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Nedbank Musgrave

85th Anniversary year

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

2ND QUARTER : APRIL TO JUNE: 2017

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Thanks to everyone who made and participated in the last AGM. We warmly welcome Ilona into the position of Magazine Editor. Thank you Gordon for your 3 years of hard work as Magazine Editor.

Linda has stepped forward to facilitate the preparations for the 85th year celebrations which will happen in July.

I will be planning for the hike leaders meeting to be held in August, to ensure that hike leaders have everything they may need to ensure hikes are smoothly run and enjoyed by all.

The next quarter is a bit cooler, so happy Rambling.

Regards
Philip

EDITOR'S NOTE

In honour of our 85th anniversary, I am providing you Ramblers with some snippets of our past. This is how the first magazine of 1940 began:



Dear Fellow Ramblers,

To spite the many members, paid up and otherwise, (mostly otherwise), who detested our last edition, and who jumped for joy when this edition failed to appear before Christmas, we proudly present this our latest effort and sincerely trust that in gnashing your teeth you will break them. We will replace them at the next Gribi Camp. This will probably be our last edition as paper is so scarce that many people are turning over new leaves (preferably fig). We thought of printing this edition in roll form but we prefer the book to be read. We could print the next edition on fig leaves but at Ramblers Camps these would soon be unreasonable and it wouldn't be through our bad printing. Anyway, we take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy Hiking Year, and as usual we undertake no responsibility whatever for breaches of contract, divorces etc.

Yours, THE EDITOR.

NEW YEAR 1940.

In 1938, this same magazine reports, 100 members and visitors took part in the first hike of the year. To see more wonderful snippets of yesteryear have a look at our archives on our website.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	031 201 8864	philipcollyer@gmail.com
Secretary	Mary O'Donnell	083 292 5913	031 209 3837	mary@directcharcoalsa.co.za
Treasurer / Members' Database	Tina Regnard	083 289 6276	031 207 5005	regnardt@gmail.com
Sunday Hike Organiser	Stella Wells	078 319 8979		stellawells4@gmail.com
Saturday Hike Organiser	Linda Smith	083 353 8319		linda@compasshr.co.za
Weekend Organiser	Marie Gurr	082 586 0266	031 705 3122	marinev.gurr@gmail.com
Publicity	Ana Barbosa	082 4962320	031 462 6492	durbanramblers.publicity@gmail.com
Ordinary Member	Jenny Rooks	084 952 0622	031 303 5828	jen0212sa@gmail.com
Magazine	Ilona Lamprecht	076 912 9829		ilona.tangodreams@gmail.com
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	031 269 1921	dada@greenit.co.za

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

We are very happy to receive into our rambling group, the following new adventurers and are happy to see members rejoining. Welcome to:

Michelle Moodley
Patti Feiertag
Mark Collier
Irene le Tourneur (rejoined)
Helen O'Neill
Alistair MacKenzie
Morag and Kevin Wade-Lehman
Petro Mostert and Isak van de Westhuizen
James Allen
Kevin and Bronwyn Kirkpatrick

Happy Rambling.

INFORMATION

MAGAZINE:

Don't forget to send us any personal, email and/or postal address changes to ensure the magazine reaches you.

Note : If you have been receiving the magazine by post and now want the speedier email version, advise the secretary, Mary, and send us your email address. This helps reduce the posting costs and possible delays with getting the magazine to you.

If anyone has interesting member news to share, please let me (Ilona) know so I can include it in the next magazine.

WEBSITE:

The website (www.durbanramblers.co.za) as well as the **Durban Ramblers Hiking Club** Facebook page may be viewed for 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.

RHINO CARD:

Should you wish to get a Rhino Card for access into KZN Nature Reserves, please feel free to go to their page: <http://www.kznwildlife.com/travel-information/loyalty-club/rhino-card.html>

MONEY MATTERS

SUBS FOR 2017:

- Single Member R100 - Family R150 (excluding children 18 years or older) - Joining Fee R30

New members joining after July 2017 will only pay half the annual subs.

