



**THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER : 2024**

***CHAIR'S RAMBLINGS***

It was great to see the 36 members who attended the AGM held at Krantzkloof on 10th February and enjoyed the braai afterwards. As I don't get to hike so much any more due to health reasons I was pleased to have me the opportunity to catch up with members I haven't seen for a while and also to meet some new members. I was relieved that most of the Committee Members were prepared to retain their portfolios for another year, and I wish to express my personal thanks for their support during the past year. We were pleased to welcome Navi Naidoo onto the Committee who replaced Jonathan Sampson as ordinary member.

It was my pleasure to present our floating trophy to Jon Stevens who is one of our stalwart leaders. A big thank you to all our hike leaders - without them we wouldn't have a club. As our finances are looking very healthy, it was agreed to keep annual membership fees at R100 for next year. Where else can you get such good value for money spent?!

The hot weather doesn't seem to deter eager hikers from getting out there and enjoying the outdoor spaces, and hopefully the weather will start cooling down soon, so all I can say is happy hiking!

Merle  
Durban Ramblers Chair

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Merle Mackenzie	082 454 0521	<a href="mailto:merliemac@gmail.com">merliemac@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ruth Grantham	082 466 5580	<a href="mailto:Durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com">Durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com</a>
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Saturday Hike Organiser	Gil Krauspe	083 759 9199	<a href="mailto:gilkrauspe@yahoo.com">gilkrauspe@yahoo.com</a>
Weekend Organiser	Vacant		
Publicity	Ana Barbosa	083 468 6941	<a href="mailto:durbanramblers.publicity@gmail.com">durbanramblers.publicity@gmail.com</a>
Magazine	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	<a href="mailto:philipcollyer@gmail.com">philipcollyer@gmail.com</a>
Social Events Organiser	Biff Maggs	083 786 6733	<a href="mailto:biffmaggs101@gmail.com">biffmaggs101@gmail.com</a>
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	<a href="mailto:dada@greenit.co.za">dada@greenit.co.za</a>
Ordinary Member	Navi Naidoo	081 307 9310	<a href="mailto:navinaidoo123@gmail.com">navinaidoo123@gmail.com</a>
Honorary Auditor	Rolf Klein	073 982 4976	<a href="mailto:rolf.klein@telkomsa.net">rolf.klein@telkomsa.net</a>

## HIKING TITBITS

### Increase Your Lifespan

Do you want to live longer? Of course, you do. Who doesn't want to increase their lifespan? But, did you know that you can live longer by simply having more greenery around you? In the May 2008 *International Journal of Health Geographics*, a study showed that nature images provided significant protection from having a stroke. On the other hand, there were higher risks of stroke mortality in areas with fewer trees.

By now, it should be clear to you that getting out in nature is a must for your overall wellbeing. Yet, it isn't always easy to just get away from it all. If this is the case for you, consider surrounding yourself with plants and images of nature scenes, such as nature on our Social Media Facebook Page. Be well.

## HIKING ETIQUETTE

A reminder of these few simple guidelines:

- **Follow your leader.** It's impolite to get ahead of the leader – he/she is called a **leader** for a reason!
- **Be Aware of your fellow hikers.** Keep an eye on the hiker behind you. If the gap is getting too wide, let the leader know so they the trailers can be given a chance to catch up. By the same token, don't lose sight of the hiker in front of you – attract their attention if you're falling behind.
- **Communicate.** If you want to leave the hike for any reason, make sure the leader knows and that it's safe to leave the group at that particular point.
- **Remember Your Manners.** Be kind, courteous and respectful. Don't hesitate to say hello and smile as you pass by a fellow hiker!
- **Respect the Peace and Quiet.** Keep noise to a minimum. Most people on the trail are looking to experience nature and its natural sounds, or lack thereof. Make sure your cell phone is on silent, and refrain from talking loudly or yelling amongst your group.

