



C/O The Chairman  
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Branch Code: 042626  
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**THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB**  
**3rd QUARTER: JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014**

**CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS**

When Aloes are in bloom, then we know its wintry July. It is the best time of the year for hiking. So on with the boots for some serious hiking!

During the last quarter we sadly bid farewell to three of our members – Mr Brian O’Connell (former Chairman), Mr Joe Strayton and Mr Gavin Thomson. In the magazine you will find their respective obituaries. The members extend their condolences to their families and friends in their time of mourning.

I would like to call on members that feel they could contribute a story for our magazine; they must not hesitate to write in and make our MAG a “must read”.

Also if you know of an interesting trail, let us know and become a hike leader. The hike organizers notice that whenever a new hike is in the program more members attend ... so please some ideas would be appreciated.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of September we (that is Lois and I) are hosting our annual Potjie competition. Again we call upon aspirant Potjie cooks to volunteer and be judged by the judges. It is a fun evening held at the Chairman’s house. In the afternoon we hike in the Stockville valley and end up at Werner’s for the Potjie evening. Members who want to come just for the evening are also welcome. Book early as space is limited, and we need to know numbers so the cooks can prepare.

The Database of members has been updated, and sadly we have had to say farewell to 30 single members and 5 family members due to not having received their annual subs. A pity that some members do not adhere to paying on time. But I suppose that is human nature!

The introduction of badges with I.C.E. information has generally been accepted and adhered to, although at times ignored. If you forget to bring your badge, then you will be called on to fill in the indemnity form ... for convenience sake, just bring your ID badge.

Facebook has really been a good Media ... we now have 160 Facebook members. Members regularly send in photo’s and newsworthy bits of information. For day to day updates it all keeps us well informed. In the next quarter the committee will be starting preparations for our Xmas function. Anyone with ideas in contributing to the success, please let us know. All input will be appreciated.

Hiking is fun, keep it that way.

Regards

Werner

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman	Werner Vanslembrouck	084 206 7836	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 Organiser	Marie Gurr	082 586 0266	031 705 3122	<a href="mailto:marinev.gurr@gmail.com">marinev.gurr@gmail.com</a>	
Sat Hike Organiser	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	031 201 8864	<a href="mailto:philipcollyer@gmail.com">philipcollyer@gmail.com</a>	
Weekend Organiser	Jill Dunstone	084 780 0818	031 765 4520	<a href="mailto:jilldy@telkom.co.za">jilldy@telkom.co.za</a>	
Publicity	Linda Smith	083 353 8319		<a href="mailto:compasshr@mweb.co.za">compasshr@mweb.co.za</a>	
Ordinary Member	Coleen Seath	082 735 7659	031 202 2279	<a href="mailto:coleensea@gmail.com">coleensea@gmail.com</a>	
Magazine Editor	Gordon Tomlinson	083 277 2690	031 708 1119	<a href="mailto:gordontom44@gmail.com">gordontom44@gmail.com</a>	

### **MEMBER NEWS**

#### **New Members**

We extend a very warm welcome to all our new members and hope that you enjoy many happy hours hiking with us.

Este Oosthuizen

Sue Mitchell

Jonathan Caldow

Zubeida Gordi

Martin Vazasie

Kurt Bacher

Pam Venkatsamy

Akbar

Anna Kapp

Let us know if a hiker is ill or had an accident or some other newsworthy event so we can send an acknowledgement.

Note - Members on email will receive get-well cards etc from the Club with the source "123greetingcards.com"

## Obituaries

Mr Brian O'Connell passed away quite unexpectedly on May 23.

From day one when Brian joined the club, he showed how to be a hike leader...considerate to all who trailed behind him.

His knowledge of the Berg was outstanding. In his younger days he must have spent many a night in the Berg to have gained such extensive knowledge of the area.

For three years he was our Chairman, and he updated the Club's constitution, which is still in force today. We will remember him as strong willed man who held strong opinions on many matters.

He was a companion to Ann Olds for many years.  
We support her in her grief and the Club loses a stalwart hiking member.

