



C/O The Chairman
300 Alan Paton Road
Glenwood
DURBAN
4001

<http://durbanramblers.co.za>
info@durbanramblers.co.za

85th Anniversary year

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

4TH QUARTER : OCTOBER TO DECEMBER: 2017

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

We have all enjoyed the cooler weather during winter and the fabulous hikes provided on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays!

The 85th had 82 participants, and many thanks to Linda, Biff, Coleen and Ilona for our celebration!

Next year we replace or change positions for most of the committee (3 years is up!). It is a labour of love and is rewarding. When you are Rambling, think of someone who may be suitable to fill the following positions:

Chairman
Saturday Hike Organiser
Sunday Hike Organiser
Weekends - Away
Social Organiser

You may also feel inspired to put yourself forward, new people bring new ideas and create more effective organisations. Proposals can be made and seconded at the next AGM, or put forward via the Chairman or Secretary before then.

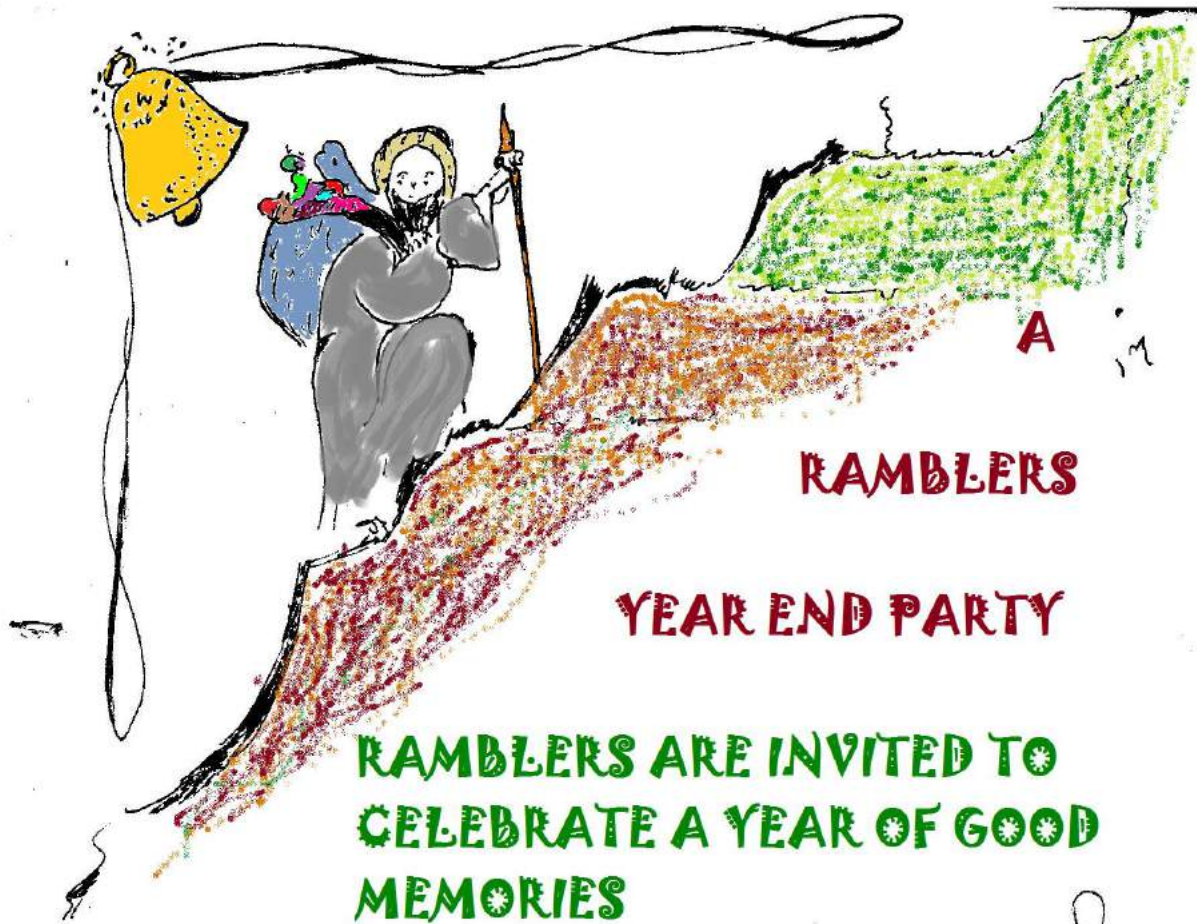
Please join us for the Year End Function, it will be great to see you!

Happy Rambling

EDITOR'S NOTE

I for one really enjoyed our Ramblers' anniversary bash, and hats off to Linda and Biff and the rest of the team for creating a memorable event. I had thought of interviewing Colin Turner to continue the theme of stories of the past, but he gave such a wonderful accounting of our club's history in person at this event, that I have had to find another story to go with. See further on.

