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## THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER: JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

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

Dear Fellow Ramblers

I am grateful to have had no new lockdowns and have enjoyed lovely hikes this last quarter.

Unfortunately we have not had our normal year end function but given our 2020 vision, it was prudent; some have managed to get together for festivities.

Thank you to our hike co-ordinators and hike leaders for giving us continued hiking during this time.

I encourage hike leaders to take more than their 20 per hike, where you feel comfortable, now that we have vaccines. There has been overwhelming interest in hiking from New Ramblers, who want to get out now.

By the time this is published we will be in the height of our fourth wave; we have been through this before. In the Spirit of Festivities, we will get through this!

Happy Rambling  
Philip  
Chair

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	<a href="mailto:philipcollyer@gmail.com">philipcollyer@gmail.com</a>
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Saturday Hike Organiser	<b>Vacant</b>		
Weekend Organiser	Jonathan Sampson	082 420 9577	<a href="mailto:jmvsampson@gmail.com">jmvsampson@gmail.com</a>
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Ordinary Member	Ann Olds	083 666 5630	<a href="mailto:annolds2@gmail.com">annolds2@gmail.com</a>
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Social Events Organiser	<b>Vacant</b>		
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	<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>

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

Notice is attached. The following portfolios need to be filled, and nomination forms are included with this magazine:

**Treasurer** – Ismail will have completed his 3 years – a letter of intent has been received for this portfolio

**Sunday Hike Organiser** – Ana will have completed her 3 years in this portfolio

**Saturday Hike Organiser** – currently vacant

**Secretary & Publicity** – Diana kindly took on both these portfolios this year, but will be leaving for overseas next year, so we are looking for 2 people to replace her

**Social Events Organiser** – currently vacant.

Rest assured that no-one will be thrown in the deep end, and proper hand-overs would be given to all those who are willing to take over from the above. Please give this matter some serious thought.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Due to the Covid pandemic, hikes are generally limited to members only. However, visitors will now be permitted to join Saturday and Sunday hikes. Please note that it is entirely at the discretion of leaders whether to allow visitors to join a hike, which is also subject to limiting numbers in the group. Once visitors have done their three hikes, they may apply for membership.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Gijs Kort, Gil Krauspe, Feizal Motala, Michael Chalmers, Roy and Ruth Ballantine, Nicola Nightingale, Veni Naidu, Judith Shier, Steve Woor, Michele Marsden, Linda Lanz and Julian Lievesley.**

We wish you many happy years of rambling with the Club.

## **PASSING:**

Audrey Vickers : 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1933 - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021



We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing away of long time member Audrey Vickers. She joined Ramblers in March 1975. Margret Kirsten shared these memories of Audrey: She was born in New Zealand but went to the UK in mid 1950 where she worked for a few years, before moving to South Africa where she obtained her midwife diploma at the Mother's Hospital in Durban. She worked as a midwife in Parklands Hospital until she retired.

When I met her she was sharing a flat in Glenwood with a lady named, Di who left for the UK in the 90s. Audrey then moved to Hopelands Court and was close to work. After she retired she had to move and bought a flat in Montpellier Road until she felt it was time to go to a retirement home, Bill Buchanan, where she lived her last number of years. Lockdown was very hard for her as she could not go anywhere. She sold her car and had no more freedom, yet she never complained.

I got to know Audrey on my very first berg trip in 1981 and found her very quiet but a well organised hiker to which I took a liking. Not long thereafter I also met Margaret Robberts from Pietermaritzburg who was already hiking at times with Audrey. The three of us hiked together for many years and at times we also did trips further afield in bigger groups. We all had jobs we could get away from for long weekends and chose our holidays,

