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Standard Bank, Musgrave Rd.  
Branch Code: 042626  
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**THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB**

**1st QUARTER: JANUARY to MARCH 2016**

***CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS***

After a year of hiking, Ramblers take to the Year End Function. The Portuguese Club proved to be an intimate venue that worked. If you missed it this year, there is one next year.



The band was really great, they played songs that everyone could relate to and dance to!



The AGM will be on the 6 February 2016, at 12pm, Palmiet Hall. Fires will be available afterwards to braai on, so please bring your chairs, drinks and braai things.

The Archives are now available on the website. If you have access to any missing magazines please let me know. Magazines are between :

- 1940 and 1946.

## Durban Ramblers Magazine

- 1969 – 1987
- 2004 - 2014

Happy Hiking

Philip

### **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.

Alison Chadwick  
Patricia Maharaj  
Renate Mackenzie  
Coleen Christophers  
Natalie Marx

Please 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"

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Committee Members are as below.

Chairman	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	031 201 8864	philipcollyer@gmail.com
Secretary	Janet Elliott	082 820 8182	031 765 3240	jelliott@iafrica.com
Treasurer	Margot Barraclough	084 256 7867	031 764 4740	margotb@corokraft.co.za
Sunday Hike Organiser	Stella Wells	078 319 8979		stellawells4@gmail.com
Saturday Hike Organiser	Linda Smith	083 353 8319		compasshr@mweb.co.za
Weekend Organiser	Marie Gurr	082 586 0266	031 705 3122	marinev.gurr@gmail.com
Publicity	Tina Regnard	083 289 6276	031 207 5005	regnardt@gmail.com
Ordinary Member	Coleen Seath	082 735 7659	031 202 2279	coleensea@gmail.com
Magazine Members Database	Gordon Tomlinson	083 277 2690	031 708 1119	gordontom44@gmail.com
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	031 269 1921	dada@greenit.co.za

## **Durban Ramblers Magazine**

### **Subs for 2016**

Single Member R85  
Country Single R65

Family R105  
Country Family R75

Joining Fee R30  
In all cases

New members joining after July 2016 will only pay half the annual subs.

Please pay by EFT directly into the bank account – please include your surname.  
Standard Bank, Musgrave Rd Branch, Code: 042626, Account No: 051257653

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.

## **Magazine**

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

Note : If you have been receiving the magazine by post, and now want the speedier email version, advise me and send me your email address.

It also helps reduce our posting costs to mail the magazine to you.

## **Website**

An exciting new website has been developed and upgraded, so as to be more professional and friendly. It has been fully populated and contains the latest information regarding the club, hikes, etc.

## ***WEEKENDS AWAY***

### **Ramblers weekend away at Simes Cottage, Lotheni - Friday/Sunday nights, October 2/4, 2015**

Many thanks to Werner, Biff and Rob, Steve and Lyn, Maureen, Diana, Alice and Nevil for jolly company, and to Steve for the pix.

On Saturday we hiked to Jacob's Ladder Falls and then back-tracked to follow the very scenic Emadundwini Trail.

On Sunday we walked to the picnic site to see the little farmhouse built in 1905 and museum (a disused shearing shed housing old farming implements), and visited the Gelib Tree.

This tree was grown from some acacia seeds Carbineer officer Captain Charles Eustace pocketed in the village of Gelib on February 22, 1941 during the East African invasion of what was then Italian Somaliland. On his return to S. Africa Captain Eustace planted the seeds on his farm in the Lotheni Valley which has now become the property of Ezemvelo KZN. The tree commemorates those who died in battle: there is a plaque giving their names.

Most of the group braved a dip at Cool Pools on the Lotheni River on the way back to Simes....

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The report from Diana adds more to this -----

The keen birders were up at the crack of dawn with their binoculars & bird books and we were blessed to see a Giant Kingfisher perched on the one lone tree next to the dam at Simes Cottage.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, nine of us set off for a day's very enjoyable hike (approximately 16 km) led by Nevil; we crossed the Lotheni River via the Tebetebe suspension bridge and did a short detour to the Jacob's Ladders Falls before climbing up to do the Emadundwini Trail. The weather was ideal – sunny with a cool breeze; the scenery spectacular and the spring wildflowers lovely – to see the Natal Bottlebrush (*Greyiasutherlandii*) flowering in its natural habitat was the best. The trail takes one through a variety of habitats – protea woodland (where we stopped off for lunch), afro-montane forest and grassland. We spotted eland in the distance, not easy to see as the upper part of the surrounding hills had been burnt – the fire had been started by lightning. We arrived back at the cottage mid-afternoon a little weary but happy. For a pre-braai snack, we were treated to two trout, freshly caught by two fisherman and cooked expertly by Rob.

