

RAMBLERS' CHRONICLES

RAMBLERS WEEKEND AWAY FROM JUNE 10 – JUNE 12 2011. MTUNZINI, KZN NORTH COAST

Seven Ramblers travelled up to Xaxaza camp and caravan site in atrocious weather. En route, the heavens opened and visibility was poor, slowing down our progress on the road. However we all arrived safely and settled into our chalets. The rain continued unabated so playing Rummikub saved the day.

Saturday morning dawned cool, cloudy and dry and the remaining four Ramblers in our party arrived. Steve led us on a really interesting hike through the Raffia palms, where we heard and saw Hornbills, then into coastal bush and river estuary type terrain. There we encountered red crabs, and small snail like creatures in large numbers as we walked alongside the mangroves with their quite fascinating root systems. We spotted several ducks in the coastal forest. The Umlalazi is a typically African river, wide with sandy banks and warning signs saying "Beware of Crocodiles"!

On returning to our chalets we showered and changed. Feeling refreshed we settled down to watch the Sharks play the Lions. Since the Sharks only managed a 30-30 draw, we expressed our disappointment by drowning our sorrows with a choice of refreshments! The traditional Saturday night braai followed, accompanied by jokes, stories and much laughter. They rain was kind and held off until we had finished cooking and eating.

On Sunday we packed up and commenced a leisurely drive home, stopping off in Eshowe to do the "Board and Forest Walk" on which we saw some truly magnificent trees.

We then had an excellent lunch at the "Adams Outpost Restaurant" situated in the museum and craft centre. Finally the time came for us to head home.

Thanks to Sandy for organizing a most enjoyable and interesting week end.

Coleen Sneath



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

4TH QUARTER - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e-mail
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Social Organiser	Ray van Reenen	031 702 1136	084 611 1199 raymond@absamail.co.za
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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

Chairman's Ramblings

Hi all

Firstly, it's my sad duty to inform members of the death of one of our regular Saturday hikers, Herbie Edwards. Herbie had a heart attack whilst hiking with the club at Roosfontein on July 9th. Despite the valiant efforts of the Ramblers at the scene (Jill Dunstone in particular was marvellous); Herbie was pronounced dead by the ER24 paramedics. Herbie was truly one of nature's gentlemen and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace, my friend.

During the above incident, a couple of things came to light. Firstly, hikers should always have emergency contact numbers in their cell phones, listed under ICE (In case of Emergency) followed by the name and number. Emergency personnel are trained to look for these ICE numbers, so make sure you all have these in your cell phones.

Secondly please be aware that local hospitals will not send out ambulances or paramedics if medical aid details cannot be provided. I urge all our members to please carry these important details with you on each hike; it could save your life!

I've written in the past of the importance of staying together during hikes, and unfortunately I must stress this again. Twice in the last quarter groups have become split which could have resulted in major problems. It is the responsibility of EVERYONE, not just the hike leaders, to make sure they keep the person in front of them and the one behind them in view, especially in thick vegetation. Due to the success of our website we are getting more and more visitors and new members, some of whom have not got up to our fitness levels as yet, so it's important that we care for them by making them feel welcome to the club and ensuring they don't run into problems on the hikes.

Regards
Trevor

A TRIBUTE TO HERBIE

Herbie joined the Ramblers about 8 years ago and right from day one was well liked and respected by all who knew and hiked with him. A quiet unassuming bloke who was always willing to help on a hike and even take on the job I hated most -- that of tail gunner I knew if I was leading and Herbie was at the back then the waifs and strays were in good hands. His quiet sense of humour and thoughtfulness will be missed as will his electric guitar on weekends away when he had us rocking and singing until late at night. Although I miss him, in a way I envy him because when it's my turn to go, I'd like to do it his way--on a mountain or in the bush surrounded by friends. RIP Herbie

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.

Rolf Klein & Doreen Lamb

Kathy Hulbert

David Pratten

Janet Frangs

AB & SC Rice

ANNUAL RAMBLERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Ramblers' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, the 3rd of December, 2011 from 12.00 to 18.00.

The venue is exceptional as, from the seating level; there is a 360 degree panorama of Durban and surroundings.

ADDRESS: -

Mazars House

197 North Ridge (Peter Makoba) Road Next to McCarthy Building at the top of Trematon Drive, in Morningside, Durban.

WHAT TO BRING

Please bring your own meat or preferred food as well as your own drinks.

