



C/O The Chairman  
14 Edgecliffe Park  
14 Bartle Road  
GILLITS  
3610

<http://durbanramblers.co.za>  
[info@durbanramblers.co.za](mailto:info@durbanramblers.co.za)

**Banking Details:**  
Nedbank Musgrave  
Account No 1138655228  
Branch Code 1301 2600

## **THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB** **4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER - 2019**

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

Hiking is a wonderful activity, as it helps rejuvenate our body and compliments general fitness. This brings me to the controversial topic of walking /hiking with the aid of a walking stick or hiking poles. A lot of folk say it is not necessary, but at times using a walking stick makes sense. Let us look at walking sticks vs. hiking poles.

Walking sticks are used individually, usually made from wood, decorated in some fashion showing its origin. Best used on flat terrain, but it is also good for support on uneven terrain, crossing water and when ascending or descending hills. The disadvantage is that one tends to overly lean to one side, which may cause a stumble or fall on terrain that is not flat. So, when using a walking stick, use it with the least amount of load on it.

Hiking poles are usually designed in pairs, but can be used as a single pole. They have adjustable length and can be altered depending on the terrain. They usually have straps, but can be hazardous when falling- best not to use the straps. Hiking poles take pressure off the knees during steep descents, give extra security and grip. Because of their adjustability, for ascents length is reduced, for descents they can be lengthened. When hiking on slopes, and if using two poles, lengthening one and shortening the other can help to balance. Finally hiking poles can speed up your hiking and you will feel less fatigued after a long hike. It is said it will increase cardiovascular activity and upper body movement.

Thus it is all a matter of preference, whether you use one or two poles.

When using hiking poles it is important to establish a good walking rhythm. Hiking poles propel your body forward thus one ends up walking a bit faster. The coordination of arms and legs improve your stride distance, reducing strain on knees and leg muscles.

Lastly, your hiking pole comes in very handy (just ask me!) to bushwhack your way through Lantana and other troublesome plants and shrubs.... and dangerous animals!

Hiking is fun, keep it that way.

Regards

Werner

### ***EDITOR'S NOTE***

Spring has arrived with some well timed rain and new green carpets and garments to be seen where our intrepid leaders take us. Birds coming back from their winter travels also fill the air with their calls.

After my efforts at sourcing a new affordable option for year-end turned out to be unsuccessful we are grateful that Shongweni Club is welcoming us back to their lovely venue on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

---

According to our constitution, no member of the committee shall hold the same position for more than three consecutive years, which means someone else gets the opportunity to expand their creativity in presenting this magazine as of next year. Could that be you?

Regards, Ilona

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman	Werner Vanslebrouck	084 206 7836	031 767 2969	<a href="mailto:werner.v@iafrica.com">werner.v@iafrica.com</a>
Secretary	Coleen Seath	082 735 7659		<a href="mailto:coleensea@gmail.com">coleensea@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ismail Vahed	083 786 6733		<a href="mailto:ismailvahed@mweb.co.za">ismailvahed@mweb.co.za</a>
Sunday Hike Organiser	Ana Barbosa	082 496 2320	031 462 6492	<a href="mailto:ABarbosa.DRHC@outlook.com">ABarbosa.DRHC@outlook.com</a>
Saturday Hike Organiser	Ann Olds	083 666 5630	031 767 1027	<a href="mailto:annolds2@gmail.com">annolds2@gmail.com</a>
Weekend Organiser	Biff Maggs	082 609 9684		<a href="mailto:Biffmaggs101@gmail.com">Biffmaggs101@gmail.com</a>
Publicity	Diana Patoir	083 468 6941		<a href="mailto:durbanramblers.publicity@gmail.com">durbanramblers.publicity@gmail.com</a>
Ordinary Member				
Magazine	Ilona Lamprecht	076 912 9829		<a href="mailto:ilona.tangodreams@gmail.com">ilona.tangodreams@gmail.com</a>
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	031 269 1921	<a href="mailto:dada@greenit.co.za">dada@greenit.co.za</a>
Honorary Auditor	Rolf Klein	073 982 4976		<a href="mailto:rolf.klein@telkomsa.net">rolf.klein@telkomsa.net</a>

### **MEMBER NEWS**

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

We have had a number of new members in the last three months:

Single members:

- Camilla Spracklen
- Cherie Armitage-Graves
- Dave Naicker
- Derek Smith
- Karen Jonsson
- Ashley Frank
- Marlene Kapp
- Rogers Venketas
- Lisa Redman
- Rajes Govender

Family members:

- Shelley and Daryl Harris
- Jenny Evans & Diana Callear
- Kate Bryan & Johnny Mutton
- Beatrice & Norrah Bih

#### **PASSING:**

Many of you knew and hiked with Philip Gatenby. Sadly he died on Wednesday morning, 14<sup>th</sup> August, at Peace Cottages Assagay where he was being cared for due to his frailty and Parkinson's disease.