YEAR END CELEBRATION



DATE: Sunday 10 December

TIME: Midday lunch

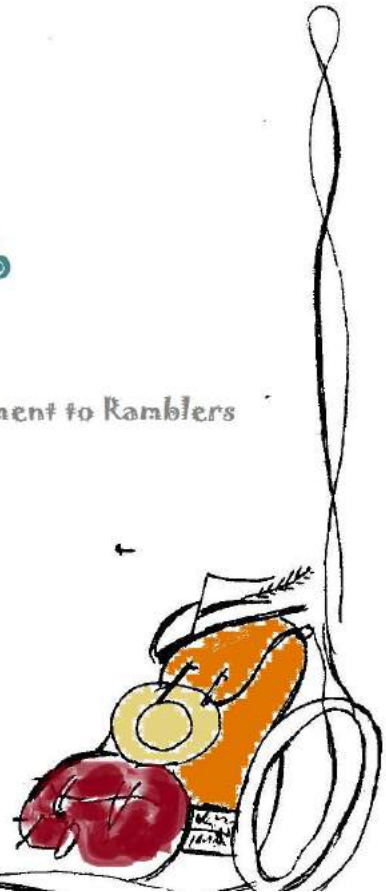
VENUE: Shongweni Polo Club

COST: R130 pp.

RSVP: by 24 November with payment to Ramblers account, name and Y-end, as reference.

Menu

- Butter Chicken Curry
- Vegetable Curry (Vegetarian Option)
- Basmati Rice
- Sambals
- Chutney
- Roti
- Greek Salad
- Bread Rolls & Butter
- Milk Tart



You can email me, Ilona, to state your preference for the vegetarian option.

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:

15 new Single members:

James Allen	Astrid Fraser	Sagren Veeraragavan
Dan Macartan	Sheila McCarthy	Tony Ball
Madalene Schofield	Reg Combrink	Jackie Nel
Nydia Bean	Anthony Coom	Franki Whiteford
Roy Naseem	Elisma Okkers	Sarah Thorpe

and 2 who have rejoined, welcome back to
Edith Futre and Marianne Duncan

4 Couples or Families have joined as well:

Kevin and Bronwyn Kirkpatrick	Mukesh and Swasthi Mahabir
Cindy & Pierre Van Wyk	Malcolm and Bev Glennie

Happy Rambling.

SURGERY:

My predecessor as editor of this magazine, Gordon Tomlinson, has had heart surgery for his faulty valve on the 11th of September. Gordon we wish you speedy recovery and hopefully you are able to walk with us again soon.

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT:

I have been told that Edith is recovering well and has attempted her first hike on the Bluff and managed.

WHILE IN TREATMENT:

Sandra has been having chemo, her first hike on was on the Saturday Bluff hike, while she is still receiving treatment.

IN FRAIL-CARE:

Philip Gatenby has moved to another facility at Peace Cottage near Hillcrest and seems to be doing better there. According to Coleen, he is doing very well. Chalk and cheese from the old place. He

has his own room and bathroom en-suite and is free to walk about the gardens etc. Lovely staff and people. He was pretty lucid most of the time and so much more peaceful. His sister did well in moving him.

CAUGHT IN TIME:

As those of you who hiked the Kloof gorge on Sunday 2 July will know, Poobie turned back at the outset as he was not feeling well. It appears it was a heart issue and he went to Umhlanga hospital and after an angiogram it was determined he needed bypass surgery. He was discharged from hospital on the 21st of July. He said he was feeling well, but has been advised that full recovery will take about 10 weeks. At least 6 weeks of that will be resting so no work.

He sends thanks to everybody for their concern and messages. We hope to see you fit and well on hikes again soon.

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. The archives. I now have all from 1987 to date, just missing: 1951, 1952 and 1969 to 1987

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>

According to Biff, the Rhino card is available from enzemvelo for R230 single and R460 double for a year for pensioners. This card is valid at all Enzemvelo resorts and for our Wed hikes works at Kranzkloof and Stainbank. So, it costs R30 a visit if you do not have a Rhino card. So if you visit these parks more than 7 times in a year, you have covered the cost. Email is rhinoclub@kznwildlife.com. You can do the form online and either give credit card details or pay

them and the card is posted to you and lasts a year. You also then get leatherback specials – 40 percent in some resorts out of season.
See further on for Krantzkloof Rules.

