

C/O Chairman 14 Edgecliffe Park 14 Bartle Road Gillitts 3610

www.durbanramblers.co.za

Banking Details: Standard Bank Musgrave Rd. Branch Code: 042626 Account No: 051257653

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB 4TH QUARTER: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

We are surely blessed living in KZN. This is what we call winter, mostly cloudless skies and temperatures in the low 20's. No wonder Biff and Rob get up early in the morning and get to the Beach to surf those beautiful waves provided by the Indian Ocean. I kind of envy you living close to the beach, but then hiking up here "in the Mountains" also has it charms which is why our Wednesday hikes have become so popular.

Christmas is around the corner, and we are organising our Xmas Lunch in the Hillcrest Scout hall on the 7th of December. Music will be provided by SHAUNE ADAM and the event will take the form of bringing your own braai meat. The club will provide the rest. I hope members attending will let me know **early** so that the organisers can plan to make the event a success.

Our annual Potjie Evening was again a highlight on our entertainment calendar. We had three potjies to choose from, and the best cook of the evening was Dennis Paxton. He started working at just after 1pm to serve at after 7:00. That is what you call dedication! Thanks to Trevor and Lois for being the other cooks, and a special thanks to Jeanette for decorating our tables.

Jill, the weekend away organiser has booked Boston T for the 8-9-10th of November. This will be our last weekend away for this year. The venue is a well organised campsite and a favourite hiking venue. I am sure members will support this weekend, but please let Jill know early if you decide to join.

Just a friendly reminder that members of the committee and hike leaders are all volunteers, and any help in making their tasks easier - like telling them of a change of address or contact numbers, being a back marker on hikes, or joining them on recce hikes, will be greatly appreciated.

In parting may I remind hikers that summer is coming with high temperatures and humid conditions. It would be advisable to carry a sachet of "Rehydrat " – for the treatment of Dehydration. Also when walking through long grass," TABBARD/ Baticol Spray"does help to keep ticks away.

To those members who won't be joining us for the Xmas party, we wish you a Merry Xmas and happy hiking 2014. Homestuck members ... see you at the Xmas party.

Hiking is fun, let's keep it that way.

Werner.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Werner Vanslembrouck	084 2067836	031 767 2969	werner.v@iafrica.com
Secretary	Janet Elliott	082 820 8182	031 765 3240	jelliott@iafrica.com
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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	jilldy@telkomsa.net
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Magazine & Web Editor	Linda Hiles	083 226 0044	031 202 8677	linda@teledynamics.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 with us.

Muhammed Elias Elaine and Manny Meyer

Anna Diegel Marie Convey Gillian Van Der Pol Hester Reed Vanessa Clouston Mike Crouch

Susan Davies Erica and Jordan Coskey

Ciska Meyer Philip Swart

Charles Robertson

Tribute to Henny Kruger

The sad passing on of Henny was a great tragedy. He was basically a good man, who fell foul of the terrible addiction to alcohol over many years.

His loss of employment and accommodation recently (not due to him, but rather a form of retrenchment) pushed him over the edge.

But we knew him for his good solid friendship and character during the various hiking and related activities with us.

We will remember him for all the fun we had together, the spontaneous humour and a common cause to enjoy the simpler side of life.

Gordon Tomlinson

Christmas Party

The Xmas Lunch will be at Hillcrest Scout hall on the 7th of December from 12:00. Music will be provided by SHAUNE ADAM.

Bring: Your braai meat, drinks, cutlery, crockery and chairs.

The club will provide salads and sweets.

Cost R50.00 per person.

Contact Werner, 031 7672969 not later than 30 November for catering purposes.

Payment to Ramblers with your name and Xmas party as reference.

Directions to Hillcrest Scout Hall: From Old Main Road Hillcrest at Heritage Market, turn into Stonewall road next to the Shell petrol station. Proceed under the railway bridge to the T junction with Springside Road. Turn right and follow the road for 2.5 kilometres. The Scout Hall is on the left, just after Northern Avenue.

See the map on page 11.

Subs for 2013

Single Member R70 Family R90

Country Single R55 Country Family R60

2013 fees are half price for the rest of the year.

Pay by EFT directly into the bank account -

Standard Bank, Musgrave Rd Branch Code: 042626 Account No: 051257653

OR pay cash directly to the treasurer.

Cheques and cash both attract big bank charges so to reduce our banking fees, only EFT deposits please.

Remember your 2014 subs are due in January.