Philip would have been 84 in January and together with Colin Turner; our Wednesday hikes were born; Philip and Colin leading alternately for many years. See end of magazine for tributes.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **MAGAZINE:**

I am working on a new system to send out the emailed version of the magazine using [durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com](mailto:durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com) as a sending address. If you know of anyone who has not received the magazine, please ask them to check their SPAM folder.

Note: If you have been receiving the magazine by post and now want the speedier email version in full colour, advise the editor and send us your email address. This helps reduce the posting costs and possible delays with getting the magazine to you.

I know a number of you have been on interesting adventures recently, we would love to read about them.

## **WEBSITE:**

The website ([www.durbanramblers.co.za](http://www.durbanramblers.co.za)) as well as the [Durban Ramblers Hiking Club Facebook page](#) may be viewed for updated information regarding the club, hikes, etc. It's an interesting experience to peruse the archives on our website. I have found them most entertaining. Biff is doing a great job getting them up to date. If you have any archival info you think merits being included, communicate with Biff about it.

Should you wish to contribute photos to the Facebook page please send your contributions to Diana, our Publicity person. You may also ask Diana to remove photos you would rather not be there.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

### **SUBS FOR 2019:**

According to our Constitution, subs are due after the close of the AGM. Members have until the end of April to pay their subs; thereafter he/she shall cease to be a member.

The fees remain the same for another year:

- Single Member R100
- Family R150 (excluding children 18 years or older)
- Joining Fee is R50,
- New members joining after 1st July will only pay half the annual subs.
- For past members wishing to rejoin Durban Ramblers after being absent for a year or more, a new membership application form needs to be submitted and the joining fee, in addition to the annual subs, is to be paid.

The Membership Form, which can be downloaded from our website, <http://durbanramblers.co.za/forms/>, is to be completed in full: Hike Names, Dates and Signatures of Hike Leaders, before handing or emailing them to the Secretary along with your proof of payment. If you don't have the facilities to do this from home, you can scan and send from your nearest PostNet. If you have completed three hikes and want to continue hiking with us, please do so as a member of our wonderful group, then we don't need to hassle you to sign the indemnity form for each hike.

Please pay by EFT directly into the new bank account – include your full name as reference - into the bank account referenced on the front page of this magazine. Cheques and cash both attract big bank charges, so to help reduce our banking fees, kindly endeavour to make EFT deposits.

### **HIKE DONATIONS:**

On some of the hikes hikers are asked for donations and in some cases the club makes donations on behalf of the members. Here is a breakdown of recent donations made.

Date	DRHC	Hikers Pul	Hikers We	Hikers Sat	Hikers Sur	Description
03-Jul			310			Palmiet Nature Reserve
07-Jul					420	TC Robertson
24-Jul			340			Kloof Conservancy
03-Aug				580		Hill and Dale Farm
07-Aug			200			Giba Conservancy
07-Aug			200			Nu Driving Range
11-Aug					540	Hilton Conservancy
14-Aug			1040			TC Robertson
	1000					Krantzkloof Nature Reserve
	380					Subsidised hike, Isithumba
	<b>R 1 380</b>	<b>R 0</b>	<b>R 2 090</b>	<b>R 580</b>	<b>R 960</b>	



The donation to Krantzklouf Nature Reserve is going towards the re-siting and construction of the foot bridge across the river on the Longshadow Trail in Krantzklouf Nature Reserve. Work is in progress to repair the damage done by flooding in heavy rains in April 2019. Team work of Honorary Officers and Kloof Conservancy.



### RHINO CARD

Your basic Rhino Card costs you R250 per person (under 60 yrs of age) or R230 per person (over 60 yrs of age) for a year's membership. Biff has received an email from Rhino Card saying that they are offering a 10% discount on new and renewed memberships paid for in September, which means regular single memberships will be R225 and Seniors memberships will be R207. Go to <http://www.kznwildlife.com/rhino%20card.html> for more information.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

While hiking and rambling 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. There is an emergency app you can download to your mobile phone from [www.mysos.co.za](http://www.mysos.co.za) which will provide you with all the emergency numbers in the area where you need it.