MONEY MATTERS

SUBS FOR 2017:

- Single Member R100
- Family R150 (excluding children 18 years or older)
- Joining Fee R30,
- New members joining after 1st 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 - 3RD QUARTER 2017				
Date	DRHC	Hikers (Sat)	Hikers (Sun)	Hike
17 July 2017	425	280		Mzimyathi - Green Corridor NPC
29 July 2017		700		Beachwood Mangrove Swamps
30 July 2017	30	675		Mzimyathi - Green Corridor NPC
06 August 2017			520	Verbara
19 August 2017	500			Nick Evans
19 August 2017	500			Palmiet Nature Reserve
06 September 2017			825	KZN Table Mountain
Total	R 1,455	R 1,655	R 1,345	

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.

KRANTZKLOOF RESERVE RULES:

Ann Olds, our resident honorary Krantzkloof member, has kindly furnished me with the following information which can be found on their website: <http://kknr.org.za/reserve-rules/>. Obviously these would serve us in most areas we get the privilege to hike in.



Krantzkloof
NATURE RESERVE

RULES

- No person may enter or leave the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve at any place other than through the designated points of entry or exit or enter, leave or travel in the nature reserve at any time other than the times determined by the Management Authority.
- Any person who enters the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve must display or be in possession of proof of entry in a manner determined by the management authority.
- No person may overnight, camp or reside in the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve.
- No person may allow any dog, cat or any other pet belonging to or under the care of that person to enter into the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve.
- No firearms allowed in Krantzkloof Nature Reserve.
- No person may within the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve –
 - intentionally or negligently cause pollution, place, throw, dump or let out any refuse, rubbish, used containers, effluent, toilet waste or any objectionable matter in areas other than those areas designated for this purpose by the management authority;
 - deposit or leave any litter which is either industrial or domestic, regardless of whether that litter is biodegradable or non-biodegradable, except in an area or receptacle provided for that purpose; (this rule specifically prohibits Geocaching within the Reserve)
 - deface cultural heritage resources;
 - operate any motorised vehicle for recreational purposes; (quad or motorbike)
 - launch or propel, missile or flare into the airspace above a nature reserve unless such activity is a bona fide emergency;
 - ignite or use any fireworks;
 - intentionally or negligently cause a fire other than at a place where the making of a fire is permitted;
 - unlawfully occupy, move into, inhabit or use any existing land, building or structure;
 - at any time play any radio, compact disc player, music system, musical instrument or in any way whatsoever cause any noise in a manner that is likely to disturb any species or specimen or other person;

- feed any species or specimen in the nature reserve;
 - behave in an offensive, improper, indecent or disorderly manner; or
 - interfere with any management authority staff member undertaking his or her duties.
- No person may within the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve, except with the prior written authorization of a Management Authority –
 - introduce any specimen, or part thereof into the nature reserve;
 - convey, move or otherwise translocate any specimen in the nature reserve;
 - intentionally disturb any species or specimen in the nature reserve;
 - cut, damage, remove or destroy or be in possession of any plant or any part thereof, including dry wood or firewood in the nature reserve;
 - hunt, catch, capture or kill, possess or exercise physical control over any living specimen by any means, method or device whatsoever, including searching, pursuing, driving, lying in wait, luring, alluring, discharging a missile or injuring with intent to hunt, catch, capture or kill any such specimen in the nature reserve;
 - gather, collect, pick parts of, or cut, chop off, uproot, damage or destroy or remove any specimen in the nature reserve;
 - sell or otherwise trade in, buy, receive, give, or in any way acquire or dispose of any specimen in the nature reserve;
 - angle, attempt to angle, catch or attempt to catch fish in the nature reserve other than in an area designated for such purpose;
 - carry out any scientific research in the nature reserve;
 - engage in the sport of climbing rock faces;
 - engage in the sport of parachuting or abseiling;
 - use a hang glider or any other kind of glider;
 - launch or fly a hot air balloon;
 - fly model planes, drones or gliders;
 - engage in sport of any kind, formal or informal except for trail running;
 - use or cause to be used, any loud speaker or similar device or other noisy equipment;
 - construct or erect any booth, marquee or other structure;
 - land in the nature reserve using any aircraft.
 - No person driving a vehicle in the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve may-
 - drive, park, or stop in such a manner that constitutes a nuisance, disturbance, inconvenience or danger to any other person;
 - drive, park or stop in any manner that causes an obstruction, blocks the pathway of a management operation or emergency vehicle;
 - park a vehicle in a place other than in a place designated for that purpose by a management authority;
 - drive or park anywhere except on a designated road or place;
 - damage or act in a manner that could cause damage of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to, damage to a road, plants or animals;
 - drive or operate any vehicle in a reckless or negligent manner or in a deliberate or intentional disregard for the safety of any person, species, specimen or property of whatever nature; or
 - drive a vehicle off-road or off designated roads or tracks, except in an area set aside by the management authority for that purpose.

