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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

1st QUARTER - JANUARY - MARCH 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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	031 764-4740	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	08 4206 7836 werner.v@iafrica.com
Weekend 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	Ray van Reenen	031 702 1136	084 611 1199 raymond@absamail.co.za
Ordinary Member	Colin Turner	031 708 3517	-
Magazine Editor	Jill Howarth	031 267 2201	073 325 1775 chowarth@mweb.co.za
Web Editor	Rob King	-	083 417 7805 robking45@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Hi everyone

Firstly, on behalf of the committee I'd like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy, safe and prosperous 2012. By the time you get this edition of the magazine the Year End Party will be well and truly over, so I hope that those of you who attended had a great time. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask you to give your support to our next function which is the Ramblers 80th Anniversary Party. This special year in our club history will be marked by a Bring and Braai at Krantzklouf. During the year some of our more "mature" members will be taking a trip down memory lane and lead hikes and trails that were popular amongst our members some years ago. Details of these have yet to be finalised but will appear in the magazine in the course of the year.

Some of you may be aware that during September Durban Ramblers Hiking Club was asked to lead a hike for "Getaway" magazine at Alverstone Nature Reserve. My thanks go to Jenny, Anne & Colin for their invaluable help. The hike proved a huge success and "Getaway Magazine" has asked us to lead another hike for them in April next year, so I'll be looking for a couple of volunteers to help with this closer to the date. I feel being featured in a magazine of this calibre is an excellent way of promoting hiking in general and our club in particular.

The combined quarterly Club hikes are the committee's way of endeavouring to foster interaction between our Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday hikers. It's a great way of getting to know each other and promote unity within the club, so please do your best to attend. The Club Hike this quarter is the Gromor Hike on Sunday 12th February (joint hike Saturday and Sunday hikers) - hope to see you there!

Finally, a gentle nudge that our AGM will be held at Palmiet Nature Reserve in Westville on Saturday 11th February 2012, followed by a social bring and braai - please diarise! I believe it's important that as many members as possible are there to decide on the next committee members so please do your utmost to attend. Several members of the committee will have served their 3-year "sentence" and in terms of the Constitution will have to step down, so I appeal to any member who feels they could contribute to the future wellbeing of our club to come forward and offer their services as a committee member.

Happy 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.

Alice Gilbey	Claire Clark	John Constable & Sally Moon
Pamela & Kraft Von Aulock	Davis & Gail Hawkins	Wendy Scott
Philip Collyer	Rob Jeeves	Corina Bohmer
Grant Van Heerden	Lil Parker	Tony & Clair Hull
Hannie Bernhardt	Stuart & Gloria Kellaway	

January – March 2012

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.

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.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1st QUARTER 2012			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat. 7 January	Streets of Emberton and Impithi conservancy Meet at car Park in front of Gillitts Post Office at 13.45 pm. Donation of R5.00 towards upkeep of conservancy. Start the New year with some good cheer. After the hike, Werner and Lois are inviting members to enjoy Bongji's Chicken Curry and Rice. Cost R30.00 pp—bring your own cutlery and crockery and drinks. Space is limited to 20, reservations asap to secure your booking.	Lois	0317672969
Sun.8 January	No Hike		

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1st QUARTER 2012			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat.14 January	Giba Gorge (strenuous)	Werner	0842067836
	Walk along Bike tracks to streams and waterfalls. Entrance R10.00 per person. Meet at Giba Car Park adjoining Giba biking Clubhouse. After hike relax in clubhouse for Tea/cake or a beer		
Sun.15 January	Zwartkop	Jenny or Francois	0849520622 or 0839838007
	Francois Marais, Chairman of PMB Ramblers, will be leading the superb hike which starts off through the Cedara Agricultural grounds and forest to Cedara Dam for tea and then on to the top of Zwartkop and Little Zwartkop. Back to the cars via Mondi Nursery. Approximately 15 kms and level of fitness required. Drinks at Crossways afterwards. Meet in Pinetown at 7.00 am or the Rotunda at Hilton at 8.00 am.		
Sat.21 January	Palmiet Nature Reserve Moderate	Philip	031 2013592
	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		
Sun.22 January	Casuarina Beach, Westbrook	Jon	0824591522
	New hike and great walk for a hot day. A walk around the area north of the Umhloti River. Some beach and some inland. Meet at Pick 'n Pay Hyper at 6.30 am or Beach Bums at 7.00 am. The walk will be finished by noon in time for lunch at Beach Bums. Petrol sharing costs R20		
Sat.28 January	Umhlanga Rocks – Hawaan Forest	Coleen	0312022279
	Walk from the car park opposite the Cabana. Walk along the promenade, to the Hawaan forest and coastal bush, cross the river along the beach, back along coastal bush		
Sun.29 January	Ashburton	Tanya Hall	0824147482
	New / exploratory hike on Top Rock Farm in Ashburton, Lower Mpushini Valley Conservancy. Tanya will be leading this lovely walk through bushveld, Acacias and ravine. Excellent Gemstone and Rock Museum and shop on site. Hopefully restaurant complete for lunch and drinks after. Phone (do not sms) to confirm with Leader.		
Sat.4 February	Paradise Valley (Easy/Moderate)	Ismail	031 2090902
	Shady walk along river- Some historical interest. Park at reserve. Entrance fee R15.00 per person.		
Sun.5 February	Shongweni/Summerveld Circuit	Colin Turner	031 7083517
	A combination of Colin's various hikes in this area. R15 petrol sharing. Meet at Pinetown at 7.15 am or at Assegay Hotel at 7.30 am. We will be finished by lunch time		
Sat.11 February	AGM All Ramblers Members invited		
	BYO Braai at Palmiet Nature Reserve, bottom of Old New Germany Road, Westville. Parking available.		