Audrey had a bakkie and would always prefer to drive and quietly be in charge on any trip. She was a “no-fuss” person and no luxuries were needed. After all they were hiking trips - backpacking, camping, and every now and then hiking huts. Camping or sleeping in caves was what she preferred and we hiked together all over the Drakensberg. For some years we hiked trails in February, June and November anywhere in South Africa - wherever the weather was suitable. Always simple basic facilities, our own cooking and maybe a coffee



on the way home. That was Audrey. To mention a few Trails - Otter Trail, Tsitsikamma Trail, Swellendam Trail, Cedar Berg, Boland mountains. Hottentots Holland and many more. The Outeniqua trail which used to be an 8 day trail, Audrey decided needed to be done in 7 days. She decided the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day must be done in ONE day - 34 km. We arrived half dead at the hut. Imagine a 7 day pack as there was nowhere to uplift food!!! ( we almost cursed her ). Not to forget the whole of the Wild Coast which we did with the Wildlife Society over 3 consecutive years. Also the Strandloper Trail and thereafter many more trails in the then Transvaal and Limpopo and Northern Cape areas - Fanie Botha Trail, Prospector's and Kaapse Hoop Trail, Lisbon Trail, Agatha Forest Wildernis area, etc.

We were the first hikers in Malolotja National park in Swaziland also a Wilderness area. Audrey's bakkie took us to the Kalahari, Richtersveld,

Zimbabwe Highlands and many more. In 1993 we hiked the Island of Reunion. In 1996 we climbed Kilimanjaro. I could go on and on. If she was free at the weekend Audrey would always be on a day hike. Hiking was her life when she was not at work. Audrey was also a very keen birder and went on weekly outings with the bird club she would not miss it for anything and knew almost every bird and the sound of it too. Whilst she was living in Bill Buchanan retirement home she still went on weekend outings at times. As always very independent and would drive on her own to the venue and camp even if there were huts or cottages available. In latter years she did not hike any more but still loved walking to Burman Bush to bird. She never showed any fear and happily went on her own. Audrey was a very knowledgeable person but did not show it openly. If you asked her she would open up and give you all the info. That was Audrey. We will miss her but memories remain. Rest in peace Audrey.

## **INFORMATION**

### **MAGAZINE:**

The magazine is distributed via email 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 printing and posting costs and possible delays with getting the magazine to you.

### **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 donations made in the second & third quarters of 2021:

Date	DRHC	PUB HOL	Hikers (Wed)	Hikers (Sat)	Hikers (Sun)	Hike
9 October				300		Everton Conservancy
16 October				270		Monteseel Conservancy
20 October			340			Springside Nature Reserve
23 October				340		NU Driving Range
6 November				300		Nick Evans (smake expert)
6 November				440		Nkonka Trust
14 November					160	Hill & Dale Conservancy
24 November			280			Hill & Dale Conservancy
<b>Total</b>			<b>R620</b>	<b>R1650</b>	<b>R160</b>	<b>R2430</b>

### **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. 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. The website also includes an archive containing lots of history of the Club which was formed way back in 1932

## **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.***

## HIKE REPORTS (a limited selection from recent hikes)

### Wednesday 15 September 2021 – Durban Beachfront



17 ramblers gathered in the predawn light near the old Snake Park site. Biff welcomed us all and outlined her ideas for our walk, giving us permission to race if we so wished. At a brisk pace we set off along the promenade already fairly busy with walkers, runners, cyclists and a few gym classes. From the North Beach pier we admired the young surfers riding the waves with seeming ease. At the end of the "new" promenade we made a quick turn up to "On Point" a restaurant looking on to the harbour mouth, allowing good views of ships coming in and going out of

Durban. We returned along the board walk in front of the Ski Boat, Point Yacht and Underwater diving clubs premises. From here the views of Durban and the Stadium are lovely and must make for a pleasant evening, while enjoying a drink or a coffee for the members. Colin joined us at "Circus Circus" for breakfast which was as usual excellent value and served with the efficiency we have come to expect from the friendly staff. Thank you Biff, a fun morning with rambler friends

