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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 1ST QUARTER: JANUARY TO MARCH - 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the most difficult magazine for me to compile. Not only did we lose the bright and



sunny presence of Marge Blake, but also our beloved Chairman, Werner Vanslebrouck, whom most of us spent time with at the Year End function, a few days before the operation which he did not survive. Our deepest love and condolences go to Marge and Werner's families and loved ones.



Werner did take the trouble to send me his Chairman's Ramblings

before the Year End lunch, which I have included here.

Tributes to these Very Special Ramblers from a number of people can be found towards the end of the magazine.

In Remembrance of Werner.

On Wednesday 8 Jan. 2020, regardless of weather, we will do a "short walk" at Giba Gorge to the ponds and lower waterfall, remembering the hiking times we enjoyed with Werner. Meet on the lawns at 09.00, bring a deck chair and a plate of eats to share, and a "golf ball-sized" pebble. Teas and coffee provided. Charge at gate will be R15.00 pp.

Contact Ann: 083 666 5630, or Biff: 082 609 9684.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The last month has been "horribilus" for me. I had to put my hiking on hold until an aneurism has been seen to and a period of three months in recuperation has passed. To top it all we learned that Marge Blake passed away. We will all miss her "joie de vivre" and she had us enthralled with her stories about the club. She was close to being a member for 70 years and I think in that time she seldom missed a club function.

Our annual end of the year party will have been celebrated when this Magazine is received Merry Xmas wishes exchanged and a Happy New Year with good health expressed.

I thank the committee for making the Club a place we want to be part of. The hiking programmes, done by Ana for Sundays, Ann for Saturdays and Coleen, who is not only our secretary, but also our Wednesday hike organizer, each programme was well prepared and well balanced both in content and geography. Special thanks go to Ilona our Magazine editor. We are forced to look for a replacement editor (Ilona has held this portfolio for 3 years and constitutionally

has to resign). Anyone with editing skills for that position would be welcome. A shout of gratitude goes to the hike leaders, they are becoming a rare breed, and here I must ask members to come forward to volunteer. For organizing the weekends away we thank Biff, who not only does that but also helps with the Database, finance, in fact in every aspect of club affairs. In Treasury we have Ismail, who with his professional finance knowledge has brought budgeting into our financials. Publicity is being looked after by Diana, and we are seeing a great increase in numbers hiking and this can be attributed to her astute running of this portfolio. Not to forget Abdulla who looks after our website most ably.

Our AGM is being held on the 8th February 2020. We hope members will attend and put forward ideas on how they would like the club to develop. If anyone has ideas, then please let the committee know so that it can be included in the Agenda. For newer members who are not au fait with our annual meetings, the club affairs are dealt with expediently and the event is then followed by a very social Braai

Many members will be travelling over this festive season, travel safely and we want you back hiking in 2020.

Hiking is fun, keep it that way.

Werner.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOTE ABOUT COMMITTEE UNTIL AGM

The loss of our dear chairman, Werner, has caused us to be “leaderless”!

At the suggestion of Colin, we will meet as a committee and choose one of our committee members to chair the meeting. We will then plot the way forward and discuss who will chair the AGM.

Please can as many people as possible attend the AGM, and help us to elect a committee for the new year. We will sorely miss Werner and we need our members to nominate people for the committee, or to volunteer if they are willing to stand.

Coleen.

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

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

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

- Dionne Ramburan
- Gill Whittington Banda
- Laura Offer

IN HOSPITAL:

Christine Horley was not able to attend our Year End lunch as she was in hospital for possible food poisoning. I am pleased to report that she is much better now.

INFORMATION

MAGAZINE:

I am working on a new system to send out the emailed version of the magazine using 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) 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. 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 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.

Please go to <http://durbanramblers.co.za/forms/>, to download forms for new memberships and follow instruction found there.

NO CASH will be accepted. All cash deposits attract a fee which will be for the account of the member plus R25 administration charges – include your full name as reference - - into the bank account referenced on the front page of this magazine. Members must insert SURNAME followed by membership no when paying subs.

