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

2ND QUARTER: APRIL – JUNE 2012

### CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Our AGM could have had more members attending. I suppose it is either ascribable to apathy, or I like this better, members are so happy with the state of affairs, thanks to our outgoing Chairman Trevor, they do not see the need to attend. At that meeting Jon's name was inscribed on to the floating Trophy for his contribution to the club. Thank you, Jon.

As the new Chairman I welcome the new members and the existing members on the Committee. We held our first meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The enthusiasm of that meeting, with new ideas abounding, a Facebook to keep members informed, help to newer members by introducing shorter hikes within the normal Saturday hike programmes are just a few of things to come.

The swallows it seems have decided to leave Mount Moreland. We sincerely hope they will be back when we do our annual Mt Moreland hike under the leadership of Jenny. Ever since we heard that news, we have had up to fifty swallows gathering every evening in our valley in front of our house in Gillitts! If it continues, in a few years time, the swallow hike and braai will have to be held in this part of the world.

It is our 80<sup>th</sup> year of existence, a milestone for the Ramblers Club. I have been told that we are the second oldest hiking club in the country. Watch out for the programmes to celebrate this event - weekends away, lunchtime dance and braais, evening walk and a picnic watching the moon rising over the ocean! (You tell me whether we are not a romantic lot).

Let us remember an old member - Bill Hyslop, well-known for his snippers in clearing and mapping out many hikes. He passed away at the end of last year. In his honour a Bill Hyslop Memorial Hike is to be introduced into our Sunday hike schedule.

On a parting note, I call on all hikers to have I.C.E. (in case of emergency) + medical details either on their cellphones or on an identification card available on their person. Also when hiking please check to see who is in front of you and who is behind you and keep distances between you and the others within hearing distance.

We consider hiking fun, let's keep it that way.

Regards  
Werner.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Werner Vanslebrouck	084 206 7836	031 767 2969	werner.v@iafrica.com
Secretary	Ingrid D'Eathe	083 789 3753	031 262 3753	
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	082 900 6965		biff@eastcoast.co.za
Sun Hike Org	Marie Gurr	082 586 0266	031 705 3122	marinev.gurr@gmail.com
Sat Hike Org	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	031 201 8864	philipcollyer@gmail.com
Weekend Org	Jill Dunstone	084 780 0818	031 765 4520	jillyd@telkomsa.net
Publicity	Coleen Seath		031 202 2279	scotcoleen@telkomsa.net
Social Org	Ray van Reenen	084 611 1199	031 702 1136	raymond@absamail.co.za
Ord Member	Colin Turner	084 499 0371	031 708 3517	
Magazine & Web Editor	Linda Hiles	083 226 0044	031 202 8677	linda@hiles.co.za

### 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.

Collette Bundy  
Des Porter  
Lorelle Britz  
Marcia Scates

Kevin & Stephanie Roberts  
Stuart & Wendy Hall  
Russel & Pam Mapp  
Dawn & Tony Africa

### PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

Please have your emergency contact number(s) under ICE (In Case of Emergency) in your cell phone and on a label/card of some sort attached to your daypack. Details should consist of your name, ID number, name of medical aid and membership number (your medical aid card should be with you too) and the name and number(s) of someone to contact. Emergency personnel will look for your ICE details. Local hospitals will not send out an ambulance or paramedics if your medical aid details are not available. Please carry these important details with you on each hike.

**SUBS FOR 2012** are unchanged from 2011

Single Member R70                      Family R90  
Country Single R55                      Country Family R60

The preferred way of paying is by EFT directly into the bank account as cheques and cash both attract big bank charges. You can pay cash **directly** to Biff.

Subs are due now. The cut off date for paying subs 2012 is the end of May.

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### MAGAZINE

Please send me ([linda@hiles.co.za](mailto:linda@hiles.co.za)) your email address if you have been receiving the magazine by post and now want the speedier email version. It also helps reduce our very substantial posting costs to email the magazine to you.

We'll be notifying you of social events by email and on the website so make sure you are in the email loop.

Don't forget to send us your new email address if you change your email address.

## **80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

### **Sunset Moonrise Walk Saturday 5 May 2012**

As part of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we will do a late afternoon/early evening walk on the beachfront when it will be a full moon. This is a comfortable walk where all members can participate.

Meet and park opposite the Edenroc Hotel where the snake park used to be by 4.00pm. Reliable car guards are in attendance.

We will get together after the walk on the grassy area so bring a picnic, something to drink and something to sit on. No alcohol or glass bottles are allowed on the beachfront.