January – March 2012

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1st QUARTER 2012			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun.12 February	Gromor (Joint Club hike Saturday & Sunday hikers)	Jon	082 4591522
	Last time we walked in the Gromor area it was wet and rainy. Jon Stevens is leading his new hike incorporating bits of the Bartlett's Estate walk. Starting from the Inchanga hotel, past the station and through the abandoned railway nursery, then up to the top of Bartlett's estate and down to Gromor. An industrial archaeological experience. Drinks at the hotel afterwards. R20 petrol. R10 to the conservancy. Leave Pinetown 7.00 or meet at the Inchanga Hotel (bottom gate) at 7.30 am. Finished by lunch time.		
Sat.18 February	Red Hill (easy)	Jon	0824591522
	Suburban, cemetery and coastal bush. Meet at Jon's house(180 Park Road off Blackburn Road an extension of Northway) at 13.45pm for a walk around Red Hill. Drinks (and a swim) afterwards at Jon's House. BYO.		

Sun.19 February	Westville University & Palmiet Nature Reserve Circular Morning Walk.	Colin & Jill	031 267 2201
	Meet at 7.30 at Westville Hotel. Set off down into Palmiet valley, around and up north of Westville University with great views. We enter the top of Palmiet Nature Reserve through shady paths down & back up to starting point. Refreshments at Waxy O'Connors.		
Sat. 25 February	Roosfontein (Easy/moderate)	Werner	084 206 7836
	Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at Westville Prison entrance parking at 13.45pm. Drinks and get together at Pavilion afterwards.		
Sun. 26 February	Eston area	Margie	073 437 6915
	Lovely moderate hike on a beautiful farm just past the Tala Game Reserve. Lunch at Van's at Camperdown afterwards (optional). Meet in Pinetown at 7.00 am. Petrol sharing costs R35		
Sat.3 March	Crestholme (moderate/strenuous)	Colin	031 708 3517
	Meet at Waterfall Shopping Centre at 13.30pm. Street walking and grasslands to look out of Inanda Dam.		
Sun.4 March	Stainbank	Stella	078 319 8979/ 031 5639356
	Morning walk around this lovely reserve followed by lunch/possible braai at the picnic spot afterwards. New hike leader – Stella Wells. Meet at entrance to Stainbank at 7.45 am		
Sat.10 March	Emberton – Springside Nature Reserve (easy/moderate)	Trevor	079 525 9230
	Shady walk onto open grassland to the Beacon. Meet at Krantskloof car-park at 1.45pm. Entrance R15.00 per person		

Sun. 11 March	Nagel Dam (Umgeni Bend)	Dieter Becker	031 462 7445
	We haven't done this hike in years, but were inspired when we looked down on it from the top of Table Mountain. Dieter is still investigating parts of it and the parking facilities. We will leave Durban 7.30 am. Petrol sharing costs R30		
Sat.17 March	Kloof Nature Reserve (easy/moderate)	Erica	031 266 1853
	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		
Sun. 18 March	Giba Gorge	Colin Turner	031 708 3517
	This one was rained out last year. 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 7.30 am or Giba Gorge at 7.10 am (petrol sharing costs R10)		
Wed. 21 March	Human Rights Day Morning Walk & Picnic Lunch	Colin Turner	031 708 3517
	BYO picnic lunch and drinks for a lunch time get together after the hike. From Nkutu picnic site we hike out of the Kranzkloof Nature Reserve across valleys, green hills and a plantation of gumtrees and back. Entrance fee R15.00 per person. Meet at Kranzkloof picnic/parking site at 9.00am (do not enter the parking area) before proceeding to Nkutu site.		
Sat.24 March	Barn Swallow Walk	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Meet at Mt Moreland Village Green at 13.30 to start walk at 13.45pm. Braai and sun-downers afterwards until viewing of the Swallows at 18.30pm. Directions – Take Umhloti Beach/Verulam turnoff from the N2 or M27. Turn left towards Verulam. After 1km at the white Tongaat pillar, take 1st right D575 to Mt Moreland. After 3kms take left fork over low level bridge then next right and 1st left up the hill to Mt Moreland. Park on the Village green on your right. Bring binoculars & chairs. R10.00 per person payable to conservancy.		
Sun. 25 March	Salimba Farm outside Richmond	Nevil	031 705 3122/ 083 977 2475
	Nevil is once again leading this stunning hike on Salimba Farm, with its wonderful views over the Umkomaas River valley. Last time we encountered a stray giraffe. Definitely not to be missed. Meet at Pinetown at 7.10 am. Petrol Sharing costs R40		
Sat. 31 March	Highstakes (moderate/strenuous)	Werner	084 206 7836
	Open Grasslands with pretty views. Meet at Assegai Hotel Garage at 13.30 before proceeding to Highstakes. R10.00 per person Entrance. Drinks at Highstakes after hike.		

