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[www.durbanramblers.co.za](http://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**

### **1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER: JANUARY – MARCH 2014**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS**

We are chasing away 2013 and bringing in 2014, and with it all the cheer, whether for the year end or a new Year. It has been a good year, lots of new members and a lot more happy faces.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee members and all hike leaders for all the tremendous work that they have done during this year. I want to wish all Ramblers a happy New Year and good wishes over the Festive season.

As I am writing this I am busy buying all the ingredients and organizing our Xmas do. This coming Saturday the Scout Hall in Hillcrest will be decorated by Jeanette for which I thank her. The music will be provided by Shaune Adam who I am sure will do justice to our dancing shoes.

Most members will have heard of the near fatal bee attack on one of our hikes. This has really brought home the importance of each and every member carrying identification - Name, Medical Aid Name and Number, Ice ( in case of emergency) number and closest relative that we may call. The more information there is, the better. If you carry a cell phone, then the Medical Aid number as well as an ICE number should be stored in the phone. May I also thank Biff Maggs and Tony Rice who helped him to hospital and Trevor Thompson who took his car and all his things home and kept them safely, as well as all the other members on the hike for the assistance given to Tony Plummer. He, I am sure, will be forever grateful.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2014 we will be holding our AGM, and again I would like to see as many members as possible attending. For members that may be put off meetings, we try to keep the meeting to within ½ hour and spend most of the remainder of the afternoon around the braai (weather permitting). If there are any members wishing to come on board, then fill in the nomination forms, and send them to the Committee. For any matters that members want to air, please do not hesitate, we would love to hear your good and bad criticisms.

In parting, for those of you who will be travelling over the festive season, have a safe journey and we will see you back on our hikes in the New Year.

Let us cheer for another year of happy hiking in the New Year.

Regards  
Werner.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Werner Vanslebrouck	084 2067836	031 767 2969	<a href="mailto:werner.v@iafrica.com">werner.v@iafrica.com</a>
Secretary	Janet Elliott	082 820 8182	031 765 3240	<a href="mailto:jelliott@iafrica.com">jelliott@iafrica.com</a>
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	082 900 6965		<a href="mailto:biff@eastcoast.co.za">biff@eastcoast.co.za</a>
Sun Hike Org	Marie Gurr	082 586 0266	031 705 3122	<a href="mailto:marinev.gurr@gmail.com">marinev.gurr@gmail.com</a>
Sat Hike Org	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	031 201 8864	<a href="mailto:philipcollyer@gmail.com">philipcollyer@gmail.com</a>
Weekend Org	Jill Dunstone	084 780 0818	031 765 4520	<a href="mailto:jillyd@telkomsa.net">jillyd@telkomsa.net</a>
Publicity	Linda Smith	083 353 8319		<a href="mailto:compasshr@mweb.co.za">compasshr@mweb.co.za</a>
Ord Member	Gordon Tomlinson	083 277 2690	031 701 2042	<a href="mailto:gordontom44@gmail.com">gordontom44@gmail.com</a>
Magazine & Web Editor	Linda Hiles	083 226 0044	031 202 8677	<a href="mailto:linda@teledynamics.co.za">linda@teledynamics.co.za</a>

## 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.

John Hart  
Jane Sampson  
Jean Viljoen

Audrey Palmer  
Liz Sprowson

### Subs for 2014

#### **NB Reminder: Your subs are due in January 2014.**

Single Member R70                      Family R90  
Country Single R55                      Country Family R60

Pay by EFT directly into the bank account -

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

Please mark your name clearly and state what the payment is for on the deposit slip. eg JOE SOAP SUBS2014

OR pay cash directly to the treasurer or any committee member.

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

### 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.
- AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon in the meeting room of the Palmiet Nature Reserve, Old New Germany Road, Westville.

## Magazine

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

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held in the meeting room of the Palmiet Nature Reserve, Old New Germany Road, on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon. There is parking to the right near the bottom of the road.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To confirm Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting
4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes
5. To receive and approve the Chairman's Report
6. To receive and approve the Financial report
7. To pay respects to passing members
8. To elect office bearers and the Executive Committee
9. To elect the Honorary Auditor
10. To present the Floating Trophy
11. To 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 81st Annual General Meeting held on 9 Feb 2013 at Palmiet Nature Reserve

**Welcome:** Werner welcomed all to the 81<sup>st</sup> AGM of Ramblers

**Present:** See attendance register. 33 members present

**Apologies:** Anne & Fred Rodwell, Ed Coogan, Rosmarie Ziep, Inge Reichmann, Gordon Tomlinson, Henny Kruger, Sue McMahon, Cheryl Sol, Marie Gurr & Neville Walmsley, Ann Olds, Brian O'Connell, Tony & Anna Rice, Biff Maggs, Rob Jeeves, Mr & Mrs Pretorius, David Ward, Roy Glen, Ron Horley.