No booking is required. Contact Colin 031 7083517 or 0844990371 if you need more information.

### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at Krantzklouf Nature Reserve Saturday 19 May**

Bring and Braai Picnic from 12.00 noon to celebrate the 80 year anniversary. Entrance fee to the Nature Reserve is R15.

Ramblers will provide:- Fires, Rolls, Salads, puddings and music.

**Contact Trevor before May 12<sup>th</sup>** on 0795259230 for catering purposes. Please do not ring after this date, no late comers will be accepted – no exceptions.

### **Anniversary weekend & lunch**

#### **Mt Park, Dargle June 1-3**

Many of the older, retired Ramblers have already booked their places for this event organised by Marge Blake along the lines of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch. This is a 3-day weekend at Mt Park. The house and cottages are almost fully booked already but campsites are still available at R80/ppn. Electricity is available at sites. A buffet lunch has been arranged for the Saturday at nearby Everglades for those who wish to attend - R150 pp. A braai lunch is planned for the Sunday. Contact Marge Blake at 031 266-2426

### **Anniversary Hikes**

In the first 60-odd years of its existence, the Ramblers' Club utilised all long weekends as opportunities for grand adventures which extended the hikers of the day in the most exhilarating way. Most were 'Berg trips, where the equipment was reduced to the barest essentials to be carried in a well-designed rucksack on one's back, and took place in our much beloved Drakensberg. The arrival of Mountain Backpackers (which focused principally on weekend trips) and the age of members have reduced the numbers of the Drakensberg and other heroic trips organised by the Ramblers' Club.

Philip Gatenby would like to organise two short trips which will bring back memories to older members and hopefully arouse the enthusiasm of the younger members. These trips will only require the fitness levels of regular Wednesday and Saturday hikers; will only cost about R100 per day (plus transport, to be shared); and a quality rucksack can be hired for R5 per day for the latter trip.

#### **Forest Side 9-12 August 2012**

#### **Blinkwater Trail, New Hanover area. 22-24 September 2012**

Further details under Weekends Away in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.

## SOCIALS

Ray is organising a dinner/dance on Friday 23rd March at 7.30 at the German Club in Westville. Food is good value and drinks are reasonably priced. Tammi, a popular entertainer will provide the music for ballroom dancing, Latin jive/ rock n roll. Please contact Ray at 084 6111199 or 031 7021136 by Wednesday 21st March if you are planning to attend as he will book a table for Ramblers.

## HIKES

### SATURDAY HIKES

- Please get to starting point by 13h45 in order for the 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.
- Or Saturday hikers from Durban can phone Philip Gatenby 031 201 3592 prior to leaving and arrange a pickup or to travel in convoy with him.
- 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 usually at 8.00. 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.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING HIKES

