

And tales of trails.....

by
Susan Graham

In April the club spent Easter weekend camping at Injisuthi. It was the first time that I spent a weekend away with the club and I had a really great time. Our leader was Steve, accompanied by his wife, Lynn.

On day one, 11 people set off together for Wonder Valley cave via Van Heyningens Pass. As it was quite a strenuous walk, the group was later no longer a group. In fact, some returned in the dark, much to the concern of those Duracell bunnies who had forged ahead. Sandy's shoes bore evidence of the meltdown.

On day two, six brave souls made their way to Grindstone Caves, returning via Cataract Valley. Only two women were brave enough to challenge the men. There was much laughter and camaraderie and camera work.

On day three another one 'bit the dust'. Fortunately, both women were still alive and kicking. We walked part of the way along the path to Battle Cave, returning when the clouds signalled an oncoming storm.

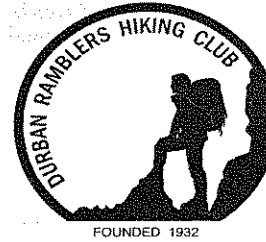
The scenery was magnificent with flowers in abundance. We saw baboons, insects, birds (the feathered kind) as well as waterfalls and glorious sunrises and sunsets. Evenings were spent around the braai, getting to know each other. Every night after the day's excitement, I retired to 'THE PALACE'.

All in all, it was a weekend well worthwhile. Thank you to Derek and Sandra for their time and effort.

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And many thanks to Sue for taking the time and trouble to let the rest of us know what a lovely weekend the fortunate few enjoyed on their Rambler weekend in the magnificent Drakensberg Mountains. - Editor.

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

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009

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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The first thing I must do is to apologise to all the hike leaders for my non appearance at the hike leaders' dinner at Waxy O'Connor's last month. It is obvious to anyone who knows me that only

an illness in its direst form would keep me from a meal! However, I'm assured that a good time was had by all and my thanks to Werner for stepping into the breach as host at the last minute. I think we should have a get together some time in the future as I was looking forward to meeting up with the folks that I don't often see like the Sunday and Wednesday leaders. Anyway, let's keep it in mind for the future as I believe that the people who week in and week out are prepared to venture forth and lead hikes for us all to enjoy deserve some recognition for a job well done. Thanks guys.

Secondly, I'd like to say an official goodbye and good luck to Roger Arnold and his wife Simone who have decided to return to the UK. Roger has been a stalwart supporter of the Ramblers for the last 7 years and will be missed by all. It does however, appear suspicious that he slopes off just a short time after he was persuaded to lead his first hike!! Makes you think doesn't it? Seriously, though Roger, you've left a lot of friends behind and I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that you're always welcome to visit us when you come back on holiday. Best of luck, mate.

Best regards
Trevor

New members....

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| ☺ Edith Futre | ☺ Betty Smith |
| ☺ Robert King | ☺ Brian Thompson |
| ☺ Brigitte & Mike Richmond | ☺ Doreen Erasmus |
| ☺ Jackie Thiczek | ☺ Hylke Wierenga |
| ☺ Anna Strange | ☺ Ben Gronko |
| ☺ Jo-Anne Miranda | |

We wish all our new members a very warm welcome to the Club and hope you enjoy many happy hours hiking the hills and dales with us.

... and resignations

- ☹ Irene Morris – sorry to lose you, Irene.

HIKING SCHEDULE

July - September 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 of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 20 Sept	Wingfield Moderate hike in the Wingfield Farm Conservancy area at mid-Illovo. Meet at Musgrave Park at 07h30 or at Kingsburgh turnoff on N2 (Exit 32) at R603 at 08h00. Petrol sharing costs R35 plus R10 donation to Conservancy.	Nevil	083 977 2475
Wed 23 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 26 Sept	Sibaya Meander Meet at Sibaya casino at 13h45 on right-hand side of car park. Lovely views. Drinks afterwards in casino.	Jenny	084 952 0622
Sun 27 Sept	Umhlanga Valley Moderate hike (16 km) in the valley and estuary of the Umhlanga River. Meet outside Breakers Hotel at Umhlanga Rocks at 08h30.	Jenny	084 952 0622
Wed 30 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME

3rd 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
7 - 10 August (long weekend)	New venue - Lilani Hot Springs near Greytown. After hikes soothe aching muscles in spa pools. Come and try it for a fun weekend! Camping R50pppn, no elec. but has equipped kitchen/dining area. Rooms with 4 beds R50pppn. Chalets R300 for couple per night, R200 for single, en suite.	TBA	Sandra/Derek 031 765 5029 084 355 4832