We thank you Brian

Joe Strayton, who died at the age of 95, will be fondly remembered by all Ramblers who knew him for his easy-going nature and lovely sense of humour.

He was a strong hiker and very popular leader who only stopped hiking with us when he and Guida moved to Pietermaritzburg some years ago to be closer to their family. Not that that stopped him hiking as he liked to walk a good distance each day.

It was his doctor, he once told us, who advised him not to worry about how far he went but "just to keep on moving!" Wise words for us all!

We extend deepest sympathy to Guida and family

Gavin Thomson was a little guy with a big heart, a former wrestler, cyclist, walker and hiker.

I first met Gavin in 1995 when I was a member of Stella Sports Club and we were training for the Guard Bank (walking the Comrades route over two days.) He was a strong walker and always a perfect gentleman looking out for the ladies as we trained on the darkening evenings.

Gavin hosted a few braai's at his home in Seaforth Avenue for the Ramblers, always a generous host we spent some fun filled evenings at his home. Gavin was often one of the group when I first went on back packing trips the Drakensberg, sleeping in caves or camping near the contour paths, and he made up our little party of four to do the last Ingeli trip sleeping in the now defunct huts, Kwa-shwili and Kings Holt.

Gavin continued hiking regularly and he and Philip Gatenby were instrumental in getting the Saturday afternoon hikes going as an alternative to the Sunday all day hikes.

As Gavin's eyesight deteriorated (due to glaucoma) he did not feel confident walking in rough terrain; and so confined his walking to the suburbs but continued to cycle with his very good friend Carol until fairly recently.

Gavin had a strong belief in his God and in Jesus Christ and recently returned from a trip to the "Holy Land". He recounted the wonderful sights and experiences he had when we next met up.

Gavin lived a full and active life and will be missed by his friends and family.

## Subs for 2014

Single Member R70	Family R90	Joining Fee R10
Country Single R55	Country Family R60	In all cases

Please 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.

Also note that the joining fee, in addition to the annual subs, is due if a member has been  
"absent" for a year or more, with a new application form.

## Committee News

Further to the Database and Website:-

- Janet Elliot will manage the Website
- Gordon Tomlinson will look after the Database
- Thanks to Linda and Duncan for all your hard work

## Annual Xmas Party ---- Where ?

Members of the club probably do not know that the committee has the unenviable task of finding a suitable venue for our annual Xmas party on 6<sup>th</sup> December. This is easier said than done. The club would love to hold the party alternately --- *close to central Durban and in the Upper Highway area.*

Requirements for a venue are as follows:-

The hall has to be :

- Available on the 6th December
- Reasonable hire rate
- Adequate parking
- Allowed alcohol and music
- Available kitchen facilities
- Tables and chairs included
- Able to hold upwards of 60 people to sit and dancing space.
- Braai facilities

In the highway area we have a venue "The Hillcrest Scout Hall" which adequately ticks all the boxes required. We have investigated several venues "Close to Durban" but have been unable to find any suitable. It would be appreciated if members would come to the rescue of the organizing committee headed by Werner. Maybe there is someone out there with a solution. What resistance is there from the members to have it again held at the Hillcrest Scout Hall if all other venues fail?

Please email Werner (werner.v@iafrica.com) with your suggestions before 15 July 2014.

Answer to the following:-

Option 1      Durban venue : Where? You must advise details of this venue  
or   Option 2      Back to our Hillcrest venue?

## **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.

## **WEEKENDS AWAY**

There are no long weekends in the next quarter.

However, for those who wish to get away, be it only for one night, we are trying a South Coast venue for a change. Having somewhere suitable to hike has been a bit of a problem before now, but a mountain bike trail has opened up near Pennington and it's good walking terrain when the bikers are not using it.

Accommodation will be at Rocky Bay, right on the beach. What a pleasure! Caravan sites are fully electrified, R150 p/p/p/n. Two-bedroom (ie. 4 x sharing – go with your buddies) fully fitted chalets with own bathrooms and kitchens are R970 per chalet per night. There are other permutations available, from one-bedroom to 4-bedroom. There's a pool and restaurant on site and the beach right on your doorstep.

