to top of hill overlooking GIBA Gorge. Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13.45 pm before proceeding to Mushroom Farm car		