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Black Diamond



Ascend



This is the official newsletter of the Durban Ramblers' Hiking Club. Contributions are very welcome, but the right to edit is reserved. If you have any tales to tell, we would love to hear them. Please email your copy to the Editor at phenduke@durbs.com



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

APRIL – JUNE 2009

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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

First of all I'd like to thank those Ramblers who, at our recent AGM, elected me into this high office - I'll try to keep up the good work of our many past chairmen.

At our first committee meeting we set a couple of goals for the next year which we can only achieve with the help of you, our members. The first is to lower the average age of the club membership by recruiting new and younger blood. We as an organisation need to ensure a sustainable membership to carry on running the Ramblers after we're gone, so if you have any ideas or suggestions that would help us achieve this goal, please let us know.

The second is to find new hiking venues. I would like everyone to think about their favourite places in the area with a view to hiking there. I'd especially like our older members to think of old venues that we can revisit – I'm sure there must be some that we haven't been to for some years. If these venues require a recce please contact me or the relevant hike organiser – I'm sure we can "maak 'n plan".

Regards to all
Trevor

NB: We've changed our PO Box, details of new one on front of the magazine.

New members

☺ Johan Bruwer – Welcome Johan, we hope you enjoy many happy hours hiking with our Club.

Whale Trail

Only one place left on the Whale Trail from 8 to 15 August. This is one of the most stunning South African trails, you'll be sorry if you miss out. For more info phone Jon 0824591522.

Subs

Subscriptions for 2009 are now due. As agreed at the AGM, there would be no increase this year, so the amounts payable are listed below. When paying into the Ramblers bank account, please don't forget to use your name as reference so we know who the money has come from!

Single member	-	R60	Country single	-	R45
Family	-	R75	Country family	-	R50

HIKING SCHEDULE

April - June 2009

Saturday Hikes

- Hikers may meet at Musgrave Park Medical Centre before 13h30 sharp, or earlier if indicated in the programme, to travel in convoy or to share transport to the start of the hike.
- Please get to starting point by 13h45 in order for hike to begin on time.

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
12-14 June	Lake Eland (Oribi Gorge). Camping with electricity on site R140 pp for 2 night weekend. Option to stay an extra night. Lots of game viewing. Booking cut off date 01/06/09.	Brian/Steve	Sandra/Derek 031 765 5029 084 355 4832

NEW FIRST AID LAWS

We have been advised that new laws regarding first aid have been brought into effect and it appears that these are very strict on who can administer any medication to an injured or sick person. Whether it be an aspirin, antibiotic wound dressing or even a plaster, seemingly the ONLY person who may administer these is a registered doctor or registered medicine dispenser. These rules are far ranging and have serious consequences. Hence, Club First Aid bags are bad news, and illegal. Therefore our Club will no longer maintain or carry First Aid bags on hikes.

This leaves the responsibility for first aid firmly in the hands of the individual. In future, everyone who hikes should carry their own First Aid kit containing whatever you feel you may need to treat yourself should you suffer an injury or become ill on a hike.

You should all be aware of this legislation as it affects your lives at home, on the street, in the office or anywhere where someone may get injured.

Springside Walks

- Guided walks in Springside Nature Reserve, Hillcrest are arranged by the Springside & Hillcrest Conservancy and take place at 08h30 on every second Wednesday and every second Sunday in the month.
- Duration is approximately 1.5 hours.
- Expert guests are often invited along to give instruction during the walk on such topics as conservation, local flora and fauna, etc.
- There's no charge for the walks, but donations are welcomed for reserve improvements and ongoing alien plant removal.
- Refreshments are available after the walk.
- For more information phone Sue Pickles, Chairman, Springside & Hillcrest Conservancy on 083 297 5019.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 14 June	Chantecler/Alverstone	Dieter	031 462 7445
	Dieter will once more lead us on this lovely hike that hasn't been done for some time. Petrol sharing costs R20.		
Wed 17 June	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 20 June	Kloof Beacon	Ann	031 767 1027
	Moderate walk up to Kloof Beacon and back again. Stunning view from Beacon. Meet at Kranskloof picnic car park. Entrance R15 pp. BYO sundowners.		
Sun 21 June	La Mercy	Brian	083 228 1981
	Starting off from Umhloti, cross the La Mercy river, explore the area near the new airport and on to Mount Moreland. Meet at the parking lot by the sea across the road from petrol station at 08h30. NB: Give new leader Brian Merryweather your support.		
Wed 24 June	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 27 June	Virginia Meander	Gerald	031 205 1089
	Easy walk through Virginia coastal bush. Park at Kensington Drive entrance car park.		
Sun 28 June	Bartlett Estate	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Lovely hike over Bartlett's Estate in the Inchanga/Hammersdale area. Wonderful views. Petrol sharing costs R20.		

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME – 2nd QUARTER 2009

Please phone the "Contact Person" below to confirm bookings for weekends **before** depositing the money in the bank. This will ensure your space is reserved.

Please liaise with Derek or Sandra if you wish to share lifts or co-ordinate transport for weekends away.

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
10-12 April	Injisuthi. Camping, non-elect. R66.00 pppn. Booking limited, first come, first served. Ablution has a gas geyser. Do not travel at night. Booking cut off date 27/03/08.	Brian	Sandra/Derek 031 765 5029 084 355 4832

Continued.....

- For directions to the starting point, please phone the organiser between 12h00 and 12h45 on the day of the hike.
- Children are welcome but check suitability of hike with leader. Please bring at least 1 litre of water, a snack for half time and a hat.

