

"If there was a song title to describe Marge Blake (nee Parr) it would be Rod Stewart's "Forever Young"

A tribute to an amazing lady and a member of Durban Ramblers for 60 years! Marge makes you look at age in a new light, here is someone who lives her life to the full; with enthusiasm and gusto and is a superb example to all of us ramblers.

I joined Durban Ramblers Hiking club in 1996 and got to know Marge mainly through the Scrabble Club, at that time, under the umbrella of the Ramblers. Those were the days of Bill Hyslop, Sue Ferguson, Gavin Thomson, Lynda Holmes, Reg and Lyn Blaugh, and Monica Matthewson. The group has changed over the years but the fun and fellowship has not. Marge became our mentor and she taught us all the crafty moves and those dreadful two-letter words!! This shrewd scrabble player also has a calculator for a brain and can score in half the time the rest of us take. Some of us still need our ten fingers to tally up!!

Marge the Traveller --- I don't think there are as many people as well travelled as Marge, and who still gads all over South Africa at every opportunity she gets. When she is not visiting her daughter in Singapore and fitting in trips to exotic eastern countries, she is planning a trip to the 'berg or a wild life expedition. These adventures you will need to read in her book when she gets round to writing it. I have been privileged to go on a number of trips with Marge as she enjoys all the Rambler away weekends, and can be counted on to organize our bookings, catering etc. Everything is a joy for Marge: camping, staying in a chalet or bunking down in a backpacker lodge; and she has so much energy and life in her that she exhausts us younger ones! One recalls two special trips. One to the Western Cape to see the flowers. We travelled by train and coach; Marge quickly made friends on the train and in no time we were playing cards with a young couple in the saloon and of course beating them! The second was two weeks of "going nowhere slowly" thro' the Eastern Cape, Karoo and Eastern Free State, our evenings, when not pubbing and watching the rugby (as we did in Sutherland) was spent playing "Rummikub". Again Marge showed her superior skills at manipulating tiles.

Marge at Home --- A generous hostess and provider of good food! Marge's lovely home in Cowies Hill is always open to her friends. I am sure many gardens in Durban boast cuttings from her extensive grounds. Gardening is one of Marge's many interests and she encourages birds and wild life in her garden by planting many indigenous plant species.

Marge the Photographer and Computer Enthusiast ---- proving again, that age is no barrier to gaining new knowledge. Marge has acquired a sophisticated digital camera and is not daunted by learning new photographic skills and transferring them onto her computer from whence she creates artistic albums telling stories of her journeys.

Marge the Friend ---- every day is an adventure for Marge, filled with new experiences, and Marge grasps these with both hands! Life has been richer, more adventurous and filled with laughter since my friendship with this wonderful person. Bless you."

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



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

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e-mail
Chairman	Trevor Thompson	-	079 525 9230 phenduke@durbs.com
Secretary	Ingrid D'eathe	031 262-3753	083 789 3753
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 Vanslemsbrouk	031 767 2969	0842067836 werner.v@iafrica.com
Trails Organisers	Derek & Sandra Pretorius	031 765 5029	084 355 4832 derek@webbis.co.za
Publicity	Coleen Seath	031 202 2279	scotcoleen@telkomsa.net
Social Organiser	Vacant	-	-
Ordinary Member	Colin Turner	031 708 3517	-
Magazine	Anne Thompson	-	072 791 0261 phenduke@durbs.com

Kevin 084-570-5702

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The last quarter of 2010! A year that saw a brilliant FIFA World Cup and the demise of the Springboks as Tri-Nations Champions – I don't know whether to laugh or cry!

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME

4th QUARTER 2010

This quarter the Club is trying something new. We've had very few opportunities for us all to meet as a Club, so Jenny and Werner have teamed up to provide a Club Hike once a quarter. The first one will be on Saturday 16th October at Giba Gorge and will be slightly longer than the normal Saturday hike. I think this is a great idea to promote club unity and I really hope we can count on you all to join in and give your support.

We're taking a much-needed look at our website and have formed a sub-committee to investigate ways and means (and cost!), but we need some technical assistance with this. So we're appealing to all you computer experts out there to come forward with your precious advice and knowledge. If you feel you can be of help, please contact Jenny on 084 952 0622 or jennyh@camclo.com.

Another request I'd like to make – if you have a query about a walk, please don't just SMS the hike leader, it costs them money to respond to you, which means they are out of pocket and that's just NOT ON! A little consideration will go a long way.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish you all a great festive season and hope you'll all join us for our end of year party on 4th December 2010, details of which are given later on in the magazine.