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	PUB HOL	Hikers (Wed)	Hikers (Sat)	Hikers (Sun)	Hike
28-Sep				210.00		NU Golf Range Hillcrest
28-Sep				230.00		Giba Gorge (Mike Lorentz)
12-Oct				700.00		Sprinside Nature Reserve
23-Oct			440			Westville Country Club Eco Trails
27-Oct					100.00	Westville Conservancy
30-Oct			340			Christ Church Hillcrest (parking)
02-Nov				500.00		Crowned Eagle Conservancy
02-Nov				580.00		Ipithi Nature Reserve
14-Dec				320.00		Shongweni Club
	100					Everton Conservancy (recce)
Total	R 100	R 0	R 780	R 2 540	R 100	

RHINO CARD



Your basic Rhino Card (which gets you into Krantzkloof and Stainbank Nature Reserves) costs you R250 per person (under 60 yrs of age) or R230 person (over 60 yrs of age) for a year's membership. Go to <https://www.ekznw.co.za/RhinoClub.htm> and <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 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.

FIXTURES

WEEKENDS AWAY: Organised by Biff Maggs

Sungubala 25-28 October 2019 by Susan Offer

Nestled high up in the Northern Drakensberg, Sungubala Eco Camp was a delight to visit. After arriving and a quick lunch on Friday, the pool area was soon filled with bathing beauties. Mind you, only the really hardy braved the freezing water!



Accommodation was clean and comfortable and the staff on hand were always willing to assist where they could in resolving issues like fridges/freezers not being cold. Everything runs on solar panels or

wind generation and water is heated using gas.

The rest of Friday was spent at leisure, some people just chilling around the communal area whilst others went on short walks exploring the surroundings.

Saturday saw us splitting into two groups – one for a shorter walk and the other for the long haul up to the top of the berg. The long route was to head up Sugarloaf gap, traverse across Sugarloaf to Cold Hill, down Cavern Gap and include a visit to Cannibal Cave.

Whilst the group on the shorter walk returned all hale and hearty, this was not the case for the other. This hike proved to be quite the challenge with some having to turn back due to injuries playing up or major cramping taking place, the rest had to do a quick gallop back down the



mountain due to dangerous weather conditions at the top – very strong winds and lightening are not to be trifled with.

Mother Earth was trying to put on a show despite extremely dry conditions with something to delight the eye at nearly every turn.



Sunday morning saw the whole group head for Echo cave. Enjoyed an early lunch break at the cave, whilst it was debated as to what caused the markings on the walls of the massive overhang.



Evenings were generally spent around the communal fire pit area where it was easy and convenient to prepare your food in the nearby well-stocked kitchens. What I enjoyed about this time at Sungubala was that you could be sociable and chit-chat to your heart's delight or take some time out for yourself and just commune with nature.

All packed up and ready to go on Monday morning (check out at 10h00) but reluctant to leave this place, I decided to go with my daughter and see the Silent Woman carving which was close by as there was many a hilarious comment about there being no such thing! Well, I have photos to prove that she exists but you will have to visit to see for yourself!



See you next time at Sungubala!

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

SHAWSWOOD IN THE KARKLOOF. In Friday 14th February 2020 out Sun 16th February 2020.

Well priced. On the Karkloof road.

Common ablutions and large kitchen/dining room

6 X DOUBLE ROOMS

3 with double beds &

3 with 2 single beds

BACKPACKER SECTION

Rooms with 3 or 4 bunk beds

- R285 PPPN sharing
 - R350 PN – 1 person only
with bedding included but not bath towels
 - R200 PPPN sharing
 - R250 PN. – 1 person only
 - R100 PN. – children u/12
- Own bedding, pillows & bath towels required

CAMPING	- R150 PPPN.
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES	- R10 per person per day
Services of maid to wash Breakfast and supper dishes	
TIP	- R10 PER PERSON PER DAY

Hikes will be arranged with owners. Mt Gilboa on Saturday, and a shorter hike to the base of the falls,

Please book with Biff asap. Bookings close on 14th January 2020.

Pay the money into Ramblers account by 14th January. First come first served.

EASTER 2020-in 10th April 2020 out 13th April 2020 - 3 nights

I have confirmed and paid for LOTHENI for Easter weekend

Look at www.kznwildlife.com ecotourism Lotheni

There are two types of accommodation.

Simes Cottage - R336.00 PPPN. 3 nights is R1008.00

This is a rustic cottage. Gas geyser and stove. Gas fridge and freezer. No Electricity at all and you have to walk down the hill for cell phone coverage.

Sheets and bedding provided

There are three twin bedded rooms and one dormitory with 4 single beds.

A shower, two loos and a bathroom – all shared.

