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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 2nd QUARTER: APRIL TO JUNE 2022

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Dear Fellow Ramblers

This year has started off with a bang, heavy rain and hot weather, not that it stops us Ramblers.

Booking for hikes has now become the norm and has assisted with keeping hike numbers manageable.

We wish Di all the best in her ventures in the UK and welcome committee members back in their roles, especially Rani and Gil who are our new Sunday and Saturday Hike Leaders. Thanks to Ann for doing the Saturday Hike Organizing for an extra year!

Here is to happy hiking in our second quarter!

Philip
Chair

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

As many of you know, Ramblers is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year and planning is in progress for some sort of celebration. If anyone has some interesting photos from times gone by, please email to Jon Stevens on jon.stevens.sa@gmail.com so that these can be included in a slide presentation which we hope to have running in the background on a TV at the function. Preferably include place and time the photos were taken. Jon's deadline for this is 14th July, but it would be good if you could get them to him soonest.

We have booked the Tsogo Sun Conference Centre in the grounds of the Riverside Hotel in Durban North, for a lunch on 23rd July 2022. It will be a sit down lunch with a buffet style menu. Please save the date. Details will be emailed separately before 30th April. Honorary Life Members and Hike Leaders are invited as the guests of Durban Ramblers. Any queries or suggestions email biffmaggs101@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	philipcollyer@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Biff Maggs	083 786 6733	biffmaggs101@gmail.com
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Magazine	Merle Mackenzie	082 454 0521	durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com
Social Events Organiser	Biff Maggs	083 786 6733	biffmaggs101@gmail.com
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	dada@greenit.co.za
Ordinary Member	<i>Vacant</i>		
Honorary Auditor	Rolf Klein	073 982 4976	rolf.klein@telkomsa.net

NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:



The AGM was held at Palmiet Nature Reserve on 12 February. Pictured (*left*) are some of the members who attended. The event was followed by a BYO braai.

We were very pleased to welcome new Committee Members, Lisa La Commare (Secretary) and Gil Krause (Saturday Hike Organiser). Rani Reddy agreed to take over the

Sunday Hike portfolio. While Biff Maggs is reflected above as Social Events Organiser, this is specifically for our 90th Anniversary celebrations.

Diana Patoir was awarded the floating trophy for her outstanding service and contribution to the Club, both in her roles as Club Secretary and Publicity Organiser. She was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting to receive the trophy from our Chairman. We wish her well as she moves to the UK in the coming months.



The out-going Treasurer, Ismail Vahed, (*left*) delivered his final report, and he was congratulated on the professionalism of his report and presentation. The Club's finances are looking healthy.

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:

Stephanie Lambert, Lisa La Commare, Roland Smith, David Grey, Ruth Grantham, Dale O'Reilly, Priscilla Govender, Robyn Wainwright and David Atkinson.

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

INFORMATION

MAGAZINE:

The magazine is distributed via email 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 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
8 January				300		Nkonka Trust
26 January			260			Everton Conservancy
29 January				480		Alverstone
30 January					400	Kloof Project
6 February					420	Everton Conservancy
7 February			420			Giba Gorge
9 February			420			Giba Gorge
19 February				460		Giba Gorge
12 March				720		Morewood
Total			1100	1960	820	R3880

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. Should you wish to contribute photos to the Facebook page please send your contributions to Ana, our Publicity person. You may also ask Ana 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 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)

Sunday 09 January 2022 – Nagle Dam/ Umgeni Bend (Cato Ridge)

A good turnout for our first Sunday hike for 2022. Weather was expectedly hot, but with a lovely breeze. We walked over the dam wall, past the island entrance, to the spillway tunnel and across the dam. The dam was quite full so we walked along paths instead of the more scenic shoreline beach walk when the dam is less full. At the end of the horseshoe bend, six people continued the shorter circular walk to the cars.