The weekend of 16/17<sup>th</sup> August has been nominated, but this weekend can be changed, after due negotiation with the Saturday/Sunday hike organisers.

You will be advised accordingly

Heads up for October: Shaw's Farm at Karkloof. Great walking up Mt Bilboa

## **NEW YEAR GETAWAY 28 Dec -- 1 Jan.**

Stella and Jenny are planning a group New Year at the Boston Tea Party , a great venue at Boston, in the Midlands. There is limited accommodation still available in private rooms with either one double or two single beds. The tariff is R190 pppn sharing or else R240 single. If you are interested please contact Jenny at jen0212sa@gmail.com or Stella at stellawells4@gmail.com

## **HIKES**

The following contribution from Marie.

*"Ramblers' has a vast and varied selection of hikes and we often get to see parts of eThekwin and the local countryside that other, less adventurous/energetic/inquisitive folk miss. We laugh and joke and chat and enjoy the scenery as we go... Great therapy for us all whether we're on a Saturday afternoon, Sunday or Wednesday morning walk.*

*While this is usually all good fun we should also be aware that sometimes something can go amiss and we might find ourselves in a stressful situation. Like when someone takes a tumble and gets hurt... This is when it is vital to have your ICE (In Case of Emergency) details with you - to take as much trauma out of the situation as possible.*

*Please, if you're a regular Rambler, make good use of the personal name badge you've been given - fill in the appropriate details so that if there is a mishap we know who to contact, and if medical assistance is required we're able to get help promptly.*

*If you're not a regular hiker you should still have all this information available and it's a good idea to let someone in the group (maybe the leader) know whether it's on your cell, in your pack or in your pocket. (Hopefully, Ramblers will be wearing their badges, or have them hanging on their daypacks!)*

*Let's all be aware, be sensible and keep our hiking days as stress-free, happy and enjoyable as possible."*

#### PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Please have your emergency contact number(s) under ICE (In Case of Emergency) in your cell phone and on **the new cards issued**, or a label 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/number(s) of someone to contact.

Emergency personnel will look for your ICE details.

Hospitals will not send an ambulance/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 on 031 708 3517 or Philip on 031 201 3592 / 082 417 0204 .

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 from 1 to 5, as below.

- 1 Easy = A flat even walk
- 2 Moderate = A hike without big and steep inclines
- 3 Strenuous = A hike with some steep inclines - Fitness recommended
- 4 Difficult = A hike with several steep inclines and some rock scrambling - Fitness essential
- 5 Very difficult = A hike with many inclines and rock scrambling - Fitness very essential

### **HIKING PROGRAMME**

<b>SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROGRAMME ----- 3rd QUARTER 2014</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
<b>Sat. 5 July</b>	<b>Herbie's Hike - Roosfontein</b>  Meet at 13.45 at the parking lot outside the Westville Prison. Hike is through grasslands and some forest, ensure you bring enough water. Meet afterwards for drinks at the Pavilion.	<b>Werner</b>	<b>084 206 7836</b>  Grading [1-5]  Moderate, 3
<b>Sun 6</b>	<b>Cumberland Nature Reserve, Pietermaritzburg</b>  Combined Ramblers/MBC/Midlands hike along cliffs to a waterfall, returning across grasslands. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown at 6.45am or at the Honesty Box near the entrance to Cumberland in time to start walking at 8am. (Fee R10pp.) Bring snacks and 2 litres of water. (There is nowhere to get water once we start walking.) Please phone Philip and let him know if you'd like to join him. (Petrol-sharing R55pp.)	<b>Philip Swart Co-leader Dave Tighe</b>	<b>Philip: 031-465-2776 072 606 6599</b>  Distance  12km  Grading [1-5]  2
<b>Sat.12 July</b>	<b>Beach Bums Hike</b>  Meet at Beach Bums at Casuarina Beach. A bit of beach and inland hike, through a ruined house and market gardens. Meet back at the Beach Bums for drinks. No shorter hike planned.	<b>Jon</b>	<b>082 459 1522</b>  Grading [1-5]  Moderate, 3
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>Bux's Farm</b>  Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 8am departure, or outside the Assagay Hotel at 8.15am. We'll drive in convoy to the parking place and hike over grasslands towards Peacevale. (Petrol-sharing R25pp.)	<b>Margie</b>	<b>073 437 6915</b>  Distance  16km  Grading [1-5]  3