Sunday Hikes (Full Day)

- **Always** phone the hike leader beforehand to let him/her know to expect you on the hike.
- 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.
- **Meeting Place** : Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown to depart at 08h00. If there is a change to the meeting time or venue this will be noted in the hiking schedule below.
- If it is raining, please check with the hike leader before setting out for the meeting place.
- **NB** : *if you need a lift from the meeting place, contact the hike leader or one of the hike organisers to arrange..*

Wednesday Morning Hikes

By popular request, the Wednesday morning hikes will now take place **EACH WEEK!** Please check details of the hikes with Colin or Philip at the numbers shown. If no response is obtained from the first leader phoned, please phone the alternate leader - don't just leave a message as one of them may be away on holiday.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Wed 1 April	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 4 April	Bartlett Estate	Trevor	079 525 9230
	Moderate hike through grasslands and sugar cane fields. R10 donation to conservancy. Meet at Assagay Hotel at 13h30 to proceed in convoy to estate. BYO sundowners.		
Sun 5 April	Giba Gorge/Shongweni Circuit	Colin	031 708 3517
	This is a combination of Colin's many hikes in this area. Hike up from the Bike Park across grasslands and back through polo grounds and cane fields. Either meet at Pinetown or at the Giba Gorge Bike Park. Petrol sharing costs R10 plus R10 entrance fee to Bike Park.		
Wed 8 April	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 11 April	New Germany	Roger	031 765 1589
	Easy grasslands walk with some game viewing. Meet at reserve car park off Otto Volek Road at 13h45. Drinks afterwards at Black Forest Inn, Pinetown.		
Sun 12 April	Easter Sunday	Jenny	084 952 0622
	There's no scheduled hike today but if sufficient interest is shown we can organise something. Contact Jenny to let her know if you'd like to hike.		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Wed 15 April	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 18 April	Kloof Escarpment	Ann	031 767 1027
	Moderate hike along gorge edge to grasslands above and stunning views. Meet at Kranskloof picnic site car park. R15 entrance. Bring & braai afterwards at Anne & Trevor's home.		
Sun 19 April	Rest day		
Wed 22 Apr	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 25 April	Stainbank Nature Reserve	Philip	031 201 3592
	Moderate hike in natural bush and grasslands, some game viewing. Meet at reserve car park at 13h45. BYO sundowners.		
Sun 26 April	Paradise Valley/Pavilion	Jon	082 779 3828
	A new linear walk from Paradise Valley to the Firkin at the Pavilion. NB: Meeting point is at Firkin at 08h15, not Pinetown.		
Wed 29 April	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 2 May	Umbilo Moss	Philip	031 201 3592
	Easy hike along parklands beside river. Meet at Old Umbilo Drive-In site at 13h45.		
Sun 3 May	Triple Ridges	Steve	083 454 0569
	Steve will once more lead us on one of the many variations of his famous hike. Petrol sharing R15.		
Wed 6 May	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 9 May	Giba Gorge	Werner	031 767 2969
	A pretty walk along mountain bike tracks with streams and waterfalls. Relax afterwards on clubhouse terrace.		
Sun 10 May	Delville Wood	Adele	082 779 3828
	Waterfalls and tunnels in the Shongweni area. NB: New leader - please show your support! Petrol sharing costs R15.		
Wed 13 May	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 16 May	Assagay Meander	Lois	031 767 2969
	Popular moderate walk through Assagay suburbs and farmlands. Hike now extended with new loop. Meet at Sugarloaf Centre, bottom of Botha's Hill at 13h45. Pizzas afterwards at Papparazzi's.		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 17 May	Drummond/Alverstone Exploration	Jon	082 779 3828
	A new twist on a previous hike in this lovely area, starting from Dirk's pub at Drummond, walk around the mountain and back to Dirk's pub. Petrol sharing R20.		
Wed 20 May	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 23 May	Burman Bush	Werner	031 767 2969
	A moderate hike from Jamieson/Mitchell Park rose garden to Burman Bush - natural coastal forest.		
Sun 24 May	Summerveld Medley	Colin	031 708 3517
	Colin puts together portions of several hikes in this area to create something different.		
Wed 27 May	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 30 May	Thornridge Farm	Trevor	079 525 9230
	Moderate walk through grasslands and riverine forest. A good pace with some uphill. Meet at 13h30 at Assagay Hotel to travel in convoy to farm. R10 donation to conservancy. Bring & braai afterwards at farm.		
Sun 31 May	Ngomankulu	Neville	083 977 2475
	Neville will be exploring a variation of his very popular hike in the Camperdown area that has not been done for a while. Petrol Sharing Costs R40		
Wed 3 June	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 6 June	Clifton Watchtower	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Steep climb from mushroom farm to top of hill overlooking Giba Gorge. Meet at Assagay Hotel at 13h45 to proceed in convoy to mushroom farm car park. Drinks at Assagay hotel afterwards.		
Sun 7 June	Umlazi Meander	Lance	083 228 8464
	Hike down into a lovely stretch of the Umlazi River above Shongweni Dam. Abundant birdlife - bring your binoculars. NB: New leader - please give him your support. Petrol sharing costs R20.		
Wed 10 June	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 13 June	Umhlanga Hawaan Forest	Merle	031 561 3038
	Shady walk through coastal forest and onto beach, returning via Umhlanga Lighthouse. Meet opposite Cabana Beach Hotel at 13h45. Bring and braai afterwards at Merle's place.		