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85th Anniversary year

Banking Details:
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

3RD QUARTER : JULY TO SEPTEMBER: 2017

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

We have a busy 3rd quarter with the 85th Celebrations at Phezulu and the hike leaders meeting on 19th at Palmiet Nature Reserve.

Thanks very much to Linda and her committee for all the pre work into the 85th Year Celebration. The sub-committee : Linda, Biff and Coleen. Thanks to Ilona for the apt invite.

Happy Hiking
Philip

EDITOR'S NOTE

In honour of our 85th anniversary, and following on from the last magazine we will be looking at past stories and magazine snippets again. I do hope you enjoy the blasts from the pasts.

On that note, our invitation to the 85th Anniversary celebration has gone out so be sure to make your booking to be included in the festivities. We have a great team involved in making it a memorable event.



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 twelve new adventurers and are waiting for some others to submit their membership forms. Welcome to:

Rani Reddy
Nomfundo Sipunzi
Julia Preece
Rani Gounden
Rahul Chaudhary
Nicola Gershanov

Veronica Stander
Nora Scholey
Sarie Lapping
Sarah Gedye
Pranesh Ramkissoon
Cecilia Virissimo

Happy Rambling.

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT:

Edith recently came on a Wednesday hike with us at Giba Gorge Bike Park and slipped and landed awkwardly on the rocks. Thanks to Jenny Rooks following up we have learned that Edith broke various bones and tore some ligaments. Edith, we wish you a speedy recovery and hope you have the support you need in the meantime.

IN FRAILCARE:

Philip Gatenby is in Frail Care at The Caister Lodge, hopefully gaining strength after a fall in his flat. Phillip, we hope you recover well and are being well looked after by the staff of The Caister Lodge during your recovery.

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.

ARCHIVES:

Biff Maggs has kindly volunteered to add missing information to our Archives page on our website: <http://durbanramblers.co.za/archives-magazines/> has made the following request:

I have been publishing the magazines to the website. I am missing the years shown below
1951, 1952, 1969 to 1987 and 2004 to 2011

If anyone has got these years, they can get in touch with me. If they are electronic, bonus! Send to me. If only hard copy, then contact me and I will arrange to fetch, scan and return.
Thanks Biff Maggs

Tel: 031 312 1503 or Cell: 082 609 9684

Email: biffmaggs101@gmail.com

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 along with your proof of payment.

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 breakdown of recent donations made.

DONATIONS MADE ON HIKES - 2ND QUARTER 2017				
Date	DRHC	Hikers (Sat)	Hikers (Sun)	Hike
Saturday, March 25, 2017		420		New Germany Nature Reserve
Saturday, April 01, 2017		720		Monteseel Conservancy
Saturday, April 15, 2017		660		Westville Trails
Sunday, April 23, 2017	490		340	Isithumba - Green Corridor NPC
Saturday, May 13, 2017		140		Crowned Eagle Conservancy
Sunday, May 21, 2017			325	Monteseel Conservancy
Tuesday, May 23, 2017	500			Giba Gorge Conservancy Rescue Assitance
Saturday, June 03, 2017	285	70		Isithumba - Green Corridor NPC
Saturday, June 10, 2017		656		Palmiet Nature Reserve
Total	R 990	R 2,666	R 665	Total: R 4,321

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.

This happened on a recent Wednesday hike and we are so grateful to the staff of Giba Gorge Mountain Bike Park for their assistance in carrying one of our hikers back to the car park.

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.

HIKING RULES:

Please bear in mind that our hike leaders do so on a volunteer basis and in order to take the stress off of them, following the club rules would go a long way in making the hikes more pleasant for everyone. They are published on our website at: <http://durbanramblers.co.za/hiking-rules/>, but to refresh your memory, here is a reminder of what they are:

- Please follow your Leader's instructions without question or dissent. Good Hike Leaders are hard to come by!
- Hike Leaders may use their discretion as to who can be allowed on the hike.
- The decision will take into consideration the hiker's fitness level and the degree of difficulty of the hike.
- The Hike Leader will set the pace.
- Do not walk ahead of the Leader.
- Stay with the main body of hikers, under no circumstances wander off or trail the group.
- Should you have any medical problems inform the Hike Leader before the hike commences.
- Smoking is prohibited for the full duration of the hike.
- Alcohol is prohibited as a refreshment for the full duration of the hike.
- Littering is strictly prohibited.
- Flora and Fauna may not be damaged, removed or interfered with in any way.
- Sufficient water and suitable clothing for inclement weather must be carried.
- If in doubt consult your Hike Leader for advice on the morning of the hike.
- You are required to carry your own first aid essentials.
- Your contact details, ID number and medical aid number should be carried on your person in of an emergency.
- It is advisable to take your cell phone on the hike and to ensure that you have the Hike Leader's cell number.
- Phone calls during the hike should be avoided wherever possible unless in case of an emergency.