Happy hiking
Trevor

Member News

New members joining us during the last quarter are listed below. We extend a very warm welcome to you all and hope you enjoy many happy hours hiking the hills and dales with us.

- ☺ Christine Dench
- ☺ Lizelle Juliet d'Almeida (Rodwell)
- ☺ Kevin MacPherson
- ☺ Cheryl Sol
- ☺ Christine Connolly
- ☺ Terence Higginson
- ☺ Erryn & Nicole Zeiler
- ☺ Tracey Jacobs

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Friday 8 October	Dust off your dancing shoes and get to the German Club, Westville. Supper menu available. Contact Ray on 084 611 1199 or email him at raymondd@absamail.co.za
Saturday 4 December	Party Time!!! Kranskloof Interpretative Centre from 12 noon to 6pm. Please bring picnic baskets, meat and drinks. The Club will provide braai fires, salads, rolls and desserts. There will be a cover charge of R20 per head for the same excellent music makers as last year. To assist with catering please confirm numbers with Trevor on 079 525 9230 or Anne 072 791 0261 before 1 December 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
26 – 28 November	MOUNTAIN SHADOW RESORT – new venue. A blissful sanctuary in the Drakensberg Kamberg Valley, under 2 hours from Durban. Hiking in the surrounding mountains, trout fishing. Accommodation – 2 chalets, sleeping 10, fully equipped at R120 pppn. 2 rustic huts with double beds, R75 pppn (bedding provided). 2 caravans, sleeps 7 (bedding not provided) – R65 pppn. Camping sites with electricity – R50 pppn. NB: Take your own towels	TBA	Sandra 031 765 5029 084 355 4832

Why Wednesday Walks Are Wonderful (by Coleen Seath)

The Wednesday Rambles started a number of years ago when a group of pensioners decided that walking was good so why not more often! Our numbers have not grown much over the years (averaging 12 to 18 walkers) which is surprising considering the amount of retired Ramblers in our club. It just shows what busy people pensioners are! We are a group of loyal walkers and poor weather seldom deters us from stepping out into the countryside surrounding Durban. We are lucky to have two dedicated leaders in Colin and Philip.

Our walks follow the same pattern as Saturdays except that we picnic lunch after our hikes and catch up on everyone's news. Never gossip! We have special events such as a "tribute to our leaders" picnic and birthday specials with home made alcoholic cordials! Occasionally we "eat out" (Whacky Wednesday at Steers!!) Often we are treated to delicacies from the kitchens of those energetic Ramblers who still bake. Nearer Christmas we join the Scrabble Club for a festive lunch at a garden centre venue.

Wednesday Ramblers have developed into a family who care about each other and I think this is one of the wonderful things about Durban Ramblers --- we are a club which brings company and fun into the lives of its members.

And now a lovely tribute from Coleen to our very own Golden Girl, Marge Blake. Marge joined the Ramblers in November 1949 - an incredible 60+ years ago and she's still going strong, a great role model for a lot of us "younger" ones! Over to you, Coleen

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 27 Nov	Stainbank Nature Reserve	Steve	
	Shady walk through reserve, some game viewing. Meet at 13h45 at reserve car park. Entrance fee R15.00 per person.		
Sun 28 Nov	No hike today		
Wed 1 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 4 Dec	End of Year Party		
	No walk today - see Socials section		
Sun 5 Dec	University Ramble	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Morning walk from Glenwood, through Pigeon Valley and around the University campus.		
Wed 8 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 11 Dec	Burman Bush	Philip	031 201 3592
	From Jamieson Park along Ridge Road to Burman Bush - a shady walk through indigenous bush.		
Sun 12 Dec	Kloof Gorge	Margie	
	Margie has a wonderful hike from the car park to the top of the Gorge and along to Nqutu. Lunch at Soros Pools. Meet at Stokers at 08h00.		
Wed 15 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 18 Dec	Umbilo D'Moss Trail	Philip	031 201 3592
	Walk through parklands along Umbilo River. Meet at old Umbilo Drive-in at 13h45.		
Sun 19 Dec	Get Together	Jon	084 952 0622
	Jon is hosting our annual Sunday hikers' get-together this year. Meet at Jon's house at 09h00 for a 3 hour walk then a bring-and-share braai afterwards.		
Wed 22 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 25 Dec	Merry Christmas everyone!		
	No organised hike today		
Sun 26 Dec	Day of Goodwill	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Morning hike to walk off any Christmas over-indulgences and then braai or lunch afterwards. Venue to be advised.		
Wed 29 Dec	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