- **Absolutely no littering.** This includes orange peel, apple core and banana skin. While they are biodegradable, this is still littering and they are not good for wildlife.
- **Stay on the Path.** If you don't, you could get lost and/or encounter dangerous terrain. Plus, leaving designated pathways causes damage to the environment such as destroying vegetation, erosion and degrading soil quality.
- **Don't Disturb Plants.** Hikers should not pick or remove vegetation.
- **Cell Phones:** Take some time out from your cell phone calls, emergencies only.
- **Booking :** It is essential to book for all hikes, this allows leaders to plan for their hike and ensure that a hike is not oversubscribed.

**For our Hike Leaders:** Hike leaders are volunteers, we are a social club, please easily follow their lead and direction (unless it is clearly the wrong direction!).

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Visitors are permitted to join Saturday and Sunday hikes, subject to limiting numbers in the group to a maximum of 30, but this is always at the discretion of hike leaders. Once visitors have done their three hikes, they may apply for membership and pay the required fees. It is important to state your name as a reference when doing the EFT payment.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Karen Slade  
 Julia Sclanders  
 Bjorn McNamara  
 Jarred Rayson  
 Bruce Lavender  
 Jenny Bolton  
 Molly Govender  
 Vishunduth Balmahoon  
 Shireena Balmahoon  
 Naeem Sacoor

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

Some photo's from the AGM:





## 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.

	Wed	Sat	Sun	Name
2023/12/16		580		Alverstone
2023/01/06		840		Hillcrest conservancy
2024/01/20		230		Parking Hacienda
2024/01/20		460		Monteseel Conservancy
2024/01/28		720		Marwood
2024/02/04			660	Everton Conservancy
2024/02/24		390		Everton
2024/03/06	280			Westville Eco Trails
2024/03/16		455		Crestholm Conservancy
2024/03/20	260			Alverstone
TOTAL	540	3675	660	4875

## **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 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](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. Ask a member of the committee for a card holder or a lanyard. Biff Maggs always has available.

## GROUP DISCOUNT OFFERED FOR TUGELA FALLS WEEKEND AWAY

I'm writing from Karma Backpackers in Kestell in the Free State, to offer your club members a hikers' special on accommodation. We're on the doorstep of the Drakensberg and cater to hikers and international youth travellers who want to do the Sentinel Peak / Tugela Falls hike, as well as the hikes at Golden Gate Highland National Park and Clarens.

The special we're running is **accommodation for R200 per person per night, for groups of up to 17 hikers.** This is a discount on our normal rate, and you won't find better value for money. Karma Backpackers has a reputation as a home from home. It's run by Vera Ann, who everyone sees as their grandmother and who is also famous in foodie circles for her creative, award-winning jams and preserves, which are sold in specialty shops countrywide. We're in a very central position, **only 3 hours away from Johannesburg, Durban and Bloemfontein.** The start of the Tugela Falls/Sentinel Peak hike, Golden Gate National Highlands park and the tourist town of Clarens are all within easy reach.

You couldn't hope for a better, more inexpensive weekend. Attached is a flyer which you may want to distribute to your members or on social media - please visit our website at [www.karmalodge.co.za](http://www.karmalodge.co.za), or reply to Vera Ann for more info.

Best regards  
Geoff



*Home is where the heart is*

Karma Backpackers is situated in Kestell, only 3 hours' drive from both Johannesburg and Durban, and on the doorstep of the Drakensberg Mountains. We cater to international backpackers and hikers, with a reputation for comfortable accommodation in a homely atmosphere, and excellent value for money. We're an ideal base for hiking the Drakensberg, visiting Golden Gate Highlands National Park and touring Lesotho. Our small-town hospitality makes for a memorable, out of the ordinary experience.

We are a small, intimate backpackers catering to a maximum of 17 guests. Our accommodation consists of 3 double bedrooms, a family room which sleeps four and a separate dorm which sleeps six. We're in a house with large bedrooms, a comfy lounge/dining room and a well-equipped kitchen. After a long day of hiking, you'll appreciate our bathtub, and the outside dorm has its own showers and toilet facilities. The sprung timber floors, wood-burning stoves in the lounge and kitchen, and old-fashioned hot water bottles in the beds on cold winter nights contribute to our cozy atmosphere.