On a lighter side....

- A sense of humour is not essential but is a very distinct advantage!!

Or as they put it in the magazine of 1957

<http://durbanramblers.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/August-1957.pdf>:

PLEASE NOTE

What sport has fewer restrictions than Hiking? Yet there is one very important rule that seems to have been ignored lately. The Leader is the "captain of the ship", and is responsible for the safety of the party.

If you intend to break away from the main party, tell him and obtain his permission to do so. We hike through wild country, and one can easily become lost, apart, from the danger of snakebite. So far thousands of Ramblers have turned out on hundreds of hikes without the slightest mishap. Let's keep it that way, by co-operating with the leaders.

FIXTURES

85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

As mentioned in the Editor's note, the invitation has gone out. The Celebration will be held on the 8th of July at Phezulu in Botha's Hill. If you have not received the invitation, please contact Linda and ask her to send it to you or see Hiking Schedule further on for more details.

WEEKENDS AWAY: Organised by Marie Gurr

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS WEEKENDS AWAY HELD THIS YEAR:

Lotheni over the Easter Weekend:

As we had four days to enjoy the clean mountain air and the walks on offer in our beautiful Drakensberg, nobody felt a great need to rush to our destination and hence we all arrived in a relaxed mood. There are two routes to Loteni, one being via Underberg and the other Nottingham road. The first option was slightly longer and apparently quite busy due to the Splashy Fen festival. The second option, whilst a bit rough was doable even in a normal car - providing it has not rained.

We all arrived at Loteni at some stage in the afternoon and whilst some of us had secured the lovely warm beds of Simes cottage, others chose to pitch tents and brave the cold night time temperatures. The cottage is not only well located, being further along the dirt road from both the main camp and the campsite, but has a beautiful dam just on the doorstep, is really well equipped and has a beautiful view.



Once most of us had taken occupation, we set off for a leisurely walk to a nearby waterfall and headed back in time to pour our sun-downers and meet up with the last few arrivals. To make life easy, Marie planned that we braai every evening, which also meant that the girls were 'off the hook' so to speak. I must say that the lighting of the fire on the first evening was somewhat of a challenge, probably due to having too many firemen in our midst. However we eventually got down to cooking a variety of foodstuffs and then all gathered in the lounge to enjoy not only the food and drinks but lots of chatter and laughter.



As is usual with Easter, some rain was predicted. This fell on Friday evening, but had mostly passed by the time we woke on Saturday morning. Six of us, out of our total group of sixteen, decided that the weather was definitely clearing so headed off into the mountains with Nevil at the helm. We had been warned that some of the higher paths were not being maintained, but before we knew it we had lost our path. Fortunately, our trusty boy scouts (Nevil, Harry and Chris) used their childhood training and, with a bit of luck methinks, decided to head for higher ground where fortunately the path re-appeared. Our hike took us across rivers, through a vast expanse of Proteas, which alas had just finished flowering, an

indigenous forest and finally over grasslands and back to camp. A total of 11.5 km and with lots of climbing and clambering it was a worthwhile challenge.

On Sunday, everybody was now keen to hike, with the exception of Prim who was still enjoying the solitude, so we headed off on the Eagle trail. Again, a fair amount of climbing with spectacular views all around and superb weather. We had many water, tea and lunch stops as nobody was in a rush to get back. En route we spotted a couple of reedbuck and several birds of prey. Again a lovely day. As we arrived back a little earlier than anticipated, some took a rest, whilst a few of us thrashed it out at the scrabble table. Ann was put in charge of the dictionary to avoid any arguments. Needless to say, many of the group faded very early that evening due to all the fresh air and activities.

It was agreed that Monday was not to be wasted, so we packed the cars and all headed off to the waterfall known as 'Jacobs Ladder'. Although this is a fairly short walk, we had not anticipated the five river crossings to get there and, of course, to get back again. However, we all agreed it was well worth it and was a great finale to a great weekend!