We had lunch and backtracked for a longer walk back to the cars. We stopped at the bypass canal to view the water flowing furiously fast through the sluice gates, the sirens announcing the rush of water to come down the Umgeni



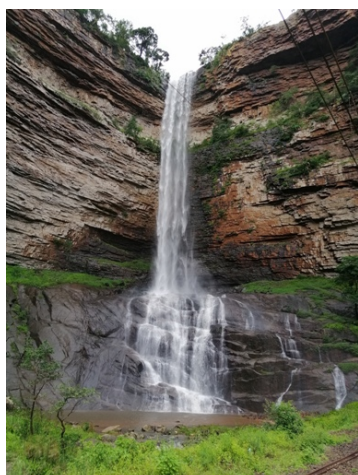
River. Most people returned to their cars whilst a few decided to explore Msinsi Resort's setup on the Nagle Dam island. Some people were braaing and having beers at the fishing spot. They kindly offered us water – which some in the group accepted.



Jonathan and Philip came by to collect the entrance fees for the resort officers as the entrance was not yet open when we arrived at Nagle Dam. The zebra were mowing the grass instead. The drive between Cato Ridge and Nagle dam is scenic – but we do need to be alert for cattle, goats and quite a few pot holes. Thank you Philip for this most enjoyable first Sunday Hike for 2022. Group size 30; Distance 14.18km; Elevation Gain 436m; Time 3h53m.

Hike report and photos by Ana Barbosa.

Wednesday 12 January 2022 - Delville Wood Station and Kirk Falls



16 enthusiastic ramblers set off at 07:00 from the safe parking at the factories at the bottom of the drive to Summerveld. Again we were blessed with amazing hiking weather. Overcast with a cool breeze. We experienced a bit of everything, Farm roads, tracks through caneland, boggy paths with a lot of mud, sand, tunnels and overgrown vegetation. Oh and a train going by (the line is still active, in fact is the main line to Gauteng) and our reward was to see the Kirk Falls at their best. The recent good rains resulted in a spectacular fall of water.



Quite a few vehicles passed us on the way down and on enquiring from a young African gentleman we discovered that the waters have healing powers. In fact if consumed will cure any stomach ailments. Indeed once we reached the falls two young men were returning having immersed themselves in the water and a woman was on the rocks being soaked by the waters from the falls. It is considered a spiritual place by the local people.

Then it was the long haul home but Jon managed to find paths that traversed the hillside and keeping a comfortable pace we were back in no time with 9.2 km under our belts. Picnic and chat rounded off a fun morning. Thank you Jon, a really good time was spent by us all. *Hike report by Coleen Seath.*



Saturday 15 January 2022 – Ngwenya Trail, Winston Park

After a very rainy spell, some cloud still persisted, but 18 hikers were determined to get out. We descended from the grassy viewsite at the eastern end of Jan Smuts Ave, Winston Park to the path along the cliff top above Stockville Valley. We headed west, enjoying the views and different styles of homes and land use in the Valley. We noted the steep zig-zag paths in the Conservancy below Brendon Mithchell's home, which brought back memories of a "testing" very hot Wednesday hike some years ago. From the boundary fence of the conservancy, the path was rather overgrown, and wet and slippery in little gullies. Quite challenging. I overlooked the path down into the forest, but was assisted by a more observant participant (AK), so we got to a very cool spot for our snack-break. Paths within the conservancy were cut in December, so the short loop was easily done before finding our way up to the cliff path again. The breeze picked up, cooling us down while we sat enjoying sundowners and friendly chatter after the hike. There is much to be explored in the Conservancy for a hike on it's own.

Hike report by Ann Olds, photos by Conrad Kelsey.