HIKING SCHEDULE
October - December 2010

Saturday Hikes

- **Please note:** Saturday hikers from Durban should phone Philip 031 201 3592 prior to leaving and arrange a pickup or to travel in convoy with him.
- 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, don't SMS them.
- 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 Oct	Alverstone Nature Reserve	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Grasslands and riverine forest. A good pace up and down dale, with some game viewing. Braai at Boma afterwards. Entrance fee R15,00 per person.		
Sun 3 Oct	Rob Roy	Jon	082 459 1522
	Starting from the Copper Kettle, Jon will lead a hike down into the Valley of 1000 Hills along easy footpaths, far from civilization. Always beautiful. Long uphill on the way back. Either meet in Pinetown at 08h00 or at Copper Kettle at 08h15. Petrol sharing costs R10.		
Wed 6 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 9 Oct	High Stakes	Werner	031 767 2969
	Open grasslands. Entrance R15.00 includes free safe parking and tea/coffee and cake. Meet in front of Assagay Hotel at 13h30 before proceeding to venue.		
Sun 10 Oct	Adamshurst	Rob	083 417 7805
	New hike and new Leader - Adamshurst in the Midmar Dam area. Rob King will lead this exciting new hike from Adamshurst, which has an indigenous nursery as well as a delightful coffee shop. Distance is approximately 16km over various farms in the area. Wonderful views over Midmar Dam. Petrol sharing costs R35.		
Wed 13 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 16 Oct	Giba Gorge	Werner	031 767 2969
	We join the Sunday hikers for our new Quarterly Club Hike - this time a walk along bike tracks, streams and waterfalls. Meet at Giba Gorge Cycle Club parking area at 13h45. Drinks and get together at the Clubhouse afterwards. R10.00 per person entrance.		
Sun 17 Oct	No hike today		
Wed 19 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 23 Oct	New Germany Nature Reserve	Ann	031 767 1027
	Through the bird aviary to grasslands and riverine bush. Some game viewing. Meet at reserve car park - off Otto Volek Road at 13h45.		
Sun 24 Oct	Drummond/Peacevale	Max	031 783 4173
	Max will lead this hike starting from his house in Drummond and walking around Peacevale and other areas. Bring your drinks for afterwards. R15 petrol sharing costs.	or Jenny to arrange meeting point	084 952 0622
Wed 27 Oct	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 30 Oct	Kearsney College	Carol	
	A new hike. Walk around the school grounds and the conservancy. Drive through the school gate and park on the grass area (right-hand side) just beyond the gate near the Astro turf hockey field. Entrance fee R10.00 per person.		
Sun 31 Oct	To be advised		
Wed 3 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 6 Nov	Kloof Longshadow	Ann	031 767 1027
	Shady walk, along river to Acutts Drive. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site parking. R15.00 entrance per person. Bring & braai afterwards at Trevor's.		
Sun 7 Nov	Beach hike - Ballito / Salt Rock	Duncan	083 229 7748
	Duncan Hiles will be leading his popular beach hike from Ballito to Salt Rock and back. Enjoy 10km of sandy beaches, rocky outcrops and beautiful tidal pools. A combined Mountain Backpackers and Ramblers hike. Meet next to service station at Hypermarket at 07h30. Petrol sharing costs R15. As we will be back by lunch time, there is an optional lunch afterwards at a venue still to be decided.		
Wed 10 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 13 Nov	Streets of Winston Park	Lois	031 767 2969
	From the Post Office at Gillitts, a shady walk along the streets of Winston Park. Afterwards meet at the Whole Hog for drinks.		
Sun 14 Nov	Vernon Crooks Nature Reserve	George	083 419 1191
	A joint Ramblers / Backpackers hike. George will be leading his annual hike from his farm and exploring the western section of Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve. This is a stunning hike with wonderful spring flowers in abundance and we'll visit the Umzinto Waterfall and Gorge. Hike is about 14km. R10 entrance fee to park. Petrol sharing costs R25. Bring warm jacket for trip back to the farm at the end of the hike.	or Jenny who will coordinate travel	084 952 0622
Wed 17 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 20 Nov	Clifton Watchtower	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Steep climb from Mushroom Farm to top of hill overlooking Giba Gorge. Meet at Assagay Hotel at 13h45 before proceeding to Mushroom farm car park.		
Sun 21 Nov	Giba Gorge and Shongweni	Dieter	031 462 7445
	Dieter will lead us on his very popular hike starting from Giba Gorge through to the Shongweni circuit. Meet at Giba Gorge car park at 08h00 (parking R10).		
Wed 24 Nov	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

John