For past members wishing to rejoin Durban Ramblers after being absent for a year or more, a new membership application form needs to be submitted and the joining fee, in addition to the annual subs, is to be paid.

Please complete the Membership Form in full: Hike Names, Dates and Signatures of Hike Leaders, before handing or emailing them to the Secretary.

Please pay by EFT directly into the new bank account – include your full name as reference.

Note the new banking details: Nedbank, Account number 113 8655 228, Branch Code 13 01 26 00

Cheques and cash both attract big bank charges, so to help reduce our banking fees, kindly endeavour to make EFT deposits.

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 break down of recent donations made.

Date	Club	Wed Hikers	Sat Hikers	Sun Hikers	Hike
28-12-2016		R 560			Tanglewood forwarded donation to Nick Evans, snake handler.
Jan 2017	R 500				Tanglewood forwarded donation to Nick Evans for a hike that took place in Nov 2016.
14-01-2017			R 730		Roosfontein Nature Reserve
Feb 2017	R 500				Palmiet Nature Reserve for AGM.
02-02-2017	R 1,000				Giba Gorge Environmental Precinct
04-02-2017			R 440		Rail Reserve Hike, Gillitts
25-02-2017				R 500	Tanglewood - donated to Nick Evans
10-03-2017			R 578		Springside Nature Reserve
Totals:	R 2,000	R 560	R1,748	R 500	A total of R 4,808

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. Please, if you are a regular Rambler, make good use of the personal name badge you've been given - fill in the appropriate details so that if there is a mishap we know who to contact, and if medical assistance is required we are able to get help promptly.

If you are not a regular hiker you should still have all this information available and it's a good idea to let someone in the group (maybe the leader) know whether it's on your cell, in your pack or in your pocket.

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 daypack.

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.

TICK BITES – Symptoms, Treatment and Prevention: (from: <http://www.tickbites.net>)

While we are still in full summer and hiking through grasslands and woodlands it is prudent to be aware of the following:

Spiderlike creatures with eight legs such as ticks, spiders and scorpions belong in the arachnid family. It is the ticks, however, that cause the dreaded tick bites which could lead to other diseases. You will observe that the occurrence is high at the start of spring until the end of summer in vicinities populated by many animals and birds. Some ticks are easily seen or noted while others go unobserved because they differ in size and colour. No infection or disease is immediate if one merely crawls on your skin. Most ticks are not disease carriers but constant bites may lead to complications. When they bite, you might want to know the right and the best way to remove a tick attached onto skin. It is during feeding that the tick could infect hence the importance of completely de-attaching its body from the skin.

Allergies, tetanus and flu-like condition are some of what you might experience following some tick bites. Other diseases that are tick-bite derivative include:

- Lyme Disease
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Colorado Tick Fever
- South African Tick-bite Fever
- Q Fever
- Human Monocytic Ehrlichiosis (HME)
- Babesiosis
- Relapsing Fever
- Tularemia
- Tick Paralysis
- Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis (HGE)

You may have symptoms that are similar to those caused by flu if you suffer some of the diseases mentioned above. Symptoms manifest between one day and several weeks after a bite and may depend on the type of infection. (If the antibiotics were not administered early enough symptoms can persist for years.)

Symptoms and Signs of Tick Bites

Ticks may come, bite, feed and go without you noticing because the bites are typically painless. You may be oblivious to it especially if you are doing something else or are asleep as the tick bites. However, those who are sensitive to tick saliva may develop immediate burning sensation followed by itching. Then redness and swelling would follow. Some may even suffer from allergic reactions which could cause:

- Shortness of breath
- Vomiting
- Numbness
- Fever
- Headache and weakness
- Rashes
- Swelling
- Nausea
- Palpitations

An immediate visit to a doctor's clinic is necessary if you experience the above-mentioned symptoms. Because the bites could cause harm and danger, awareness and prompt action is the key to keep you protected.

How can Hikers protect themselves?