**Minutes of 2012 A.G.M.:** Taken as confirmed.

Proposed: Linda Hiles, Seconded: Jenny Rooke

**Matters Arising:** No matters arising.

### Chairman's Report:

It has been a pleasure to chair the club for the past year, and I want to especially thank the committee members for their contribution in making this year a great year. May I especially thank Linda Hiles for editing the magazine and Duncan Hiles for doing our website. These two branches of the media bind the information about us together.

The year overall went well, but small problems did crop up! At the start of the year we had to change our website provider, and this exercise did incur some costs, but that has to be seen as part of the learning curve, especially in a world that us oldies are unfamiliar with.

Again our younger generation, and here I mention Philip Collyer, got us on to Facebook. Another wonderful media that gives us exposure, and tells the world out there what we are about. The more people get involved in posting their experiences the better. Not only does our committee deserve our gratitude, but also hike leaders. The introduction of the shorter Saturday hikes has helped a number of new members being introduced to hiking. Thank you Philip.

During the year we had our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. To me, the highlight was the weekend away to Mt Park organised by Marge Blake, not to forget the gluhwein so generously poured into our glasses by Jill Dunstone and Coleen Seath. Kranskloof Nature Reserve was our venue for the anniversary party. It cost the club in the region of R5000.00 but every cent well spent.

We also had a great Xmas do with the change from a braai to a buffet being well received. Little did we know that the club had to subsidise the event to the tune of R3500.00 through covering costs of venue R1000.00 (up from R400.00) and music R2500.00 (up R1000.00). The incoming committee will I am certain look into the costs, and come up with alternatives. Any member's suggestions will be welcome.

Our membership now stands at 250. It is a pity that only about a third of the members are active, but then whatever enjoyment is gained by being a member must be worth it. Sundays have really seen a turnaround with numbers averaging 17 and a hike of 42 people. Saturday hikes average 30 plus whilst the shorter routes normally have between 5 and 9 hikers. Wednesday hikes, under the able leadership of Colin Turner and Philip Gatenby draw approximately 14.

Jill Dunstone organised weekends away. It is very difficult to organise if left to the last moment. Don't wait for something better to happen; IT WONT, so let Jill know early.

We had a Getaway magazine hike in the Summerveld area organised by Trevor and led by Colin. They have again approached us to lead their hikes on the 26<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> October and for our effort we do get a mention in their magazine. Somehow we heard that they charged the hikers R50.00 which, to me, is a bit hard to swallow! I do feel that their charging a hiking fee is not legal and should be pointed out to them. Unless members feel differently, I think we should again accommodate them.

Biff looked after our finances. It is a pity she could not be here today to enlighten us on our finances. They are in good shape, resulting in the fees staying the same. We have a slight deficit this year, mainly due to our 80<sup>th</sup> celebrations and the new website – having had to write off our old one. Both these are once off payments. The financial statements are available and I am sure our auditor, Colin will oblige to any questions raised.

May I again reiterate that costs of the magazine although high, are not the only problem. The printing, the folding together and the posting takes a lot of time and effort. I therefore ask again for members to receive a copy by email. It would help a lot.

Marge Blake and Biff have a number of files on our club dating back to its inception. It is our history, and should not be lost. It has been suggested that these files be taken, sorted and all relevant events be collated. Once this is done, they would then be attached to our website as an attachment in the clouds which would be available to all. This will incur some costs, but I think well worth the effort. Philip Collyer, is the anchor for this project, and he will gladly explain. I would like a show of hands if we may go ahead with this project.

The Chairman's report accepted by:

Proposed: Rolf Klein                      Seconded: Trevor Thompson

## Financial Report:

Biff & Colin had prepared year end finances. The 80<sup>th</sup> celebration and website costs increased expenses this last year. The Christmas party also needs reconsideration as expenses are escalating. Cash deposits continue to cost the club. The fraud money was repaid. Financial Statements were signed. Thanks Biff & Colin.

