

In the morning after breakfast we set off on the first 12kms of the hike, heading past the Barra Lighthouse for Tofo. It was extremely hot that day and it was with relief that we reached the Tofo Dive Shop for refreshments before booking into our hilltop accommodation, Albatroz Lodge. After a visit to the market and a swim, we were treated to a wonderful array of seafood for supper - crayfish, prawns, crabs, barracuda fresh from the sea, and much more.

Next day was the "biggie" heading 20kms south to Coconut Bay. Thankfully it wasn't quite as hot as the previous day and we reached the halfway mark by mid morning where we stopped to swim and snorkel, seeing a wonderful variety of colourful little fish. After resting and devouring our packed lunch, we then had to tackle the next 10kms. With the tide coming in, we were walking on soft sand, and it was quite heavy-going. I was beginning to think they would have to summon the stretcher crew, but somehow managed to make it to our beachfront chalets. Werner bought 5 crayfish from some of the locals on the way, which we all enjoyed with our dinner of prawn curry. Next morning we were treated to wonderful views of the sunrise, and after breakfast headed for the nearby reef to do some snorkelling on the outgoing tide. What an amazing variety of colourful reef fish – an experience to remember. We were then suddenly surrounded by hordes of locals who had come to take advantage of the low spring tide and glean shell fish from the rocks.

At about 11am we packed up and set off on the last 8km stretch to Guinjata Bay. Here we stopped for refreshments at Jeff's Dive Shop and arranged a boat trip for the next morning in the hope of viewing whale sharks & dolphins and snorkelling at the Coral Garden. We then piled into a rusted old 4x4 truck and went off to visit a rural village, where we were hosted by Morgado & his family for a very interesting tour, during which storm clouds were gathering. Needless to say we got drenched and arrived at Vista Bonita Lodge dripping wet. During the night the wind came up and next morning it was still blowing gales – definitely no boat trip in that weather! So instead we took a 2km walk south to Painsane, a very popular fishing resort, and later walked 2km north to Jeff's for the best pizza in the country.

All too soon our hike in paradise was over, and the next morning at 6am we started the long drive (10 hours 45 minutes) back to Nelspruit, with wonderful memories of a trip that was well worth every cent. Any Ramblers wishing to organise a future trip can contact Peter Burman on Tel: 011 024 5854 Cell: 076 791 3939 or Email: [peterburman@iburst.co.za](mailto:peterburman@iburst.co.za). Also visit the Website: [www.beachhike.co.za](http://www.beachhike.co.za).

#### ITEMS FOR SALE

Coleen Sneath: contact numbers: 031 202 2279 or Cell 0827357659

##### Backpack:

Cordura red/grey 60l with inbuilt frame. 4 side pockets and top and bottom holders. Also includes a rain cover. Good condition. R300,00

##### Tent:

Globetrotter 2 man igloo tent - pale blue with steel pegs and fly sheet. Good condition. R300,00



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#### THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2011

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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 [chowarth@mweb.co.za](mailto:chowarth@mweb.co.za)

## Chairman's Ramblings

Hi all

I've spoken in the past of our hike leaders and how, without them, our Club would not exist. However, as good as they are, they need assistance from everyone on the hike to ensure the safety of our members. In the last few months we have had a few occasions when hiking parties have become split due to being stretched out, either due to large numbers and/or winding terrain.

(Continued on next page)

This could have had serious consequences with people getting lost, hurting themselves and being cut off from the main party, etc. It is incumbent on everyone in the party to keep tabs on the walkers both in front and behind them. Please don't leave it to the leader and tail gunner to keep the party together - we all have a responsibility to hike safely and look out for each other.

I'm pleased to report that the improved website is proving an asset - we have gained nearly thirty new (and mostly younger) members this year, most of whom have found and joined us through the Internet. Younger members are vital to the health of our Club and to take us forward into the future. Moving on, I've received exciting info which may be of interest to some of you on slack packing in the Lidgetton Valley area ([www.pleasantplaces.co.za](http://www.pleasantplaces.co.za)) and hiking holidays in the Indian Ocean islands ([www.beachhike.co.za](http://www.beachhike.co.za)). Check them out!

Keep on hiking.