<b>Sat. 19 July</b>	<b>Kloof Gorge – Up and down, Vertigo Warning</b>	<b>Philip C</b>	<b>031-201 8864</b>
	Hike to the bottom of the Kloof Gorge, paths are fairly steep, hike back to the top of the gorge. Tricky down and a steep climb back up. No shorter hike planned.		Grading [1-5] Strenuous, 4
<b>Sun 20</b>	<b>Crowned Eagle and Ipithi Nature Reserves, Gillitts</b>	<b>Cheryl</b>	<b>083 557 0244</b>
	Meet and park at Zephyr, Everton Road (Gillitts turnoff) in time to start walking at 8am. Hike through the privately owned Crowned Eagle Reserve, Ipithi Nature Reserve and along some of the streets in Gillitts. Please bring R30pp donation (R15pp for each Reserve). BYO braai after the hike. Please let Cheryl know if you'd like to join her and will be staying for the braai.	Distance Approx. 15km	Grading [ 1-5 ] 2
<b>Sat. 26 July</b>	<b>North Park</b>	<b>Linda Smith</b>	<b>083 353 8319</b>
	Meet at the end of Anderson Road, off Main Road in Queensburgh. Hike is in a forested area and up to a view point of part of the Queensburgh area. There is a R20 entrance fee.		Grading [1-5] Easy, 2
<b>Sun 27</b>	<b>Eston</b>	<b>Margie</b>	<b>073 437 6915</b>
	Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown in time to leave promptly at 8am. We'll drive in convoy to a farm not far from Tala Game Reserve for a hike over rolling hills of indigenous bush, cane and grasslands. (Petrol-sharing R50pp.)	Distance 14km	Grading [1-5] 3
<b>Sat. 2 August</b>	<b>Street Hike in Hillcrest Area</b>	<b>Werner</b>	<b>084 206 7836</b>
	Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre on the old main road at 13.45 to walk the streets of Assagay. There will be a shorter hike too.		Grading [1-5] Moderate, 3
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Kamberg – Bushman Rock Art</b>	<b>Dave Tighe</b>	Please call 076 028 0708 or 031-464-9247 for more details.
<b>Sat 2</b>	Combined day hike with Durban Ramblers/MBC/Midlands Hiking Club to Rock Art Sites. View seldom seen Bushman Rock Art in a very scenic area. Leader will be overnighting at Mountain Shadows Guest Farm. (Camping and chalets available.) Meet at Kamberg Ezemvelo Parks Board office at 8am.	Distance 12km	Grading [1-5] 2
<b>Sun 3</b>	<b>Umhlanga Estuary</b>	<b>Jenny</b>	<b>084 952 0622</b>
	Meet and park in the nature reserve next to Breakers Hotel, Umhlanga, in time to start hiking at 8am. We'll spend the day exploring the Umhlanga Estuary.	Distance 16km	Grading [ 1-5 ] 3
<b>Sat. 9 August</b>	<b>Bux Farm</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>082 459 1522</b>
	Meet at the Assagay Hotel at 13.30 and drive to parking spot at 13.45. No shorter hike planned. Steep descents in parts.	Vertigo Warning	Grading [1-5] Moderate, 3