Report: Coleen Seath, Photos: Jenny Aitchison



### Saturday 9 October - Kloof area: Everton Conservancy from Everton Park

15 hikers met at Everton Park and set out on a crisp, fresh afternoon into Everton Conservancy from Oceanview Rd. The views of Kloof Gorge are always a treat, and many commented on the clear paths and arrows directing us. The route sets off along the cliff top before descending to the Molweni River. The previous 2 weeks of damp weather had not led to much runoff filling the streams, so crossings were thankfully quite easy. The circular route entailed a good challenge back up to the cliff top, by way of steep "roped" trails, and a secure ladder - much easier going up, than tackling this as a descent. Much giggling and encouraging comments entertained a couple enjoying the view from the top of the ladder. As a number of us sat in the park enjoying sun-downers after the hike, the chairman of the Everton Conservancy arrived with 2 beautiful dogs for their daily run. We all were thoroughly sniffed and nudged, while the owner shared interesting information about the resident wildlife. There is no Zulu word for Caracul - an "alien" animal erroneously introduced to Kloof Gorge some years ago. A short, challenging and "soul feeding" hike. Report by Ann Olds, Photos Gil Krauspe



### Wednesday 20 October – Springside Nature Reserve

Another wonderful hike led by Colin. 17 hikers met at Springside Nature Reserve in perfect weather, and after traversing the reserve, Colin led us up the hill past the Scouts Hall and onto the road. From there we made our way to the railway line and all the way alongside it to the bottom of Botha’s Hill. Colin always manages to make a few changes to old haunts and we are guaranteed uphill



to keep us fit – which for some of us means panting and gasping for air! There was some wonderful graffiti under one of the railway bridges which caught everyone’s attention. We eventually made our way back along the railway line to Springside Road and then down the hill to the reserve. As usual there was an enjoyable picnic after the hike.

*Report and photos Merle Mackenzie*

### Sun 07 Nov 2021 – Honey Trails (Monteseel)

Despite the overcast weather with possible rain or scattered thunderstorms, 27 people signed up for a ramble around Honey Trails. Lovely views (despite the weather), grassland flowers were varied and many and the hiking group energetic and fun. Then the rain chased us – as we arrived back at the Honey Trails car park. A great hike – thank you Roland. Distance 14,50km; Elevation gain 333m. *Photos supplied by Roland, Kubendri and Ana*



## Wednesday 10 November - Giba Gorge

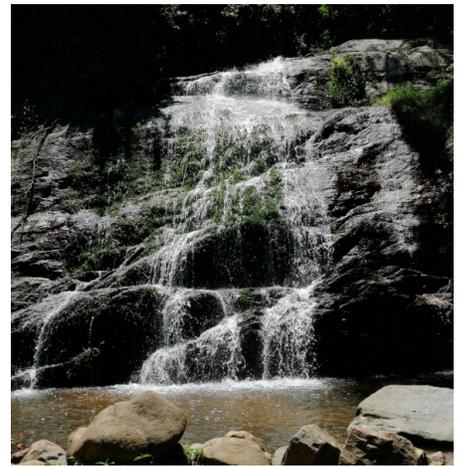


It was a lovely sunny day when 19 happy hikers met at one of our favorite venues. Our very considerate leader, Steve, led us up a long but not too steep shaded path, onward and upward, passing under the freeway bridge and beyond, until at last we reach Macintosh Falls. Here we took a welcome break while admiring the view of the falls which looked stunning after the recent rains. The paths were surprisingly not too muddy and spring was definitely in the air with the reserve looking lovely

and green and alive with birds, and cicadas in full song. Some of us tried to identify the various bird calls, including red-chested and black cuckoos.

Then it was time to make our way back. Steve managed to find a new "bridge" to take us across one of the streams although it was more like "walking the plank". However Steve and Ismail were standing by to offer a steadying hand. We then returned via the cascading Giba Falls. Back at the picnic spot, Colin treated us to cake and delicious biscuits to celebrate his birthday the next day. Thank you to Steve for a most enjoyable hike of just under 10km.