We had much hysteria and laughter when we all retired to bed that night, Diana had a visitor in her bed, alas not a hunk of a man but a mouse who had the audacity to bite her! Grateful thanks to Nevil who came to the rescue whilst Rob stood in the doorway laughing his head off!

The next day we decided to take things a little easier and we walked to the Museum and then to the Gelib Tree ---- both very interesting.

All in all a wonderful long weekend.





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### **Silverstreams, Bushman's Nek, Ramblers' weekend away - Friday/Saturday nights, November 20/21, 2015**

Despite 32mm of heavy rain from 5pm Friday until sometime in the night we all had great fun. Thank goodness for the games room!!

Saturday there was a somewhat strenuous hike to Thomathu Cave, while Sunday morning saw a saunter around New England Stables Farm and a visit to the coffee shop.

Many thanks for cheerful, entertaining company to Rolf and Doreen, Maureen, Alice, Ann, Coleen, Jill, Christine, Audrey, Nevil, Marcia, Natalie, Kurt and Jenni, Hester, and especially Steve and Lyn and Roy and Rose who got up ridiculously early on Saturday morning to drive up from Durban.

Many thanks to Maureen for the pix.



### LOOKING AHEAD

Please don't forget to let me know if you're interested in joining our trip to ---  
**Hlanathi, Chalets or Camping, Friday/Saturday nights, January 29/30, 2016.**  
With Biff's help I anticipate hiking at The Cavern on Saturday morning, which will mean paying for a guide/crunchies/juice.

**Booking deadline: Friday, January 8, 2016.**

Also -- **Easter - Lake Eland - March 25/27, 2016 – three nights - Camping or Chalets. Booking deadline: Friday, January 22, 2016.**

Thank you to everyone who has come forward with venue ideas - your input is much appreciated. I do like to cater for campers and those who enjoy more "solid" accommodation and am always grateful to hear of places which may be new to us.

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Hope to hear from you!

Cheers for now, Marie (Weekend Organiser)

### **HIKES**

*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.*

*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.*

#### 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.

#### **In case of Snake Bite -The basic Rules**

- **Keep the number of your nearest hospital on your phone database.**
- **If you're in the bush, be aware at all times and check where you walk, sit or place your hands.**
- **If there's snake food about (lizards, rats, mice, frogs, nesting birds etc.) there will be snakes.**
- **If you see a snake, STAND STILL - don't panic. Tell others where it is and enjoy the sighting.**
- **Do NOT throw things at it or try to kill it or pick it up.**
- **If possible, slowly move away from the snake without disturbing it.**
- **If you accidentally stand on, or grab a snake, it might try to bite you, a perfectly natural reaction.**
- **If you get bitten, remain calm and move away from the snake, don't try to catch it.**
- **Tell someone that you've been bitten.**
- **If possible, get someone with First Aid experience to attend to you.**
- **Administer a full bandage wrap of the affected limb - not too tight - allow blood flow.**
- **Immobilise the limb and get to the hospital. Warn them of your impending arrival.**
- **No cuts, injections, stimulants - liquid refreshments only - monitor patient breathing.**
- **Remain calm and try not to move around too much.**
- **Venom in the eyes must be washed out with as much liquid as possible - water is best.**

#### **3 snake experts to contact in an emergency:**

Jenna Taylor 083 631 4816 - Arno Naude 083 739 9303 - Johan Marais 082 494 2039

### **Wednesday Morning Hikes**



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Please check details of the Wednesday Hikes with Colin Turner on 031 708 3517 or Coleen Seath on 031 202 2279 / 082 735 7659 (who will co-ordinate with leaders.)

### 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.
- 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.
- The meeting point in the programme – it might change, or the hike route might change, or it might be raining and the hike cancelled – so you **must phone the leader** or you might find themselves left out and left behind
- 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.

Hikes are described as being Easy, Moderate or Strenuous.

They are graded from 1 to 5, as below.

- |   |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | A flat even walk                               |                          |
| 2 | A hike without big and steep inclines          |                          |
| 3 | A hike with some steep inclines                | - Fitness recommended    |
| 4 | A hike with steep inclines and rock scrambling | - Fitness essential      |
| 5 | A hike with many inclines and rock scrambling  | - Fitness very essential |

## **SATURDAY and SUNDAY HIKING PROGRAMME**

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Saturday Jan 2	<p>Longshadow</p> <p>A nice easy hike to ease us all into the new year. Meet at the main entrance of the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve ( Kloof falls Road) at 13.45. Entrance fee of R20. This is a pretty forested walk along a stream. Drinks afterwards at the Nature Café in Kloof Falls Road.</p>	<p>Linda</p> <p>6 kms</p> <p>Grade 1 Easy</p>	083 353 8319