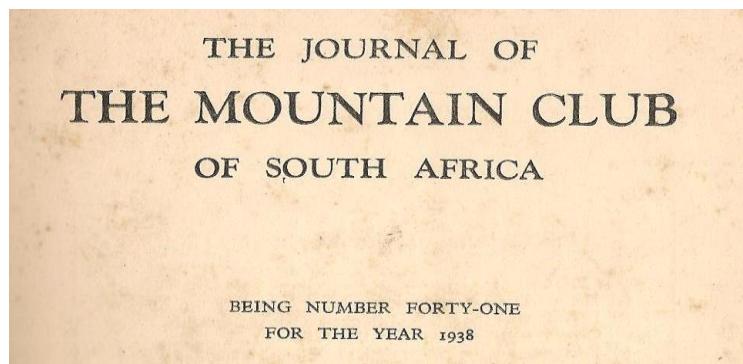
<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>Danville Dawdle</b> Meet and park at Danville Park Girls' High School, (21 Middlebrook Avenue, Durban North) at 8am. John will lead a circular day hike, mainly street walking, around Durban North and up towards Umhlanga.	<b>John van Zyl</b> Distance Approx. 15km	<b>083 799 8382 031-822-3664</b> Grading [ 1-5 ] 2
<b>Sat. 16 August</b>	<b>Pigeon Valley</b> Meet at Stella Soccer Club, 175 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 Pigeon Valley (Princess Alice Ave)	<b>Philip C</b>	<b>031-201 8864 (082 417 0204 Whatsapp only)</b> Grading [1-5] Easy/Moderate 3
<b>Sun 17</b>	<b>Stonehaven Castle, Shongweni</b> Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown at 8am, or outside the Assagay Hotel at 8.15am, to drive in convoy to the Castle. Steep uphill from the railway line to Summerveld, returning on a circular path over grasslands and through bush. (Petrol-sharing R20pp.)	<b>Jon</b> Distance 15km	<b>082 459 1522</b> Grading [ 1-5 ] 3
<b>Sat 23 August</b>	<b>Palmiet Nature Reserve</b> Shady walk beside the Palmiet River. Meet at Reserve entrance below Westville Hotel. Afterwards get together at the Westville Hotel for a chat and drinks. Meet at 13.45	<b>Linda</b> Vertigo Warning	<b>083 353 8319</b> Grading [1-5] Moderate 3
<b>Sun 24</b>	<b>Mustang Mountain</b> Revival of a circular route around the Hammarsdale area. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown at 8am to drive in convoy to parking place. (Petrol-sharing R25pp.)	<b>Jenny</b> Distance 15km	<b>084 952 0622</b> Grading [ 1-5 ] 2
<b>Sat 30 August</b>	<b>Stainbank Nature Reserve</b> Meet at the Stainbank Nature Reserve Car Park at 13.45. Reserve Entrance R20. There will be a shorter hike and braai afterwards.	<b>Philip</b>	<b>082 417 0204</b> Grading [1-5] Moderate 3
<b>Sun 31</b>	<b>Nagle Dam/Umngeni Bend</b> Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown at 7.30am. Entrance to Nagle Dam R25pp. Hike through the tunnel and around the dam. (Petrol-sharing R35pp.)	<b>Jon</b> Distance Approx. 15km	<b>082 459 1522</b> Grading [ 1-5 ] 3
<b>Sat 6 September</b>	<b>Tanglewood</b> Meet at Tanglewood farm at the end of Naidoo Road, Motala Heights, Pinetown at 13.45 or meet at Union Main Centre on Old Main Road, Pinetown at 13.30 to leave promptly for the reserve. <i>Note there may be changes to this hike so please check facebook and the website.</i>	<b>Linda</b>	<b>083 353 8319</b> Grading [1-5] Moderate, 3
<b>Sun 7</b>	<b>Stainbank Nature Reserve, Yellowwood Park</b> Meet inside the entrance gate (fee R20pp) at 8am for a hike over grasslands and through coastal forest. Game viewing guaranteed. Bring-	<b>Philip Swart Co-leader Dave Tighe</b> Distance 12km	<b>Philip: 031-465- 2776 072 606 6599</b> Grading [ 1-5 ] 3