WEEKEND PROGRAMME 1st QUARTER 2012		
Date	Venue	Contact
3 to 5 February	BUSHWILLOW CARAVAN PARK Karkloof, not far from Howick - Camping R75pppn, chalet R150pppn Lovely walks in forest area	Rob Sandra 031-765-5029 084-355-4832
6 to 9 April	DIDIMA CAMPING SITE - CATHEDRAL PEAK A firm favourite, Camping R90pppn	TBA



SANI PASS WILD FLOWER WALK

Sunday 29 January 2012

Cost R250 per person includes:

transport up Sani Pass;

A4 Sani Pass wild flowers poster; accompanying botanical experts; transport back from SA border post to Giant's Cup Café from 3pm on-wards (not earlier); afternoon tea / coffee and cake at the Giant's Cup Café after walk.

YOU NEED TO BRING:

PASSPORT essential! You will be exiting SA at an official border. Also:

hiking boots;

lunch;

lots of water to drink;

hiking stick;

hat;

warm clothing;

raingear.

Flower books/binoculars optional

ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY DUE TO LIMITED TRANSPORT!

Meet **06h30 sharp** at the Giant's Cup Cafe, 10.5km down the newly tarred SANI PASS ROAD on the left hand side.

Hats, bottled water, snacks, Elsa Pooley wild flower field guide books, Sani Pass mammals, birds and reptiles posters, WESSA publications will be on sale.

BOOKINGS: Sani Lodge Backpackers 033 7020330 / 0835661997 OR email info@sanilodge.co.za

Accommodation for the night before is also available at Sani Lodge Backpack-ers, on the same property as the Giant's Cup Café (www.sanilodge.co.za)

EDITOR'S NOTE

***On Saturday, 11th February the Annual General Meeting will be held as below.
N.B. Any issues to be discussed at AGM must be with the committee in writing before 28th January 2012.***

Included in the magazine, either as loose sheets, or in the text of the electronic copy are :-

Subscription Payment forms

Nomination forms for new office bearers to be elected to the Committee.

Please consider whether you or your fellow Ramblers are prepared to serve the Club as an Office Bearer on the committee. Fill in a nomination form for another or offer/accept nomination.

Regretfully, I shall not be available for the position as editor next year so this slot will be vacant. Please give thought to, whether as members, any of you would be willing to contribute to Ramblers by managing the publication of our Magazine

***Regards,
Jill***

**DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB
NOTICE OF 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date Saturday 11th February 2012
Time 12 noon
Venue Palmiet Nature Reserve, Old New Germany Rd, Westville

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting (**See Below**)
4. Consider any matters arising from the minutes
5. Receive and approve the Chairman's Report
6. Receive and approve the Financial report
7. Pay respects to passing members
8. Acknowledge new Honorary life members
9. Elect office bearers and the Executive Committee
10. Elect the Honorary Auditor
11. Present the Floating Trophy
12. 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 the Club. Please bring all your own requirements.

MINUTES OF THE 79TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB, HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2010 AT DURBAN MANGROVE SWAMPS

Welcome: Trevor welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance.

Present:

37 members as per attendance register. More attended the braai afterwards

Apologies: Rob King, Ann Devis, Ron Paige, Margaret Kirsten

Minutes of 2009 A.G.M.:

Confirmed: Proposed - Merle Mckenzie, Seconded – Anne Thompson

Matters Arising: None

Chairman's Report:

Good afternoon everybody, and welcome to the 79th Annual General Meeting of the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club.

The first thing I'd like to do is congratulate Dieter Becker on achieving life membership of the Ramblers after completing 30 years with the club. Well done, Dieter, I hope you have many more years hiking ahead of you.

