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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

4th QUARTER: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2012

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

I have just had my first swim in the pool. At 22°C, it was very pleasant. That makes it official - the first day of spring is here. It is also the day that Americans pack away their shorts and all start wearing longs. Beautiful spring colours everywhere - azaleas, the marmalade bush, the coral tree, the yellow and purple tabebuia and just now the jacarandas - a feast for the eyes. The swallows and the yellowbilled kites are back but in our valley our crested eagles leave, they do not like the competition from the kites.

It is also a time where the committee has to organise our annual Xmas function. We have decided to go back to the Kloof Interpretative Centre, but for a change do something different, not a braai.

I was interrupted in the pursuit of my literary skills when Lois called me from the kitchen. She is preparing the dessert for this evening's Potjie competition and I was given the task of peeling the pears. That done, back to my ramblings.

The Potjie evening was enjoyed by all who attended. The four cooks participating - Ray van Reenen, Trevor Thompson, Derek Pretorius and Glen Pyle, pulled out all the stops and produced potjies worthy of master chef status. The results were so close that the only way to award the prizes was by having a draw.

This quarter we only had one mishap. Cheryl Sol broke her ankle on a hike. We wish her speedy recovery and hope that she is back to hiking soon.

Marge Blake has been the keeper of our historical records, that is, all of 80 years. What to do with all the paper records? Modern science to the rescue, with Philip Collyer suggesting that we scan the records and put them on to Wikipedia! Anyone volunteering to do the scanning, please contact Philip.

Now for some life lessons from the Trail

1. A pebble migrates in a hiking boot to where it causes most irritation.
2. Waterproof rainwear does not keep out the rain but is 100% effective at containing sweat.
3. Don't think you are on the right road just because it is a well-beaten path.
4. When seeing a lion on your path, don't pray, just run. The lion might also be praying and is thanking the lord for gifts to be received!

Happy hiking.
Werner

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Werner Vanslebrouck	084 206 7836	031 767 2969	werner.v@iafrica.com
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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

New Members

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.

Christine Heidebrecht
Anita Soland
George & Sharon Rainier

Malcom & Charmaine Eastment
Tindall Kruger

Subs for 2012

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.

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ARTICLES

Outdoor Adventure Gear, Glenwood Village Centre

For years, we Durban hikers have resigned ourselves to mediocre, or totally absent, advice when buying new or replacement equipment.

Well, no more do we have to meet the lacklustre stare of a saleslady who hasn't heard of Waterproof Trail Shoes and makes us repeat our request and then brings boots, usually in the wrong size. No more do we have to explain that hiking entails a harder walk than to the bus across the road. Mostly these days, we neither bother to explain nor complain and we accept bad service and choose our own boots, often making expensive mistakes.

And into this dismal scene, burst William and Margie - what a pleasure to be served (in the true sense of the word) and led through the intricacies of choosing the correct footwear for our idiosyncratic feet, pronated gait and wobbly knees. To be FITTED to the shoe, to be told to wiggle one's toes, to be advised and cosseted and listened to by people who have crossed

rivers, climbed passes, slept rough and who make eye-contact at the same time. These folk are to be treasured.

And of course they aren't ONLY about boots. Have a look at the wide range of excellent hiking clothing and equipment. Backpacks - here again you are going to get excellent service and advice to get the backpack which is comfortable for your body type. We are all different and our backpacks need specialised fitting to our round/thin/tall/short bodies. Incidentally I've never seen such a huge range of hydration packs! Oooh and the sleeping bags.....!!

Thank you William and Margie. We wish you every success and hope that the small hiking community will make your enterprise worthwhile.

Join them on Facebook - OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GEAR

Tel: 031 201 5729

Cell: 082 825 1652

oag@telkomsa.net

Rose Dix

Markets of Warwick City Tour

Saturday 8 September

This amazing tour on our own doorstep which takes us into a very different part of our own city is like travelling in a foreign country.