Hikers can follow certain precautionary measures including:

1. Wearing full pants and shirts with full sleeves.
2. Covering or tying loose ends of pants or tucking its ends inside socks. Shoes must be worn when hiking along grassy trails or wooded areas. Always walk in the centre of the trail while avoiding grass as far as possible.
3. Spraying the entire body and clothing with 20% DEET spray (or natural insect repellent). This is an insecticide that is known to deter most bugs. Make sure the product does not get in the eyes.
4. Using permethrin treated clothing or gear. Most treated fabrics remain effective for up to 100 washes. Avoid spraying permethrin based sprays directly on the body.

Precautions to follow after getting back from the trail

1. Examine all the members of your hiking group closely for ticks. Do not forget to examine the hair, as ticks can hide in it.
2. If a tick is found attached, use the following steps to remove it completely.
 - Use tweezers to grasp the tick near its head close to the skin. Do not squeeze the tick or its blood could go back into the site of the bite leading to infections. Firmly yet gently pull the tick out ensuring no mouthparts are left behind. Dispose of or store the tick for taking it to experts for identification.
 - Wash your hands as well as the bitten area using an antibacterial soap.
 - Ensure that your clothing and hiking/camping gear is free from ticks. Wash all items in hot water after returning home.
3. If you feel sick and believe you experience fever-like symptoms, make sure you visit the doctor immediately. Inform him/her about where you have been.

FIXTURES

85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

All I know so far is that it will take place on 8 July 2017, so please keep that date open. We have an excellent team in place to make this a special event, however, they would not be adverse to good ideas regarding the venue and theme. If you have a great idea please share it with Linda Smith who is co-ordinating this team.

WEEKENDS AWAY: Organised by Marie Gurr

Bookings have already closed for the **Easter weekend away at Loteni Nature Reserve.**

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th June 2017 (2 nights)

Rocky Bay, South Coast

Camping at R196pppn (yes! Expensive.) Log cabins with two or three bedrooms have set rates per night, so price will depend on how numbers work out unfortunately. As a guide, the two-bedroomed are R1 320 a night, the three R1 540.

(Marie rang Rocky Bay before putting this weekend in the calendar. It seems it's a very popular venue for Silver Surfers who like to camp out of season but there are cabins and sites available at the time of writing!) Please let Marie know by Thursday, **20 April** if you'd like to come on this weekend.

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd July (2 nights)

Cumberland Nature Reserve, near Pietermaritzburg,

There are various accommodation options here, the only possible drawback being the campsite is 1km from the cottages so, if necessary, we shall "make a plan" as "they" say!

Note: Add R20 pp entry fee to all rates quoted below:

Camping - R75pppn.

Zebra Rooms - two bedrooms, own ablutions, small kitchenette, deck with river view R240pppn.

Impala Room - one double bed, use ablution block, R190pppn.

Oribi Room - two single beds, use ablution block, R190pppn.

Kudu Room - one double bed, inter-leading door to two singles and one bunk bed, use ablution block, R190pppn.

Bunk beds in dorm R140pppn. (Dorm sleeps 24.)

Please let Marie know as soon as possible if you'd like to come on this weekend as we need to make a deposit. Absolutely final deadline Thursday, 15 June, 2017.

Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October 2017 (2 nights)

Shawswood, Karkloof

Limited single/double accommodation at R260/220pppn respectively. Also limited camping at R130pppn. Anticipate driving to Benvie Gardens on Saturday to do the Waterfall Walk (azaleas/clivias/blossom should be out). On Sunday we'll climb Mt Gilboa - with a guide, or we'll have too many leaders since some of you know this hike from here and/or Bush Willow!

Please let Marie know by Thursday, 24 August (or sooner!) if you'd like to come on this weekend. (Details will also appear in the Club magazine, July-September 2017 issue.)

Friday 10th to Sunday 12th November 2017

Oribi Gorge

Full details in the Club magazine, July-September 2017 issue.

If anyone else wishes to organise a Club weekend away, please feel free to do so. The only stipulation is that everyone on that weekend, or one of a couple, should be a paid-up member of Ramblers.