#### **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 day pack.***

***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.***

### HIKER SAFETY

In 2014, Cape Nature released There & Back Safely – a hiker safety booklet about hiking protocol, etiquette, technique, personal safety, responsibilities and emergency procedures.

It is as applicable now as it was then. All hikers will benefit from familiarising themselves with this information. You can download the booklet from here: <http://www.capenature.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/There-and-back-Safely-Hiking-Protocol.pdf>.

Thanks to Cape Nature for such a useful document.

Here is an excerpt:

#### **WALKING TECHNIQUE**

##### **WALKING**

As a means of transport, particularly when carrying equipment and gear, is very difficult compared to every day urban walking.

##### **LEVEL OF FITNESS**

Hikers must be fairly fit and should definitely get exercise before embarking on any hiking trail.

#### **ADOPT THE FOLLOWING SENSIBLE WALKING TECHNIQUES WHEN TRAIL HIKING:**

- Walk slowly and evenly swinging your arms to maintain momentum and balance and allowing **your legs to swing forward naturally**.
- Walking as a group must be at the pace of the slowest member, and requires planning and organization. The medical conditions or physical impairments of group members must be considered in this process.
- Try to maintain an even, steady pace – one that everybody in the group can maintain for extended periods of time, without getting out of breath or hurting themselves. When travelling over difficult or more challenging terrain, it is in the group's interest to assist struggling members to help one another. **YOU WILL HAVE TO ADAPT YOUR WALKING STYLE TO THE TYPE OF TERRAIN IN ORDER TO AVOID INJURIES:**
- On very steep slopes: Joining hands can be helpful to any member who slips or does not feel sure-footed.

##### **Walking uphill:**

Shorten the length of your stride when going uphill, keeping the same rhythm, leaning forwards, place your feet flat on the ground.

##### **Walking down hill:**

Open your stride and lean back slightly. Do not try to go too fast. Descending can be hard on your knees, especially when carrying weight, such as a backpack.

##### **Walking on sand or loose ground:**

On soft sand, slow down and place each foot deliberately putting weight on it gradually. Walking sideways prevents the toes from digging in.

## FIXTURES

### **WEEKENDS AWAY: Organised by Biff Maggs** **Surf and Turf Mid Week Break – Aliwal Shoal Sands 13-16** **Aug 2019 by Susan Offer**

As a newbie on the block, I was not sure what to expect on my first break with Durban Ramblers but this getaway had something for everyone. From golden beaches, interesting walks with beautiful fauna and flora, new people to meet, comfortable accommodation, moonlight nights and yes, even movie stars!!!



We all arrived around lunchtime on the Tuesday and



after deciding who was staying where, unpacking and refuelling, a number of us went for a walk to explore the nearly pristine beach. Stopping to drink in the views and taking a pic or two.

We also discovered that all the other houses on the road were hosting a Netflix film crew. Quite a few fascinating conversations were to be had with them over the course of the next few days.



After chilling with one's sundowner of choice that evening, supper was eaten around a HUGE table seating all 10 of us with ease.

Breakfast was to be enjoyed on Wednesday as the sun rose.

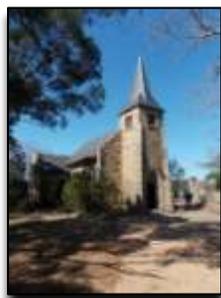


Then it was heading off to meet up with Toti Ramblers for short walk through the TC Robertson Nature Reserve.



An appetising tea was enjoyed which helped volunteers raise funds towards the upkeep of the reserve.

Anne then took us to Renishaw area which revealed unexpected natural treasures of its own.



Lunch was had at the Renishaw Private Cemetery adjoining a gem of a chapel.



Then it was home for a spell of do-whatever-you-want time before the “obligatory” sundowners and braai.



Next morning was off to meet the Toti Ramblers again but this time, at Rocky Bay for a hike around Ellingham Estate. This beauty was spotted just before we got to see the Magic Faraway Tree in the Enchanted Forest ☺ ☺ Yes, you read that correctly ☺ We have the pictures to prove it!



A relaxed and happy group enjoyed their lunch back at the carpark in the early afternoon.

More sundowners and braaing again that evening whilst the moon traced a silvery path on the sea.



On Friday morning there was just enough time for a quick jaunt up the beach (north this time) to photograph the bridge over the Mahlongwana River.



Then it was time to be off – some of us straight home and others down to Scottburgh for more beach time.

Thank you, Biff, for a magic breakaway and to everyone who made me, the newbie, feel so welcome. Definitely want to do this again!