The rate for recces was taken at R2.90/km which is the AA rate.  
Marge Blake thanked Biff all the work she does for the club.

Request for functions is that members pay in time. There cannot be refunds as it leads to a lot of extra work and inconvenience for organisers.

Members must not pay cash into the bank account. Any committee member can accept the cash. Werner is happy then to make a bank payment for the member, once he has the cash. Discussion arose as to the amount of money Ramblers has in the bank. Projects can be considered to spend it wisely.

The accounts are signed and will be filed.  
Proposed: Trevor Thompson                      Seconded: Janet Elliott

**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	Werner Vanslemsbrouk	Coleen Seath	Marie Gurr
Secretary	Janet Elliott	Coleen Seath	W Vanslembrouck
Treasurer/Data base	Biff Maggs	W Vanslembrouck	Coleen Seath
Day Hike Organiser	Marie Gurr	Biff Maggs	Coleen Seath
Saturday Hike Organiser	Philip Collyer	Coleen Seath	Biff Maggs
Weekend Organiser	Jill Dunstone	Coleen Seath	Biff Maggs
Socials Organiser	Still to be elected		
Magazine Editor	Linda Hiles	Biff Maggs	Philip Collyer
Publicity Organiser	Linda Smith	Coleen Seath	Biff Maggs
Ordinary Member	Gordon Tomlinson	Linda Hiles	W Vanslembrouck

## Appointment of Honorary Auditor:

Colin Turner was nominated auditor for 2013/2014 by the committee members. This was seconded by all club members. Thanks to Colin for being available and willing.

**In Memoriam:** Pat Boucher & Dieter Bekker, a stalwart member, will be missed by all.

**Honorary Life Membership:** Ross Conrad, honorary life member this year.

**Club Trophy:** It is now my pleasure to call on Mr Trevor Thompson to come up to receive the Floating Trophy for the work he has done, and I am sure will be doing in the future. Under his Chairmanship the club became a place with new vision and future. Please join me to thank him on behalf of everyone in the club.

**General:**

We have done away with membership cards

Subs are due by 1<sup>st</sup> April. If subs are not paid, after the April-June magazine goes out members will not receive another mag.

R400.00 was paid to the Palmiet Management Committee for the use of Palmiet Facilities.

Duncan Hiles (Web master) reported that some members in receipt of emailed mags could not read them. He will be looking into this problem. Des Porter offered to help and learn the website with Duncan, who needs help with the site when he is away. Please can photos be included with reports that are sent for posting on the website.

Questions arose as to whether we need face book and a website. As they appeal to different audiences, it was decided they both serve the club well.

Ingrid mentioned that Glenhome Nature Reserve at Kloof SPCA will be getting a makeover. Wessa, Highway branch, will be managing and helping to fund the project. With time they will need help and funding, so it may be a worthy place to spend some of our time and cash.

Colin also feels we should spend time and money on worthy causes.

Members elected to proceed with this year's Getaway hikes. Trevor will co-ordinate.

The meeting closed at 1pm followed by a social braai.

**Next committee meeting:** Saturday 23rd Feb 2013 9.30am

**Venue:** Werner's home 14 Edgecliffe Park, 14 Bartle Road, Gillitts

Portfolios vacant 2014: Magazine editor  
Ordinary member.

Calling all members who would like to contribute to the running of the club - we're keen for new input, always open-minded to ideas and different thinking. There are just four meetings on a Saturday morning during the year. Volunteering to be on the committee or to lead hikes is your way to give back to and contribute to making Ramblers a fun and interesting club.

After the meeting, braai fires will be provided by the club. Bring your food, drink, cutlery, crockery and chair and enjoy a social braai after the meeting.

## WEEKEND AWAY REPORT

**Boston T 8th, 9th, and 10th of November**

Number of Ramblers: 22  
Hike Leader: Rory of Boston T  
Weekend organiser: Jill Dunstone.  
Photographer: Coleen Seath  
Reporter: Coleen Seath

What an enjoyable weekend away and what a lovely venue at Boston T (on the road to Underberg)!



On arriving Friday midday we were glad that we had booked the dormitories as a stiff wind had blown up, making erecting tents rather difficult. Brian and Anne; Trevor and Margo had new tents, and very palatial they were too! With more advisers than helpers they managed to get them up, and then were duly inspected!