**HIKING GROUP SPECIAL!**  
R200 pppn  
Valid only on 21 Feb & 22 Feb 2024  
Other valid until 15/02/24

*Attractions in the area*



Golden Gate National Park      The Amphitheatre, Tugela Falls & Sentinel Peak      Clarens

*Accommodation*



Contact Vera Ann on  
**083 442 3973**



2 Pink Batriel St, Kestell, 5800  
kestellkarma@gmail.com  
[www.karmalodge.co.za](http://www.karmalodge.co.za)

**From the Wednesday Hikes:**

Rob set off with his flock on a misty early morning from the Shongweni Club, walking through sugar cane, some natural bush and a lot of alien plants like Lantana, Bugweed, Wild ginger, and Canna to name a few. The morning became progressively more humid and there wasn't a breeze to cool us. The slower pace was welcome, allowing the photographers and bird watchers to indulge in their hobbies while exercising. Sturdy bridges over the river were most welcome, and allowed us to cross in a number of places. These bridges have been built primarily for riders and we were thrilled to encounter two very friendly riders and their loved equine pets.

Back at the Shongweni Club we settled down to a welcome picnic joined by Colin who is improving all the time. The consensus seems to be 12km. Photographs courtesy of Jenny and Dale.





## Saturday Hike: 9 March, Botha's Hill Hike

Thanks to Jenny and Jonathan for leading us enthusiastic hikers on a varied walk along unused train tracks with so many friendly people greeting us on their regular route to work or school. A much welcomed snack break at the old Bothas Hill Station saw us all revived for some shaded walking before hitting the uphill hike through cane fields and on to some suburban walking back to our cars. Thanks to our wonderful hike leaders and the support of our club members, a great afternoon enjoyed by all.

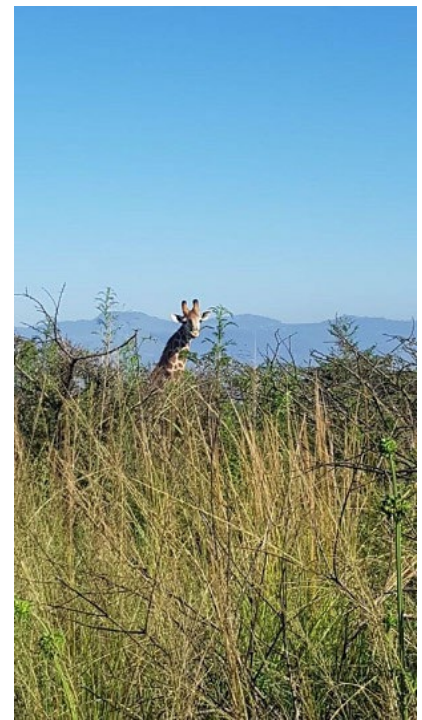




### **A Sunday Report : 10 March, Bisley Nature Reserve (Courtesy of Rani Reddy)**

A very small group of hikers braved the heat to explore Bisley. There were 2 sightings of giraffe and only 1 sighting of zebra. The heat must have driven them into the thicket. It was sad to see the remains of 2 animals (wildebeest and buck). Due to the extreme heat, we had to cut the hike short, doing only about 10kms. It is a hike best done in the winter months.





### **HIKING PROGRAMMES:**

Every week members will be able to book a hike with the hike leader; booking cut off time will be the day before. Numbers on hikes will be limited to a **maximum of 30**, or less subject to discretion of hike leaders.