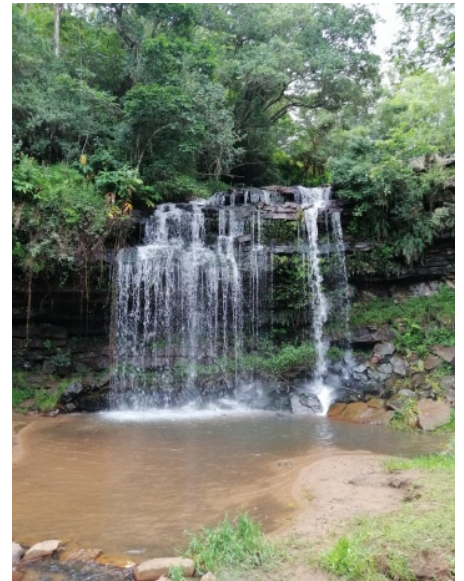


Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Everton Conservancy : Molweni River Trail

What a delight it is to walk in this beautiful Conservancy. Jenny assures us, and it is also evident that our R20 per person is very gratefully received as two people are employed full time to keep the paths cleared and help with alien plant eradication.

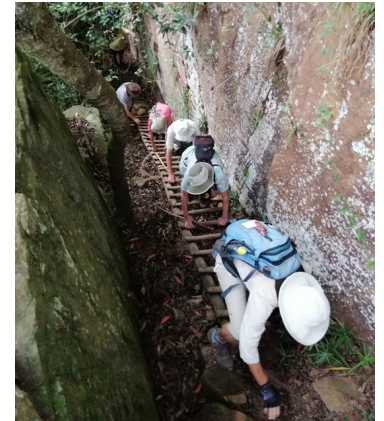


The river crossings were negotiated well with only one mishap and as usual that is when the cameras



have been put away! Leaving early and walking mostly in shade means that the heat of our summer is avoided and again our weather was perfect. The falls were lovely and the group sat here chatting enjoying a snack break. As at Kirk falls we were privy to some sort of local ritual healing or cleansing ceremony by one of the locals.

The climb through the forest to the top is a bit tricky in parts and steps have been cut into the hillside and a rope thoughtfully placed to assist the ascent. Then up the sturdy ladder and we were on top of the escarpment. After a level grassy walk we came to the gate and returned to our cars - time for our picnic and chat.



Thank you Jenny for a really lovely 8.5km hike.

Hike report by Coleen Seath, photos by Merle Mackenzie.

Saturday 29 January 2022 - Alverstone Wildlife Park.



24 hikers arrived for this popular hike, anticipating the sociable braai afterwards, although the day was misty and heavy clouds loomed. Steve Verreyne lead us out of the Park along the farm road past Communication towers to the cliff tops of Alverstone. The views to the west and over towards Hammarsdale, Monteseel, Inchanga and Phezulu were amazing. This added nearly 5 km to the hike Steve had planned. Several paths within the Park were impassable due to summer rains and growth. So, after a short drink stop at the Lapa, we continued to the top dam, disturbing Zebra, Impala and Blesbok. Steve led us down a fairly grassy path to the lower dam for our snack break and



a chance to enjoy afternoon reflections on the water. Then up the steep track to the path leading off through the forest and up to the escarpment.

The sky looked more threateningly by now, but we were back at the Lapa to the welcome aroma of the braai fire burning. Thanks to Rolf for getting this ready in good time. About 14 hikers soon had beers and glasses of wine in hand, with sausages, chops and steak on the grid above the very hot coals. Much chatter and stories were shared, undeterred by the light drizzle now blowing around – thanks to the handy roof over the Lapa we remained dry.



Alverstone Wildlife Park is always a highlight in our program. *Hike report by Ann Olds, photos by Conrad Kelsey.*

Sunday 20 February 2022 - Kenneth Stainbank NR



Another hot day beckoned so this was an ideal hike as most of the walking is in the shade. This, however, did not save us from the humidity. There are basically three trails in the reserve – red, yellow and green which make up almost 10km of hiking. This time we did the route in reverse which created a bit more uphill than normal. Good for the heart!! The two small river crossings over the little Umhlatuzana were easily managed even after quite a bit of seasonal rain. Zebra and Impala were very

visible as was a baby leguaan resting on the lily pads at the dam. Not sure where the parents were hiding. Bats are still hanging around the castle. Sadly the coffee shack has disappeared so there was no gathering at the end of the hike to enjoy a cappuccino as we were able to last year. The hike was well supported, especially by members, and the total number of participants was 21. Sadly some people had to be turned away in order to keep the numbers manageable so please remember to book your hike early or you may be disappointed. Distance 9.55km; Elevation Gain 175,5m Duration 3h17.