Committee News

- Let us know if a hiker is ill or had an accident or some other newsworthy event so we can send an acknowledgement.
- Get to know your fellow hikers so that you can arrange lifts to and from hikes.
- Keep Saturday 7 December 2013 available for the Ramblers' Christmas party.

Magazine

Don't forget to send us any email and postal address changes to ensure your magazine reaches you.

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.

HILLSIDE LODGE 15-17 JUNE 2013

Winter in the 'Berg – you just know it's going to be freezing at night and glorious during the day.

And so it was for the June weekend at Hillside Lodge, a new venue near Bulwer. Owner/host Ken has been there for a couple of years, steadily working at turning what was a fairly dilapidated farmhouse into a guest adjoining cottage with camping /caravan site. We booked the whole place - 4 very spacious double bedrooms in the farmhouse; Werner in his caravan, and 4 intrepid campers. The campsite had a delightful little ablution block with toilets, basins and showers – and an outside bath hidden behind a screen of pampas grass! Audrey tried it on the Sunday afternoon; said it was a very pleasant experience even without a glass of wine!





The area is surrounded by forestry with a big patch of indigenous woods. Ken has marked out a short trail (just under 3 hours) that crosses his and a couple of neighbouring properties and we did a self-guided trek along the well marked path on the Saturday. It was such a good walk we thought we'd repeat it on the Monday but from the other direction — alas, the markings weren't quite as good from that side and we ended up losing the path and retracing our steps.

For the Sunday long walk Ken had asked a friend to take us up the peak next to Bulwer Mountain – I don't know that I ever

heard the name of it. One of my fellow weekenders might know it? Eight of our party did the

hike and it proved to be quite a hectic walk in perfect conditions: warm but not hot, no wind. Glorious day. But it was tough: in fact, one hiker commented that it was the toughest day hike they'd ever done. The altitude seemed to get to us all — we huffed and puffed our way up the steep slopes and along the ridges. And then the hardest part of all: a long descent down an impossibly steep slope that saw every one of us, even the young leader, sliding down on his bum. But it was a good walk and we'd certainly earned the delicious dinner that Ken (he's also a qualified chef) had prepared for us. And oh, heaven, sweet



October - December 2013

treats in the shape of chocolate profiteroles and meringues dipped in chocolate for dessert! Yum!

A feature of the area is the presence of Cape Parrots, and we saw them aplenty! As noisy as hadedas at the coast, a flock of Cape parrots descended on the trees around the farmhouse every morning and evening. Ismail was thrilled; as well as the parrots he also saw Nerina Trogons in the forest.

All in all a good weekend at a delightful venue.

Jill Dunstone

WEEKENDS AWAY FOURTH QUARTER

Boston T Party: November 8 & 9

Approx. 30kms from Howick on the R617.

Accommodation: Private en-suite rooms – 3x double bedded; 2x twin bedded @ R175.00 pppns. Bedding and towels provided;

Dormitories x 2 each sleeping nine people in 4x bunk beds plus a single bed @ R90.00 pppn. Bring your own bedding and towels;

Camping with electricity provided on request. R90.00 pppn.

Catering: There is a pub on site where pre-arranged meals are served. I've provisionally booked Saturday night for us @R80.00 pp.

For self-catering there is a fully equipped kitchen with fridge, stove, microwave, cutlery, crockery.

There are also braai facilities and a campfire pit – great for chilling with our drinkies.

On Friday night we will braai. Ramblers will provide the charcoal.

Hike Saturday 9 November, host Rory will be our guide. We'll leave at 08:30 to enable folks driving up on Saturday morning to join us.

Please confirm your bookings by end September with Jill - jilldy@telkomsa.net or sms at 084 7800 818. Payment direct into the Ramblers' bank account with your name and Boston T as a reference..

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 7083517 or Philip 031 2013592. If no response is obtained from the first leader phoned, please phone the alternate leader.

Saturday Hikes

- Please get to starting point by 13:45 in order for the hike to begin on time.
- For directions to the starting point, please PHONE the organiser between 12:00 and 12:45 on the day of the hike, don't SMS.
- Or Saturday hikers from Durban can phone Philip Gatenby on 031 2013592 prior to leaving and arrange a pickup or to travel in convoy with him.
- Children are welcome but check suitability of the hike with the leader.
- Please bring at least 1 litre of water, a snack for half time and a hat.
- There is no need to tell the leader you will be hiking.