Plates, bowls, cutlery, glasses and braai tong

WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED

Music

Braai fires.

Salads and puddings

There will be no bar.

COST PER PERSON: - R20

RSVP

Trevor Thompson before 26th November

Contact details are:

e-mail:- phenduke@durbs.com

Cell phone: - 079 525 9230

Handwritten notes:
I-70
011 449 7580
3/11/2011
28888 58
0861
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0861

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4th QUARTER 2011			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	Hypermarket at 7.45 am. Bring rubber shoes for the rocks. Petrol sharing costs R20.		
Sat 3 December	Xmas get together - NO HIKE Details on Page 7		
Sun 4 December	Camelot	Jenny	0849520622
	With the assistance of Jon and the GPS, we will be doing the coffee farm, Camelot, at Inchanga. It is a medium hike in the upper valley of the Sterkspruit. Petrol sharing costs R20.		
Sat 10 December	Burman Bush	Werner	0317672969
	Moderate hike from Jamieson Park (opp Mitchell Park) to Burman Bush along roads and into natural Coastal Bush.		
Sun 11 December	Clifton Country House	Cheryl Sol	0835570244
	New Hike leader – Cheryl Sol will be leading a new variation of a hike in the Clifton Tower/Mushroom Farm area. We will start off from Clifton Country House, off the Shongweni Dam Road. Meet in Pinetown or at Assegai Hotel (by prior arrangement). Petrol sharing costs R15		
Sat 17 December	Assegai Meander	Lois	0317672969
	Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre (bottom of Botha's Hill) Street walking in the Assegai area		
Sun 18 December	Year-end get together for Sunday hikers – Jon is once again hosting our annual year-end bring and share braai. Meet at his house at 9.00 am for a morning walk to work up an appetite	Jon	0824591522

WEEKEND PROGRAMME 4th QUARTER 2011		
Date	Venue	Contact
28-29 October	<p>BOSTON T-PARTY</p> <p>Rustic but comfortable accommodation in lovely surroundings in KZN Midlands with great hiking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Camping with electricity - R50 pppn ➤ 4-bed dormitories – R70 pppn. Bring own sleeping bags and towels, use communal ablutions ➤ Private en-suite rooms 3 x double rooms, 2 x twin rooms, linen & towels provided – R150 pppn <p>In addition, good coffee and excellent cream scones, egg & bacon rolls are available, plus very good value-for-money meals on request, e.g. chicken casserole, curry and rice, also vegetarian. Orders for meals <u>must</u> be placed by Wed 26 Oct.</p> <p>A communal lounge/dining room with fire and fully equipped kitchen is available for our use.</p> <p>Pub across the road with TV for rugby fans.</p>	<p>Bookings Essential</p> <p>Trevor 079 525 9230</p>

October – December 2011

NB: Make sure that you always have your **PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER** in your cell phones, listed under **ICE** (In Case of Emergency) followed by the name and number. Emergency personnel want to look for your ICE number. Local hospitals will not send out ambulances or paramedics if **MEDICAL AID DETAILS** are not available. Please carry these important details with you on each hike.

RAMBLERS SOCIAL EVENT at BELLA TRATTORIA

By Ray van Reenen

On 5th July, 2011, a party of Ramblers met up at La Bella Trattoria, in St Thomas Road, Durban for a social evening.

The restaurant served Italian cuisine but mainly pizzas and pasta.

Jenny who had been there before recommended the venue as it had a pleasant and lively ambience.

As members arrived and joined the group, they had a drink at the bar and then moved on to the dining area to sit down and choose from the menu. The food was good and company convivial.

The music and the festive atmosphere soon led all to join in the spirited dancing.

A great time was had by all. We look forward to other socials in the future.

Please keep sending me your ideas for more socials.

Social Organiser: Ray van Reenen

Telephone: 031 7021136

Cell: 084 611 1199

E-mail: raymond@absa.co.za

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, and Pinetown to depart at 08h 00. 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.