An afternoon walk along the river was lovely and we were fortunate to see two reedbuck. Back at

Boston T we experienced the hot showers and then gathered for our evening braai. Derek very ably managed the braai fires while the rest of us enjoyed sitting in the cosy pub out of the wind, drinking our sun downers.



Saturday morning 16 of us gathered to do a day hike with Rory our charming leader. We drove to a neighbour's farm, parked our cars and set off. The day started off being misty but soon cleared and we had some lovely views of the rolling hills around Boston. We did some rock scrambling, and fields of *Watsonia*, Protea trees in flower and rock pools filled with tadpoles, were just some of nature's



delights revealed to us. Rory proved a very casual leader and knew most of the farms and owners in the vicinity. The weather remained cool and mostly cloudy so it made hiking a pleasure and we strode over the hills with lots of energy and enjoyment.

Back at our venue we again gathered in the pub/recreation

room and enjoyed a delicious lasagne cooked by Sue, (Rory's partner.) Then of course it was time to watch the rugby!

Sunday morning a small group of Ramblers enjoyed a good morning walk before setting off home. This is a truly great venue with something to suit everyone; camping, dormitories, and rooms en suite with a comfortable recreation room. And very close to Durban.

Thanks Jill for organising such a good week end away.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

### 2013 DURBAN RAMBLERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 saw about 70 Durban Ramblers gather at the Hillcrest Scout Hall for the annual Durban Ramblers Christmas Party. Although the weather was grey and rainy, the tables in the hall had been beautifully decorated by Jeanette and looked very sparkly and festive.



The Christmas Party is always a great social event on our calendar and allows Saturday and Sunday hikers to catch-up with each other.



After a few words of welcome and thanks from our Chairman. It was also an occasion to bid farewell to Linda and Duncan Hiles, who are relocating to the Cape. We wish them much happiness. Their input in producing the Magazine and our website is greatly appreciated.



The serious business of braaiing and eating got underway. Thanks here must go to Lois for her usual wonderful and inventive salads, which were a great hit judging by the empty salad bowls left afterwards.



And, of course, after the mains comes the puddings which were delicious. The lemon meringue was a particular favourite. Everyone was happy to queue for the puddings .



Music throughout the event was provided by Shaune Adam who sang a selection of golden oldies and contemporary songs. He was encouraged to “up the tempo” for the energetic hikers trying to work off their full tummies and enthusiasts of tripping the light fantastic.



Thanks must go to Werner as Chair for organising such another great Christmas party for the Ramblers with which to end off a year of fantastic hiking!

## WEEKENDS AWAY.

February 1&2      Nip Inn, Bulwer. Camping/caravanning, and chalets.

April 18-21      Thangami Safari Spa, near Vryheid. Camping, caravanning, bunkhouse and private rooms.

Details will be on Facebook and the website or contact Jill Dunstone by email, [jillydy@telkomsa.net](mailto:jillydy@telkomsa.net) or SMS on 0847800818.

## 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 G 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.

**Please note, the Sunday programme is a mix of early/late starts and optional social lunches because a lot of Ramblers aren't keen on long slogs in the heat!**

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
<b>Sat 4 Jan</b>	<b>Streets of Gillitts</b>	<b>Werner</b>	<b>084 2067836</b>
	Meet at car park in front of Gillitts Post Office at 13:45. Walk along the streets of Gillitts.	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun 5 Jan</b>	<b>Minerva Heights, Byrne Area</b>	<b>David Tighe Co-leader Philip Swart</b>	<b>031 4649033 or 076 0280708</b>
	Joint Ramblers/MBC/Midlands day hike from Minerva Heights Farmhouse through grasslands and indigenous forests. R10.00 per person donation to farmer. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown in time for a prompt 6:45 departure. (Be aware of one-way access.) Alternatively, meet leader before 8:00 at the Byrne Church adjacent to the turn-off to The Oaks Hotel in Byrne. Please phone to confirm your attendance on the hike. Petrol sharing R50.00.	Distance: 12km Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 11 Jan</b>	<b>Roosfontein– “Herbie’s Hike”</b>	<b>Werner</b>	<b>084 2067836</b>
	Grasslands and ravine forest. Meet at Westville Prison entrance parking at 13:45. Drinks and get together at Pavilion afterwards. Shorter hike will be approximately an hour and half.	Grade: Easy/Moderate	
<b>Sun 12 Jan</b>	<b>Berea Parks</b>	<b>Jenny</b>	<b>084 9520622</b>
	Park and meet at the main Botanic Gardens parking area (near the shop and Interpretative Centre) at 8:00 for a relaxed walk through Greyville, Sutton/Mitchell and Jameson Parks. Picnic lunch back at Botanic Gardens.	Length: 13,5km Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 18 Jan</b>	<b>Kloof Gorge</b>	<b>Philip C</b>	<b>082 4170204 031 2018864</b>
	Hike to the bottom of the Kloof Gorge and hike back to the top of the gorge. Paths are fairly steep. Tricky down and a steep climb back up. No shorter hike planned.	Grade: Moderate (Up and down) <b>Vertigo Warning</b>	
<b>Sun 19 Jan</b>	<b>Roosfontein and Surrounds – to be confirmed</b>	<b>Margie</b>	<b>073 4376915</b>
	Please check website or phone leader closer to the date. The plan is to do an early recce of a possible new route and have a late lunch provided by Roosfontein B&B afterwards. (Numbers to be booked and paid for in advance.)		