### **UPCOMING WEEKENDS AWAY - Biff Maggs - Biffmaggs101@gmail.com:**

#### **Sungubala - October 25th (Friday) to depart on Monday 28th.**

Sungubala is last weekend planned for the year. It is fully booked, except for one place in a rondavel to share with a man. (Speak to Biff who will negotiate)

This is an ECO CAMP in the northern Berg, just before The Cavern - <https://www.sungubala.co.za/>. We have been there before. It has good accommodation, wonderful communal areas, two communal kitchens, dining rooms and lounges, an outside braai and fire pit - and we have access to good berg walks.

Money must be paid in Ramblers account by those who have booked by latest 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

#### **Nqabara – Wild Coast 20 to 26 March 2020 or 21 to 27 March 2020.**

**Colleen Phillips** is proposing a week away for March next year, if you are interested, please contact her.

We (my husband and I) are shareholders in a beach cottage on the Wild Coast at a place called Nqabara. It is situated on the Nqabara River and a half a minute's walk over the dunes to the sea.



Our levy per day when we stay there is R120.00 for the cottage, and it sleeps 11 people. It is recommended that you get there in a 4X4 vehicle because some of the last 8 Km down to the cottage is pretty hectic road conditions. Everyone could bring their own food. There are cooking and braaing facilities. We will be there and I think another 3 people will come, so there will be spaces for 6 other hikers. If more people are interested, we could find out about other accommodation, or we could take a couple of tents. There are showers, toilets, etc. but the water supply is somewhat limited because we have no municipal water and only 6X 5000l tanks.

It's within the Eastern Cape Conservancy Area so permission to use the roads has to be obtained from the Dept. of Forestry in East London.

My suggestion is to get a group of hikers to come there during the first 6 days of our allocated holiday period i.e. 20 – 26 March 2020 or we could do 21 – 27 March if that Friday is inconvenient for travelling, and we could hike as a group down the coast to Kobb Inn and stay overnight there, then hike back the next day. Then we could do a day hike North past Dwesa Game Reserve and back again (about 9 – 10 Km.) I am investigating more details of nice places to stop etc.

Accommodation would be almost for nothing and people can share travel costs – preferably in 4X4 vehicles.

Kind regards, Colleen Phillips. 083 799 9599 – 031 763 3181 - [admin@sparch.co.za](mailto:admin@sparch.co.za)

### ***WEDNESDAY MORNING HIKES: Organised by Coleen Seath.***

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.) Information about the Wednesday hikes is posted on our Facebook page a few days before.

### ***SATURDAY HIKES (AFTERNOON): Organised by Ann Olds.***

- Please get to starting point by 13.45 or 13.15 on occasion (please check schedule below) 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 each, a snack for half time and a hat.
- There is no need to tell the leader you will be hiking.

### ***SUNDAY HIKES (FULL DAY): Organised by Ana Barbosa.***

- Please be aware that 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 the day before at the latest, to confirm details and let him/her know to expect you on the hike. Be mindful that the leader is also preparing for the hike on the Sunday morning.
- Please note that the meeting point and or time in the programme might change, or the hike route might change, or it might be raining and the hike cancelled therefore **you must phone the leader** or you might find yourself 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. It is recommended that hikers carry their own water
- Keep Rehidrat in your pack in case of dehydration in the hot months.
- Use tick spray.

Hikes are described as being Easy, Moderate or Strenuous and are graded from 1 to 5, as follows:

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 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER 2019