October – December 2011

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4th QUARTER 2011			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 1 October	Clifton Watch 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 park. Drinks at Assegay Hotel afterwards.	Trevor	0795259230
Sun 2 October	Rob Roy Starting from the Pot and 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 8.00 or at Pot and Kettle at 8.15 am. Petrol sharing costs R15	Jon	0824591522
Sat 8 October	Stainbank Nature Reserve Moderate hike in natural bush and grasslands with some game viewing. Meet at car park inside reserve at 13.45pm. Entrance R15.00 per person	Steve	0839561556
Sun 9 October	Everdon Estates in the Howick / Karkloof with Midlands Hiking Club A stunning hike with spectacular views in the area. A level of fitness is required. Meet in Pinetown at 7.20 am. Petrol Sharing costs R50	Jenny Co-ordinator	0849520622
Sat 15 October	St Helier - Giba From St Helier Dam (park here) through Giba Conservancy to cucumber farm and beyond.	Rob	0834177805
Sun 16 October	Princes Grant to Zinkwazi Jon will lead a beautiful hike from the golfing estate, which is less than an hour away from Durban, through to Zinkwazi Lagoon. Part of the return is along the beach. Meet at the Hypermarket at 7.40 am or by arrangement at Princes Grant at 8.30 am. Petrol sharing costs R35. NB - it is essential to book a place on this hike	Jenny	0849520622
Sat 22 October	New Germany Nature - Reserve Meet at Reserve Car Park, off Otto Volek Road at 13.45pm. Grasslands and riverine bush.	Philp	0312013592
Sun 23 October	Vernon Crookes Dieter will lead a hike in Vernon Crookes in memory of Tom de Waal, who was renowned for his Vernon Crookes hike. We haven't done it for a few years and it has been timed to see all the beautiful spring flowers. Either meet at Glenwood Centre at 7.30 am or at Exit 104 on the N2 (Park Rynie/Vernon Crookes turn off) at 8.00 am. Petrol sharing costs R35	Dieter Becker	0314627445
Sat 29 October	QUARTERLY SATURDAY/SUNDAY RAMBLERS JOINT HIKE, Kearsney College 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 Astroturf hockey field. Entrance fee R10.00 per person	Carol	0827486546

October - December 2011

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4th QUARTER 2011			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 30 October	No Sunday hike. We are joining Saturday hikers for the quarterly joint hike on 29 October, 2011		
Sat 5 November	Summerveld Conservancy and country roads Meet at Assegai Hotel at 13.30 pm before proceeding to Hamiltons. Walk along streets and conservancy area	Colin	0317083517
Sun 6 November	La Mercy to Mount Moreland Starting from Umhloti, cross the La Mercy river and explore the area near the new airport and Mount Moreland. Easy but long hike. Meet at the parking lot by the sea across the road from the petrol station at 8.30	Brian Merryweather	0832281981
Sat 12 November	Alverstone Nature Reserve Grasslands up and down daie with some game viewing. Entrance R15.00 per person. Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13.45pm. After hike braai at the Boma.	Trevor	0795259230
Sun 13 November	Drummond 083-2768-4434 Max's Drummond hike from his farm in the Peacevale area, through to Monteseel and Inchanga, is always extremely popular. Braai afterwards so byo. Entrance fee: any carrots, veggie greens, fruits (no Citrus) for the donkeys. Petrol sharing costs R20. 031-783-4173	Jenny	0849520622
Sat 19 November	Giba Gorge Walk along Bike tracks, streams and waterfalls. Entrance R10.00 per person. Meet at Giba car park. After the hike relax in clubhouse for tea/cake or a beer	Werner	0842067836
Sun 20 November	Giba Gorge From the bike park we hike up and along the hillside on the left with good views of the valley, before dropping down to the valley and proceeding under the N3 toll road bridge and on to the McIntosh Falls and surrounds. We return via the upper wooded section of Giba Gorge loop, if time permits. Entrance fee R10. Either meet in Pinetown at 8.00 am or Giba Gorge at 8.10 am (petrol sharing costs R10)	Colin Turner	0317083517
Sat 26 November	Kloof along Longshadow to Acutt and Escarpment From Krantzklouf parking area. Entrance R15.00 per person	Erica	0312661853
Sun 27 November	Ballito to Salt Rock Duncan has planned his annual walk to take advantage of the spring tides. This is a stunning beach walk with beautiful tidal rock pools, sandy beaches, and rocky outcrops. Stay on after the hike for lunch at a venue still to be decided at Ballito afterwards. Meet next to service station at	Duncan	0832297748

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