Trevor

### Member News

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

- |                      |                           |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ☺ Glen Pyle          | ☺ Callum Easton           | ☺ Nusrat & Mohamed Bagha  |
| ☺ Jade Nightscales   | ☺ Danielle Kelly          | ☺ Kerry & Duncan Mc Nevin |
| ☺ Bill Gosling       | ☺ Dries & Sandra Schoeman | ☺ Karen Clark             |
| ☺ Anne-Marie Whittle | ☺ Harry Holderness        | ☺ Bill Gosling            |
| ☺ Anna-Marie Zeelie  | ☺ Barry Suttie            | ☺ Frankie Cawdry          |
| ☺ Michael Burton     | ☺ Sandy Herman            |                           |

Welcome back Derek and Wendy Gudgeon

### SOCIAL CALENDAR

By Ray van Reenen

Since I took over the portfolio of Socials Organiser for the Ramblers, we've enjoyed a number of social

Saturday dawned cool and cloudy, but with a nice breeze blowing, the clouds soon disappeared and fifteen hikers eagerly set out for the day's hike. Our leader, Derek had planned a varied hike, heading first towards the new church on the hillside where we explored its stunning interior and interesting architecture.

From there we followed the game drive path, passing herds of bluebook, zebra and impala and enjoyed sweeping views across the hills and valleys of the game reserve until we reached the 383 steps leading down to the caves and bushman paintings. These were enthusiastically explored by several members of the group, despite the long slog down the steps and up again. The others stayed at the top of the steps to enjoy the beautiful view of Lake Eland bordered by soaring cranes.

From the caves we traced a route to the awesome 80 metre long suspension bridge where we enjoyed a welcome lunch break, afterwards taking the opportunity to explore the surrounding area. Later we set off on the homeward trip to the camp where we quickly showered the dust off and headed for the site restaurant to watch the Sharks decisively thump the Hurricanes by 40 points to 24.

The evening was cool but the braai fire was hot and we all gathered round for a bit of socialising in true Rambler fashion, later enjoying the traditional toasted marshmallows thoughtfully provided by Ann.

Sunday was sunny and hot and people were happy to "do their own thing". Lee and Ingrid set off on a bike ride to Lake Eland; the more energetic joined Trevor for a scenic 10km circular walk to the giant fig tree and picnic site, with game viewing along the way. A game drive plus the shorter walk from the picnic site to Lake Eland were enjoyed by some and others just vegetated at the camp. A total of eleven giraffes, including a baby, were sighted during the day.

Another braai in the evening saw the title of "Official Braai Lighter" bestowed on Derek due to his outstanding expertise with the very technical aspects of a box of matches and a bag of charcoal. Later we indulged in lots of Easter eggs, courtesy of Ingrid, Sandra and Ann.

Another very successful weekend away, thanks to Sandra's hard work and excellent organisational skills.

### MOÇAMBIQUE BEACH HIKE – MAY 2011

Rambler members: Werner & Lois, Jeanette, Merle & Ismail

On Saturday 24 May, we headed for Nelspruit where we met up with our hike leader, Peter Burman, as well as 3 other hikers from the Gauteng area, Eva, Flip & his wife Suemarie. Over dinner that night, Peter briefed us on what lay ahead, and after breakfast the next morning we clambered into a minibus ably driven by Johan, and with much excitement headed for Moçambique.

We travelled about 500kms on the first day with interesting sights along the way – passing through Maputo with pink flamingos on the bay and the bustling town of Xai-Xai which still shows remnants of Portuguese influence. We reached Nhambavale Lake mid-afternoon and were then transported about 10km in the back of a 4x4 truck to our overnight accommodation on the edge of the lake, which comprised a number of Moçambique-style thatched chalets. Watching the red sunset over the lake while we sipped refreshments at the lakeside pub created a lasting impression.

The next day we were back on the road heading for Inhambane about 200kms further north. Here we walked around the town, taking in the sights of dhows sailing on the lake and visiting places of interest such as a Mosque built in 1840, the railway museum and the town market. Another 25kms further on, we arrived in the early afternoon at our overnight accommodation – Anda Ca Lodge at Barra. This was right on the beach and we had wonderful views of the sea and some of our number couldn't wait to go for a swim. Peter suggested we go round to Flamingo Bay for a Dhow ride on the lake which proved to be a wonderful experience, sailing past the mangroves and beaching on a little sandy island to look for shells. Such a beautiful place! We travelled back to Anda Ca just as the full moon was rising. Delicious fresh barracuda for supper!