A pity that Biff and Rob were not able to be with us.

Thanks to Marie for coordinating, to Nevil for leading the hikes and to all who participated.

Stella

Rocky Bay, 2/3 June, 2017

This turned out to be a very relaxed and enjoyable couple of days down the coast with Biff, Rob, Nevil and I sharing one log cabin and Coleen, Marge, Mara and Lyn another - such a treat to see these latter three familiar faces again.

We had all arrived by early afternoon so had a casual wander around the resort and along the beach before settling down by the braai fire with our sundowners and snacks.

Marge unfortunately didn't have her camera handy to capture the most amusing few seconds of the weekend... Marge, Lyn and I were sitting on one side of a wonky bench/table on the sloping grass bank (how bright are we?!) with Coleen on the other side. Of course the moment Coleen got up we found ourselves on the grass among crisps, peanuts, spilled drinks and the bench on it's side! Fortunately no harm was done and we all had a really good laugh. Our bonus was seeing about 20 mongoose happily gobbling the snacks next afternoon before two monkeys came to try, unsuccessfully, to take over.

On Saturday morning Marge, Mara and Rob were happy to amuse themselves (camera, birds, the beach) while Biff, Coleen, Lynn, Nevil and I joined Anne and her group of Durban Ramblers who had driven down for the day to hike an anticipated 19km on the mountain bike tracks. A very pleasant day in some very beautiful scenery. Well done to Anne and Stella for finding our path and thanks to everyone for your company.



That evening the weekend group had another braai and fairly noisy social evening (with no repeat cabaret). As Sunday (the day of Comrades) dawned sunny but windy we packed up and

headed off to Scottburgh, where Biff and Rob enjoyed a swim and ice creams, while Coleen, Marge, Mara and Lyn did a walkabout, checked out the local bookshop and treated themselves to brunch at John Dory's before driving home. Nevil and I decided it was too windy to enjoy a beach walk and drove on for late breakfast at the Illovo Nursery. (Sorry, guys, we didn't mean to be unsociable.)

Many thanks to you all for being such cheery, jolly company and making it another fun weekend away.

Next weekend away: Shawswood, Karkloof - Friday/Saturday, 29/30 September 2017. (*Bookings for Cumberland - 21/22 July - closed on 15 June 2017.*)

Limited single/double accommodation at R260/R220pppn respectively. Also limited camping (with plug point) at R130pppn. I anticipate driving to Benvie Gardens (entrance R50pp) on Saturday to do their Waterfall Walk and admire the azaleas, clivias and blossoms I hope will be out (and their magnificent trees). On Sunday we'll hike up Mt Gilboa (with a guide - or we may have too many leaders!).

Please let me know by Thursday, 24 August if you'd like to join this outing.

Final weekend away in 2017 - Oribi Gorge, Friday/Saturday, 10/11 November 2017.

Camping (with plug points) R90pppn, two-bed chalets (6 of them) R420 per night. There is also a six-bed chalet (3 rooms: 2 x 2 beds, 1 double bed) at R1 000 per night... (Subject to final confirmation! I couldn't find rates on the kznwildlife site and had to phone reservations a couple of times to clarify.)

Please let me know by Thursday, 5 October, 2017 if you'd like to come on this weekend. (Details will also appear in the next magazine.)

Marie Gurr, Weekend Organizer

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

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 3RD QUARTER 2017

check on Facebook for changes

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 1 July	Summerveld Hike	Linda	
	Meet at the Assagay Hotel at 13.30 to drive through to Summerveld at 13.45 where we will walk through the beautiful through the Summerveld Conservancy Area.	083 353 8319	1 Easy 7 km
Sun 2 July	Kloof Gorge	Margie Forbes	
	Walk through the Gorge to Sora's Pools and return along the river. Steep in places so fitness essential. Meet main picnic/parking area at 7.30 am Parking/entrance fee R30	073 437 6915	Grade 3 - 4 12 km
Sat 8 July	85th Anniversary Celebration	Linda	
	You are cordially invited to attend the 85th anniversary of the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club at the Phezulu Safari Park, Old Main Road, (just past the Pot and Kettle), Botha's Hill at 12.00. A buffet lunch will be served. Please advise Linda should your preference be vegetarian. Cost: R80.00 members, R150.00 non-members. Bar service for own cost. RSVP to Linda by 24 th June, payments to be made by the 30 th of June 2017.	083 353 8319 linda@compasshr.co.za	