It is one of our favourite places because it is quiet and the hiking is very good.

The Road through Notties and Lotheni is bad in parts after rain.

Recommended is Himevile

Camping. At this stage I have booked two campsites for 10 people. R1100.00 for 2 campsites per night, so if we have 10 people it works out to R110.00 PPPN

No plug points

Shared central ablutions

I am only going to book people as they pay. First come first served. Pay into Ramblers Bank, email me proof and I will put you on the list. If you choose to stay for less than 3 nights, you still pay for 3, or you sell the other one on.

There are also 3 bedded chalets available, but they are further down the hill. I have not booked them, but we can if we fill up Simes, and there is an overflow, I can book that.

Regards

Biff Maggs – 082 609 9684

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. Please see previous issue for more details.

Or contact Colleen Phillips. 083 799 9599 – 031 763 3181 - 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 1ST QUARTER 2020

Check on Facebook for changes

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 4 Jan	Nkuthu Upper & Lower Falls – red trail	Ann Olds	
	Waterfall end of Krantzklouf Nature Reserve: Kloof Falls Rd from Kloof, pass main picnic site. Road becomes Bridle Rd, continue to 3-way stop in Waterfall, right into King George, over speed bumps, road becomes Valley Dr. In dip Nkuthu picnic site on right. Meet 13.45. Entrance R50.00 pp or Rhino card. Hike across river, steep paths down to each waterfall, some boulder clambering. Good shoes essential, hiking poles are helpful.	083 666 5630	4, strenuous, short, 7.5 km
Sun 5 Jan	Kloof and Makaranga Garden Lodge walkabout	Jenny Rooks	
	MEMBERS ONLY: To start off the new year Jenny has planned wonderful low key morning walk around Kloof and Makaranga Garden Lodge's beautiful gardens. We will end off the morning with drinks at Makaranga. A fee of R60 per vehicle is payable on exit. But on the purchase of refreshments, a free pass (code) is issued on request. Meet at 08:30am at the very top car park at Makaranga (1A Igwababa Rd, Kloof).	084 952 0622	Grade 1 Easy; ±10km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 11 Jan	Edgecliff Conservancy, Kloof	Jon Stevens	
	(Rained off last qtr) Park at Kloof Country Club (towards back of car park) by 13.30. New route from Club, road walk through Kloof to Edgecliff Conservancy near St Mary's School. Hike through grassland, through Motala Valley, and uphill return through bush to Kloof Country Club. Drinks after long hike at the Club	082 459 1522	3, moderate, 8km.
Sun 12 Jan	Umhlanga to Umdloti	Jon Stevens	
	Walk on the beach to Umdloti, with a stop for refreshments and then return inland, possibly along some of the M4 if it still closed. Low tide 10:50 for easier river crossings. Meet at 08:00am at Umhlanga Reserve parking (cul-de-sac opposite Breakers Resort, 88 Lagoon Drive). Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 459 1522	Grade 2-3; Mod; ±16km
Sat 18 Jan	Burman Bush, Durban	Philip Collyer	
	Park in Nimmo Rd between Jameson Park and Mitchel Park (car guards) by 13.30. Walk through Morningside to main gate in Burman St. Guard will accompany us as we do several loops of this gem in suburbia. Return past some stately homes.	082 417 0204	2, moderate, longish, +8km.
Sun 19 Jan	Sunday Hikers' Social (Gillitts)	Jenny/ Diana	
	MEMBERS ONLY: Sunday hikers' annual social. Normally in December - but this year postponed to January. Thank you to Diana Patoir for having offered her home as a venue. Everyone to bring to bring own chair and something to put on the table to share. Meet at 09:00am for short walk around Gillitts followed by a bring-and-share braai.	084 952 0622/ 083 468 6941	Grade 1 Easy; 10km
Sat 25 Jan	Westville Conservancy Trails	Linda Smith	
	Park at Westville Country Club by 13.45. R20.00 for Conservancy. Hike along well cut biking trails through tunnel, along river banks and across some grassland. Drinks afterwards at the Squash courts.	083 353 8319	2, easy-mod, 6+ km.
Sun 26 Jan	Forest Gnome Trail (Howick)	Margret Kirsten	
	Combined Midlands and Durban Ramblers hike. Walk through shaded forest paths near Howick. Circular hike of 5-6 hours, 240m elevation - bring lunch and 2L water. No entrance fee to the forest is payable at present. Meet and park at 08:30 just outside the gate at Amber Ridge (just off Karkloof Rd). Please book with hike leader by email.	mjkaway41@gmail.com	Grade 2 Mod; ±14km
Sat 1 Feb	Westbrook Beach, Westbrook	Jon Stevens	
	Meet at Beach Bums, 65 Casuarina Rd, Westbrook, at 13.30: About 40 km from central Durban. Directions: N2 to Umdloti, onto M4 through La Mercy, Desainagar. Casuarina Rd parallel to M4 on seaward side. Hike at 14.00 sharp. Some beach, some road, some cane. An undulating hike through farmland with lovely views. Drinks at Beach Bums.	082 459 1522	3, moderate, 9km
Sun 2 Feb	Kelso Pennington (Happy Wanderers)	Anne Wilson	
World Wetlands Day	Some road, some beach, some tracks (no cane) and even a pontoon. Drinks after at Happy Wanderers (Kelso). Start 07:30 from the Happy Wanderers car park (just before Pennington). Petrol sharing from Durban R50. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	079 850 0206	Grade 2; ±14km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 8 Feb	AGM. No hike.		
	Meet at Palmiet Nature Reserve at 10am, meeting starts at 11am followed by byo braai social.		