Secondly, I'd like to give a well-deserved pat on the back to our website team, Jenny, Rob, Rose and Coleen. The work they did on the new website was outstanding and not only did they complete the project in good time, but also within budget. Well done, guys.

Rob King has agreed to be our website manager for the next 12 months to provide continuity until the system is well and truly commissioned. Thanks, Rob.

And don't forget you Ramblers with digital cameras can get in touch with Rob King and he'll load photos onto the website so we can keep a record of our hikes and trips and show potential members what we are about.

A few weeks ago I put together some figures of people hiking with us over the past couple of years.

These figures are approximate, but based on my averaging out numbers given to me by our hike leaders.

2009	Saturday	40	2010	Saturday	37
	Sunday	8		Sunday	25
	Wednesday	12		Wednesday	18
	Total	60		Total	80

So despite the recession we are taking more people hiking now than at any time in the recent past. I believe that this is an indication of the enthusiasm of the hike organisers in introducing new hikes every quarter and also becoming involved with other hiking groups plus I'm sure our new quarterly club hike can only be of benefit to us as a group.

In addition our weekends away last year proved very popular, with an average of 20 plus people each trip.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their dedication, innovation and hard work over the past year – it's really been a pleasure working with you all.

After the good news, we now get to the not so good. Interest rates have fallen with the result that we are not getting as much income on our capital as in previous years. This income went a long way to keeping our subscriptions low. In addition, we have had a fairly large capital expenditure on the new website makeover, which I'm sure you'll all agree was a necessity. For these reasons the committee feels that we will now have to propose increasing our subs. Margot will go into the details when she makes her Treasurer's report. I ask that you support the proposed increases as Durban Ramblers is still the most cost effective hiking club in the province.

It only remains for me to thank you for all your support in 2010 and wish you all the best for the future.

Thank you.

January – March 2012

Trevor Thompson

FINANCIAL REPORT

We have managed to stay within our budget and despite having the once-off expense of the new Website of R4,845 we only made a loss of R1,170.

Our largest cost is printing and postage of the Magazine which amounted to R2,610.00 This will be increasing on an annual basis due to inflation. We ask Members who would like to receive the Magazine by e-mail to let the Magazine Editor know. (new Editor to be elected as Anne Thompson has done her full term. Thanks Anne for all the hard work.) Thanks also to those members who are currently receiving theirs by E-mail.

Interest rates on our Fixed deposit of R68,814 are still low and as we rely on this for a large part of the club's income we will unfortunately be requesting an increase in subscriptions.

Thanking You
Margot Barraclough
Treasurer
26/02/11

Comment: Margie Forbes receiving mag by post and email, to be amended

Field was not agreeable with the proposal of subs increase. A discussion was entered into, which led to voting on the matter. There were 30 in favour of the increase and 5 not in favour.

New fees as follows:

- a. Single member from R60 to R70
- b. Couple/family from R75 to R90
- c. Country single from R45 to R55
- d. Country couple from R50 to R60

It was brought to the members notice that costs had been cut at committee meetings, Christmas party, & AGM. Colin had drawn up a budget which Margot stuck to.

Amendments to the Constitution: No amendments to the Constitution were proposed.

Election of Office Bearers:

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

Office	Elected	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Trevor Thompson	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
Secretary	Ingrid D'Eathe	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
Treasurer/Data base	Margot Barraclough	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
Day Hike Organiser	Jenny Rooks	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
Saturday Hike Organiser	Werner Vanslebrouck	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
Trails/Berg Organiser	Sandra & Derek Pretorius	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
Socials Organiser	Ray van Vuuren	Trevor Thompson	Anne Thompson
Magazine Editor	Jill Howarth	Anne Thompson	Jon Stevens
Publicity Organiser	Coleen Seath	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius

January – March 2012

Ordinary Member	Colin Turner	Merle Mc Kenzie	Derek Pretorius
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Appointment of Honorary Auditor:

Colin Turner was nominated auditor for 2011/2012 by the committee members. This was seconded by all club members.

In Memoriam:

Honorary Life Membership: Dieter Bekker

Club Trophy: The Club Trophy was awarded to Jenny Rooks for her commitment to the Sunday Hiking Programme, for the inclusion of other hiking clubs in our program and her enthusiasm and contribution to the new web site. Her weekly report backs are read by many. Thank you very much for all you have done, Jenny.

General:

- 1) Marge Blake reminded us of the 80th Anniversary of the club next year.
- 2) Gary Sharpe thanked the committee for all they had and were doing for the club.
- 3) Sandra will be away August – October so Trevor will try to assist where necessary with weekends away.
- 4) Werner mentioned his Bhowani hike/lunch on Thursday 16th June @R110 for all .
- 5) Ray promoted his social portfolio

The meeting closed at 12.45pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

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