	Paradise Valley and Roosfontein reserves. This is a really interesting hike with a difference. Meet at Pavilion at 8.00 am, and from there we will do a shuttle to the start. R10 entrance fee to Paradise Valley		
Sun 28 August	Hornet's Krantz	Dieter Becker	031 462 7445
	Explore the heights of the Monteseel area, medium hike with one or two decent climbs. This has been timed to coincide with the steam train at Inchanga. Bring money to buy lunch at the station (optional)		
Sun 4 September	Table Mountain	Duncan	083 229 7748.
	Duncan's famous hike round the top of Table Mountain; waterfalls, forests, spring wild flowers and views of Nagle Dam and the Valley of 1 000 Hills. Meet at Pinetown at 7:30 or the Caltex garage near the corner of the R103 and Eddie Hagen Drive, Harrison Flats, Cato Ridge at 08:00. Petrol Sharing costs R30		
Sun 11 September	To be announced if we can find a hike leader		
Sun 25 September	Combined Saturday and Sunday hike from Umdhloti	Jon	082 459 1522
	Lovely morning hike starting off from Umdhloti and crossing towards Sibiya. Meet at the car park outside the Bush Tavern at 8.30 am. Optional lunch at the Bush Tavern afterwards.		

WEEKEND PROGRAMME 3 <sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2011			
19 to 21 August	Haven Rock, Montezuma, popular game farm. George Archibald mid south coast. 9 beds available in the farmhouse, hike on Sat. Sun. relax and George will take us for a game drive. R50pppn. <b>Only 9 people max for this weekend so hurry</b>	Sandy Pretorius	031 765 5029 (H) 084 355 4832

### RAMBLERS' CHRONICLES

#### EASTER WEEKEND at LAKE ELAND - APRIL 22 - 25

Easter weekend saw sixteen Ramblers setting up camp at Lake Eland, a unique game reserve in the Oribi Gorge. The weather on Friday afternoon turned quite chilly due to a cold wind, but ever resourceful; several Ramblers found a sheltered nook at the site restaurant to get together, imbibe a few sundowners (albeit sans sun!) and catch up on everyone's news.

evenings with good food, good wine and the most excellent company! It's my feeling that the social side of things can be run spontaneously and this will enable us to keep abreast of events as they happen so I'm not going to plan events months ahead. It also enables me, by speaking with many of you, to find out what your preferences are, after all, it's your bash that I'm organising so it's important that you enjoy it! I have set up my computer to send mail to most of you, but please check with me that your e-mail address is on my mailing list, so you do not miss out on anything. And please keep sending me your ideas for good socials.

Telephone: 031 702 1136  
Cell: 084 611 1199  
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#### 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. Please phone Philip; 031-201-3592 or Colin; 031 708 3517 for details of Wednesday hikes.

SATURDAY PROGRAMME 3 <sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2011			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 2 July	<b>Palmiet Nature Reserve.</b> Shady waik along river. Meet at Reserve car park area below Westville Hotel. Get together drinks afterwards at the Westville hotel	Philip	031 201 3592
Sat 9 July	<b>Roosfontein Nature reserve.</b> Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at entrance to Westville prison at 13.45pm. Drinks at the Firkin, Pavilion, afterwards	Rob	083 417 7805
Sat 16 July	<b>Beach hike</b>	Werner	084 206 7836