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 9 July	Illovo River Trail	Anna Kapp	
	A new Sunday hike on fairly flat terrain next to the river. Some sugar cane. Possible drinks at the brewery after the hike. Meet in 397 Che Guevara Rd (Moore) at Glenwood Village, at 7.30 or Illovo Business park in time to start hiking at 8.15. (Directions will be sent nearer the time). Petrol sharing R30	071 427 7139	Grade 3 18 km
Sat 15 July	Paradise Valley Nature Reserve	Linda	
	Good beginners hike. Walk through Paradise Valley (10 Oxford Road, Pinetown), mainly shaded wooded areas with a couple of gentle uphill. Park in Oxford Road. Meet inside the reserve at 13.45. R 20 entrance fee.	083 353 8319	1 – Easy to moderate 6 km
Sun 16 July	Mitchell Park to Point	Jenny Rooks	
	Walk from Mitchell Park to the Point and back. Bring money for coffee etc. along the way. Note distance! Meet Mitchell park (Nimmo Rd parking) at 7.30.	084 952 0622	Grade 3 20 km
Sat 22 July	UMzinyathi Falls (Durban Green Corridor)	Philip Collyer	
	Meet at The Durban Green Corridor Site at eNanda Dam at 13:15. Take Inanda Rd towards Waterfall, turn left at the traffic lights into Ngwele Rd/ M259, drop all the way down into the valley until you reach a 4-way tar crossing and turn right into Wushwini Rd towards the dam wall, proceed over the bridge below the dam wall, onto the dirt road and on to the Site centre 4 kilometres along the dirt road on the left. GPS: 29°41.500'S - 30°53.353'E or -29.691667, 30.889217. This is a beautiful walk to the Falls overlooking the Gorge. Members R30 Non members R50.	082 417 0204	3 - Strenuous ± 6 km
Sun 23 July	Everton Circuit	Chris Dobson	
	Hike upstream from the parking spot taking in both seldom used and new routes to various waterfalls. Meet at Krantzklouf main/picnic parking area at 08.00. Parking/Entrance fee R30	082 461 1954	Grade 3 18 km
Sat 29 July	Beachwood Mangroves Swamps	Tina	
	New Hike Route. Meet at the Pick'n Pay Hyper Durban North at 13.45, to leave at 14:00. Guided tour of the Beachwood Mangroves as well as a suburb walk to Virginia Circle and back. Donation of R20 per head towards the Mangroves	083 2896276	2 -Moderate 12 km
Sun 30 July	Mzimyathi Falls	Philip Collyer	
	Hike on hilly terrain from Inanda dam to the falls and back. This is a Green Corridor initiative. Meet Union Main, 45 Old Main Rd, Pinetown at 8.00. Entrance fee: R25 members/R50 non-members. Petrol sharing R25.	082 417 0204	Grade 3-4 10 km
Sat 5 Aug	Assagay Suburbs	Werner	
	Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre on Old Main Road, Bothas Hill at 13.45 to walk the streets of Assagay.	084 206 7836	2 - Moderate 10 km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 6 Aug	Verbara	Jenny Rooks	
	Hike in the Umhlali area through grasslands, sugar cane, protea and macadamia nut plantations, coastal forest and shady streams. Meet at Virginia airport at 7.30.a.m. or Shell Garage, Ballito (from M4 turn left past shopping centre) at 8.15 am. and we will travel in convoy to the start. Petrol sharing to be sorted on the day. Donation: R20 members, R30 non-members	084 952 0622	Grade 2-3 Approx 16 km
Sat 12 Aug	Silverglen Nature Reserve	Linda	
	Meet at the Silverglen Nursery at the Reserve (Lakeview Drive, Chatsworth) at 13:30 (note earlier time). As well as being beautiful, this is one of KZN's biggest and oldest reserves as well. Take the N2 south, take exit 154 for M1/Higginson Highway toward Chatsworth, take Silverglen Dr to Lakeview Dr, turn left onto Havenside Dr, turn left onto Silverglen Dr and then turn left onto Lakeview Dr. R20 donation towards the reserve.	083 353 8319	2 -Moderate (one uphill) 6 km
Sun 13 Aug	Paradise to Pavillion	Margie Forbes	
	Linear walk from Paradise Valley Reserve back to the Pavillion. Cars will be shuttled from Pavillion. Meet 7.30 at the free shaded parking area at rear of Pavillon (next to the recycle area) Petrol sharing R10. Reserve fee R10.	073 437 6915	Grade 3 16 km
Sat 19 Aug	Hike leaders meeting and lunch		
	All hike leaders are invited to attend a hike leaders meeting and lunch at the Palmiet Nature Reserve at 12:00pm.		
Sun 20 Aug	Nagle Dam	Jon Stevens	
	Hike through the tunnel and around the dam. Bring own drinks and relax at the dam after the hike. Meet at Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Road, Pinetown, at 7.30. Petrol sharing R35. Entrance fee R25.	082 459 1522	Grade 3 15 km
Sat 26 Aug	Clifton Tower	Werner	
	Meet at the Assagay Hotel at 13:30 to drive through to the starting point at Denny's Mushrooms off Kassier Road. This hike takes us up to the top of the hill to Clifton Tower to overlook the city and surrounds. Drinks afterwards at the Polo Pony Club.	084 206 7836	2 – 3 strenuous (two steep uphills) ± 9 km
Sun 27 Aug	Stainbank Reserve	Stella Wells	
	Follow a variety of paths meandering across this beautiful nature reserve. Always some game to view. Not a full day hike. Meet main parking area at 8.00. Entrance fee R30.	078 319 8979	Grade 2 ± 12 km
Sat 2 Sept	Delville Wood	Abdullah	
	Meet at the Assagay Hotel at 13.30, to drive through at 13.45 to the parking area. Hike is through tunnels and waterfalls and a bit strenuous at the end. Drinks	084 478 6779	2 - moderate (one steep uphill)