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

Please check details of the Wednesday Hikes with 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 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, 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.**
- **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. **You can also check on Facebook which may reflect changes or cancellations.**
- 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 Rehydrate 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 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER 2024

(Check Facebook for any 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. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR EACH HIKE**

### HIKING PROGRAMME 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER 2024

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 6 April	<b>Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve: +-R60pp</b>	<b>Steve Verreyne</b>	
	Please note entry process can be slow so arrive well on time. Meet in the car-park at 13:30 for 13:45 start. Hike through grassland, bush and sightings of grazing game. Steve makes some interesting twists and turns. BYO refreshments for afterwards. Booking essential.	083 956 1556	Grade 3, moderate, 8km.
Sun 7 April	<b>Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve (Yellowwood Park)</b>	<b>Stella Wells</b>	
	Rescheduled from the 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter. Hike through grassland, bush and across a few streams. Game and bird viewing. Use tick repellent. Finish around lunch time. R60 entry fee. Meet at 08:00 in the main parking area (follow road to left of entrance gate). Booking preferably by WhatsApp	078 319 8979	Grade 2 Easy; ±10km
Sat 13 April	<b>Umdloti Forest:</b>	<b>Abdullah Dada</b>	
	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) and the sea in front of you. Turn right along the beach road and park in the second parking area. Forest and beach walking. Booking essential.	084 478 6779	Grade 2, easy +-10km
Sun 14 April	<b>Dusi Trails, Scottsville</b>	<b>Peter McElwee</b>	
	A circular hike where we explore the wildest parts of the Dusi Valley. The hike takes us up one hill, down another, across a river (twice) and through fields of acacia, aloe and past herds of a variety of Buck. The area is popular with trail runners and horse riders as the scenery is simply stunning. Please remember to bring plenty of water and a hat as the area is very exposed. Meet at the Ashburton Training Centre at 8:15. Please book with the Hike Leader. Booking essential.	078 611 0752	Grade 2-3; ±13km
Sat 20 April	<b>Krantzkloof Nature Reserve: R60pp or Rhino Card.</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	
	Please note early starting time – meet at main parking off Kloof Falls Rd. at 6:15 for 6:30 start. A few “technical areas” so not for beginners. Hike from picnic site along	083 666 5630	Grade 3,

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	cliff path above the Molweni River, some expansive views of the gorge. River and weir crossing, ascent up towards a gully and the Boneyard site and further up to the trig beacon. Return along same route. Booking essential.		+6km, vertigo warning
<b>Sun 21 April</b>	<b>Rocky Bay Trails</b>	<b>Shirley/Barry Moore</b>	
	Meet at Rocky Bay at 7.45 to start hiking at 8am. Hike through a mixture of cane and beautiful coastal forests as well as visit to two dams and walk some new trail along the river. Entrance R20 and drinks at The Bell afterwards. Bring cossies if anyone is up for a dip in the sea afterwards. Booking essential.	082 717 6991	Grade 2 -3 easy 15/16 kms
<b>Sat 27 April</b>	<b>Virginia Bush:</b>	<b>Tina Regnard</b>	
	Meet and park outside the Virginia United Football Club, Danville Avenue by 13:45 for a 14:00 start. Enjoy some old coastal sand dune forest vegetation and birdsong while following the many paths and loops in this urban reserve. Possibly drinks at the Wings Club, Virginia Airport afterwards. Booking essential.	083 289 6276	Grade 3, +-8km.
<b>Sun 28 April</b>	<b>Delville Wood and Kirk Falls</b>	<b>Mthobisi Ndlovu</b>	
	Hike through sugar cane, down to the railway line and Delville Wood station, through the tunnel to the base of Kirk Falls. Long, rewarding hike. R10 tip for Security at the gate. Drinks afterwards at Shongweni Club. Meet at 7:45 at Denny Mushroom to start hiking at 8am. Booking essential.	073 812 8623	Grade 2-3; ±13km
<b>Sat 4 May</b>	<b>Bluff suburbs and beach: R25pp</b>	<b>Divesh Maharaj</b>	
	Please note early starting time – meet and park at Transhaven Guesthouse, 51 Treasure Beach Rd, by 13:00 to start by 13:15. Walk through dune forest to beach and along shore to Brighton Beach. Steep incline to Airlie Rd (whale viewing point) and return via Bluff suburbs. Booking essential.	072 235 3104	Grade 3, 10km
<b>Sun 5 May</b>	<b>Beachwood Mangroves, Japanese Gardens, Umgeni River, Blue Lagoon Circuit</b>	<b>Rani Reddy</b>	
	Explore the Beachwood Mangroves Reserve where you will encounter the strange mudskippers, fiddler crabs, Mangrove Kingfisher, Curlew and Water Dikkop. Tea at Japanese garden. Follow the scenic path along the Umgeni River crossing over the Connaught bridge into the golf course before heading back via Blue Lagoon and the M4 bridge. A R30 donation will be collected towards the Reserve. Meet at 7:45 at the Pick 'n Pay Hyper, Durban North (southern parking lot). Booking essential.	082 086 5685	Grade 2 ±12 kms
<b>Sat 11 May</b>	<b>Summerveld:</b>	<b>Rob Krogh</b>	