Report by Stella Wells; photos by Harry Holderness, Amelia Winje, Robyn Wainwright, Ana Barbosa

Sunday 27 Feb 2022 – Stockville Valley (Gillitts)

About 30 of us dragged ourselves out of bed for a 15km walk into and out of Stockville Valley. The paths were a bit overgrown. The weather did exactly what was predicted ie it remained unpredictable throughout the day. We had a bit of sun and a bit of rain but mostly was fair hiking weather. Well done to the first-timers who joined, they had to dig deep to get to the finish point. Were all smiles at the end so I guess it was the good type of trauma.

Report by Abdullah Dada



Wednesday 2 March 2022 - Summerfeld

Colin says he has a hotline to the man in charge. But certainly our Wednesdays are made for us. We catch the overcast and slightly cooler days, hardly ever get rained out and so maybe Colin is onto a good thing.



Our walk took us from the Tack shop at Summerveld over grassland, through cane fields, some trees and some bundu bashing. Wet and muddy in places but no wet boots or members falling in the mud. The views from the top of the falls were spectacular especially if one did not mind getting close to the edge,

Of course as Colin reminded us is that what goes down has to come up ----
- so we steadily wound our way back up to Summerveld past the rather green ponds to our cars and the best part; the picnic. 8,5km.

Hike report and photos by Coleen Seath

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

RAMBLERS SOCIAL EVENTS

WEEKENDS AWAY – Jonathan Sampson :

Ramblers will be having a weekend away at Baynesfield from 22- 24 April as per details previously advised via email on 27 January. This is fully booked.

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 by Gil Krauspe.

- 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 Rani Reddy.

- 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 2nd QUARTER 2022

(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 2 Apr	Iphithi Nature Reserve and Surrounds. Gillitts.	Ann Olds	
	Park at Iphithi Nature Reserve, Edward Dr. Gillitts. From M13 exit 24, right over Everton Bridge, 1st left, right into Old Station Rd, 2nd left into Edward. Hike a few loops through this reclaimed wetland, step it out in neighboring suburbs and return to reserve for drinks - BYO. R20 donation to the conservancy.	083 666 5630	1, easy/mod. +6km.
Sun 3 Apr	Honey Trails - Monteseel	Abdulla Dada	
	Meet at 13:45 at Honey Trails (off Old Main Road, Inchanga/Drummond – opposite Irene Street. Monteseel). Hike at a privately owned nature reserve on Honey Hill. Honey Trails was developed for the general public to enjoy this incredibly beautiful natural area. Expansive views, meandering paths through grasslands and forests down into the valley and back up some steep hills. Entrance fee is R20. Booking via whatsapp.	084 478 6779	Grade 2-3 15kms
Sat 9 Apr	Pigeon Valley and Glenwood.	Tina Regnard	
	Park and meet across the road from Stella Sports Club (175 Helen Joseph Rd) by 13:45. Street walking to Pigeon Valley Nature Reserve. Explore the indigenous gem in suburbia, bristling with birdlife. Return via Phansi Museum. A couple of steep hills. Drinks at Stella Sports Club afterwards. Car guard to be tipped please.	083 289 6276	2, Easy/mod 7km
Sun 10 Apr	Paradise Valley Extended	Peter McElwee	
	Meet at 7:45 at Paradise Valley nature Reserve, 10 Oxford Road, Pinetown, to start hiking at 8:00. Easy going hike through paradise Valley, along the Umbilo River and surrounding area. Highlights include: Umbilo Falls and the historic Umbilo waterworks. Entrance Fee R17.	078 611 0752	Grade 2 ± 10km
Sat 16 Apr	No planned hike		
Easter Sunday			
Sun 17 Apr	Parks of Glenwood (Berea)	Philip Collyer	
Easter Sunday	Meet at 7am inside the Stella Sports Club parking. Explore the green areas of the Berea: Bulwer, Merryick Bennet, Pigeon Valley and Umbilo Park and Freedom Park.	082 417 0204	Grade 2 easy 13kms
Sat 23 Apr	Hill and Dale – Hammarsdale.	Jenny Rooks	
	Meet 13:15 for a 13:30 start. Take Hammarsdale off ramp and turn left towards Hammarsdale on the M385. After approximately 1km take the first road on the right – D657. (It is also sign posted Animal Anti Cruelty League). We will meet a short way down on the D657. Hike through cane fields and grassland. Views far and wide.	084 952 0622	3, moderate 9km
Sun 24 Apr	Part 2 : Railway hike : Hillcrest to Botha's Hill	Jenny Rooks	
	Meet at Hillcrest Station to start hiking by 08:00. Walk along the path next to the railway line from Hillcrest up to Botha's Hill. Meander back along country roads. Booking by whatsapp.	084 952 0622	Grade 2 ± 15km
Sat 30 Apr	Pot and Kettle – Bothas Hill	Alan Blundell	
	Park at Pot and Kettle (136 Old Main Road, Bothas Hill) 13:45 for a 14:00 start.	072 127 3889	2, moderate +7km