*Report and photos by Merle Mackenzie*



## Sun 28 Nov 2021 – Renishaw Trails

Our cars safely parked just after the steel bridge below Renishaw Hills, we set off in the under the expert guidance of Shirley and Barry Moore. First stop was the Renishaw cemetery and chapel. Being there early in the morning before Sunday service, we were allowed a peek inside. At the cemetery, we found someone watching the crowned eagle nest with an eaglet in a tall tree in the bushes. Too far to photograph on our phones so thank you to Harry Holderness for the camera photo. Harry was quite disappointed he was unable to photograph a nightjar before the chattering Ramblers arrived to frighten it away. In his words "The talkers whose lips get more exercise than their legs, deprived many of the rare sighting of a nightjar on the path and flying up to a clear perch where it sat but I could not take a pic before the frightening tumult approached". We will remember to look out for the eagle nest as well as any nightjars when we next hike here.



Recent rains had us passing through puddles and muddy paths – but nothing too serious. The pace was brisk, but not too strenuous. Some stunning forested paths interspersed with neat cane farms with



lovely views. Shirley periodically informing us with amazing detail what to expect as we went about exploring these trails around Renishaw Hills. We were fortunate with the weather – occasionally selecting dirt farm roads as opposed to cane field paths for the soothing cool breeze. Rain seemed imminent as we were getting back to our cars – and fortunately we did miss heavy rain. Some went for drinks at the Blue Marlin. A pleasant way to end a great hike. Thank you Shirley and Barry for having stepped up to lead this hike. We are

looking forward to having more hikes from South Coast in our hiking programme.

Distance 16.56km; Elevation 486m; Moving time 4 hours; Group size 16. Photos supplied by Shirley Moore, Harry Holderness, Ana Barbosa, Jill Etchells and Alan Etchells.

**For more reports on Sunday Hikes and lots of photos log onto Rambler's Facebook page.**

### ***RAMBLERS SOCIAL EVENTS***

#### **WEEKENDS AWAY – Jonathan Sampson :**

Any queries regarding accommodation or camping for the weekend planned for Cumberland over New Year should be directed to Jonathan on 082 420 9577m or email him on [jmvsampson@gmail.com](mailto:jmvsampson@gmail.com)

#### ***HIKING PROGRAMMES:***

For hiking during Covid restrictions, we are guided by the regulations. As a Club we will be limiting the numbers depending on the hike and the willingness of the hike leader. Every week members will be able to book with the hike leader for a hike; the booking cut off time will be the day before. The regulations require wearing of masks for public places, except with vigorous exercise. We interpret this as: when we meet we will need to have masks; during the hike, provided we keep social distancing and it is strenuous, we can forgo the mask. The mask needs to be available when we pass other hikers and for close interaction.

#### ***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.)

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

- Should you wish to participate in any of the hikes, please phone the leader by no later than Friday evening to book your spot.
- Please make sure you have a mask which should be worn in terms of the guidelines set out above under the heading Hiking Programmes. No mask – no hike!
- 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. The leader also needs to record your presence as a record needs to be kept of participants in case anyone on the hike subsequently reports being Covid positive.
- For directions to the starting point, please PHONE the organiser between 12.00 and 12.:45 on the day of the hike, don't SMS, or ask for directions when booking.
- 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.

## **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.
- Please make sure you have a mask which should be worn in terms of the guidelines set out above under the heading Hiking Programmes. No mask – no hike!
- **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. The leader also needs to record your presence as a record needs to be kept of participants in case of anyone on the hike subsequently reports being Covid positive.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2021**

(Check Facebook for changes)

**NB – IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT INDIVIDUALS HIKE AT ENTIRELY THEIR OWN RISK. THE CLUB, ITS OFFICERS, HIKE LEADERS AND MEMBERS CANNOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY INJURY/LOSS SUSTAINED BY PARTICIPANTS IN CLUB ACTIVITIES**