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Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sunday Jan 3	<b><u>NO HIKE SCHEDULED</u></b>		
Saturday  Jan 9	Herbies Hike - Roosfontein	Werner	084 206 7836
	Meet at 13.45 at the parking lot outside the Westville Prison. Hike is through grasslands and some forest, please ensure you bring enough water. R20 donation towards the upkeep of the Reserve. Meet afterwards for drinks at the Pavilion.	Grade 2 Moderate  7 kms	
Sunday  Jan 10	<b><u>BLYTHEDALE BEACH AND FOREST</u></b>  Hike along the beach to the Mvoti Estuary and back through Jon's mystical forest. Meet Virginia airport at 6.30 or Blythedale beach parking at 7.30. Petrol sharing R50.	Jon Stevens  Grade 2  Approx: 15 kms	082 459 1522
Saturday  Jan 16	Nqutu Falls – KKNR  Meet at the Nkutu Picnic Site off Valley Road in Kloofat 13.45pm. Entrance fee of R20 This hike will follow a course down into the gorge and then back up again. Drinks afterwards at the Nature Café in Kloof Falls Road.	Linda  Grade 3  Strenuous	083 353 8319
Sunday  Jan 17	<b><u>MITCHELL PARK TO POINT</u></b>  Walk from Mitchell Park to the Point and back, stopping for coffee and snacks along the way. <b>Note distance!</b> Meet Mitchell park (Nimmo Rd parking area) at 7.00 am.	Jenny Rooks  Grade 3  21 kms	084 952 0622
Saturday  Jan 23	Paradise Valley  Walk through Paradise Valley (Oxford Road, Pinetown), mainly shaded wooded areas with a couple of gentle uphill. Park in Oxford Road. Meet inside the reserve at 13:45. R 20 entrance fee to the Reserve	Abdullah  6 kms Grade 1 Easy	084 478 6779
Sunday  Jan 24	<b><u>CHASE VALLEY</u></b>  4 to 5 hr hike along circular route through the Chase Valley plantations along farm roads to the top of Chase Valley Heights and admire good views of the city. Pets are welcome. Meet at Cascades Shopping Centre near the pedestrian bridge over the river. Please contact Brian and let him know you will be joining the hike. Thereafter contact Stella to coordinate transport from Durban.	Brian Henwood  Grade 2  12 kms	<p style="text-align: center;">Brian 082 655 6359 brian@hn.co.za</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stella 078 319 8979 stellawells4@g mail.com</p>

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Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	Joint hike with Midlands Hiking club.		
Saturday Jan 30	Emberton - Springside	Philip	082 417 0204
	A walk from the Emberton Driving Range to the Springside Nature Reserve and back. Meet at the Emberton Driving Range (90 Ashley Drive, Gillitts) at 13.45. R20 donation towards the Reserve. Tea / coffee and cake at the Emberton coffee shop after the hike.	Moderate Grade 2 9 kms	
Sunday Jan 31	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UMGENI VALLEY NATURE RESERVE</u></p> <p>Lovely local day hike in a beautiful area - great views &amp; chance to see plenty of game &amp; bird life. Several trail variations. As it can be hot this time of year we will keep to high ground. Combined hike with other clubs. Entrance fee R30 Phone leader to book a place on this hike by Wed 27 January. Thereafter contact Stella to coordinate transport from Durban.</p>	Keith Ashton Grade 2-3 12-15 kms	Keith 033 239 5023 keimarg@iunc apped.co.za  Stella 078 319 8979 stellawells4@g mail.com
Saturday Feb 6th	<b>Durban Ramblers Club AGM</b>		
	<p>The AGM will be held in the meeting room of the Palmiet Nature Reserve, Old New Germany Road at 12 Noon. There is parking available.</p> <p>After the meeting, which normally is concluded by 1.00PM, the club will provide Braai fires. Bring your own food, drinks, cutlery, crockery and a chair for a get-together after the meeting.</p>		
Sunday Feb 7	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>KLOOF GORGE</u></p> <p>Walk through the Gorge to Sora's Pools and back along the river. <b>Steep in places so fitness essential.</b> Meet main picnic/parking area at 7.30a.m. Parking fee R20.</p>	Margie Forbes Grade 3-4 12 kms	Margie 073 437 6915
Saturday Feb 13th	Rail Reserve Hike	Janet	082 820 8182
	Meet at the Station Master Arms at 13.45. A walk along the rail reserve via St Heliers dam. There will be one long uphill. Drinks afterwards at the Station Masters Arms.	Grade 2 Moderate 10 kms	
Sunday Feb 14	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STAINBANK NATURE RESERVE</u></p> <p>Walk the various permutations in this beautiful reserve from grassland to wooded areas, ideal for</p>	Philip Collyer Grade 2-3	Philip 082 417 0204