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
	afterwards at the Polo Pony.		9 km
Sun 3 Sept	KZN Table Mountain	Philip Collyer	
	Hike to the top of the KZN Table Mountain in the Inanda Valley. Enjoy some of the escarpment and wonderful views Meet at Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Rd at 7.30 or Cato Ridge Motors (close to Eddie Haven Drive, Cato Ridge) at 8.15. Petrol sharing R40. Car guard R20. Guide: R25 members and R50 non-members	082 417 0204	4 - strenuous 14 km
Sat 9 Sept	Bluff Nature Reserve	Ana	
	Good beginners hike. This will be a short hike through this pretty reserve and surrounding area. Meet at the parking area of the Reserve at 13:45. Take the Jacobs off-ramp from the southern freeway. Turn seaward at the traffic lights into Quality road. Follow this road until Tara road and turn left into it. The reserve is immediately on the right hand side of the road. People are encouraged to stay afterwards for a BYO braai and a social.	082 4962320	1 - easy 6 km
Sun 10 Sept	Kirk Falls	Jon Stevens	
	Walk over undulating hills down to the Delville Wood station from the opposite side, through the tunnels to the Kirk Falls, which hopefully will be more full than in previous years. Meet at Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Rd, Pinetown at 8.00 or Maytime centre, Kloof at 8.15 from where we will drive to the parking. Petrol sharing R20.	082 459 1522	3-4 - strenuous ± 18 km
Sat 16 Sept	Glenholme Nature Reserve Hike	Abdullah	
	Meet at 13.45 at the Kloof and Highway SPCA parking lot. Hike will be through the reserve and down into the valley. R20 donation towards the upkeep of the reserve.	084 478 6779	2-3 Moderate to strenuous. Vertigo warning 6 km
Sun 17 Sept	The Ambers, Howick	Keith Ashton	
	Hike in an extended area of "The Ambers". Lovely views around Howick and surrounding area, plenty of game and birdlife. Combined hike with other clubs. MAXIMUM 12 MEMBERS, first come first served. Last booking by Wed 13 Sept. Donation: R20 pp.	033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2-3 Moderate to strenuous 12-15 km
Sat 23 Sept	Valley of 1000 hills hike	Philip Collyer	
	Meet at the Drum and Bell parking area at 13:15 (note earlier time) for a hike into the beautiful Valley of 1000 hills. Drinks afterwards at the Drum and Bell.	082 417 0204	3 - Strenuous 12 km
Sun 24 Sept	Long weekend, no scheduled hike.		
Sat 30 Sept	Rumdoodle Hike	Linda	
	Meet at the Uve Road Car Park of the Krantzklouf Nature Reserve. R30 fee towards the Reserve. A hike to Rumdoodle with detours	083 353 8319	2 - moderate 7 km

We recently had a very well thought out hike in Pietermaritzburg lead by Francois, for which Rose gave a wonderful write up, see our Facebook page. I was hoping to meet other hikers from the area, but that hike was mostly for us Durban Ramblers. In 1957 the Durban Club joined up for a hike with the Pietermaritzburg crowd, this is what ensued.