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 1 Jan	No hike planned		
Sun 2 Jan	No hike		
Sat 8 Jan	<b>Nkonka Trust, Kloof</b>	<b>Jenny Rooks</b>	
	Hike two loops in Nkonka Trust. Maytime Centre from M13, to end of Haygarth Rd. Drive down to parking area by 13.45. R20.00 donation. Hike along well maintained paths up hill and down hill, over grassland and some riverine bush. A conservation gem between lush Kloof and Westmead Industrial area. Could be hot so have plenty of water and a hat. BYO Sundowners to enjoy at the viewsite after the hike.	<b>084 952 0622</b>	3, mod. 6km.
Sun 9 Jan	<b>Nagle Dam / Umgeni Bend (Cato Ridge)</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	
	Hike through the tunnel and around the dam. BYO drinks/snacks and relax at the dam after the hike. Msinsi Reserve entrance ±R30 (bring credit card). Meet 08:15 Cato Ridge Motors (close to Eddie Haven Drive, Cato Ridge). Book by WhatsApp	082 417 0204	Grade 2-3; ±15km

<b>Sat 15 Jan</b>	<b>Ngwenya Trail, Winston Park.</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	
	Winston Park off ramp from M13, proceed along Jan Smuts Ave. Left at 4-way stop (still Jan Smuts), many speed bumps, to view site at the end. Meet at 13.45. Descend to contour path along cliff top on north side, views of Stockville Valley, to ocean in the east. Could be hot, so have water and a hat. Shade in the valley. BYO to enjoy as the sun sets.	<b>083 666 5630</b>	2, easy, 6 km
<b>Sun 16 Jan</b>	<b>Kirk Falls &amp; Delville Wood Station (Clifton Canyon Shongweni)</b>	<b>Jonathan S</b>	
	An interesting hike along some road, cane paths, Delville Wood Station, disused railway tunnels, dirt roads with views towards Shongweni Dam and impressive retaining walls. At the base of Kirk Falls on the Wekeweke River, trains emerge out of twin 1km tunnels. Kirkwood was the name of the farm owned by a Joseph Kirkman. Snack break at the falls and drinks at Shongweni Club afterwards. Meet and park 08:00 at Denny Mushroom Shongweni car park (tip security on return) on Mr559 (left off Kassier Rd). Book by WhatsApp	082 420 9577	Grade 2-3; ±11km
<b>Sat 22 Jan</b>	<b>Burman Bush, Morningside, Durban</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	
	Meet 13.45 at Burman Bush, 101 Burman Drive, (lower security gate). R10.00 per car for car guard. Hike in this 55 hectare sand dune forest gem in suburbia. Philip knows all the loops, and view sites.	<b>082 417 0204</b>	3, mod. +/- 7km.
<b>Sun 23 Jan</b>	<b>Blythedale Beach &amp; Forest</b>	<b>Jon Stevens</b>	
	Hike along the beach to the Mvoti Estuary (a river mouth and a natural heritage site with prolific birdlife) and back through Jon's mystical forest (a typical marine wilderness north coast forest with some protected milkwood trees and vegetation). Meet 06:45 Sibaya Casino (left side of the parking lot near the entrance) or 07:30 Blythedale Beach parking. Petrol sharing R50. Book by WhatsApp	082 459 1522	Grade 2; ±15km
<b>Sat 29 Jan</b>	<b>Alverston Wildlife Park, Alverston.</b>	<b>Steve Verreyne</b>	
	(Cancelled in Dec. due to rain) Exit 33 from M13, right into Kassier Rd, left at robot opposite Busamed Hospital into Alverstone Rd (D435). Entry R20.00. Meet at 13.45. Hike over grassland and through riverine forests, up and down some narrow paths, past dams, waterfalls. Could be hot. BYO drinks and food for a braai. Fires provided. Gate closes 19.00.	<b>083 956 1556</b>	3, Mod. 7 km.
<b>Sun 30 Jan</b>	<b>Kloof to Hillcrest rail walk</b>	<b>Jenny Rooks</b>	
	Easy but long walk along a footpath from Kloof Station to Hillcrest Station and with Umgeni Steam Train running on the last Sunday of the month, we might get to meet up with it. Donation R20 to the Kloof Project. Meet 08:00 Kloof Station (Stokers Arms). Book by WhatsApp	084 952 0622	Grade 2-3; ±18km
<b>Sat 5 Feb</b>	<b>Springside Nature Reserve, Hillcrest.</b>	<b>Ismail Vahed</b>	
	<u>Note</u> : Early start time of 13.00. From Old Main Rd in Hillcrest, right into Short Rd (robot at Shell Garage) right at T-junction into Springside Rd, Reserve in the dip on the left. Meet at <u>12.45</u> . Hike several loops along well maintained paths and bridges. A favorite reserve with Birders and wild flower enthusiasts.	<b>083 786 6733</b>	2, easy/mod. 6 km.