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	Exit 33 from M13, left into Kassier Rd, continue towards Farmers Market direction, first right MacIntosh Drive to Summerveld Jockey Academy. Continue about 2km, pass dams on the right, under bridge, past Club House, to fields on the left for parking. Hike will take us down to the Wekeweke River for an upstream walk and different path back to our cars for sundowners under the trees. Booking essential.	083 380 5278	Grade 2/3 +-9km
<b>Sun 12 May</b>	<b>Killarney 4 X 4</b>	<b>Peter McElwee</b>	
	Meet at 7:45 at the entrance to Killarney 4x4 in outer Shongweni for an 8am start. The hike is a circular route that takes in the hills of outer west Durban and the horse stud farms of Summerveld. Cost R20 - goes to Killarney 4x4 Trail to cover parking and use of their ablution facilities. Booking essential.	078 611 0752	Grade 2-3 ± 15kms
<b>Sat 18 May</b>	<b>Winston Park:</b>	<b>Ann Olds</b>	
	Meet at 13:45 for 14:00 start. Park to the right of 3603 restaurant, Clifton Rd, Gillitts (behind the Caltex Garage). Hike through tree-lined Jan Smuts Ave. to grassy area overlooking Giba Gorge and N2, views to the west. Then along cliff top above part of Giba Conservancy. Return for drinks at Hayways pub afterwards. Booking essential.	083 666 5630	Grade 2, +-7km.
<b>Sun 19 May</b>	<b>Ballito to Salt Rock</b>	<b>Abdullah Dada</b>	
	Beach hike from Ballito to Salt Rock with rocky outcrops (some difficult sections), lovely rock pools teeming with marine life and soft corals, tidal pools for a quick dip (bring costumes). Return through coastal suburbs. Optional lunch/drinks afterwards. Meet 08:00 Tedder Way, Ballito. Book by WhatsApp. Booking essential.	084 478 6779	Grade 2-3; ±13km
<b>Sat 25 May</b>	<b>Umdoni Forest, Pennington: R30pp donation</b>	<b>Mary McKenzie</b>	
	Please note early starting time – meet and park in the bottom parking lot of the Umdoni Golf Club by 9:15 for a 9:30am start. Explore the coastal forest and the gorge along the Nkumbane River. Some boulder hopping! Lunch at the Golf Club afterwards before heading back home. Book your place through Gil Krauspe 0837599199 before 10am on Friday morning. Booking essential.		Grade 3, +-10km
<b>Sun 26 May</b>	<b>Shongweni to Wekeweke Falls (Route Variation)</b>	<b>Rob Krogh</b>	
	Circular route from The Durban Shongweni Club following the Wekeweke stream to the top of the falls. Return via sugar cane roads with views of Shongweni Dam. Drinks at the club afterwards. Meet at the Club at 7:45 to start walking by 8am. Booking essential.	083 380 5278	Grade 2–3 ± 17km
<b>Sat 01 June</b>	<b>Beachfront: Please tip caregivers.</b>	<b>Biff Maggs</b>	
	Please note early starting time: Park at Snake Park, Lower Marine Parade at 6:15 for a 6:30 start. Meet in front of Circus Circus Beach Café. Walk down past Ushaka to the		