Sun 1 May	Monteseel (Drummond)	Philip Collyer	
Long weekend	Meet at 08:00 at Drum and Bell (10 Old Main Road, Drummond). Down into the Valley of a 1000 hills and back. Some cliff edges and boulder hopping; fitness required. Drinks afterwards at Drum and Bell. Donation of R20 to the Monteseel Conservancy.	082 417 0204	Grade 3-4 Vertigo 17kms
Sat 7 May	NU Driving Range – Hillcrest	Sally Moon	
	Meet at NU Driving Range, Hillcrest 13:45. Left off M13, Exit 31 (opp. Plantations Estate). Park away from entrance (for golfers), donation R20 per car. Hike over grassland down to St Hillier Rd, and Giba Conservancy. Hear the stream bubbling and enjoy some forest trails before the grassy ascent up a headland towards N3. Climb up to the top for views of Macintosh Falls and to the west. Some refreshment available at NU Range afterwards.	078 460 4250	Grade 3, moderate 7km
Sun 8 May	Giba from Shongweni	Alan Blundell	
	Meet 08:00 at the Durban Shongweni Club (Cnr Cliffdale & Kassier Rd). From Shongweni Club hike to Clifton Tower and down into Giba Gorge. Giba hiking fee R30pp Parking fee is R10 if not staying for drinks at the club afterwards. Booking preferably by WhatsApp.	072 127 3889	Grade 3-4 strenuous 15kms
Sat 14 May	Springside Nature Reserve - Hillcrest.	Ismail Vahed	
	Note: 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 12:45. Hike several loops along well maintained paths and bridges. A favourite reserve with Birders and wild flower enthusiasts. Contact Gil to book for this hike – 0837599199.		Grade 2, Easy/mod. 6km
Sun 15 May	Hilton - Rotanda/Winterskloof Ramble	Anna Kapp	
	Meet at 08:00 at the Rotunda Farm Stall, Cedara Road, Hilton. (N3 exit 96 Cedara; at the 3 way stop, turn left and then turn into Rotunda Farm Stall parking area. There could be a car guard. Walk through lovely plantations with beautiful vistas of mountains in the distance and also along residential areas. A few ups and downs and back through plantations to Rotunda Farm Stall. Bring sufficient hydration and snacks. Booking via whatsapp.	071 427 7139	Grade 3 18kms
Sat 21 May	Westville Eco-trail	Ann Olds	
	Park at Westville Country Club, St James Avenue. Meet at 13:45 for 14:00 start. R20 towards the conservancy. Hike along biking trails, through a tunnel, along river banks and across some grassland. Drinks afterwards at the squash courts.	083 666 5630	2, easy 6km
Sun 22 May	Bluff Nature Reserve, Treasure Beach, Circular Route	Philip Collyer	
	Meet 08.00 at Bluff NR in Tara Rd (near Quality Str/ Highbury Rd intersection). Hike around Bluff NR (lesser known top section and bottom section with 2 bird hides over the pan), 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. ±R50 entrance fee.	082 417 0204	Grade 2-3 ±15km
Sat 28 May	Beachfront – Casino to yacht ponds.	Biff Maggs	
	Park at the Casino or outside Pirates (please pay carguard). Meet on Promenade in front of Sun Coast Wimpy at 13:45 to start at 14:00. Drinks at Tiger Milk afterwards.	082 609 9684	2, easy but brisk.