Check on Facebook for changes

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 5 Oct	<b>Winston Park – part of Ingwenya Trail</b>	<b>Colin Turner</b>	<b>2</b>
	Winston Park off-ramp from M13, proceed along Jan Smuts Ave, left at 4-way stop (still Jan Smuts Ave) many speed bumps, to view site at end, meet at 13.45. Views to the east, grassland flowers, hike long cliff top overlooking Stockville Valley to shade in the valley. BYO sundowners to enjoy at the viewsite.	062 392 1818	Mod ±7 km, Vertigo.
Sun 6 Oct	<b>Nagle Dam/ Umgeni Bend (Cato Ridge)</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Hike through the tunnel (bring torches) and around the dam. BYO drinks/ snacks and relax at the dam after the hike. Msinsi Reserve entrance ±R30 (bring credit card). Meet at 07.30 at Union Main Centre (45 Old Main Rd), Pinetown. Petrol sharing R40. Non-members book with hike leader.	082 417 0204	±15km
Sat 12 Oct	<b>Springside Nature Reserve, Hillcrest.</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	<b>2</b>
	Meet at <b>13.15</b> (early start as reserve closes early). Donation of R20.00 pp. Hike across grasslands south of the reserve, before doing a few loops in this delightful Nature Reserve. Hope to see many grassland spring flowers.	083 666 5630	Easy to mod. 7 km.
Sun 13 Oct	<b>Ballito to Salt Rock</b>	<b>Margie Forbes</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Beach hike from Ballito to Salt Rock with rocky outcrops (some difficult sections), lovely rock pools teeming with marine life and soft corals, tidal pools for a quick dip (bring costumes). Return same route or through the suburbs. Optional lunch/ drinks afterwards. [Full Moon tides Low 09.27; High 15.37]. Meet at 07.30 Virginia Airport or at 08.00 Tedder Way, Ballito. Petrol sharing R30. Non-members book with hike leader.	073 437 6915	±15km
Sat 19 Oct	<b>Virginia Bush, Durban North.</b>	<b>Ilona Lamprecht</b>	<b>2</b>
	Meet at 13.45 at Virginia Airport. Walk through Virginia Bush to enjoy old dune forest vegetation and birdsong. Ilona makes good use of many paths in several parts of this reserve. A gentle beach walk before drinks at the Wings Club at Virginia Airport.	076 912 9829	Easy to mod. 9 km
Sun 20 Oct	<b>Bluff Nature Reserve to Treasure Beach Circular – Recce</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	A combination of 2 Sat hikes. Start with Bluff Nature Reserve, the lesser known top section, walk Bluff streets to Treasure Beach, explore rock pools towards Brighton Beach, climb along a bushy path up the rounded cliff that gives the Bluff its name and zigzag along streets back to the Bluff NR bottom section. End with a picnic and/ or some bird watching. ±R40 reserve entrance. Meet 08.00 at Bluff NR in Tara Rd (near Quality Str/ Highbury Rd intersection) [note Amashova 2019 road closures]. Non-members book with hike leader.	082 417 0204	±15km
Sat 26 Oct	<b>Clifton Tower Circuit, Shongweni.</b>	<b>Werner Vanslebrouck</b>	<b>3</b>
	From M13, exit 33, left into Kassier Rd, over Toll Rd, left towards Shongweni Dam. Park at Mushroom Farm on left by 13.45. Start at 14.00, hiking through cane fields up to tower. Views east over Giba Gorge towards coast. Continue down a steep path, onto farm land before return to cars. Drinks at Shongweni Club.	084 206 7836	Mod. ±-8 km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 27 Oct	<b>Westville Trails – Recce</b>	<b>Linda Smith</b>	<b>2</b>
	A new area to explore by Sunday hikers. Walk around the newly created Westville Trails and also the Westville Parkrun. Peace and tranquillity in an urban green lung. Some road walking may also be involved to add a bit of distance. R20 donation to the Westville Conservancy. Drinks after at the club. Meet and park at 08.00 at the Westville Country Club (1 Link Rd). Non-members to please book with hike leader.	083 353 8319	±12km
Sat 2 Nov	<b>Crowned Eagle Conservancy &amp; Iphithi Nat. Reserve, Gillitts</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	<b>2</b>
	Park at Gillitts Post Office, York Rd, Gillitts, at 13.45. Donations R40.00 pp. Reclaimed wetlands in 2 conservancies. Walk down Stockville Rd to Crowned Eagle Cons., tour through the reclaimed wetland, waterfall, archaeological artefacts, then return along Stockville, cross M13 to Iphithi Nature Res. Drinks in Piazza where cars are parked.	083 666 5630	Easy, +8km.
Sun 3 Nov	<b>Umzinto Farm</b>	<b>Jon &amp; Sharon</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Hike on a farm in the Umzinto area. Lovely views. BYO for drinks and a braai at the farm house after the hike. Meet at 07.30 in road at Glenwood Village, 397 Che Guevara (Moore) Rd or at 08.00 at the Park Rynie off ramp (exit 104). Petrol sharing R50. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 459 1522	±15km
Sat 9 Nov	<b>Edgecliff Conservancy, and surrounds in Kloof.</b>	<b>Werner Vanslebrouck</b>	<b>3</b>
	Park at Kloof Country Club (towards back of car park) by 13.30. New route from the Club, through Kloof to Edgecliff Conservancy near St Mary's School, through grassland into Motala Valley, and up-hill return through bush to Kloof Country Club. Drinks after long hike at the Club.	084 206 7836	Mod. ± 8km
Sun 10 Nov	<b>Verbara Umhlali</b>	<b>Jenny Rooks</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Hike in the Umhlali area through coastal forest, shady streams, grasslands, protea and macadamia nut plantations and undulating sugar cane fields. Donation R20 members R30 non-members. Meet at 07.45 Sibaya Casino (left side of the parking lot near the entrance). Petrol sharing R40. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	084 952 0622	±16km
Sat 16 Nov	<b>Monteseel ramble</b>	<b>Colin Turner</b>	<b>3</b>
	From Old Main Rd through Botha's Hill, turn right to Monteseel, and first left to Hacienda Pub for parking, by 13.45. Colin will lead a ramble around Monteseel, where we take in views of the Valley of a 1000 Hills, and Hammarsdale to the south. No steep rocky clambering. Likely a hot hike, with a shady "tea spot". Have a hat and plenty of water. Drinks at Hacienda in appreciation for parking.	062 392 1818	Mod. 8 km
Sun 17 Nov	<b>iSithumba Trails – Recce</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Explore trails at iSithumba heading towards Mfula Store. We may not reach Mfula Store - but future hikes around there are on the cards. Umgeni River crossings involved - come prepared. R40 members; R50 non-members. Meet at 07.30 Maytime Centre (20 Charles Way), Gillitts or at 08.15 at iSithumba Adventure Park (15030 D1004 Rd, Ximba). Petrol sharing R30. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 417 0204	±16km