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	furthest North Pier, then back around the canals at the Point. Return to Durban Surf for coffee/breakfast (Google Durban Surf Lifesaving Crow Café menu to see menu and pricing). Bring your own drinking water, hat and sunscreen. Booking essential.	082 609 9684	Grade 1, easy +-6.5km
<b>Sun 2 June</b>	<b>Marshall Dam (Mt Edgecombe)</b>	<b>Rani Reddy</b>	
	A revived hike! Explore the area around Marshall Dam and further. Meet at Cornubia Shopping Mall - undercover Parking (free) at 7:45. Booking essential.	082 086 5685	Grade 3 - Strenuous ± 18kms
<b>Sat 08 June</b>	<b>Salta, Umdloti:</b>	<b>Jon Stevens</b>	
	Meet and park at Marine Walk, 01 Salta Boulevard, Umdloti at 13:45 for 14:00 start. (A pin will be sent closer to the time). Easy walking over the undulating hills near Umdloti. Booking essential.	082 459 1522	Grade 2, 10km
<b>Sun 9 June</b>	<b>Hammarsdale Falls (Route Variation)</b>	<b>Jon Stevens</b>	
	Mix of rural tranquility. Meet at 7:45 at the entrance to Killarney 4x4 in outer Shongweni for an 8am start. The hike is a circular route to Hammarsdale falls. Cost R20 - goes to Killarney 4x4 Trail to cover parking and use of their ablution facilities. Booking essential.	0824591522	Grade 3 ± 15kms
<b>Sat 15 June</b>	<b>Palmiet Nature Reserve: R30pp donation</b>	<b>Linda Smith</b>	
	Park at Palmiet Nature Reserve main entrance, just off Old New Germany Rd, Westville by 13:45 for a 14:00 start. Some river crossings, boulder hopping and uphill path to grassland. Drinks afterwards at Waxy O'Connors. Booking essential.	<b>0833538319</b>	<b>Grade 3, moderate, but with vertigo warning. 7-8 km.</b>
<b>Sun 16 June</b>	<b>Hilton College Conservancy</b>	<b>Phillip Collyer</b>	
<b>Public Holiday</b>	Explore the Hilton College Conservancy, with its wonderful views over the Midlands. R80 donation per person for the conservancy and the hike. Through grassland with game views, forests, streams and waterfalls. Booking essential. Meet at 08:00 at Hilton College	0824170204	Grade 2 Mod; ±15km
<b>Sat 22 June</b>	<b>Honey Trails: R30pp donation</b>	<b>Divesh Maharaj</b>	
	Please note early starting time. Meet at Honey Trails on Old Main Road, Monteseel at 13:00 for 13:15 start. Look for big Honey Trails sign on the left of Old Main Road before Monteseel turn on the right. Walk along trails with stunning views. Booking essential.	072 235 3104	Grade2/3 – 8km.
<b>Sun 23 June</b>	<b>High Stakes Cato Ridge</b>	<b>Sharmila Naicker</b>	
	Enjoy views of farming areas, and beautiful Aloe displays in the Killarney Valley. Meet at High Stakes at 7.40am to	081 411 3399	Grade 3 - 4 ± 12 – 13 kms

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	start hiking at 8am. There will be a R30 parking fee. Booking essential.		
<b>Sat 29 June</b>	<b>Hill and Dale:</b>	<b>Jenny Rooks</b>	
	Meet at 13:15 for a 14:00 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 signposted Animal Anti-Cruelty League). We will meet a short way down on the D657. Hike through cane fields and grassland. Views far and wide. Booking essential.	084 952 0622	Grade 3, moderate, 9km
<b>Sun 30 June</b>	<b>Mount Gilboa (Joint Hike with Midlands Hiking Club)</b>	<b>Neville Lee</b>	
	Meet at Bushwillow caravan Park in the Karkloof. Hike through pristine indigenous forest and then via the ridge to the top. You will touch the beacon at the highest point in the KZN Midlands.  Hiking poles highly recommended as there are some steep downhill sections. Will hike only if dry – too slippery when wet. R40 per person. Please book via WhatsApp. Meet at the caravan park by 8 am to start walking at 8.30 am sharp. Booking essential.	083 626 9983	Grade 3-4 6-7 Hours