Marie, Weekend Organiser

marinev.gurr@gmail.com

082 586 0266 - please SMS if you'd like to book

031-705-3122 - please leave a message if you'd like to book

Editors note: Notices from yesteryear for Easter Weekends looked something like this:

3rd to 6th
(inclusive)

Easter Camp at Champagne Castle.

This, of course, is the main event of the month. Have you got your kit ready, and what about the odd bit of soap and tooth-paste, (with the wonder-working green chlorophyll)?

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.) You can also find out about the Wednesday hikes on the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club Facebook page posted there a few days before.

SATURDAY HIKES (AFTERNOON): Organised by Linda Smith.

- 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.
- Children are welcome but check suitability of the hike with the leader.
- Please bring at least 1 litre of water, a snack for half time and a hat. It is recommended that hikers carry their own water.
- There is no need to tell the leader you will be hiking.

SUNDAY HIKES (FULL DAY): Organised by Stella Wells.

- 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 beforehand to confirm details and let him/her know to expect you on the hike.

- Please note that the meeting point 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.
- 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 2017 -check on Facebook for changes

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 1 April	Monteseel	Linda	
	Meet at the Hacienda Pub in St Andries Street, Monteseel at 13.45. Some cliff edges and boulder hopping, definitely fitness required. Down into the Valley of a 1000 hills and back again. Donation of R20 to the Monteseel Conservancy. Drinks afterwards at the Hacienda Pub	083 353 8319	Grade 2 Moderate (Vertigo warning)
Sun 2 April	Palmiet	Margie Forbes	
	Walk through suburbia into the Palmiet Nature Reserve via the old quarry. Magnificent rock faces, beautiful deep pools and lovely birdlife. Meet at Westville Hotel/Waxy's at 7.30. Drinks at Waxy's after the hike.	073 437 6915	Grade 2-3 Approx 15 kms
Sat 8 April	Streets of Gillitts and Stockville	Werner	
	New Hike: A hike around the streets of Gillitts and down into Stockville Valley. Meet and park at the Gillitts Post Office at 13.45. Drinks afterwards at a restaurant in the shopping centre at the Post Office	084 2067836	Grade 3 Strenuous
Sun 9 April	Stockville Road	Margie Forbes	
	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. Meet and park at 7.30 at rear of new Checkers Centre, Gillitts	073 437 6915	Grade 3 (Steep in parts) Approx: 17 km
Sat 15 April	Westville trails	Linda	
	A walk around the newly created Westville trail. Meet and park at the Westville country Club at 13.45. R20 donation to the Westville Conservancy.	083 353 8319	Grade 1-Easy 7 km
Sun 16 April	Easter Sunday		
	No hike scheduled.		