A group of Saturday hikers met at Wilson's Wharf with initial plans of walking to the Victoria Street Market to meet the tour leaders, do the Markets of Warwick tour and then walk back to Wilson's Wharf via the streets of Durban and the Bat Centre.

It was a different hiking experience walking the crowded Saturday afternoon streets pushing between people and pavement vendors from Wilson's Wharf to meet our guide at the Victoria Street Market.

The Markets of Warwick are situated at a major transport interchange and includes about 8000 vendors trading in several distinct markets round the station and under the freeway. It is South Africa's most authentic African market consisting of a number of different markets, including the Berea station market, the Brook Street Market, Victoria Street Market, Music Bridge, the Early Morning Market and others, each with its specific type of trade. We could have shopped until we dropped for vegetables, gold jewellery, electric plugs, soaps and church uniforms. Jabulani



Sambo, our tour guide, gave us a comprehensive overview of the history of the market as well as the latest eThekweni attempts to have the markets demolished to make way for a shopping mall.

We started walking through the Herb Market with plants and animals displayed for sale and were struck by the many differences between the Western attitude to medicine and conservation and the African traditional medicine.



At the Bovine Head Market we heard how the cow heads were prepared and cooked while watching a youth bashing the cow head with an axe. We were offered a taste of the meat and steamed bread on a wooden board, just like all the locals who were sitting in the market enjoying the feast. The meat was deliciously sweet and tender. Bald chickens watched the proceedings from the holes in an apple box, possibly unaware they were also destined for the pot. The vegetable stalls offered magnificent spinach and other vegetables at ridiculously cheap prices.

Then on to the surrounding Moslem, Jewish, Parsee and Christian cemeteries, all of which had old graves and names of Durban forefathers from previous centuries.

By then we were about dead on our feet and found the shortest way back to Wilson's Wharf without any discussion of a longer walk. Our exhausting hike was about 3 kms in total!

Thanks Philip for organising this fascinating Market tour as one of the Saturday afternoon hikes.
Linda Hiles

SOCIALS

Watch the Ramblers Facebook and websites for notice of social events.

The Seven Wonders, Barnyard, 4 November 2012

Get into the party mood before Christmas. Join Denise and John at The Barnyard on Sunday afternoon, November 4, to enjoy *The Seven Wonders* - a tribute to the greatest pop icons of all time with the music of Christine Aguilera, Carlos Santana, Bryan Adams, Bob Marley, Whitney Houston, Chris de Burgh and Elvis Presley, of course! Please e-mail Denise at michael@execuflora.co.za or call John on 073-129-1928 to book.

Christmas Party, 1st December 2012

A buffet lunch with music will be held at Krantzkloof Interpretative Centre. This is a chance to party and dance with old friends. BYO drinks. R50.00 per person. Book with Werner 084 206 7836/ 031 767 2969. Pay by EFT into the Ramblers Standard Bank account or pay cash directly to Werner (to avoid cash deposit fees) by 23 November 2012. No late bookings accepted.

MAGAZINE

Please send articles about hiking weekends away, hikes or matters of hiking interest that you would like to share, to me (linda@hiles.co.za) for the magazine and website.

If you have been receiving the magazine by post and now want the speedier email version send me your email address. It also helps reduce our very substantial posting costs to email the magazine to you.

Don't forget to send us your new email address if it changes.

We'll be notifying you of social events on the website (www.durbanramblers.co.za) and Facebook so make sure you keep a look out for notices.

HIKES

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.

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 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.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4 TH QUARTER 2012			
DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	TEL
Sat 6 October	New Germany Nature Reserve (Moderate)	Jill Dunstone	031 765 4520 084 780 0818
	Walk through grassland and bush in New Germany Nature Reserve. Meet at the New Germany Nature Reserve Car park at 13.45. R15 donation. The proteas should be in bloom at this time of the year. A short hike will also be available and will take approximately an hour on the one side of the reserve.		