Sun 9 Feb	Burman Bush (Morningside)	Phillip Collyer	
	Lovely hike through this 55 hectare reserve after brunch at Station Drive Precinct in Greyville. Some road walking involved. Meet at 07:30 Mitchell Park (Nimmo Rd). Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 417 0204	Grade 2-3; ±14km
Sat 15 Feb	Giba Gorge to MacIntosh Falls	Steve Verreyne	
	Park at Giba Gorge Bike Park by 13.45. R15.00 entrance at gate. Hike along some steep bike trails, under N2 highway to base of MacIntosh Falls. Enjoy some cooling spray, before long return. Enjoy refreshment at Giba Centre afterwards.	083 956 1556	3+, Strenuous, 9km.
Sun 16 Feb	Blythedale Beach & Forest	Jon Stevens	
	Hike along the beach to the Mvoti Estuary and back through Jon's mystical forest. Meet at 06:45 Sibaya Casino (left side of the parking lot near the entrance) or at 07:30 Blythedale Beach parking. Petrol sharing R50. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 459 1522	Grade 2; ±15km
Sat 22 Feb	Everton Conservancy (2), Everton	Ann Olds	
	Everton Rd exit from M13, down Everton Rd, right at fork into Pearson Rd, cont left in Forest View downhill, across a stream, immediately right into Everton Park. Meet a by 13.45. R20.00 for Everton Conservancy. Hike along cliff above the Longshadow Gorge, down to river, a few river crossings, steep uphill and ladder to cliff path. Circular route not done for a while. BYO for sundowners in Park after hike.	083 666 5630	3, moderate, vertigo, 7+km
Sun 23 Feb	Toti Trek (Toti Sports Club)	Anna Kapp	
	An exploration of Amanzimtoti, incorporating a walk along the Toti River. Drinks at the Sports Bar afterwards. Donation R30pp towards trail maintenance. Meet to start hiking promptly at 07:30 Lords & Legends, Riverside Rd, Amanzimtoti. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	071 427 7139	Grade 2; ±15km
Sat 29 Feb	Paradise Valley, 10 Oxford Rd, Pinetown area	Ismail Vahed	
	Park in Oxford Rd (car guard) to meet inside Reserve by 13.15. Entrance R30.00. Start at 13.30. A good hike for beginners through indigenous bush, bridge over the river, remains of early water works and views of the cascades.	083 786 6733	2, easy/mod. 7.5 km.
Sun 01 Mar	Stockville Valley (Gillitts)	Margie Forbes	
Durban Ultra Triathlon	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. Meet and park at 07:30 at rear of new Checkers Centre, Gillitts. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	073 437 6915	Grade 3; Steep parts (vertigo) ±17km
Sat 7 Mar	Nkuthu Forest Trail (KKNR, Waterfall)	Ann Olds	
	Waterfall end of Krantzklouf Nature Reserve (directions same as for 4 Jan). Meet at 13.30 for start at 13.45. R50.00 entrance or Rhino card. Hike over grassland. Steep in parts, through forest, wonderful views across Gorge to Kloof, and east to ocean.	083 666 5630	3, strenuous, 9 km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 8 Mar	Kenneth Stainbank NR (Yellowwood Park)	Stella Wells	
	Hike through grassland, bush and across a few streams. Game and bird viewing. Use tick repellent. Finish around lunch time. ±R50 entry fee. Meet at 08:00 in the main parking area. Non-members please book with hike leader.	078 319 8979	Grad 2 Easy; ±10km
Sat 14 Mar	Pigeon Valley, Durban	Tina Regnard	
	Park and meet across the road from Stella Sports Club (175 Helen Joseph Rd.) by 13.45. Street walking via Phansi Museum to explore Pigeon Valley Nature Reserve; an indigenous gem in suburbia, bristling with birdlife. A couple of steep hills. Drinks at nearby pub afterwards	083 289 6276	2, easy – mod, 7 km
Sun 15 Mar	Everton Conservancy from Gillitts (Recce)	Jonathan Sampson	
Deloitte Challenge	Explore the Everton Conservancy in Acutts Drive following the Molweni River trail to Gillitts Falls where we will stop for lunch. Return along a different route where possible. Donation R30 pp to Everton Conservancy. Meet and park at 08:00 at The School Of Modern Montessori, 9 Anthony Dr, Gillitts. Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 420 9577	Grade 2; ±10km
Sat 21 Mar	Nkonka Trust & Tanglewood, Kloof	Ann Olds	
Human Rights Day	A combination of routes visiting 2 conservancies: Park at Nkonka Trust: Maytime Centre from M 13, to end of Haygarth Rd. Drive down to parking area by 13.45. R40.00 for 2 conservancies. Great views, new trails over grassland down into Motala. Along road to Tanglewood for snack break, visit the animal sanctuary, then up to cliff ledge and waterfall. Steep path out of Tanglewood, and return to Nkonka Trust. BYO for sundowners at the view site.	083 666 5630	3, moderate, vertigo (?), 7 km
Sun 22 Ma	Verbara (Umhlali)	Jenny Rooks	
World Water Day	Hike in the Umhlali area through coastal forest, grasslands, shady streams, undulating sugar cane fields and protea and macadamia nut plantations. 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	Grade 2-3; 16km
Sat 28 Mar	New Germany Nature Reserve.	Steve Verreyne	
	Off Otto Volek Dr, New Germany. Park and meet in Nature reserve by 13.30, as early closing. Hike over undulating grasslands and through indigenous bush.	083 956 1556	3, moderate, 7+ km.
Sun 29 Mar	Pigeon Valley & D'Moss Trail to Sea View	Philip Collyer	
	This hike goes from UKZN into Pigeon Valley NR and then incorporates the D'Moss trail to Sea View. Meet at 07:30 Elizabeth Sneddon parking area (Howard College, UKZN). Non-members to please book with hike leader.	082 417 0204	Grade 2-3; ±19km