Please check details of the Wednesday hikes with Colin 031 708 3517 or Philip 031 201 3592. If no response is obtained from the first leader phoned, please phone the alternate leader.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME SECOND QUARTER 2012			
DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	TEL
Sun 1 April	<b>Thornridge</b>	Jon	0824591522
	Enjoy a day hiking in the bush in the Cato Ridge area. Petrol sharing R20 plus R15 donation to conservancy. BYO drinks for afterwards.		
Sat 7 April	<b>Streets of Gillitts (Moderate)</b>	Werner	0842067836
	Meet at car park in front of Gillitts Post Office at 13.45 pm. Walk along the streets of Gillitts. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
Sun 8 April	No hike today. Join Saturday hike.		
Sat 14 April	<b>Waterfall Bike Track (Moderate)</b>	Werner	0842067836
	Meet the Waterfall Shopping Centre at 13.45. Walk along Inanda Road and through the Waterfall biking track. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME SECOND QUARTER 2012</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF HIKE</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>TEL</b>
<b>Sun 15 April</b>	<b>Mt. Edgecombe Meander</b>	<b>Jenny</b>	<b>0849520622</b>
	Park at Spar, Flanders Drive (near SARS building) in time for a prompt 8.30am departure. Circular hike around Marshall Dam and up to Umhlanga. (Approx. 18km.)		
<b>Sat 21 April</b>	<b>Kloof – Imphithi Porcupine Falls (Moderate)</b>	<b>Trevor</b>	<b>0795259230</b>
	Meet at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve picnic spot at 13.45. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 22 April</b>	<b>Stonehaven Castle</b>	<b>Dieter</b>	<b>0314627445</b>
	A popular hike, starting with a steep climb up the hill from Shongweni to Summerveld. R20 petrol sharing.		
<b>Sat 28 April</b>	<b>Stainbank Nature Reserve (Moderate)</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	<b>031 2018864 0824170204</b>
	Meet at the car park inside the reserve at 13.45. Hike in natural bush and grasslands with some game viewing. Entrance of R15 payable at the entrance of the reserve. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 29 April</b>	<b>Umgeni Valley</b>		
	<i>To be confirmed.</i>		
<b>Sat 5 May</b>	<b>Moonlight Beach Walk (Easy)</b>	<b>Colin</b>	<b>0317083517</b>
	Meet at the Snake Park on the beachfront at 16.45. More details under 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.		
<b>Sun 6 May</b>	<b>La Mercy to Mt. Moreland</b>	<b>Brian</b>	<b>0832281981</b>
	Meet in the parking area opposite the Bush Tavern, Umdloti, in time for a prompt 8.30am departure. Cross La Mercy River and hike across country to the "new" airport (and back!).		
<b>Sat 12 May</b>	<b>1000 Hills (Moderate)</b>	<b>Philip</b>	<b>0312013592</b>
	Grasslands and indigenous bush overlooking Valley of 1000 Hills. Meet at and park at Drum and Bell at 13.45. Follow Old Main Road past Botha's Hill towards Drummond. Drinks at Drum and Bell afterwards. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 13 May</b>	<b>Alverstone</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>0317837876 0839684434</b>
	Joint hike with Midlands. Max will lead us from his farm to Otto's Walk on the Alverstone side. Be warned - steep in some sections. Meet in Pinetown for a prompt 7.45am departure. Petrol sharing R25. (Approx. 10km.) BYO for braai on the farm later. NB: Fee for safe parking is carrots, veggie greens and fruit (no citrus) for the donkeys!		
<b>Sat 19 May</b>	<b>Party – No Hike</b>	<b>Trevor</b>	<b>0795259230</b>
	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve at 12.00 noon. Bring and braai picnic . <b>Confirmation by 12 May essential.</b> Details under 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.		
<b>Sun 20 May</b>	<b>Kloof Gorge</b>	<b>Margie</b>	<b>0734376915</b>
	Meet outside Stokers at 8am for a day of ups and downs around this beautiful reserve. Petrol sharing R15 plus entrance fee.		

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME SECOND QUARTER 2012</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF HIKE</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>TEL</b>
<b>Sat 26 May</b>	<b>Virginia Bush/Meander (Moderate)</b>	<b>Ismail</b>	<b>0312090902</b>
	Meet at Virginia Airport at 13.45. Beach walk and suburbs. Meet for drinks after at Virginia Airport Club. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 27 May</b>	<b>Falklands Farm</b>	<b>Coordinator Marie</b>	<b>0825860266 0317053122</b>
	Joint hike with Pietermaritzburg Ramblers, led by their chairman Francois Marais. Lovely hike through nut orchards with scenic views of the Umgeni River.		
<b>Sat 2 June</b>	<b>Glenwood/ Umbilo Hike (Easy)</b>	<b>Coleen Seath</b>	<b>0312022279</b>
	Meet at the Stellawood Soccer Club at 13.45. Walk on the streets of Glenwood, through Bulwer Park and Pigeon Valley and past the Varsity. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 3 June</b>	No hike today. Join Saturday Ramblers.		
<b>Sat 9 June</b>	<b>Kloof Longshadows (moderate)</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	<b>0312018864 0824170204</b>
	Meet at Krantzkloof Nature Reserve at 13.45, R15 entrance. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 10 June</b>	<b>Virginia Farm, Mid-Ilovo (previously known as Wingfield)</b>	<b>Nevil</b>	<b>0839772475 0317053122</b>
	<i>To be confirmed.</i>		
<b>Sat 16 June</b>	<b>New Germany Nature Reserve (Moderate)</b>	<b>Jill Dunstone</b>	<b>031 7654520</b>
	Walk through New Germany Nature Reserve, Grassland and bush. Meet at the New Germany Nature Reserve Car park at 13.45, R15 donation. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 17 June</b>	<b>Hammarisdale Falls</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>0824591522</b>
	A hike not done for a while as it's far more enjoyable in cooler weather! R20 petrol sharing.		
<b>Sat 23 June</b>	<b>Alverstone</b>	<b>Trevor</b>	<b>0795259230</b>
	Grasslands and up and down dale with some game viewing. Entrance is R15. Meet at the Hotel Assegay at 13.45, then drive to Alverston. After hike, braai at the Boma. A short hike, approximately an hour and a half, will also be available and will take the same but shorter route.		
<b>Sun 24 June</b>	<b>Drummond/Inchanga</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>0317837876 0839684434</b>
	Joint hike with Midlands. Depart Pinetown 7.45am sharp. Max will lead his hike from the farm, through to Monteseel and Inchanga. (Steep in sections.) Wonderful views of the Valley Of 1 000 Hills. (Approx. 15km.) Petrol sharing R25. Braai at the farm afterwards - please BYO. NB: Fee for safe parking - carrots, veggie greens and fruit (no citrus) for the donkeys.		
<b>Sat 30 June</b>	No hike. Hikers to join Sunday Hike.		