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
<b>Sat 25 Jan</b>	<b>Pigeon Valley</b>	<b>Linda S</b>	<b>083 3538319</b>
	Meet at Stella Soccer Club on Helen Joseph Road (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 Pigeon Valley (Princess Alice Ave).	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun 26 Jan</b>	<b>Beach Bums, Casuarina Beach, Westbrook</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>082 4591522</b>
	Some varied walking (beach, inland and street) around the area north of the Umdhloti River. Meet at the Shell Garage at The Hypermarket-by-the-sea, Durban North, at 7:00 sharp, or at Beach Bums at 7:30. Petrol-sharing R25.00pp. Reminder to swimmers and beach bums, don't forget your cozzie/shorts and towel! The hike will be over in time for a social lunch at Beach Bums.	Length: 15km Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 1 Feb</b>	<b>Stainbank Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Philip C</b>	<b>082 4170204</b>
	Meet at the car park inside the reserve at 13:45. Hike in natural bush and grasslands with some game viewing. Entrance of R20.00 payable at the entrance of the reserve. The shorter hike will take approximately an hour and a half.	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun 2 Feb</b>	<b>Cumberland Nature Reserve, PMB</b>	<b>David Tighe Co-leader: Philip Swart</b>	<b>031 4649033 or 076 0280708</b>
	Joint Ramblers/MBC/Midlands outing. Hike along cliffs to bottom of waterfall, return through grasslands. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 6:45 departure, or by the "honesty box" in the reserve at 8:00. Cost R10.00 pp. Please phone to confirm your attendance on the hike. Petrol sharing costs R35.00.	Distance: 12km Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 8 Feb</b>	<b>AGM</b>		
<b>Sun 9 Feb</b>	<b>Stainbank Nature Reserve, Yellowwood Park</b>	<b>Stella</b>	<b>078 3198979 or 031 5639356</b>
	Sunday Ramblers host Saturday hikers. Meet and park at picnic site inside – through entrance gate and turn left - at 7:30 for a 7:45 start. Hike through indigenous coastal forest, across grasslands and along the banks of the Umhlatuzana River. Game viewing guaranteed.	Grade: Moderate	