OTHER HIKING OPPORTUNITIES



Exclusive Ramblers HC member special

15% Discount on all KZN Midland's Slackpacks for 2020!

If booked before 31 December 2019

Inclusive of luxury accommodation, all meals, luggage transfer, registered guide, Private land access, conservancy fees and many extra's like an amazing forest canopy tour

Karkloof Falls2Falls	R4460pps	6/3 - 9/3	24/4 - 27/4
Dargle Discoverer	R3570pps	20/3 - 23/3	18/9 - 21/9
		8/5 - 11/5	18/9 - 21/9

*Reduced rates



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

We are in the process of formalising a reciprocal agreement with **Mountain Backpackers Club** at the request of Heidi Cox, their new Chairman. Their website is: <https://www.mountainbackpackers.co.za/>.



MARGE BLAKE

There have been many tributes to this inspirational Rambler. Here are some of them.

Marge my friend an inspiration to all who knew her- Coleen Seath.

I first got to know Marge after joining ramblers in 1996. I was invited to join the scrabble group and here the friendship was sealed. We had much in common and she became almost that older sister, always encouraging and supporting. Marge had so much vitality and energy and some of this transferred to me.

Marge belied her age and put much younger people to shame. Her garden is a tribute to her knowledge and hard work. My love and expertise at Scrabble is all due to Marge, who taught our group so much and mentored us so that our game steadily improved. Our scrabble girls bonded

and we arranged midweek breaks away where we walked, talked, laughed a lot and played scrabble. From this scrabble group Christmas in June was born, as was the Wednesday Christmas lunch.