Sun 29 May	Valley of a 1 000 Hills	Stella Wells	
	Meeting place to be communicated closer to the time. A shorter than normal route to avoid ongoing construction. Start by going down into the valley along the river and back with a steep scramble out. Bookings via whatsapp.	078 319 8979	Grade 3-4 14kms
Sat 4 Jun	Umdloti Coastal forest/beach and surrounds	Ismail Vahed	
	Meet at the second beach parking at 13:30 to start hiking at 13:45. Drive down to the bottom round-a-bout (Bush Tavern, garage, little shopping centre is on your right). The sea is in front of you. Turn right along the beach road and park in the second parking area. Whatsapp bookings only – 0837599199.		2, easy +-10kms.
Sun 5 Jun	KKNR : Southern Loop	Peter McElwee	
	Meet at 7:45 at KKNR picnic site (152 Kloof Falls Road) to start hiking at 8:00. A strenuous but very scenic hike that takes in the southern side of Kranzkloof nature reserve. Great views of the immense kloof falls and of the gorge. Due to limited parking, ride sharing is encouraged. Entrance fee : R50 or valid Rhino card. Booking via whatsapp	078 611 0752	Grade 3 12kms
Sat 11 Jun	Palmiet Nature Reserve: Westville	Linda Smith	
	Park at Palmiet Nature Reserve, bottom of Old New Germany Road, Westville. R30 donation towards conservancy. Car guard. Meet at 13:45 for a 14:00 start. Some river crossings, boulder hopping and uphill path to grassland. Drinks at Waxy O’Connors afterwards.	083 353 8319	3,mod. vertigo caution. 7-8kms.
Sun 12 Jun	Summerveld – Bux Farm	Jon Stevens	
	Meet at Summerveld Lodge to start hiking at 08:00. A morning of meandering up and down hills, around the quarry, across grasslands and past nurseries. Views towards Hammarsdale. Drinks at the lodge. Booking via whatsapp	082 459 1522	Grade 3 15kms
Sat 18 Jun	Roosfontein: Westville	Jon Stevens	
	Park at entrance to Westville Prison, off Spine Road, at 13:45 to start hike at 14:00. A good hike over grasslands, with views of the Umbilo River and Queensburgh.	082 459 1522	3, mod. +-7kms.
Sun 19 Jun	Best of Palmiet (Westville)	Linda Smith	
	Meet at 8:00. A walk through to the top of this beautiful reserve with spectacular cliffs, river, indigenous bush and grassland. Hiking pole recommended to assist with various river crossings. The reserve and river is named after the riverine plant Pronium serratum (Palmiet) which was formerly abundant in the area. Optional drinks/ lunch afterwards at Waxy O’Connors. R30 donation to reserve.	083 353 8319	Grade 3, 9km strenuous
Sat 25 Jun	Honey Trails: Monteseel	Abdullah Dada	
	Meet at Honey Trails on Old Main Road, Monteseel at 13:30. Look for big Honey Trails sign on the left of Old Main Road before the Monteseel turn on the right. Cost R20. Enjoy expansive views on trails through grassland and bush – perhaps a shorter option, if needed. BYO sundowners in grounds afterwards.	084 478 6779	2/3 mod. 5/10kms
Sun 26 Jun	Clansthal : New Hike	Shirley & Barry Moore	
	A new hike. Details to follow	082 717 6991	14kms