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4TH QUARTER 2012			
DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	TEL
Sun 7 October	Karkloof Falls	Max	083 968 4434 031 783 7876
	A new route for Ramblers. Meet at Union Main, Pinetown, at 7.15 or at the Howick Hotel, Howick, at 8.15 to go in convoy to Country Club. R50pp petrol-sharing and R25pp for parking.		
Sat 13 October	Hillcrest Hike (Moderate to Strenuous)	Werner	084 206 7836
	A new hike. Meet at 13:45 in the parking area in front of the Keg and Trout, Heritage Market complex (above the BMW motorbike shop). The hike starts at the Keg and Trout, and goes to the valley below the Plantations and back along a circular route. Meet afterwards for drinks at the Keg and Trout. No Short hike.		
Sun 14 October	Bux's Farm, Peacevale area.	Jon	082 459 1522
	A mix of old and new routes. Meet at Union Main, Pinetown, at 8.00 or call leader to meet elsewhere.		
Sat 20 October	Rail Reserve Walk – Hillcrest (Moderate)	Philip C	031 201 8864 082 417 0204
	A new hike. Meet at the Gillitts Post Office at 13.45. Walk goes along the railway line to Station Master Arms and back. Hike is approximately 12 km. For the short hike, meet at 13.30 at Station Master Arms to organise cars. Short hike is from Gillitts Post Office to Station Master Arms – Inanda Road.		
Sun 21 October	Umngeni Nature Valley Game Reserve	Guest Leader - Mike Kirby	Please call Marie: 082 586 0266 031 705 3122
	Join Mike for an interesting hike around this beautiful reserve. Game viewing guaranteed! Meet at Union Main, Pinetown, at 7.15 or at 8.15 at reception at the reserve. R50pp petrol-sharing, entrance R18 (says website).		
Sat 27 October	Mimosa Rock (Moderate)	Jon	082 459 1522
	Umngeni River "Urban/industrial/bush" walkabout. Meet at Jack Rabbits in Morningside (on Ridge Road) at 13.45. Short hike will be approximately an hour and half. Short hike leader Philip: 031-2018864/0824170204		
Sun 28 October	Paradise Valley to Pavilion	Margie	073 437 6915
	A linear day walk from the nature reserve (entrance R6pp) to The Firkin Pub on the roof of the Pavilion. No meeting at Union Main. Meet at The Firkin at 8.15 to organise cars for shuttle.		
Sat 3 November	Roosfontein (Easy/moderate) – "Herbie's Hike"	Werner	084 206 7836
	Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at Westville Prison entrance parking at 13.45. Drinks and get together at Pavilion afterwards. Short hike will be approximately an hour and half. Leader: Philip: 031 201 8864		