Always a keen photographer Marge put this talent to a new hobby, birding, and became an enthusiastic twitcher, her garden is a haven for many local bird species.

Admirably Marge embraced the technological age and was adept at negotiating the internet and social media. Booking overseas flights, holidays, banking and using Google were not frightening to this amazingly youthful lady.

Some of my truly memorable holidays were shared with Marge this included two simply amazing holidays to Singapore and Thailand, A road trip "Going nowhere slowly" to the Eastern Cape, Karroo, and a visit to the stars at Sutherland. We shared a couple of Fouriesberg Tours and very recently we did a Battlefields tour.

Marge I shall miss you very much because it was you that pushed me to become more adventurous, you opened my eyes to youthfulness being in the character, in the attitude and lack of fear when it came to trying new things. Your going has left a gaping hole that cannot be filled.

Coleen



Marge in October 2019 in Clansthal

Memories of Marge by Colin Turner.

Marjory Blake came into my life when I joined the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club in 1980 and she had already been an active member since 1949.

I got to know her dedication and love for our club and all its activities which had brought her so much joy (even a husband and chairman of the club). During these years Marge participated in many of the Sunday hikes and outings. Her anecdotes of the club's past activities put across in such a humorous way was always hilarious and she never tired of telling us of the escapades the Ramblers used to get up to at the Easter Weekends away; the annual ball and other social activities. They were indeed a jolly group of Ramblers. Marge had over the years kept photographs and articles pertaining to the clubs activities, culminating in a permanent record and display of those happenings being created and incorporated into the club activities.

I personally got to enjoy her friendship and hospitality when visiting her to discuss matters concerning upcoming clubs special anniversaries and other activities involving members; also on the times she accompanied me on both club and private outings when it was more convenient to use one car. We are indeed indebted to her for the life that we shared with her and if there was such a person as "Mother of Durban Ramblers Hiking Club" she would by far have been that person. We all have very much to thank her for and I will always remember that diminutive lady with the big heart, the cheerful laugh and the fun things she got up to; the love she had for her family and friends and for her wonderful hospitality.

The star that shone so brightly is no longer with us, but her memory will always be a shining light and an example for us to enjoy our own lives.

In loving memory of an amazing friend, Margery Blake - love Mara Wheeler

I've known Marge for many years. We've been on many hikes and camping trips together.

We did hotel hopping in the Transkei and hikes up, into Lesotho. We did many enjoyable trips with Merle and Glenys.



Marge & Mara - Thailand 2012

The amazing thing with Marge, when she organized a group trip, everything would work out perfectly. We all got a bed to sleep in, plenty to eat and we had lots of fun and laughter. At Ramblers, we were known as the three M's. Marge, Marcia & Mara. We are going to miss you dearly My friend.

We spoke on the phone once a week come rugby season, discussing the match. We were both crazy over the sevens and always wanted to attend the sevens in Cape Town. She would have been excited with their recent win.

I will never forget our two trips to Singapore that Marge took us all on. We spent a week on the yacht and I fished every day which just made the trip for me.

Marge was a remarkable lady, which all my children and friends took to.

Marge I'm going to miss you terribly my friend. Not only me but all at Ramblers.

You were our star.

Till we meet again.

Much love

Mara



Marge & Mara - Kruger 2018

Adventures with Marge by Merle Mackenzie

If Marge was given half a chance for an adventure, she would grab it with both hands. She just loved to travel and along with Mara Wheeler, Glenys Bentley and others, we have seen so much of South Africa. The southern cape with Addo Elephant Park, Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Katse & Mohale Dam in Lesotho, the eastern Transvaal, to mention just a few, and numerous places in KZN all come to mind, but I think her favourite was Kruger National Park. We usually incorporated an overnight stay at Hlane National Park in Swaziland, before making our way up to Crocodile Bridge, and somehow she was always so lucky with her animal viewing. We quite often saw the big 5. But I think what she enjoyed more than the seeing the animals, was bird watching. When we went on the "Extreme Birding" trip in Kruger, it was no problem for her to be up at 1am to be on the game vehicle on time as we headed up to Pafuri for the dawn chorus.