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
<b>Sat 15 Feb</b>	<b>Paradise Valley</b>	<b>Linda S</b>	<b>084 2067836</b>
	Meet at Paradise Valley – 1 Oxford Road, at 13:45. Entrance fee R20.00. Walk under cover along the banks of the Palmiet River. There will be a shorter hike available.	Grade: Easy/Moderate	
<b>Sun 16 Feb</b>	<b>Ballito to Salt Rock and back</b>	<b>Jenny</b>	<b>084 9520622</b>
	Beach hike (with optional return on tar). Always popular and please don't forget cozzie/shorts, hat and sunscreen. Meet at the Shell Garage at The Hypermarket-by-the-Sea, Durban North at 7:00 or at Tedder Way, Ballito at 7:30. R35.00pp petrol-sharing. Optional drinks/lunch later at a venue to be decided.	Distance: 12km Grade: 1	
<b>Sat 22 Feb</b>	<b>Banks of the Umgeni River</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>079 5259230</b>
	Meet at the Shell garage at The Hypermarket-by-the-Sea in Durban North at 13:45 to walk along both sides of the Umgeni River. No shorter hike planned.	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun Feb 23</b>	<b>Monteseel</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>031 7837876</b> <b>083 9684434</b>
	Joint hike with Midlands. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 7:00 departure, or meet at Max's at 7:30. Petrol-sharing R25.00pp. Tea with Sonny Boy and his family and wonderful views of the Valley of a Thousand Hills. (Please bring a cash donation of R10.00pp.) BYO braai after the hike and please don't forget carrots, veggie greens and fruit (no citrus) for Roger and Julie's menagerie - your fee for safe parking!	Distance: 15km Grade: 3 (steep in parts)	
<b>Sat 1 Mar</b>	<b>1000 Hills ---- Not the normal one!</b>	<b>Linda S</b>	<b>083 3538319</b>
	Meet at and park at Drum and Bell. Follow Old Main Road past Botha's Hill towards Drummond. Hike will go up to Monteseel to overlook the Valley of a 1000 Hills. Drinks at Drum and Bell afterwards. Short hike will be available and will take approximately an hour and a half.	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun 2 Mar</b>	<b>Killarney Rookeries, Cato Ridge</b>	<b>David Tighe</b> <b>Co-leader:</b> <b>Philip Swart</b>	<b>031 4649033</b> <b>076 0280708</b>
	Joint Ramblers/MBC/Midlands hike. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 7:15 departure, or go direct. (Take Exit 53 at Cato Ridge, turn left and follow High Stakes signs to the 4x4 track and store.) Hike starts at High Stakes at 8:00. Safe parking R25.00 per person. Please phone to confirm your attendance on the hike.	Distance: 12km Grade: 2	

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
<b>Sat 8 Mar</b>	<b>Virginia Bush and Beach Hike</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>082 4591522</b>
	Meet at the Virginia Airport at 13:45. The walk will be inside forested area in the Virginia Bush and back down for a beach hike. Drinks afterwards at the Virginia pub. Shorter hike will exclude the beach hike.	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun 9 Mar</b>	<b>Giba Gorge</b>	<b>Colin</b>	<b>031 7083517</b>
	Meet inside Giba Gorge Mountain Bike Park promptly at 7:30. Entrance R10.00pp. Colin will lead us up, down and around this maze of well cut paths, indigenous and alien bush, dams and waterfalls.	Distance: 15km Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 15 Mar</b>	<b>Umhlanga Rocks – Hawaan Forest</b>	<b>Philip C</b>	<b>084 2067836</b>
	Meet at the car park opposite the Cabana at 13:45. Walk along the promenade, to the Hawaan forest and coastal bush, cross the river along the beach (depending on the tide), back along coastal bush. Shorter hike will be available.	Grade: Moderate	
<b>Sun 16 Mar</b>	<b>World's View, Pmb</b>	<b>Francois 083 9838007</b>	<b>Co-ordinator: Marie 082 5860266 031 7053122</b>
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown at 7:30 sharp, or at Wykeham Collegiate School at the top of Roberts Road, Pietermaritzburg at 8:30. Guest leader Francois Marais (Chairman, Pietermaritzburg Ramblers) will take us through the forest, past Kettlefontein Station, and on to World's View, returning on forest paths. Petrol sharing cost R30.00.	Distance: 12km+ Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 22 Mar</b>	<b>Palmiet Nature Reserve – “Upstream”</b>	<b>Philip C</b>	<b>082 4170204</b>
	This hike is predominately up river, not along the cliff slopes and should favour most hikers. A shorter hike will be available.	Rating: easy	
<b>Sun 23 Mar</b>	<b>Eston</b>	<b>Margie</b>	<b>073 4376915</b>
	Hike over rolling hills and countryside on a farm not far from Tala Game Reserve. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 7:30 departure. Petrol sharing costs R40.00.	Distance: 15km Grade: 2	
<b>Sat 29 Mar</b>	<b>Cucumber Farm</b>	<b>Werner</b>	<b>084 2067836</b>
	Meet at St Helier's Lake on St Helier's Road. Walk through parts of Giba up to Cucumber Farm and back down to St Helier's Lake. No shorter hike planned.	Grade: Moderate	

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
<b>Sun 30 Mar</b>	<b>Gromor</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>082 4591522</b>
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown in time for a prompt 7:00 departure, or at Inchanga Station at 7:30. A moderate hike across Gromor land, Hill'n Dale Farm, through the old railway nursery, across the railway bridge and back to Inchanga, where we shall all enjoy the flea market and, hopefully, see the choo-choo. Petrol sharing R20.00.	Distance: 15km Grade: 2	

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.