MACPHERSON'S RAPIDS.
Dennis Rachmann

Huddled together on the lorries we journeyed into the hinterland with, of course, the customary raid in Pinetown. On reaching the turnoff alongside the "Day-Old Chickens" sign we linked up with those most jovial types, the Ramblers of Pietermaritzburg. Despite a bit of shaky navigation all the vehicles were rounded up by the sheepdog antics of an auto-scooter, and escorted up the farm road to the buildings.

Here we detrucked and, after informal greetings had been exchanged, the whole retinue proceeded over the farm. Down the hill, over the stream, up the other side, over the ridge and down to the river. Then, turning upstream, we arrived at a broad shelf just made for picnicking.

Lunches were soon opened and downed, the keen nip in the air adding zest to hearty appetites. In view of the somewhat hectic after-lunch performances noticed lately it was no surprise to see the water fights start. Whilst Don and Dym and sundry other contestants kept interest at ground level several others scaled the wall of rock across the river.

As the hours of daylight were on the short side we packed up and going round the hill climbed the more gentle gradient to the trucks.

Here salutations were exchanged with our mates of the capital and then huddled under numerous blankets we drove back to Durban in the dark.

The year before the Pietermaritzburg crowd joined with the Durban Ramblers in Kloof and this is how that one went: <http://durbanramblers.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/July-1956.pdf>

HIKE TO BOULDER POOL.
Sunday - June 10th.

Manaram took his time this morning. The two lorries crawled out of Durban and held up a long string of cars on the highway. On one steep hill, the Malus zoomed past us on their push-bikes. Still, we were in no hurry. The clear but chilly day; the good company on route; the prospect of a whole day out with the Ramblers; all contributed to a universal good mood.

At Kloof the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers awaited us. They had been brought by Mr. Govender, whose lorry bore the proud slogan "All classes of goods conveyed to town or country". There was a happy reunion, with Doc and Don as full of beans as ever.

The hike was down Banana Road, with Kloof Tower in front. We paused on the banks of the stream and then pushed on up the valley.

It was not our usual Boulder Pool, but a beautiful spot all the same, with huge white boulders piled up. Scotty, Bob Suter, Les and Dulcic, had camped the night there, and their tent looked brave but forlorn in the valley.

With lunches unpacked, we relaxed. We were surprised to see the Pieteritzburg catering - they had coffee as well as tea on tap. Somehow there was none of the usual picnic high jinks. Members of the two Clubs intermingled and got to know each other.

MEMBERS' STORIES

An afternoon with Marge Blake.

When asking around the club about who I could speak to to get some anecdotes about Durban Ramblers Hiking Club history and stories of the earlier years, many people suggested I have a chat with Marge Blake who has been a member since she was 21 years of age.

I recently had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with her in her home in Cowies Hill, which has been host to many a Rambler social in the past and still lends itself to the Scrabble group, born out of the Ramblers, from time to time.

Marge describes her first hiking experiences with the Ramblers from around 1949, of which the Easter camps seem to be particularly memorable. Back then only one or two members had their own cars, so two or three lorries would load members up from various stops beginning with the Alhambra, near the Berea Station. For normal hikes these would be regular lorries with the short sides, no seats, no cover. For Easter Camps they would have a cover over them, each person would have a sleeping spot with their bedding made from blankets and safety pins, there were no sleeping bags yet, those on the camp committee would go on the grub truck with the food and tents.



There were no National routes that we take for granted these days, so the journeys took a long time and stops would be made in the sugar cane fields where girls went one side of the truck and boys to the other, no convenient highway one-stops available to them then either. These lorries would leave Alhambra at 7 am and pull into Max Pie Cart in Pietermaritzburg late into the night where they would have loo stops and get refreshments and then continue on overnight, sleeping on the lorries, to their campsites in the 'Berg, Drakensberg Gardens, Rhino or behind the 'Berg somewhere. There they would set up a big canvas tent for the boys and another for the girls and collect tufts of grass to provide cushioning under the ground sheets. The third tent would be the catering tent.

