



c/o The Chairman  
300 Alan Paton Road  
Glenwood  
DURBAN  
4001

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

**Banking Details:**  
Nedbank Musgrave  
Account No 113865228  
Branch Code 1301 2600

## THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020

### CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Quite a year! The last time anything remotely happened like this was in 1918 with the Spanish Flu and the populace were so traumatized by it, it was not well documented.

I hope that all of you have managed to keep safe and enjoy some, but limited exercise.

Parks are now opening up and people are able to hike. As a Club, we have to wait for the regulations to accommodate us, unless we decide to start a new religion and hike in groups of less than 50. Not sure how safe that would be, even if we had a tree god. I look forward to the day we can safely hike again.

Cheers to the hope of Rambling  
Philip

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204		<a href="mailto:philipcollyer@gmail.com">philipcollyer@gmail.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	Jonathan Sampson	082 420 9577		<a href="mailto:jmvsampson@gmail.com">jmvsampson@gmail.com</a>
Magazine	Merle Mackenzie	082 454 0521		<a href="mailto:durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com">durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com</a>
Social Events Organiser	Ilona Lamprecht	076 912 9829		<a href="mailto:durbanramblers.events@gmail.com">durbanramblers.events@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**

### **CONDOLENCES:**

Sandra Mc Claren (seen on the right during a hike) passed away on the 22nd of March 2020, just before lockdown, after a three year journey with cancer. She was a member of Ramblers for a good number of years and in her time had climbed Kilimanjaro, done the Otto trail and Fish River Canyon.

### **GET WELL SOON:**

Jenny Rooks had a nasty fall and broke her wrist which required surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

### **MAGAZINE:**

A new system has been set up 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.

If any of you have some interesting experiences to share, we would love to read about them. Please send your articles together with photos to the editor.

### **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. Biff has done a great job getting them up to date. If you have any archival info you think merits being included, please 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 2020:**

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.



## **NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:**

Due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 lockdown, social events and group sports have been prohibited which has unfortunately impacted on our hiking get-togethers. Nevertheless the committee encourages members to take advantage of the permissibility to exercise and continue to walk within your radius either alone or in pairs.

Any organization or club needs funds to run efficiently and Durban Ramblers Hiking Club is no exception. The Committee thanks all members who are up to date with payment of their subscription. There have been some members who have deposited monies, but have not referenced this correctly. Please may all members email to me the proof of their payment so that correct allocations can be made. It has been the clubs' policy to REMOVE members that have not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> May each year. However; in view of the lockdown, the Committee has decided to extend this date to 30th June 2020.

Unknown deposits will be allocated to Donations Received after the 30th June 2020.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all the best in safety and health as you continue to maintain measures of social distancing, sanitizing and use of masks during this pandemic.

***Ismail Vahed – Treasurer***

## **COPING WITH THE LOCKDOWN:**

What I have learned from the last few months is how to manage my own energy and what I focus on. I am grateful that I had already chosen a new home where a connection to nature is easy to become aware of. My dogs have kept it real all this time. They do not allow for sleep-ins or pyjama days. Their routine continues regardless of what the government decrees. Prince, my little black and white one, even went on hunger strike in the mornings if I did not take them out for a walk.

In the beginning I was following all the rabbit holes that are being exposed during this time, now I use all mentions of whatever agenda is being played out as a trigger to remember who I am and my connections to what is real. I am choosing where I focus my creative energy.

To that end, my landlady and I have been using products of the garden to make sauces, pestos and even jams from our prolific tamarillo trees, chillies of various varieties and basils and other herbs. I am really enjoying the avos falling from our tree at the moment. I love foraging for additions to my meals every day.

The boys (Sparky and Prince) and I spend a lot of time at the river end of the garden, listening to the river and noticing more birds. The regulars are also going back to the dog park and it is wonderful to watch my boys run freely through the paths and across the green. As it is great to catch up with other doggie owners. Although who "owns" whom is debatable.