<b>Sun 6 Feb</b>	<b>Everton Conservancy two waterfalls</b>	<b>Peter Mcelwee</b>	
	Ideal easy and beautiful summer hike taking in both the Porcupine and Gillitts waterfalls and exploring Everton Conservancy. Bordering KKNR Longshadow, it's the oldest urban conservancy in South Africa with an incredibly rich biodiversity. Donation R30. Meet to start hiking 08:00. Parking is the grass verge off Molweni Road, just past Ocean View Drive intersection where it meets Everton Rd Conservancy. Book by WhatsApp	078 611 0752	Grade 2; ±12km;
<b>Sat 12 Feb</b>	<b>AGM – no hike planned</b>		
<b>Sun 13 Feb</b>	<b>Inanda Mountain with Matata Adventures (recce)</b>	<b>Philip Collyer</b>	
	New hike! A hike that will take us to the top of iNanda Mountain which towers over iNanda Dam. The views all around are considered to be the absolute best in Durban. A great bird watching opportunity with birds of prey that hunt off the cliff faces and sometimes glide close by. Fee R50 (members) or R70 (non-members). For an early start, meet 07:15 Sasol Garage Avoca (N2 exit 177 for Curnick Ndlovu Hwy (KwaMashu Inanda)) to drive in convoy to Matata Adventures (in Maphephetheni area near Meyiwa Primary School) where cars will be safely parked. Booking by WhatsApp.	082 417 0204	Grade 3-4; ±18km
<b>Sat 19 Feb</b>	<b>St Hillier into Giba Gorge.</b>	<b>Jenny Rooks</b>	
	From M13 take Winston Park off ramp, turn right across M13, first left to St Hillier Dam (just before Toyota Showroom). Opposite dam turn left under bridge (St Hillier Rd). Continue past Security hut, road bends left, park on left. Meet 13.45, donation R20.00 for Conservancy. Hike down into gorge next to bubbling stream, and under N3 into Giba Gorge Bike Park. Snack break next to dams. Return through indigenous forest part of the way. Drinks possible at Hay Way, Gillitts, afterwards.	<b>084 952 0622</b>	2. Easy but long. 8+km.
<b>Sun 20 Feb</b>	<b>Kenneth Stainbank NR (Yellowwood Park)</b>	<b>Stella Wells</b>	
	Hike through grassland, bush and across a few streams with game and bird viewing. Use tick repellent. There will be a few refreshment stops. Finish around lunch time. ±R50 entry fee. Meet 08:00 main parking area (to the left of main entrance). Book by WhatsApp.	078 319 8979	Grade 2 Easy; ±10km
<b>Sat 26 Feb</b>	<b>Krantzkloof Nature Reserve, Nkuthu Gate, Waterfall.</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	
	Note: <u>Early start time</u> ; 11.00. Waterfall end of Krantzkloof 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 Rd. In the dip, Nkuthu picnic site on right. Entry R50.00 pp, or Rhino Card. <u>Meet at 10.45</u> . Hike part of Forest Trail over grassland with wonderful views of the gorge, Kloof and towards the ocean. Leave Reserve by 15.00.	<b>083 666 5630</b>	3, mod., +/- 6 km.
<b>Sun 27 Feb</b>	<b>Stockville Valley (Gillitts)</b>	<b>Abdullah Dada</b>	
	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. Hike may also be done in reverse. Meet 08:00 at rear of new Checkers Centre (cnr Old Main and Stockville Roads) Gillitts. Book by WhatsApp.	084 478 6779	Grade 3; Steep parts (vertigo) ±17km