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 29 Aug	Summerveld	Colin	031 708 3517
	Meet at Assegai Hotel at 13h30, walk in the Summerveld conservancy area. Parking at the Summerveld Jockey Club.		
Sun 30 Aug	Cumberland	Jon	082 459 1522
	Moderate 11 kms hike through open savannah grassland with possibility of seeing plains game, then down into the beautiful Umgeni River Gorge and back up again via spectacular waterfall. Entry fee R5. Petrol sharing costs R35.		
Wed 2 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 5 Sept	Impithi Nature Reserve		
	Walk through streets of Gillitts, then to the Impithi conservancy nature reserve. R5.00 per person. Braai at Werner and Lois's place afterwards. Meet at car park in front of Gillitts Post Office.		
Sun 6 Sept	Faraway Farm	Steve	083 454 0569
	Steve has revived an old favourite of his in the Eston area. Moderate hike Petrol Sharing costs R25.		
Wed 9 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 12 Sept	Hidden Bluff	Mike	083 325 5348
	Meet at BP garage (Edwin Swales Drive) before gathering at the Dutch Club in Impala Road at 13h45. Hike starts at the club and ends there with a well deserved drink afterwards.		
Sun 13 Sept	Umhloti Meander	Glenys	083 375 2252
	Glenys' moderate hike in the area between Umhloti River and Sibaya. Meet at 8.30 at Umhloti parking lot across the road from the Bush Tavern.		
Wed 16 Sept	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 19 Sept	Kloof Nkonka Trail	Ann	031 767 1027
	Grasslands walk to falls and lovely views. Meet at Kranskloof picnic and parking site at 13h45. R15.00 entrance. Drinks, a chat and snacks afterwards.		

- 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 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 4 July	Palmiet Nature Reserve	Philip	031 201 3592
	Shady walk beside river. Meet at Reserve car park below Westville hotel. Drinks afterwards at the Westville Hotel.		
Sun 5 July	Cedara/Zwartkop	Jenny to coordinate	084 952 0622
	Guest hike leader is the Pmb Ramblers Chairman, Francois Marais. This is a joint hike with Midlands Hiking Club and PMB Ramblers. From Birnamwood we hike through Cedara, up to Zwartkop overlooking PMB and Edendale. Afterwards, we can have a drink at Pecanwood. NB. Meet in Pinetown at 7.45 am. Petrol sharing costs R40.		
Wed 8 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 11 July	1000 Hills Grasslands and bush overlooking the valley of 1000 Hills. Meet at 1000 Hills Hotel at 13h45.	Werner	031 767 2969
Sun 12 July	Umhloti to Umhlanga Beach and back Coastal walk followed by optional lunch at Bush Tavern. Meet at car park opposite the Bush Tavern 08h30.	Peter Brazier	031 705 5645 083 661 3545
Wed 15 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 18 July	Kloof Falls Shady walk to bottom of Kloof Falls. Meet at Kranskloof Picnic site. Entrance and parking R15.00.	Ann	031 767 1027
Sun 19 July	Killarney Rockery, Cato Ridge Moderate hike with beautiful rock formations and spectacular aloes in flower, which are at their best now. Distance 12 kms. Petrol sharing costs R20.	Jon	082 459 1522
Wed 22 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 25 July	Marianhill Landfill Site Grasslands and indigenous forest. Meet at the car park area at the site at 13h45. Bring & braai in Boma area afterwards.	Dennis	083 320 4951
Sun 26 July	Long Shadows Fay's favourite walk. A medium hike from Fay's house at Everton, down to Long Shadows. Either meet in Pinetown or at Fay's house at 08h30. Possibility of a late lunch braai/bring your drinks for afterwards. R10 Petrol sharing costs.	Fay Fenn	082 530 3758
Wed 29 July	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 1 Aug	Highstakes Open grassland with pretty views. Entrance R15.00 includes free safe parking and tea/coffee and cake. Meet in front of Assegai Hotel at 13h30.	Werner	031 767 2969

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 2 Aug	Stainbank Nature Reserve Meet at Adele's house at 08h45 am for this very popular hike in the Stainbank Nature Reserve followed by a bring-and-braai afterwards at Adele's house. Park's Board Entrance fee of R10.	Adele	082 779 3838
Wed 5 Aug	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 8 Aug	Paradise Valley Shady walk with waterfalls. Entrance R7.00. Parking close to nature reserve.	Errol	031 462 8598
Sun 9 Aug	To be advised	Jenny	084 952 0622
Wed 12 Aug	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 15 Aug	Roosfontein Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at entrance to Westville Prison. Afterwards get together at the Pavilion.	Werner	031 767 2969
Sun 16 Aug	Kloof Circuit A circuit hike in Kloof Gorge, taking in Nkonka Falls, Nqutu and Soros Pools. Medium hike. R10 petrol sharing costs and R15 entrance fee.	Colin	031 708 3517
Wed 19 Aug	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 22 Aug	Emberton Walk from Emberton driving range to the Springside Nature reserve. Tea, coffee and cake at the Emberton Coffee shop afterwards.	Trevor	079 525 9230
Sun 23 Aug	Karkloof We are joining Midlands Hiking Club to hike to Mare's Tail Falls and Mount Gilboa. Hike Leader is Mark Nellist. Petrol Sharing costs R40. Phone Jenny to book for this hike.	Jenny to coordinate	084 952 0622
Wed 26 Aug	Wednesday walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592