These camps always had a concert, there was the Barber's Quartet consisting of four guys who could sing quite well. The girls would do gumboot dancing and also teach the boys to do the can can.

For hikes closer to home those without cars, them being the majority, would take trams or trains as far as they could and then walk on to the hike start. Most of the members, when Marge joined, were around 17 to 21 years of age and made up of groups of siblings. Marge mentioned at least five groups of sisters, including herself and her two sisters. Lifetime friendships were made in these times.

Marge's first husband, Dymock Parr, was chairman of the Ramblers for many years and instigated the club's revival after WWII. Sadly, he passed on in 1969. Marge still lives in the home they built together.



There were several sub-committees besides the main committee, being the camps committee, the hiking committee and the entertainments committee, the latter being responsible for the Annual Ball and social events such as the Halloween party which every one would dress up for. Monthly social events would be held in a dance studio on Smith Street where they taught each other to dance, no alcohol was allowed at any of these events and yet much fun was had by all, if Marge's photos are anything to go by.

Some people that Marge would like remembered are Lindy Lindhurst and Mick McConnell. Lindy, a very big man, made it his business to make tea for everyone on hikes using a billy can over a little fire. At the 60th anniversary, a dinner dance at Rob Roy, Mick McConnell was to give an address, he got hot before said speech and went up to his room and changed into his nightshirt which he returned in and asked everyone to give a toast to absent friends. This is the same Mick McConnell who had always wanted to be a pilot, so when his parents went away for a while, he sold their car to pay for pilots lessons.



On 1 June of this year, Marge attended the funeral of past member Mick Thomas, who she describes as being a real boy. She says, "he and Dafne got married, had their honeymoon in our house, and their daughter is my godchild, they divorced. He married another lady, they had another daughter and also got divorced. With his third wife he had a son, and they also got divorced. He and his fourth wife had no children and they stayed happily married until she passed on. At Mick's funeral his first wife's second husband brought her ashes to the funeral, so she was there, in ashes, with wives two and three, who are still alive. All were friends."

As to the Ramblers Hiking Club, Marge shares that, "the club has been my life. I married a man who was in the club, my friends were all in the club. We looked after each other, we had parties here and still today I am in touch with those members. When I married my second husband he said, I don't know who are family and who are Ramblers. It was my life."

Here is a write-up of a social that happened in 1956, read the rest of that magazine here: <http://durbanramblers.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/July-1956.pdf>

SOCIAL AT ATHLONE.

Thursday - May 17th.

In writing this report, I am reminded of an old man who went mad on Cowboy films. After seeing one, he said: "Same old actors, same old horses, same old scenery, same old plot." And then his eyes lit up and he muttered: "Gen, but it sure was exciting."

The 17th of May was Norway's National Day, which was as good an excuse as any for a party. After a cheerful reunion at Maddisons, the car-owners sorted out their passengers and drove out to Athlone. Here we found the open-air floor was still wet after rains, so we flocked into the Barn.

Do not be deceived by the name. The Barn proved to be an intimate sort of place with a fine floor and good band. Groups of Ramblers sat at long, sociable tables, and Waiters circulated at amble pace with loads of bottles and glasses.

The Brasserie added a novel and jolly touch to the evening; quite different from the usual greasy-fingered routine. The meat was served with salads and bread rolls, on plates with civilized cutlery and serviettes. It looked like a coloured advert in the "Saturday Evening Post."

And Ramblers, with a grilled chop and a few snorts inside them, can really enjoy themselves. The band kept up a succession of foxtrots and quicksteps, with a few Paul Jones dances to get everybody in the mood. Every second couple seemed to be jiving - we really must have another Championship soon. Even the unpolished dancers had a chance to let go in the "tickey-dream" which got out of hand in a big way.

In between dances, Ramblers ordered another drink and sang the old hiking songs with enthusiasm, whilst the other patrons looked on with large eyes.

At midnight the band packed up and the party gradually dispersed. Hats off to the Entertainments Committee for a good job well done - hic.

And that is it from me, Ilona, for now. If you have a story you would like to share, please send it to me. Let's have some more adventures and make some more histories in the next few months.