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4TH QUARTER 2012			
DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	TEL
Sun 4 November	Umkomaas to Scottburgh	Yvonne	083 698 8836
	A walk on the beach. Please bring black bags to collect rubbish! No meeting at Union Main. Meet and park at Umkomaas at 8.15. Optional drinks/lunch later at The Cutty Sark.		
Sat 10 November	Burman Bush (Moderate - Strenuous)	Philip C	031 201 8864 082 417 0204
	Meet at the main entrance to Jameson Park at 13.45. Hike most of the circuits in Burman Bush. For the shorter hike meet at Jack Rabbits in Ridge Road at 14.10. Leader is Charel : 082 048 7901. Meet afterwards at Jack Rabbits.		
Sun 11 November	Top Rock Farm, Ashburton	Tanya/ Brian	Please call Marie: 082 586 0266 031 705 3122
	To be confirmed.		
Sat 17 November	Alverstone (Moderate)	Trevor	079 525 9230
	Grasslands, up and down dale with some game viewing. Entrance is R15. Meet at the Hotel Assegay at 13.45, then drive though to Alverstone. After hike braai at the Boma. Short hike will also be done and will take approximately an hour and a half, following the same but shorter route. Leader: Philip 031 201 8864 or 082 417 0204		
Sun 18 November	Nkutu Gorge/Inanda Dam View Sites	Colin	031 708 3517
	Hike along the escarpment then across to the Umngeni River Valley and Inanda Dam view sites. Meet at Union Main, Pinetown, at 8.00 or at Nkutu Car Park (the farther of the two Krantzklouf picnic sites) at 8.15. Entrance fee R15pp, petrol-sharing R20.		
Sat 24 November	Krantzklouf Hike – “Longshadows” (Moderate)	Coleen	031 202 2279 082 735 7659
	Meet at the Krantzklouf Picnic site at 13.45. R15 entrance fee. Hike to follow Phillip Gatenby’s Longshadow route. Short hike leader: Philip 031 201 8864/082 417 0204		
Sat 24 November NB SATURDAY	Baynesfield Estate	Jon	082 459 1522
	Join Jon and Dave for a hike on this beautiful estate. Meet at Exit 61 (Umlaas Road) at 8.00. Take the off-ramp, turn first right and wait so we can travel in convoy to Baynesfield. Or meet at the entrance to Baynesfield (off the Richmond road, R56 past Thornville Junction) at 8.30. Donation R20pp.		
Sat 1 December	Christmas Party	Werner	084 206 7836
	Krantzklouf Interpretative Centre at 13.00 for the annual Christmas Party. R50.00 per person. Booking essential by 23 November.		

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4TH QUARTER 2012			
DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	TEL
Sun 2 December	Ballito to Salt Rock and back	Duncan	083 229 7748
	Joint Ramblers/Mountain Backpackers hike. Duncan's popular, annual 10km sandy beach route with tidal pools and rocky outcrops. No meeting at Union Main. Meet next to the service station at Hypermarket, Durban North, at 8.00 or at Tedder Way, Ballito, at 8.30. R30 petrol-sharing. Optional drinks/lunch at a venue to be decided on.		
Sat 8 December	Cucumber Farm (Moderate)	Phillip G	031 201 3592
	Meet at St Hellier's Lake on St Helliens Road at 13.45. Walk through parts of Giba Gorge up to Cucumber Farm and back down to St Hellier's Lake. No short hike.		
Sun 9 December	Umdloti/Sibaya	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Meet at the Umdloti Car Park at 8.30. Hike along the Umhloti River and through conservancy area towards the casino. No meeting Union Main. Optional drinks/lunch at The Bush Tavern later.		
Sat 15 December	North Park (Easy – Moderate)	Linda	083 353 8319
	A new hike. Meet at the BP garage on the Main Road (Queensburgh), at 13.45. Take the Northdene turn off, drive down to North Park. Longer hike to do two circuits and shorter hike to do one. Entrance is R15.		
Sun 16 December	Annual social hike and braai	Jon	082 459 1522
	Once again Jon is kindly leading a Ramblers walkabout in Durban North in the morning and hosting a bring-and-share braai afterwards. No meeting at Union Main. Meet at Jon's at 8.30.		
Sat 22 December	Impithi Nature Reserve, Krantzklouf	Werner	084 206 7836
	Meet at Gillitts Post Office at 13.45. Streets of Gillitts and Everton to Impithi Reserve. Get together afterwards at Punto's (used to be called the Whole Hog) for drinks. Short hike will also be done and will take approximately an hour and a half, following the same but shorter route.		
Sun 23 December	Beachwood Mangroves/Beach	Marie	082 586 0266 031 705 3122
	Meet Ron and Christine at 8.00 at the entrance to Beachwood mangrove Reserve for a tour of the mangroves and walk up to Glenashley or Umhlanga (depending on how hot it is!). To be confirmed.		
Sat 29 December	Stainbank Nature Reserve (Moderate)	Philip C	031 201 8864 082 417 0204
	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 will also be done and will take approximately an hour and a half, following the same but shorter route.		
Sun 30 December	No hike. Saturday Ramblers are hosting Sunday hikers so please join them on the 29th.	Philip	082 417 0204 031 201 8864

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