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	and-share braai later to celebrate the first weekend of Spring.		
	<b>Stockville</b>	<b>Werner</b>	<b>084 206 7836</b>
<b>Sat 13 September</b>	Gathering at the Gillitts Post Office at 13.30. Hikers will then share transport to the end of Jan Smuts Avenue, Winston Park. The hike starts there. Hike along the escarpment, down into the Stockville Valley and back to Gillitts Post Office. Some members to drive back to end of Jan Smuts to retrieve cars.  <b>After the hike - annual Potjie Competition Challenge.</b>  Cost R50.00 per person. Potjie cooks must bring own gas burners, potjie and crockery & cutlery - and register by 6th Sept 2014. Non cooks will be deemed to be judges and must also book and bring their crockery & cutlery. Venue Lois and Werner's House. For further information and registration call 031-767 2969. Numbers are limited - BOOK EARLY. Please do not ring after 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2014, no late comers will be accepted - no exceptions.	No Short Hike	Grading [1-5]  Strenuous 4
<b>Sun 14</b>	<b>Winterskloof, Pmb</b>	<b>Francois Marais</b>	<b>083 983 8007 or Marie 082 586 0266</b>
	Meet in the car park at Crossways Inn at 8.30am. (Travel up Town Hill and take the Hilton off ramp.) We will be hiking through areas of Winterskloof, stopping at Doreen Clarke Nature reserve, walking along sections of the old railway line and exploring plantations. Expect to be going up and down hills! After the hike we will enjoy home-brewed beer.	Distance  18km	Grading [ 1-5 ]  3
<b>Sat 20 September</b>	<b>Delville Wood</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>082 459 1522</b>
	Meet at the Assagay Hotel at 1.30, to drive through at 13.45 to the parking area. Through tunnels and waterfalls and a bit strenuous at the end. No shorter hike.		Grading [1-5]  Strenuous, 4
<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>Stockville Road</b>	<b>Margie</b>	<b>073 437 6915</b>
	Meet and park at Zephyr, Everton Road (Gillitts turnoff) at 8am to walk to St Helier, through Giba Gorge and scramble up to the pylon and Winston Park. Hike continues towards Stockville Valley across grasslands and past interesting old homesteads before the uphill climb back to the cars.	Distance  17km	Grading [ 1-5 ]  3 (Steep in parts)
<b>Sat 27 September</b>	<b>Summerveld</b>	<b>Colin</b>	<b>031 708 3517</b>
	Meet at the Assagay Hotel at 13.30 to drive through to Summerveld at 13.45. Walk through the Summerveld Conservancy Area.		Grading [1-5]  Easy, 2
<b>Sun 28</b>	<b>Toti Trail</b>	<b>Anna</b>	<b>071 427 7139</b>
	<i>Details to be finalised.</i>  Please watch Website and follow FaceBook page.	Distance  Approx. 18km	Grading [ 1-5 ]  3

## A Blast from the Past

Werner was recently given the book shown below, which is dated 1938!



It is a fascinating record of the character, adventures and achievements of this amazing Club. Although focussing more on the Cape, it also has a section on the Drakensburg, well worth studying.

However, one article, as below, caught my interest.

**Tea.**

---

**The Friend of the Thirsty Climber.**

*By J. Welsh.*

TEA!! What visions and memories does this attractive word conjure up in the minds of all mountaineers! What pictures does it recall as we slowly sip it! We see some shady ravine where water and wood abound or a kindly green "vlakte" surrounded by friendly summits. We see the high dry places of the world where every drop of water and stick of wood has to be carried or trudged for; we remember making it in dark wet caves and we have sometimes melted snow for lack of water on a cold bleak mountainside. Tea gives us a good start for a rigorous day, if refreshes us as we perch with the eagles and it cheers us at the end when limbs are tiring and light is fading.

The hiking fraternity of old were obviously very fond of (or "hooked on") tea as the main source of liquid refreshment, sustenance and mental stamina, even to the extent of being revered.

Although we do take our tea domestically, it is seldom seen during hiking activity.

We seem to be dependent on another type of liquid to help us, in the form of high-tech "----- ADE"

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 ---- gordontom44@gmail.com