## **WEEKENDS AWAY 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER**

### **6-9 April Easter Weekend Didima (Cathedral Peak)**

Camping sites with electricity. Limited space is still available.  
Contact Biff Maggs 082 900 6965

### **1-3 June Mt Park, Dargle**

Organised by Marge Blake along the lines of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend, this is a 3-day bash at Mt Park. Cottages R150 ppn; campsites R80/ppn. Buffet lunch at nearby Everglades for those who wish to attend - R150 pp. A braai lunch is planned for the Sunday.  
Contact Marge Blake at 031 266-2426

### **Weekends away in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:**

#### **9-12 August Forest Side**

By 4WD to a privately owned lodge on the upper reaches of the Umtamvuna close to the source. Day walks from lodge to Fairview Falls. 16 places available  
Contact Philip Gatenby on 031 201 3592

#### **22-24 September Blinkwater Trail, New Hanover area.**

Short backpacking stages between overnight huts. Beautiful scenery to End of the Rainbow. 12 places available  
Contact Philip Gatenby on 031 201 3592

### **Bush Willow Weekend away 3-5 February.**

#### **Coleen Seath**

Over 20 Ramblers attended our weekend away, at Bush Willow in the Karkloof area north of Howick. What a beautiful grassy campsite it was, with a dam and comfortable recreation hall with veranda/deck overlooking the dam. This is where the Ramblers congregated for both evenings to socialize. Most people settled in on Friday afternoon, putting up tents, positioning caravans and exploring the campsite. The adventurous swam in the dam and floated in tubes, relaxing. A very well equipped chalet housed our oldest Rambler, Marge and four friends. Sundowners on the deck brought us all together to compare notes, chat and socialize.

Saturday morning at about 3:45 the wind began to blow; building up into huge gusts which swept down the unprotected valley. Many tents took strain and the flapping and buffeting of the tents woke quite a few of us up. Sadly one tent ended with a split pole! Luckily the chalet ladies were happy to let Jill and I sleep on their lounge floor.

On Saturday morning 23 hikers set off with Rob our guest leader. Rob, a cross country runner was to lead us up to the top of the ridge to see the water fall Grey Mare's Tail. The climb started with a steep ascent from behind the recreation hall and continued steeply up for some 2 hours! The route took us through indigenous forest, over streams, rocky pathways which in some places were muddy and tricky to negotiate.

Shortly into the hike Philip and a guest Rambler turned back to retrieve keys that had been left in the boot of the car for all to see. Marge and Monica also turned back intending to bird watch and take photographs. The rest of us toiled up behind Rob who was setting a cracking pace. Margot unfortunately slipped crossing a muddy stream and her cell phone fell out of her pocket unnoticed. The slower hikers battled to keep pace and fell back huffing and puffing grabbing a rest and drink of water when possible.

At last we emerged out of the forest onto the hillside with a magnificent view of the Karkloof valley. It was extremely hot on top with little or no shade. We walked across the top of the waterfall and walked a little further on for a good view of the falls before settling down to lunch and a well-earned rest. The imposing rock face deserved a few photos. Jeanette and Ken managed to fit in a skinny dip in one of the tarns while the rest of us relaxed thankfully before making our way back down to the camp.

On the return before heading into the forest Jeanette and Rob challenged each other to a "bok drollitjie" spitting competition. Well - this drew some very mixed comments.

The descent down was almost as arduous as the climb up; but we all reached the camp tired but without any further mishaps. Black clouds and rumbling with lightning followed us on the last third of the return to camp and shortly afterwards the heavens opened and a downpour ensued. A couple of tents were not quite watertight but this didn't dampen spirits! We had a good evening braai and get together in the recreation hall. No late night revellers however!! Sunday dawned a beautiful day and most Ramblers spent a lazy morning before heading off home. Many thanks to Sandy, who has taken us to some lovely places during her three years of tenure.

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 [linda@hiles.co.za](mailto:linda@hiles.co.za)