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 22 April	Nkonka trail	Abdullah	
	Meet at the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve Picnic spot at 13.45. The hike goes up to the escarpment, along veld and to the Nkonka Falls. Entrance fee to the reserve R25.00. Drinks afterwards at the Nature Cafe	084 478 6779	Grade 3 Strenuous 9 km
Sun 23 April	Old Baldy	Abdullah Dada	
	Scenic hike through Isithumba village, along the Umgeni River followed by a steep climb up 'Old Baldy' (400m altitude gain) for some great views of the valley. There is one section of scrambling over the rocks. Donation/entrance fee R20 (members) R30 (non members) Petrol sharing R20. Meet at Maytime Centre Gillitts at 7.30 or Isithumba Adventures at 8.15. (directions to follow)	dada@greenit.co.za 084 478 6779 sms /whatsapp	Grade 4 10 km
Sat 29 April	Saurus Pools - KKNR	Ann	
	New Sat Hike. Meet at the Uve Road Car Park of the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve at 13.45. Walk down to Saurus Pools and back again. R25.00 entrance fee to the reserve. Drinks afterwards at Tina's Hotel.	083 666 5630	Grade 3 Strenuous (Vertigo warning)
Sun 30 April	Salimba Farm	Jon Stevens	
	Hike on game farm overlooking the Umkomaas river. Meet Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Road, Pinetown at 7.30. Petrol sharing R60	082 459 1522	Grade 3 19 km
Sat 6 May	Assagay Coffee farm	Jenny	
	New Sat Hike. Meet and park at Assagay Coffee farm at 13.45. Directions: http://www.assagaycoffeefarm.co.za/site/content/contact-us Hike over rolling hills, through cane and grass and enjoy beautiful scenery in the upper Sterkspruit valley.	084 952 0622	Grade 2 Moderate Approx 7 km
Sun 7 May	Eston	Margie Forbes	
	Drive in convoy to a farm not far from Tala Game Reserve for a hike over rolling hills of indigenous bush, cane and grasslands. Meet at Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Road, Pinetown in time to leave promptly at 7.30, or Camperdown t/off at 7.50. Petrol-sharing R50	073 437 6915	Grade 3 14 km
Sat 13 May	Crowned Eagle Nature Reserve	Philip	
	Something different in a guided walk through the privately owned Crowned Eagle Conservancy taking in the indigenous flora and fauna and areas of historical interest. Meet and park at the Gillitts Post office at 13.45. This would be a great hike for beginners. R20 donation towards the upkeep of the Conservancy.	082 417 0204	Grade 1 Easy
Sun 14 May	Mitchell Park to Point	Jenny Rooks	
	Walk from Mitchell Park to the Point and back, stopping for coffee and snacks along the way. Meet Mitchell park (Nimmo Rd parking area) at 7.30.	084 952 0622	Grade 3 22 km Note distance!

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 20 May	Treasure Beach	Tina	
	Meet at Treasure Beach Parking, Bluff at 62 St Geran Grove at 13:45 for a walk along this lovely beach to the pools and back.	083 289 6276	Grade 2 Moderate (Beach walking) 6 km
Sun 21 May	Monteseel	Philip Collyer	
	Hike follows the contours of the escarpment and then steeply down to the Valley and back. Meet Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Road, Pinetown, at 7.45 or Drum and Bell, Bothas Hill at 8.30. Donation to conservancy R20 (members) R25 (non members.) Petrol sharing R20	082 417 0204	Grade 3-4 17 km Vertigo warning!!
Sat 27 May	Alverstone Wildlife Park	Werner	
	Members only hike! Game viewing guaranteed. Hike goes down into the valley, past a picturesque lake, through forests and then onto the plains to see game. A couple of steep uphill are part of this hike.. Meet and park at the Alverstone Wildlife Park (D 435, Alverstone Road, Hillcrest) at 13.45. Directions: Drive on the M13 towards Shongweni, take Exit 33, turn right over the M13, Take next left into Alverstone road. Wildlife Park is just after the stone church on your left. After hike there will be a BYO braai at the Boma – charcoal supplied by the committee. Entrance fee is R20	084 2067836	Grade 2 Moderate (steep uphill) Approx. 7/8 km
Sun 28 May	Valley of 1000 Hills	Stella Wells	
	Hike into the valley and follow the river before scrambling back up to the dirt road then back down to river before the final climb out of the valley, via the dam. Meet Maytime Centre, Gillitts at 7.30 or 1000 Hills Chef School, Wootton Ave, Botha's Hill at 8.00. Petrol sharing R15. Drinks /food at deli/brewery after the hike.	078 319 8979	Grade 3-4 (Steep in parts) 18 km
Sat 3 June	Isithumba	Linda	
	Meet at the Isithumba Adventure Park at 13.15 (please note earlier time). Directions: GPS Location 29°40'40.65"S 30°42'12.33"E Take the N3 from either Durban or PMB, Take the Hammersdale off-ramp and turn towards Inchanga; Travel past the old railway station and turn right at the Inchanga station sign; Travel up the hill to the T-Junction and turn right; After a short distance, follow the T4 tourism sign, turn left on the tar road D1004, and proceed +- 7 km to find iSithumba adventures on your right hand side near the river. This is our most difficult hike and not for first time hikers. However, the views make the steep climbs worth the slog! Members pay R25.00 towards guide fee and non-members pay R40.00.	083 3538319	Grade 5 Very Difficult Steep hills and rock climbing involved. (Vertigo warning)