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Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	summer. Bring tick repellent. Meet main parking area inside the reserve (take left turn after entering) at 8 a.m. Entrance fee R20.	12 kms	
Saturday Feb 20th	<p style="text-align: center;">Virginia Bush Hike</p> 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. R20 donation towards the upkeep of the Reserve. Drinks afterwards at the Virginia pub.	Philip  Grade 2 Moderate	082 417 0204
Sunday Feb 21	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BEACH BUMS</u></p> Starting at Beach Bums at Casuarina Beach. Including beach and inland hiking and visiting the ruined house and market gardens. Drinks afterwards at Beach Bums. Optional swim. Meet Virginia airport at 6.30 a.m. or Beach Bums, Casuarina beach at 7.00 a.m. Petrol sharing R20.	Jon Stevens  Grade 2-3  15 kms	Jon  082 459 1522
Saturday Feb 27th	<p style="text-align: center;">Hillcrest / Keg Hike</p> Meet the Oxford (old Heritage Market) at the Keg at 13.45. The hike goes down to the valley below with a small stream crossing. Some wooded areas, sugar cane and open areas. Meet back at the Keg for drinks afterwards.	Werner  Grade 2 Moderate 10 kms	084 206 7836
Sunday Feb 28	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GROMOR</u></p> A moderate hike across Gromor land through the old railway nursery, across the railway bridge and back to Inchanga, where we can enjoy the flea market and, hopefully, see the old steam train. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown in time for a prompt 7.00 a.m. departure or at Inchanga Station at 7.30 a.m. Petrol sharing R20.	Margie Forbes  Grade 2  15 kms	Margie  073 437 6915
Saturday Mar 5th	<p style="text-align: center;">Pigeon Valley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Hike Leader!</p> Meet at Stella Sports Club, 175 Helen Joseph Road (was Davenport Road) at 13.45. Some street walking to the pretty little Pigeon Valley Nature reserve, with some steep hills going up to St Augustine's Hospital and the University	Tina  Grade 1 – 2  Moderate  6 kms	083 289 6276
Sunday Mar 6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PENNINGTON CONSERVANCY</u></p> Explore the coastal forest trails of Umdoni Park, including the gorge along the Nkumbane river and a short beach walk. Drinks on the clubhouse	Anne Wilson  Grade 2-3  15kms	Anne  079 850 0206



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<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Hike</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel</b>
	deck, overlooking the sea, afterwards. Meet in road at Glenwood Village, 397 Che Guevara Rd (Moore) at 6.40 a.m. or Umdoni golf club parking at 8 a.m. Petrol sharing R50		
Saturday Mar 12th	Crestholme	Colin	031 708 3517
	Meet at Waterfall Shopping Centre at 13.30pm (note earlier time). Street walking and through grasslands to look out over Inanda Dam.	Grade 2 Moderate 8 kms	
Sunday Mar 13	<u>BURMAN BUSH</u>  Lovely hike through this 55 hectare reserve. Starting and finishing at Mitchell park where you have the option of visiting the zoo (entrance fee R10 or R4 for pensioners) and/or the tea garden. Meet at Mitchell park parking area in Nimmo Rd at 7.30 a.m	Philip Collyer  Grade 2-3  14 kms	Philip  082 417 0204
Saturday 19th March	Burman Bush  Meet at Jack Rabbits, 203 Peter Mokaba Road in Morningside at 13.45. Undulating path in shaded area, covers most of Burman Bush. R20 donation towards the upkeep of the Reserve	Philip  Grade 2 Moderate 9 kms	082 417 0204
Sunday Mar 20	<b><i>No hike---refer Monday 21st</i></b>		
Monday Mar 21  (Human Rights Day)	<u>NHLOSANE</u>  <b>Steep hike up, around and down Nhlosane.</b> Take lots of water. Meet at the Sasol Service Station in Merrivale at 07:30 a.m. (Take the Underberg/Southern Berg off-ramp turn right into Merrivale and service station will be the first on your left)  Alternatively meet at Everglades Hotel at 08:00 a.m. Conservancy fee R20	Francois Marais  10 kms  Grade 3-4	Francois  083 983 8007
Saturday 26th March	New Germany Nature Reserve	Linda	083 353 8319
	Meet at the New Germany Nature Reserve at 13.45. Hike is along woodlands and grasslands. Donation of R20 towards the upkeep of the Reserve.	Grade 2 Moderate 8 kms	
Sunday Mar 27 (Easter Sunday)	<b><u>NO HIKE SCHEDULED</u></b>		

## Durban Ramblers Magazine

**REMINDER ----- Please do NOT LITTER**

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](mailto:gordontom44@gmail.com)