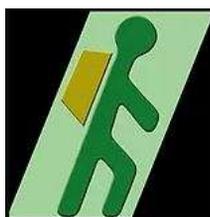
DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 23 Nov	<b>Krantzkloof Nat. Res.- Longshadow Trail</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	<b>2</b>
	Meet at the main picnic site in Kloof Falls Rd by 13.30. Entrance R50.00 pp. Enjoy a shaded walk through riverine forest along the Molweni river. A few river crossings.	083 666 5630	Easy, 7.5 km
Sun 24 Nov	<b>Zinkwazi – Recce</b>	<b>Jon Stevens</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Walk south from Zinkwazi Beach. This hasn't been walked for a while so who knows what has changed. However the old red dune erosion pits should still be there. These are quite unusual. Drinks after at the club. Meet at 07.40 Sibaya Casino near the entrance or at 08.30 Zinkwazi Ski Boat Club (parking at the end of Seagull Drive). Petrol sharing R50. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 459 1522	±15km
Sat 30 Nov	<b>Hillcrest Keg, and canefields</b>	<b>Werner Vanslembrouck</b>	<b>2</b>
	Meet at the Oxford Centre in Hillcrest, (off Olds Main Rd) at The Keg at 13.45. Hike down into valley below Plantations. Some wooded areas, a stream crossing, and canefields. Possibly hot, so a welcome drink at The Keg afterwards.	084 206 7836	Mod. Long – 10km.
Sun 1 Dec	<b>Nkutu to Lingwood Beacon (KKNR) – Recce</b>	<b>Abdullah Dada</b>	<b>4</b>
	A lesser travelled route. Hike from Nkutu picnic site along the Molweni Trail down the Wall to 10 Feet Crossing (Sauros Pools), up to Uve Road to pick up the Beacon Trail. The return is down into the gorge on the Molweni Trail and back up the Wall to Nkutu. We go down into the gorge twice - so it's a fairly strenuous hike. But this stunning and very rewarding reserve with many wonderful views makes all the effort worth it. BYO for post hike picnic/ refreshments. Entrance ±R50. Meet at 08.00 Nkutu picnic site (62 Valley Dr, Forest Hill). Non-members to please book with hike leader.	073 437 6915	Some vertigo ±17km
Sat 7 Dec	<b>Giba Gorge to base of MacIntosh Falls</b>	<b>Werner Vanslembrouck</b>	<b>3+</b>
	Meet at Giba Gorge at 13.45. Entrance cost R10.00 pp. Hike along some steep trails to bottom of MacIntosh Falls, and enjoy the cool spray! Refreshments at Giba Centre afterwards.	084 206 7836	Strenuous. 9 km.
Sun 8 Dec	<b>Ramblers Year End Lunch</b>		
	Shongweni Club - See invitation		
Sat 14 Dec	<b>Shongweni Park Run and Dams</b>	<b>Abdullah Dada</b>	<b>2</b>
	Exit 33 from M13, left and first right then immediately left into Shongweni Club. Park to right of main parking by 13.45. R20 per car. Hike on Park Run trails, under N3, through cane fields to dams. Drinks after at Shongweni Club	084 478 6779	Mod. 8 km
Sun 15 Dec	<b>Eston</b>	<b>Margie Forbes</b>	<b>2-3</b>
	Drive in convoy to a farm near Tala game reserve for a hike over rolling hills of indigenous bush, grasslands and cane. Donation R20 members, R30 non-members. Meet to leave promptly at 07.30 at Union Main Centre, Pinetown or at 07.50 at the Camperdown off-ramp (N3 exit 57). R50 petrol sharing. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	073 437 6915	±17km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 21 Dec	<b>Everton Conservancy</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	<b>3</b>
	Meet at Acutts Dr bridge (entrance to Everton Conservancy Trail) 13.45. From M13, Everton Rd, Kloof, left fork into Acutts Dr. Donation R20.00pp to Everton Conservancy. Circular trail through forest and wetland to waterfall.	083 666 5630	Mod, ± 7km.
Sun 22 Dec	<b>Art Deco Walk from Wilson's Wharf – Recce</b>	<b>Jonathan</b>	<b>1</b>
	Jonathan will lead a walk around central Durban pointing out some of our architectural heritage, specifically the Art Deco Style. We will then head off to view the new Promenade extension at the harbour mouth. Bring some money for refreshments along the way. Drinks afterwards at Wilson's Wharf. Park at Wilson's Wharf (Boatmans Rd) to start walking at 08.00. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 420 9577	±12km
Sat 28 Dec	<b>Alverstone Wildlife Park</b>	<b>Werner Vanslembrouck</b>	<b>3</b>
	Exit 33 from M13, right over M13 into Kassier Rd, left opposite Hillcrest Pvt Hospital (Busamed) into Alverstone Rd (D435). Meet at Wildlife Park on left at 13.45. Entrance R20.00 pp. Hike over grassland and through riverine forest, possible game sighting. Some steep ascents. BYO braai in boma afterwards.	084 206 7836	Mod, 8 km.
Sun 29 Dec	<b>Durban Promenade from Suncoast</b>	<b>Biff Maggs</b>	<b>1</b>
	Grade 1; 20km   Biff is leading our last Sunday hike of the year - and it will be a bumper distance to end the year. Early morning walk from Suncoast to Blue Lagoon and then up to the Umgeni River Bird Park. Back to Wimpy Suncoast (11km). Then walk to Ushaka and Moyo Pier and back to Suncoast (9km). Hikers can peel off at any time, except on the bird park part. Drinks afterwards at Suncoast. Bring water and snacks. Meet at 06.15 to hike at 06.30 in front of Wimpy Suncoast, on the Promenade. Park inside Suncoast R10, or at Pirates. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 609 9684	20km

## RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS



Keith from **Midlands Hiking Club** has been kind enough to extend to our members, not only an invitation to his day hikes, but also to their weekends away, including New Year. You can view their schedule on their website: <http://www.gohiking.co.za/>



**Johannesburg Hiking Club** has entered into a reciprocity agreement with us to allow our respective members to be able to join in hikes and weekends away paying only member prices for these events. This means you can continue hiking even when you travel to Gauteng

TEL: 078 885 6505 - WEBSITE: [www.jhbhiking.co.za](http://www.jhbhiking.co.za)

## **PHILIP GATENBY**



Two Ramblers who knew Philip well have prepared tributes to an esteemed member of our humble community. Coleen visited Philip often while he was at Peace Cottages, giving us updates on his well-being and then finally informing us of his last journey.

### ***Eulogy to the memory of Philip Gatenby - Coleen Seath***

Philip Gatenby was born in Ryslip Britain in about 1938, and came over to South Africa with his family when he was nine years old.

I first met him "Race Walking" at Stella Sports Club and a very fast walker he proved to be. I was training to do the "Guard Bank Pietermaritzburg to Durban" walk. Philip had already done this walk with Ramblers so although he walked and trained with us he had no intention of doing it again!! He invited me to join the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club, which I did in 1996. Philip then introduced me to the Berg, sleeping in caves, climbing up to the Rhino Horn and the Bell, and many other wonderful Berg trips and of course hiking in his beloved Wessa Forest area near Harding. Philip believed in walking and walked to the Musgrave Centre with his backpack and carried his weekly shop home.

He was a keen photographer in his early days of hiking when Ramblers had photographic evenings and he would give slide shows of his many hiking trips with fellow Ramblers.