*Coleen, Merle, Marge, Mara & Monica
- Singapore 2012*

Other birding adventures included the Soutpansberg, Chrissiesmeer, Wakkerstroom, south coast, and weekends away with the Bird Club to Cumberland and Mtunzini. Earlier this year Marge, Coleen, Margret and I visited Cape Vidal, Ndumo Nature Reserve and Tembe Elephant Park, mainly with bird watching in mind, and I know Marge was keen to get back to Tembe because that is such a special place.

Marge had also travelled extensively overseas, and she was always keen to share some of her experiences with us. We can never forget those magical visits with her to Singapore, and sailing out of Phuket in the Merdeka.

Life will not be the same without Marge.

Merle Mackenzie

Tribute by Margret Kirsten

I met Marge when I joined Ramblers in 1981 we became instantly friends. Shared many dinner parties, hikes and weeks and weekends away even till earlier on this year.

Also I have fond memories of further away travels. Just to mention two.



*Marge and Margret at Benvie Gardens
- 2017*

1. Crisscrossed the USA for a month even hired a Daimler for a few days. A huge car for us little people.

2. Travelled the whole of New Zealand with her. We could have written a book.

In later years many fun scrabble days and not to forget the Christmas in July events. She was always full of fun. She is now greatly missed but never forgotten.

We loved you Marge.

From Margret Kirsten

What can we say?.....Marge was a very dear true friend, organizer, someone who thought of everyone else , ..never left anyone out..

The best friend anyone could possibly wish for...personally she would always include us and also arrange lifts for us to the berg...

ONE OF A KIND... R.I.P...YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED

From Margie Forbes

So sad to hear that news . Marge was shining example of how to live your life. I didn't know her well and had no idea she was ill.

Sadly missed

Margie & Alistair

WERNER VANSLEMBROUCK

On Wednesday afternoon we received a message on the Wednesday hikers' chat group saying: I am so sorry to tell you all that Werner did not survive his op today. The aneurism burst when he was having the op. It is a huge loss to all of us personally and to the club.

Love Biff

The responses were immediate:

Coleen Seath: This is just the saddest news.

Margie Forbes: Am devastated. He looked so well on Sunday.

Diana Patoir: I know Coleen – can't quite believe it.

Sarie Lapping: Oh. No. This is very bad news.

Rose Dix: Too sad. We were all so hopeful.

Rogers: Sad news indeed, sincere condolences to his family.

Inga Riemann: This is very sad. Will miss him on our hikes.

Jenny Rooks: Absolutely devastating news. RIP Werner. You will be sorely missed by all your hiking friends.

Brian: Very sad news.

Merle Mackensie: oh my gosh. This is such devastating news. My heart goes out to Lois.

Christine Horley: Please pass on condolences to his family, Biff, really so sad and sudden.

Alan Karsing: So sad and unexpected, an admired and respected friend, capable and experienced hiker and leader. Condolences to family and friends.

Ana Barbosa: Shocked and so saddened to learn this. A huge loss to the club. Condolences to the family.

Jenny Aitchison: May light perpetual shine upon you, Werner.

Ilona Lamprecht: I miss him already.

Marie Gurr: Devastating news. Deepest sympathy to Lois and family. Will sorely miss him, his adventurous spirit and humour. M and N.

Malcolm Hopkins: This is such sad news – was looking forward to



Werner at Year End 2019



him leading another of his iconic bundu bashing Giba Gorge hikes. Will really miss him and his quirky sense of humour. Our hugs and prayers go to Lois and family.

Jaqui Barnard: Sad sad news! Please convey our heartfelt love and sympathy to Lois, Biff. I will always think of Werner with deep gratitude and admiration.

Ismail Vahed: Sad to lose a great hiker, condolences to family and friends. He was Ramblers. Rest in peace dear friend.

James Wylie: How sad is that! What a treasured Werner shaped gap he leaves. James and Phillipa.

Charmain Eastment: Ramblers won't be the same without Werner... always looked forward to seeing him... so sad.

Mervyn George: So sad, always looked forward to seeing him and chatting about history and geology. He will be greatly missed.

Dave: So sad to hear this devastating news. Werner looked so well on Sunday. He will be greatly missed. The Ramblers will certainly not be the same without him.

Val Borland: So sad for Lois and Werner's family. He was a wonderful man and leader. Thank you Werner, we will always remember you.