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 3 June	Rocky Bay	Anne Wilson	
(In lieu of Sun hike)	We will join up with the weekenders to do this hike. Terrain is easy with mainly coastal forest and some sugar cane, hence fairly exposed. Shorter route may be available. If weather good bring cozzies to swim after the hike and /or have drinks in the pub. Meet in road at Glenwood Village, 397 Che Guevara Rd (Moore) at 7.30 or Rocky Bay Resort in time to start hiking at 8.30. Petrol sharing R45. Entrance fee R20	079 850 0206	Grade 2 19 km
Sun 4 June	Comrades day		
	No hike due to comrades and road closures. Refer Sat 3rd.		
Sat 10 June	Palmiet Nature Reserve	Linda	
	Meet at the Palmiet Nature Reserve at 13.45, off Old New Germany Road. A walk through to the top of this beautiful reserve. Drinks afterwards at Waxy o'Connors Pub and Grill	083 3538319	2 Moderate (Vertigo warning) 7 km
Sun 11 June	Pietermaritzburg Circular	Francois Marais	
	Go through the gardens, up towards Worlds View on some old railway track to Kettlefontein Station and then down again into the valley to overlook the new railway line and tunnel. Finally back up to the Old Voortrekker path and back down into the Gardens. Meet Pmbg Botanical Gardens at 8.15. Entrance fee R20 (maybe less for pensioners)	083 983 8007	Grade 2/3 18 km
Sat 17 June	Stainbank Nature Reserve	Ana	
	Game Viewing guaranteed. Meet at the Stainbank Nature Reserve Car Park at 13.45. Reserve Entrance R20. There will be a BYO braai afterwards.	082 496 2320	Grade 1-2 Easy - moderate 8 km
Sun 18 June	Krantzkloof to Camp Orchard	Chris Dobson	
	Hike from the Krantzkloof Interpretive Centre upstream to Camp Orchard Waterfall. There will be an entrance/donation which has yet to be negotiated (+/- R30). Meet Krantzkloof Interpretive Centre at 08.00..	082 461 1954	Grade 2 Approx: 16 km
Sat 24 June	Umhlanga Lagoon	Colleen	
	Meet and park at Breakers Hotel (either outside or in the hotel parking) at 13.:45. Walk along the promenade, to the Umhlanga Lagoon forest and coastal bush, cross the river along the beach (depending on the tide), back along coastal bush.	082 735 7659	Grade 1 Easy to Moderate (Beach walking)
Sun 25 June	Virginia Trail	Jon Stevens	
	Another new hike from Jon. Tracks are for MTB, trail runners and hikers. Described as magnificent setting surrounded by beautiful scenery. Small coffee shop on site. Meet at Union Main Centre.45 Old Main Rd. Pinetown at 7.30. Entrance fee R30 Petrol sharing R50	082 459 1522	Grade 2/3 Approx: 15 km

Now if you are wondering what sort of hikes they had some time ago, here is a fine example from November 1947:

Sunday 9th. SPECIAL. This Hike is to a spot where the Ramblers have never been. Its wild, and unexplored and few people know the way. Our favourite Guest Leader Colin assisted by Trevor are going to take us to this delightful spot - it will be a day well worth experiencing. In the olden days Gnomes, Nymphs, Fairies and Boogiemens were known to haunt these crystal clear rock pools, so you will feel out of it if you dont bring your costumes. The Lorry leaves from the Alhambra at 8.30 a.m. via Hillcreat, and the fare approximately 3/-
Tea orderlies:- Scotch; Wuth, Ted Graham and Ted Lusignea.

MEMBERS' STORIES

In looking for additional snippets about the history of this club I have been asking some members who have been with the Durban Ramblers somewhat longer than I have about some of their experiences of the past. Two members have been kind enough to share some history with us. Comments in italics are from me.