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	Park at the Casino, from where walking starts to Moses Mabida stadium and back along beach front to Ushaka and back. A get together afterwards at the Casino		
Sat 23 July	<b>Emberton Springside Conservancy</b>	Trevor	083 450 7109
	From Emberton driving range to the Springside Nature reserve Tea or Coffee and Cake at the Emberton Coffee shop afterwards		
Sat 30 July	<b>Umbilo Moss trail</b>	Philip	031 201 3592
	Moderate walk along river and through Parkland. Meet at 13.45pm at Okel Park, off Olive Lea Drive, off Bartle Road, Umbilo. A good hike for beginners		
Sat 6 August	<b>Streets of Winston Park</b>	Lois	031 767 2969
	From the Gillitts Post Office along the shady streets of Winston Park. The Whole Hog for drinks afterwards.		
Tues 9 August	<b>Morning Hike from Umhlanga to Umdhloti.</b>	Werner	084 206 7836
	Optional lunch at Bush Tavern Umdhloti. Hike starts at 9.30 am. Park cars at car park opposite Cabana Beach in Umhlanga Rocks. Phone Werner so that the number of hikers wishing to participate is known as arrangements must be made to drive up to Umdhloti so as to be taken back to Umhlanga Rocks after the hike.		
Sat 13 August	<b>University grounds</b>	Rob	083 417 7805
	Meet at the entrance to Pigeon valley (Glenwood), and walk through the grounds of the University.		083 977 2475
Sat 20 August	<b>Summerveld.</b>	Colin	031 708 3517
	Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13.45pm before proceeding to the Summerveld Club. Walk in horse country. Get together afterwards at the Assegay hotel		
Sat 27 August	<b>Kloof Longshadow</b>	Erica	031 266 1853
	Shady walk in Kloof Gorge area. Meet at the Krantzklouf Car park at 13.45pm. <b>Please remember the cost is R15.00 per person entrance</b>		
Sat 3 September	<b>Virginia Bush</b>	Phillip	031 209 0902
	Coastal Forest walk. Meet at entrance to Virginia Bush (Kensington Drive-Durban North Virginia) at 13.45pm. Meet at the Wings Club (Virginia Airport) after Hike		
Sat 10 September	<b>Paradise Valley</b>	Ismail	031 209 0902
	Shady walk with views of waterfall. Entrance R7 per person. Parking close to entrance to reserve.		
Sat 17 September	<b>Crestholme.</b>	Colin	031 708 3517
	Meet at the Waterfall Shopping centre at 13.30pm. Street walking and overlooking the Inanda Dam		
Sat 24 September	<b>Bluff Meander</b>	John	073 129 1928
	Meet at the BP garage in Edwin Swales Drive at 13.45pm		

083 799 8382

**SUNDAY PROGRAMME**  
3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2011

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
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Sun 3 July	<b>Killarney Rockery at Cato Ridge</b>	Jon	082 459 1522
	Jon Stevens will lead this moderate hike to see beautiful rock formations and fantastic viewing of aloes. 12 kms. R15 donation to the conservancy and parking. R25 petrol sharing costs.		
Sun 10 July	<b>Summerveld</b> Gary Sharpe will be leading an easy walk in the Summerveld area. Meet at Stokers at 8.30 am	Gary	072 902 4899
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Sun 17 July	<b>Ngobhankulu</b>	Nevil	031 705 3122
	This is a stunning hike and highly recommended. We climb up to Ngobankulu to see the panoramic views right up to the Berg on a clear day. Meet Pinetown 08h00 or at Umlaas Rd by arrangement with Nevil. Petrol sharing R40.		083 977 2475
Sun 24 July	<b>Westville University and Palmiet Nature Reserve</b>	Colin and Jill	031 267 2201 073 325 1775
	Jill and Colin Howarth have put together an interesting Westville walk of about 11 kms, which includes some scenic road and off road walking, 3 boulder hopping stream crossings and a couple of short scrambles which should be within the capabilities of average Ramblers. The hike will be followed by a braai at Jill and Colin's house. Meet at Westville Hotel parking at 8.30 am.		
Sun 31 July	<b>Hilton Ramble around Hilton College estate</b>	Colin	031 708 3517
	Colin's hike takes us through the Hilton College Conservancy down to Gwen Falls and the Umgeni River, with magnificent views of the Umgeni Valley. <b>This is another hike not to be missed.</b> Meet in Pinetown at 7.30 or at Hilton College at 8.30 am. Petrol sharing costs R55		
Sun 7 August	<b>Umlazi Meander</b>	Garry	072 902 4899
	Hike down into the lovely stretch of the Umlazi River above the Shongweni Dam and enjoy the abundant bird life. This is a lovely moderate hike with beautiful scenery along the river. Binoculars are handy on this hike. Petrol Sharing costs R20		
Sun 14 August	<b>South Coast Beach Walk – new to our program</b>	Yvonne	0743 698 8836
	Yvonne Lopper's beach walk is well known and she will be leading it for us now – meet in the car park at Mike's Sports Bar which is on the lagoon (near Santlam centre) and all hiker will be shuttled to the start at Amanzimtoti Golf Course (near Prospection). We will walk back to our cars along the beach. Lunch and drinks at Mike's afterwards, which is quite a nice spot on the river's edge and the food is reasonable.		
Sun 21 August	<b>Linear hike from Paradise Valley through Roosfontein Reserve to Pavilion Shopping Centre.</b>	Jon	082 459 1522
	It is quite amazing how Jon has managed to link		