Sunday Hikes (Full Day)

- Please be aware a certain level of fitness is required to do Sunday hikes. If you don't exercise regularly, or aren't an experienced walker please complete three Ramblers' Saturday afternoon hikes before joining the longer Sunday hikes.
- Always phone the hike leader beforehand to confirm details and 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.
- Keep Rehydrat in your pack in case of dehydration in the hot months.
- · Use tick spray.
- Meeting place will be noted in the hiking schedule below.
- If it is raining, please check with the hike leader in case the hike has been cancelled.

Hikes are graded: Easy – fairly flat terrain, about 12km

Moderate – Hilly terrain, about 15km. Fitness recommended Strenuous – Hilly, steep in places and 15km+. Fitness essential.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4 th QUARTER 2013				
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel	
Sat 5 Oct	New Germany Nature Reserve	Jill D	031 7654520	
	Walk through New Germany Nature Reserve. Grassland and bush. The proteas should be in bloom at this time of the year. Meet at the New Germany Nature Reserve Car park at 13:45. R15.00 donation. A short hike will also be available and will take approximately an hour on the one side of the reserve.	Rating: Moderate		
Sun 6 Oct	La Mercy to Mt Moreland	Brian M	083 2281981	
	Meet in the parking area opposite the Bush Tavern, Umdhloti in time for a prompt 8:00 departure. Cross La Mercy River and hike cross-country to King Shaka Airport and back. Optional late lunch at the Tavern afterwards.	Rating: Strenuous Distance Approx. 18km		

	SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4 th	QUARTER 201	3
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 12 Oct	Paradise Valley	Linda S	083 3538319
	Walk through Paradise Valley, mainly shaded wooded areas with a couple of hill climbs. Park in Oxford Road. Meet inside the reserve at 13:45. There will be a short and longer hike. Entrance fee to the Reserve R12.00	Rating: easy/ moderate	
Sun 13 Oct	Joseph Baynes' Cottage, Baynesfield area	Dave	031 4649033 076 0280708
	A joint Ramblers/MBC/Midlands hike. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, at 7:30 to drive in convoy to Campbell McKenzie's farm. Comfortable six-hour hike over farmland and through indigenous forest. Petrol-sharing R40.00pp.	Rating: Moderate Distance: approx.15km	
Sat 19 Oct	Emberton – Springside Nature Reserve	Trevor	079 5259230
	From the Emberton Driving Range to the Springside Nature Reserve. Meet at the Driving Range at 13:45. Tea and coffee and cake at the Emberton coffee shop after the hike.	Rating: easy	
Sun 20 Oct	Monteseel/Valley of a Thousand Hills	Max	031 7837876 083 9684434
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown in time for a prompt 8:00 departure, or at Max's house at 8:15. Please don't forget to bring fruit (no citrus) and veggies for the rescue animals Roger and Julie have adopted – your fee for safe parking! Hopefully we'll have tea with Sonny Boy and his family en route, so please bring cash for a donation. Petrol-sharing R30.00pp.	Rating: Strenuous (Steep in parts) Distance: 14km	
Sat 26 Oct	Kloof – Makaranga Walk	Philip C	031 2018864 082 4170204
	Meet at Makaranga at 13:45. R60.00 fee per car which is redeemable at the restaurant. Walk from Makaranga along the streets of Kloof to the Iphiti Conservancy back to Makaranga for a walk through their gardens. Will be a R20.00 donation towards the Iphithi Conservancy. There will be a shorter hike.	Rating: Easy	
Sun 27 Oct	Table Mountain, Pietermaritzburg	Duncan	083 2297748
	Joint Ramblers/MBC/Pietermaritzburg Ramblers hike up to and around this popular landmark. Indigenous forest, flowers, waterfalls with good views of Nagle Dam and The Valley of a Thousand Hills. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, at 8:00. (Be aware of one-way system for access.) Petrol- sharing R30.00pp plus R10.00pp for guide/car guard.	Rating: Moderate Distance: Approx. 14km	

	SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4 th	QUARTER 201	3
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 2 Nov	Pigeon Valley	Linda S	083 3538319
	Meet at Stellawood Soccer Club on Helen Joseph Road (was Davenport Road) at 13:45. Some street walking to Pigeon Valley, with some steep hills going up to St Augustine's Hospital and the University. Persons wanting to do a shorter hike can meet at 14:45 at the entrance of Burman Bush (Princess Alice Ave).	Rating: moderate	
Sun 3 Nov	Mt Edgecombe Meander	Jenny	084 9520622
	Meet and park at Spar, Flanders Drive, Umhlanga, at 8:00 for a circular hike through cane, across grassland and around Marshall Dam.	Rating: Strenuous (Steep in parts) Distance: 18km	
Sat 9 Nov	No Saturday Hike		
Sun 10 Nov	Alverstone and surrounds	Jon	082 4591522
	Sunday hikers host Saturday folk. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown in time for a prompt 8:00 departure. (Be aware of one-way system for access.) Hike over rolling hills and through indigenous bush. Game viewing guaranteed! Petrol-sharing R20.00.	Rating: Moderate Distance: Approx. 15km	
Sat 16 Nov	Hillcrest	Werner	084 2067836
	Meet at the Keg, Heritage Market at 13:45. The hike goes down to the valley below, small stream crossing, some wooded areas, sugar cane and open areas. Meet back at the Keg for drinks afterwards. No short hike.	Rating: Moderate	
Sun 17 Nov	Plantations and Railways, Pietermaritzburg	Guest leader: Francois Marais	083 9838007
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 7:30 departure, or outside Botanic Gardens, Mayor's Walk, Pietermaritzburg at 8:30 for 8:45. We'll travel up Zwartkop Road to Boughton Station and go on a hike that touches old and present railway lines, the new tunnel under Hilton and an old historic tunnel near World's View. Petrolsharing R40.00.	Rating: Moderate Distance: 12km	
Sat 23 Nov	Alverstone	Trevor	079 5259230
	Grasslands, up and down dale with some game viewing. Entrance is R15.00. Meet at Hotel Assagay at 13:45, then drive through to Alverston. After hike braai at the Boma.	Rating: Moderate	

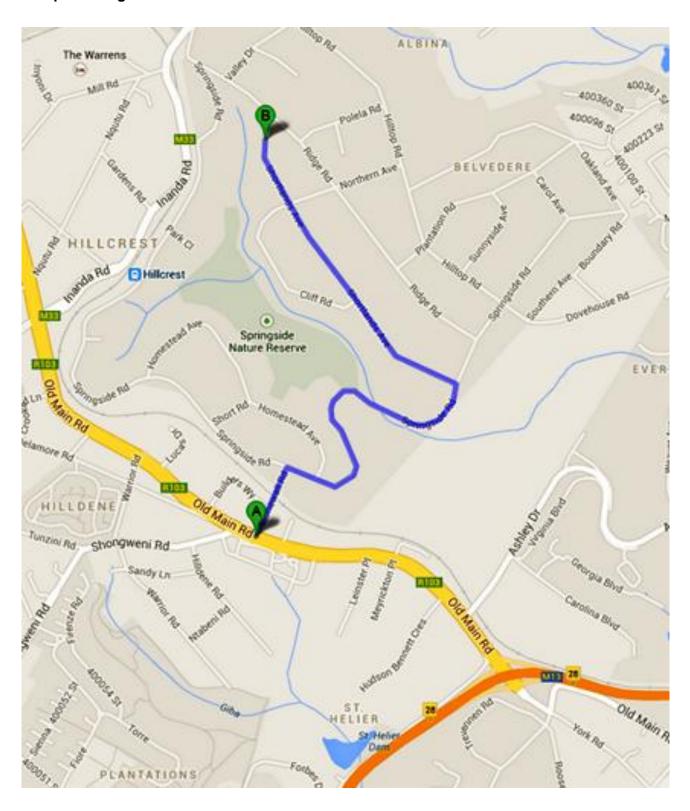
	SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4 th	QUARTER 201:	3
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 24 Nov	Bartlett's Estate/Assagay Coffee Farm	Jenny	084 9520622
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 8:00 departure. (Be aware of one-way system for access.)	Rating: Strenuous	
	Parking at Assagay Coffee and plan to have coffee and cake after the hike or pay R10.00pp for safe parking. Hike over rolling hills, through cane and grass and enjoy beautiful scenery in the upper Sterkspruit valley. Petrol-sharing R25.00.	Distance: 15km	
Sat 30 Nov	Kloof Gorge – Escarpment	Jill D	031 7654520
	Hike along the gorge edge to grasslands above, stunning views. Meet at the Krantzkloof Picnic Site, entrance in Krantzkloof Road at 13:45 to leave at 14:00. R20.00 entrance fee. Shorter hike leader – Philip Collyer 031 2018864 or 082 4170204.	Rating: Moderate Vertigo Warning	
Sun 1 Dec	Summerveld/The Ginnel and surrounds	Jon	082 4591522
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 8:00 departure and enjoy a day hiking around the Summerveld area. Petrol-sharing R20.00pp.	Rating: Moderate Distance: Approx. 15km	
Sat 7 Dec	Christmas Lunch		
Sun 8 Dec	After-party hike! Kloof Gorge	Margie	073 4376915
	Meet outside the Stoker's Arms, opp. Kloof Spar, in time for a prompt 7:30 departure to drive in convoy to the parking area. Hike up, down and around some of the paths in this popular, scenic nature reserve. Entrance R20.00pp.	Rating: Steep in parts Distance: At leader's discretion!	
Sat 14 Dec	Street Hike in Hillcrest Area – Sugar Loaf Centre	Werner	084 2067836
	Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre on Old Main Road at 13:45 to walk the streets of Assagay.	Rating: Moderate	
Sun 15 Dec	Walkabout Durban North and social braai	Jon	082 4591522
	Many thanks, once again, to Jon who will be leading a morning "magical mystery tour" before hosting the annual bring-and-share	Rating: Strenuous	
	braai and get together. Please BYO (including a chair/swimming gear). Meet at Jon's house at 8:30.	Distance: Approx. 12km	

SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 4th QUARTER 2013			
Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 21 Dec	Glenwood Msinsi Hike - University	Linda S	083 3538319
	Walk through the University grounds and the Msinsi Conservancy. Meet at the parking area above Elizabeth Sneddon at 13:45. For the shorter hike meet at the Msinsi Reserve, Gate 10 Western Campus Sports Ground on Francois Road (behind the university, inland) at 13:30 leave at 13.35, share cars to drive to the University.	Rating: easy	
Sun 22 Dec	Virginia/Umhlanga	Glenys	031 5647632 083 3752252
	Meet and park at Virginia Airport at 7:00 for this popular annual beach hike (and dip in the sea if you fancy one), returning on the tar via back-roads. We trust the airport won't have moved, and the bar will still be open for later!	Rating: Easy Distance: 15km	
Sat 28 Dec	Stainbank Nature Reserve (Moderate)	Philip C	031 2018864 082 4170204
	Meet at the car park inside the reserve at 13:45. Hike in natural bush and grasslands with some game viewing. Entrance fee of R20.00 into the reserve. A short hike will also be done and will take approximately an hour and a half, following the same but shorter route. A braai afterwards in the Reserve.		
Sun 29 Dec	No Sunday hike. Please join Saturday Ramblers.		

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@teledynamics.co.za

Map showing directions to Hillcrest Scout Bowl.



Directions: From Old Main Road Hillcrest at Heritage Market, turn into Stonewall road next to the Shell petrol station. Proceed under the railway bridge to the T junction with Springside Road. Turn right and follow the road for 1.3 kilometres. Turn left into Shortlands Avenue and continue for 1 kilometre. The Scout Hall is on the left, just after Northern Avenue.

The Cederberg Heritage Route

The Cederberg Heritage Route is a nonprofit organisation, registered with the Directorate of Nonprofit Organisations, Department of Social Development. It offers a collection of six community-based hiking trails in the Cederberg mountains of the Western Cape. The five shorter trails can range from two to five nights duration, depending on optional extra days that may be chosen. The Cederberg 100 Trail is an eight night-seven day trail of about 100km in length. The majestic and rugged Cederberg mountains are only $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours drive north from Cape Town.

These Cederberg Heritage Route hiking trails are fully inclusive of all accommodation, meals, guided rock art visits, donkey cart drives, entrances & park fees. Guests stay at comfortable guesthouses, guest cottages or homestays, some in the picturesque Moravian mission villages of the eastern Cederberg area. The hikes are escorted by local community members. As overnight luggage is transported to the next night's stay, walkers only have to carry day packs. These are true slackpacking hiking trails. Normally the maximum group size is six persons, due to accommodation and transport limitations. Our website www.cedheroute.co.za provides all the details of the various hiking trails, but anyone reading it should take note that the prices mentioned are for Tour Companies and Travel Agents who need to take their commission. For RSA Residents, who book directly with our Booking Office, special offer prices are normally available, so ask Michelle in the Booking Office what she can offer. (Tel: 027 482 2444 or email michelle@cedarberg.co.za.)

The Cederberg Heritage Route is deeply involved with community development in that our trails make extensive use of services provided by the small, remote, disadvantaged communities in the Moravian Church area of the eastern Cederberg, centered on the mission village of Wupperthal. These services include accommodation, catering, luggage transport and guiding, which provide some much needed cash income for these poor, rural communities. Their participation in the trails has also served to introduce them to the world of eco-tourism and it promotes mutually beneficial interaction between the members of these communities and the hikers.