SOME MEMORIES FROM YEARS GONE BY. By Margret Kirsten (who was our first chairwoman)

Although I can not speak for hiking 80+ years ago but in the beginning hikers were transported on the back of a Lorry to the start of a hike. (*I have been told that they were open bed trucks hired with driver that would normally transport workers to their jobs. They would start at Alhambra and pick up more members along the way. This came to an end when laws were passed regarding this form of transport.*) I certainly have great memories of the last nearly 40 years with the Ramblers Club as it was known it those days. Sunday Hikes where our main activities, after the hike we used to have a cream soda float at the Big Bite in Pinetown



Berg Hikes were really great in the 80s and 90s, thereafter to a lesser extent. We also used to have a yearly Easter Camp. Although I never took part. (*Gill has told me that for Easter they used to have two main tents for the group, one for ladies and one for gents and another for catering and a latrine pit was dug and a privacy tent was erected around the privy chamber* Groups were arranged to prepare the different meals, for breakfast, tea, lunch and dinner. At night the group would sit around a large bonfire. Alcohol was prohibited by club rules on these away fixtures, but **cough** mixture was allowed.) In the year 2000 paraphernalia, including the toilet seat, was auctioned off by the the club's own "Auctioneer"



I was in top condition in those days and chose the High Berg and spent many Easter weekends there, mostly in the Mnweni area slogging up mountain passes and down again 4 days later. Sometimes with perfect weather,

other times we were drenched and appreciated home so much more. Once we even had to sit on the slopes all night as mist had set in and no path was to be found. No level spot for a tent and also we had run out of water. It started raining and tried to collect water in the tent flysheet but the wind took it all. The night was sooo long but full of jokes and laughter. In those conditions you have to keep the spirit up and we did.

What is also vividly in my mind is the climb up Leslie's pass in 1994 the year Mandela was inaugurated as the first African President. I wanted to be the first person to plant the new S.A flag on our highest peak,

Mafadi 3447m, I needed STRONG people with me. Leslie's pass is tough and long. I gathered a group of 6 willing people and off we went with my home made flag (you could not buy one yet)
 Regards, Margret (Margret also mentioned Victorian picnics and other events. I hope to have more stories regarding those for future editions)

BILL'S RECIPE FOR MOUNTAIN SURVIVAL CAKE. By Jenny Rooks

I have something quite strange and a bit of history. It is a recipe that did the rounds of Ramblers in about 1994 or thereabouts. It was written by Bill Hyslop who was not only chairman of the Club, but for many years was the backbone of the Club holding various portfolios of Trails Organiser, Hiking Organiser and Weekends Organiser. There are probably not many hikers around who remember him. Many of the hikes that we still go on are thanks to Bill. For a long time he was our main hike leader. I don't know when he first started hiking but he was around when I first started hiking towards the end of the 1980s. I can remember on my first hike stopping off at the Cato Ridge Hotel to have a drink to celebrate his 65th birthday. I think he returned to England about 2004 or so due to ill health. He died some 5 years ago.

He was quite an institution for so many years and he was very eccentric – he wore a toupee that miraculously stuck to his head, even when we were out camping – he would wake up with it still on his head. It was a source of endless fascination to most hikers. However, one day when we were literally crawling through overgrown paths, his toupee got hooked on a thorn and Bill continued forward, leading the hike and blissfully unaware of the fact that his toupee was dangling on a branch further back. It was hilarious but we all had to suppress our giggles. His lunch was always just a Chelsea bun, which he said was adequate to see him through the hike. He had a great voice and was a member of the Durban Choir.

He was also often a controversial character but my memories of him are all related to some superb hikes that he led. In those days, a hike was reccied about 3 times before it was officially placed on the programme whereas now our hikes are usually works in progress.
 Marie, what do you remember when Bill left ?

Marie comments that:

This recipe must have been made when Bill lived in England... He never cooked at all when he lived here, as far as I know. He always lodged with people who provided breakfast and dinner. He would either take a Chelsea bun or a slab of ginger cake on hikes.

And that is it from me, Ilona, for now. Let's have some more adventures and make some more histories in the next few months.