Gill Peters: Bruce and I were ABSOLUTELY gutted and devastated last night on our arrival in UK / when we linked into wifi to read all these sad messages about our dear friend Werner who we both treasured so much. May his soul rest in glorious peace. Lois and family we send lots of love... on those many hiking chats he spoke non stop to me (Gill) all about his love for each every one of you. Since we've been away in Kenton we feel very privileged to have stayed in touch with him through emails. Our hearts are broken. We're sure that his free spirit is already working its magic in heaven putting together a team for adventures to who knows where.

Margret Kirsten: Werner was always an optimist, great hiker and leader with long legs! At times it was hard work to keep up with him for us shorty's especially uphill.

We will miss you Werner.

Rambling with Werner – by Merle Mackenzie

Werner was born in Ostend Belgium on 4 February 1940 but was schooled here in SA and attended University in Durban. He has always been such a character and I was privileged to know him as a good friend. I have fond memories of our Ramblers camping weekends starting with Injasuti in August 2002 when we persuaded him to come along, and after that there was no looking back. He hardly ever missed a weekend away and it wasn't long before he bought a caravan to do it in style. It was during those days when Lois caught his eye and I watched the courting process with such joy – I thought they were perfectly suited to each other and was thrilled when they got married at Makaranga on 25 September 2005.



Werner & Lois 25-09-2005

Werner, Lois, Jeanette and I had an amazing trip to Namibia in July 2004 when we did a 15 day camping-safari. Some of the other special adventures the four of us shared was an 18 day tour to Thailand in 2009, birding in Swaziland, and a 5 day hike down the Mozambique coast, after which we visited the Eastern Transvaal. Werner has travelled overseas extensively and he once again spent a wonderful few weeks with his family in the USA earlier this year when he



Injasuti 2002



Moz Hike 2011

enjoyed sightseeing, white water rafting, hiking, zip lining and relaxing.

While I was the weekend organiser for Ramblers from 2003 to 2005, Werner, Lois and Jeanette were always happy to join me in a recce to check out new places for weekends away. We had loads of fun exploring places like Eagles Nest, Pennington, Mount Park, Umtamvuna Reserve, Lilani, Highover, and Dreadnaught near Eshowe, to name a few. Going on a hike

Pennington Weekend 2003



with Werner could sometimes be quite challenging, and I always used to say he was on a mission because he was always striding out ahead of us. Werner was extremely knowledgeable and many a hiker has had interesting conversations with him on all sorts of different topics. Werner was an excellent Chairman, firstly from 2012 – 2014 and then from 2017 – 2019. He was also an outstanding hike leader, and was always keen to add new hikes to the Club itinerary. His untimely death was a shock to us all and he will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife Lois, daughters Brenda and Carine, and grandchildren Kathryn, Megan, Damon and Reine.

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.

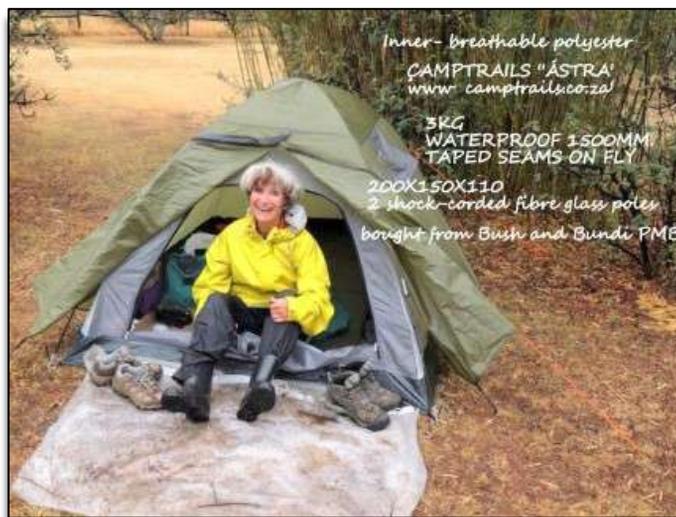
Tent for sale:

I've used it 4x which was absolutely daft to buy it at 80. Ha ha...maybe a bit of senility crept in.

It's a super little tent. Twice got rained on, and very comfy.

I haven't shared it with anyone (not for lack of trying) so can only vouch for it being super comfy for ONE...!!!!

I forgot to put that it has a set of Tent Pegs as well.



Rose bought it for R600, you can make her an offer she can't refuse.

Rose Dix: rodanix21@gmail.com or 082 564 8638.

And that is it from me, Ilona. It is time for someone else to step up and explore their creativity in producing the next magazines.