<b>Sat 5 Mar</b>	<b>Durban Beach Front</b>	<b>Biff Maggs</b>	
	Park in Pirates Car Park (Please pay car guard), or at SunCoast parking. Meet on Promenade in front of SunCoast Wimpy at 13.45 to start at 14.00. Walk up and down Promenade, and down Notties Pier, then down North Pier. Drinks at Tiger Milk, near Barnyard.	<b>082 609 9684</b>	2, easy but brisk, 10 km.
<b>Sun 6 Mar</b>	<b>Beach Bums (Casuarina Beach), Westbrook</b>	<b>Peter Mcelwee</b>	
	Hike up and down hills, across a nursery, through some bush and along a bit of beach. Variety and fun guaranteed! Hike will finish around lunch time. Optional swim/ drinks/ lunch at Beach Bums afterwards. Meet 07:30 at 65 Casuarina Rd (next to Beach Bums). Book by WhatsApp	078 611 0752	Grade 2; ±15km
<b>Sat 12 Mar</b>	<b>Morewood Farm Trails, Springside Rd, Hillcrest.</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	
	Park at Morewood Farm in Springside Rd (short way past Springside Nature Reserve, on the right) by 13.45. Entry R30.00. Hike along bike trails through pine plantation, riverine bush and grassland. Bikers have "right of way". Variety of refreshment on sale after the hike.	<b>083 666 5630</b>	3, Mod. 8 km.
<b>Sun 13 Mar</b>	<b>Krantzkloof NR from Nkutu</b>	<b>Roland Smith</b>	
	Roland will lead an adventurous hike from the Nkutu entrance as parking at the main entrance is quite limited. The Wall, 10 Feet Crossing (Sauros Pools), Lingwood Beacon, Uve Road, Nkonka Crack, Forest Trail could all be on the cards. Come prepared with sufficient hydration and energy snacks. Entrance ±R50. Meet 07:15 Nkutu picnic site (62 Valley Dr, Forest Hill). Book by WhatsApp.	066 111 1488	Grade 4 Vertigo strenuous. ±800m elevation; ±17km;
<b>Sat 19 Mar</b>	<b>Virginia Bush Nature Reserve. Durban</b>	<b>Tina Regnard</b>	
	Meet at Virginia Airport parking by 13.45. Walk through suburb to Virginia Bush to enjoy old coastal sand dune forest vegetation and birdsong. Many paths and loops in this urban reserve. Possibly drinks at the Wings Club at Virginia Airport.	<b>083 289 6276</b>	2, easy/mod. 9 km.
<b>Sun 20 Mar</b>	<b>Baynesfield Estate (Richmond/ Thornville Junction)</b>	<b>Jon Stevens</b>	
Long weekend	Enjoy hiking on this beautiful estate. Donation R20. Bring own drinks for after the hike. Meet 07:30 Union Main in Pinetown or at 08:20 at the entrance to Baynesfield to start hiking at 08:30. From Durban N3 take exit 61 toward Richmond Umbumbulu then P338 to destination. Petrol sharing R60. Book by WhatsApp.	082 459 1522	Grade 3-4; 16-18km
<b>Sat 26 Mar</b>	<b>Clifton Tower, into Giba Gorge.</b>	<b>Abdullah Dada</b>	
	From M13, Exit 33, left into Kassier Rd, over Toll Road, left towards Shongweni Dam. Park at Mushroom Farm on left, by 13.45. Hike at 14.00, through sugar cane fields, up to tower. Views east over Giba Gorge towards the coast. Continue down a steep path, onto farm land, boundary of Giba Gorge. Return to cars. Please tip the Security for parking. Drinks at Shongweni Club.	<b>084 478 6779</b>	3, Mod (steep), +/-8 km
<b>Sun 27 Mar</b>	<b>Kelso/ Pennington (recce)</b>	<b>Shirley &amp; Barry Moore</b>	
	We have a team of keen hikers on the South Coast recceing hikes for us. First will be in Pennington / Kelso area. Details will be supplied closer to the time.	082 717 6991	Grade 2; ±15km