It is usually this time of year that I begin looking for a venue for the year-end function. If anyone has any suggestions, please could you assist me in this regard. As for the other part of my new portfolio, as in all things these days, social functions are on hold until further notice.

Keep healthy, sane and happy.

Take care of you and yours

***Ilona***

How does one plan a hiking programme in the middle of a pandemic that has yet to peak in our neck of the woods? Considering nature reserves are only just beginning to open up, with some limiting their hours, we need to continue waiting for more clarity for group activities such as hiking, running, cycling etc. We are already allowed to hike solo (which in itself is probably more risky than hiking in groups) and I suspect group hiking will be allowed in the not too distant future. As time goes by, we will get a better understanding of the disease and we will hopefully come up with firm hiking guidelines such as recommended hike group size, social/ physical

distancing whilst hiking, proper wearing of face masks, back-up facemasks, hand sanitizers for when we need to lend a helping hand to fellow hikers, managing our refreshment stops, etc. After a few trial hikes, we will have adjusted our behaviour accordingly and we should be confident enough to be hiking in groups in our favourite areas under this new reality which I suspect will be with us for a few years. As soon as the levels allow, a new Sunday hiking programme will be compiled with the assistance of Sunday hike leaders. Considering our age places us in the higher risk group, we may find that some hike leaders will prefer to sit it out for a bit longer. This is a good time for younger people to offer to lead some walks around areas they are familiar with. In the meantime, stay safe in these surreal times.

### **Ana Barbosa**

Like for all of us, the past two months have not been easy but I have tried to make good use of the time. By the time Level 4 ended so had my tolerance to isolation! But things have improved with now being able to walk with a friend in the early mornings. I have managed to retain a certain level of fitness with all the gardening I have been doing plus walking my dogs. My one great disappointment is not being able to travel at the end of July to see my family in England as last week my flight was cancelled; so I will wait to see what happens with the borders plus the 14 day quarantine before re-booking. I hope that in the not too distant future, regulations will allow us to hike together without masks and social distancing.

### **Diana Patoir**

**Coleen** has been keeping in frequent email contact with the Wednesday ramblers and has kept us all abreast of what she's been up to during lockdown. She's obviously been up early in the morning to catch stunning sunrises from her flat. Also recently enjoyed a walk on the beachfront with a few of the Wednesday hikers while observing social distancing. She reports that other activities have been compiling the church roster of readers and lay ministers for virtual services each Sunday which have been going very well. Each person records their reading/prayers/singing and sends it to the tech team who put it together to go on Youtube each Sunday.



She's been busy sorting out her herb garden, taking tea out into the garden with a book (absorbing Vitamin D) and does her neighbours shopping and taking her for her chemotherapy treatment. Also chatting on the phone to family and of course watching loads of TV!



### **UPCOMING WEEKENDS AWAY - Biff Maggs - [Biffmaggs101@gmail.com](mailto:Biffmaggs101@gmail.com):**

Since there are a great many Ramblers booked for the Whale trail in September and October, I had only planned one more weekend away this year.

It is Mountain Splendour in the berg, in the Champagne Valley – [www.mountainsplendour.co.za](http://www.mountainsplendour.co.za)

I have in mind to plan for November 7th and 8th. We can extend to a 3 night weekend if you like. The resort cannot even provisionally book without a deposit. So it is just a thought at the moment.

There are Log Cabins available for R578.00 per person per night. Some 2 bed-roomed (four people) and some 3 bed-roomed (six people). There is camping at R188 per person per night.

We have been to look at it and it is modern and very well kept.

There will be no formal booking until we know what the situation is, but I would urge all members who are interested to check out the website. There is a 25% discount if we take a mid-week, Mon to Thurs. I know some people are committed mid-week.

I have decided that I will book this myself for everyone. So I prefer no private bookings please.

I will email all members later in the year, or put an update in the next magazine.

Keep well over the lockdown.