Philip was a great lover of animals and adored his pet cats, the last being Abbey a lovely tabby who stayed by his side to the end. With his love of animals it was natural for him to offer himself as a volunteer at the Kloof and Highway SPCA. Here he found a new absorbing passion, fixing old appliances, moving on to computers and music equipment. He became the music shop technician, lovingly repairing cleaning and coaxing turntables, amplifiers and speakers back to life. In due course his knowledge was sought after by the many customers who visited the "Music Shop"

But rambling was his first love and remained so even when his health was failing. Whenever I visited we talked of his many hiking adventures and he always wanted to hear about the 'Wednesday Group' of which he was a co-founder with Colin Turner. Eccentric to the end he was well known for his hiking attire and his specially constructed hats, all bought from the clothing store at the SPCA!

Philip was one of a kind, and will long be remembered by those who knew him.

## ***Memories of Philip – Colin Turner***

I first met Philip when I joined Durban Ramblers Hiking Club in 1980 and participated in Sunday hikes, occasional weekends in the Drakensberg Mountains and various trails. I soon realised that here was a hiker and a leader with high morals and standards, he being very thorough in his preparation and execution of his leading responsibilities, or bring up the rear end (tail-end Charlie) of the group. During his hiking years, which commenced in September 1965, he was a regular leader of Sunday hikes, berg trips, trails, Saturday afternoon hikes, which in instigated (with the view that participants would in due course become fit enough to become Sunday hikers) then later, Wednesday morning walks.

Trails were one of his favourites, especially those in the Ngele Nature Reserve (Weza State Forest) and later the Blinkwater. When the state decided to close the Ngele trail due to vandalism of the overnight cottages, he was “up in arms” and pestered the authorities to provide an alternative, which, in due course, they did, when they built a wooden cabin for hikers to use in a more secure area, until that facility met the same fate.

Philip served as chairman in 1995 and 2001 and Saturday Hike Organiser/Ordinary Member in 1998 and 1999. He was also presented with the Hike Leaders Trophy in 2009. He was one of the Club’s representatives at meetings with the former Natal Parks Board when matters concerning users of their walking paths in various parts of Natal were discussed and became our voice on a committee formed by clubs who hiked on N.P.B. property, so that we could speak with one voice and be a force to be reckoned with.

He knew the Berg very well and, having become an Honorary Officer of the N.P.B., he was always on the lookout on paths for any problem that he felt should be reported to them. On one occasion our club donated a sum of money to them to clear an obstacle that he encountered on one their paths. He was also the instigator of the New Year berg trips.

In past years, when our club held “The Amble”, a fast walking race (no running) of 15 miles, Philip was the winner of the trophy on eight occasions and his sister, Mary, has this trophy in her safe keeping.

In the days when we held photographic meetings, Philip was a regular contributor with slides taken on various outings and often won the prize for the best slide.

When the club held the annual Easter Camp, Philip was always a participant and I heard that he’d lead the singing of songs of the day. He was a keen camper and over the years he acquired backpacks, tents and other hiking and camping equipment which he made available to backpackers and campers as well as giving them sound advice on these activities.

It must have been devastating for Philip to realise that his hiking days were over when his health started to fail him and he was no longer able to walk securely.

His loss is not only to his sister Mary and her family, to whom we extend our heartfelt condolences, but to our club as well. The likes of Philip, with his diversity of abilities, his accomplishments in the club and dedication in serving the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club over 54 years will, I know, never be seen again.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Sometimes we find out things that could be useful to fellow hikers such as places to buy reasonably priced hiking goods or were to get good service. Please feel free to share your own bits of useful information here.



**Hi-Tec** has recently opened a new store at the Cornubia shopping mall in Umhlanga, and is offering Durban Ramblers members a 20% discount off all their full price Hiking boots and merchandise at this store. Please have your membership card handy as proof of membership to qualify for these discounts.

Tel: [0310003010](tel:0310003010) – E-mail: [cornubia@hi-tec.co.za](mailto:cornubia@hi-tec.co.za)

Shop U35 (upper level), Cornubia Shopping Mall,  
Corner Dube Street & Cornubia Boulevard, Umhlanga

### **Outdoor Adventure Gear:**

William Vermaak used to have his store in Glenwood Village, he is still around, just one block down at 332 Che Guevara, an old mansion of Glenwood that is a treat to visit. Call him on 031 201 5729 or 082 825 1652 to arrange for a consultation and bring your old boots so he can see what kind of boot or shoe would best support you and for other hiking gear requirements.

*And that is it from me, Ilona. If you have a story you would like to share, or know something different about another reserve we frequent, please send it to me.*