Any person who –

- contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of these Rules or Regulations;
- fails to comply with any Protected Area Notice or any internal rule, or other document issued or displayed in terms of these Regulations;
- fails to comply with any lawful instruction, prohibition, rule or order given, imposed or issued in terms of an internal rule or these Regulations; or
- obstructs or hinders any authorised official in the execution of his or her duties under these Regulations; or

- contravenes a condition mentioned in a written authorisation or agreement issued or entered into in terms of these Regulations;

is guilty of an offence and liable, in the case of a first conviction, to a fine not exceeding R5 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding R10 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years or in both instances to both a fine and such imprisonment.

* All rules can be found in the Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves, Sections 8, 19, 20 to 26, 33 to 37, 42, 45 to 48 and sections 51 to 54.

FIXTURES

YEAR END CELEBRATION:

Lunch at Shongweni Polo Club on Sunday 10 December.

WEEKENDS AWAY: *Organised by Marie Gurr*

Report of Cumberland 21 - 23 July:

Ten grateful Ramblers got together at Cumberland for the weekend of 21 to 23 July. We all thought we would have a cold time of it, but we changed into shorts just after arriving there on Friday afternoon. To me it felt like we had been robbed of winter. After arrival drinks and lunch, some set out for an afternoon walk earlier than others who waited for a last arrival, Alistair. Margie, myself and Alistair then



did a short walk to where I remembered seeing the Giraffe family over the New Year weekend at the start of this year. They



were there again, this time with a 6 week old addition to the family.

On the Saturday we all set out together, walking along the ridge to the Honeymooners cottage, passing the Avocado orchards. It was good timing to see the lovely aloes in full bloom and some evergreens coming out shortly after a burn. One path we chose not to follow...

Later in the morning the group got split up and half had lunch at the honeymoon cottage and the other half walked to the cottage on the other side of the reserve and followed the river back up again. On the

Sunday I decided to stay back and enjoy the quiet while others went in different groups to explore some more of the reserve.

In the evenings it was the usual socialising over snacks and drinks and then preparing our dinners on the braai and in the very nicely equipped kitchen. Our hosts, Stella and John, were as accommodating and friendly as I remembered from before.



Final weekend away in 2017 - Oribi Gorge, Friday/Saturday, 10/11 November 2017 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO Umlalazi Nature Reserve at Mtunzini!!

I'm sorry I haven't been able to get the accommodation we need for this weekend, so it has now been deferred to Friday and Saturday, 9/10 February, 2018!

Instead we shall go to Umlalazi Nature Reserve at Mtunzini on the north coast.

There are 12 4-bed (2 bedrooms) log cabins at R1 520 per night (R380pp) and camping is R100pppn. (The website says there are 15-amp plug points available at the camp site which you can hire for a daily fee.)

Please let me know by Thursday, 5 October 2017 at the latest if you'd like to come along.

First weekend away in 2018 - Injasuthi, Easter 2018 - Friday 30 March/Monday 2 April.

I'll have to make a booking well before the end of the year, so please let me know if you're keen to join this long weekend away. There are 15 4-bedded chalets (not cheap - present fee R1 530pn, possibly more next year!) and plenty of camp sites - (current fee R115pppn).

Deadline for provisional booking Monday, 31 October 2017. Please e-mail or WhatsApp me - booking must be confirmed in writing! Once I have an initial booking, hopefully I can finalise details closer to the time.

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 our 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 4TH QUARTER 2017

check on Facebook for changes

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 1 Oct	Mt Gilboa	Marie Gurr Stella Wells	
	Note: Members only. Join the 'weekenders', who will be staying at Shawswood, on this hike. Directions: Go thru Howick, turn right on to the Karkloof/Rietvlei Road and travel approx. 23km Shawswood is just beyond Bushwillow Caravan/Camping. Meet and park at 8.30 (Bundy will show you where to park.) Please let Marie or myself know if you will be joining us-preferably before Friday 29 Sept. Guide fees R20	082 586 0266 078 319 8979	
Sat 7 Oct	D'Moss/Portuguese Club	Phillip	
	Great beginners Hike. Meet and park at the Portuguese Club (5 Wright Place, Carrington Heights) at 13.45 to explore the Umbilo D'Moss trail and surrounds.	082 417 0204	1 – Easy ± 7km
Sun 8 Oct	Killarney Rockeries	Margie Forbes	
	Steep in places and hopefully lots of spring flowers. Meet at Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Road, Pinetown, at 7.30 or Cato Ridge turn off (exit 53) at 7.50, or follow signboards to Highstakes where hike will start at 8.00. Refreshments at Highstakes after the hike. Petrol sharing from Pinetown R30	073 437 6915	Grade 2-3 14 km
Sat 14 Oct	Tanglewood	Sue	
	Meet and park at the Kloof Country Club (26 Victory Rd) at 13.45. This hike will take us around the beautiful Tanglewood Nature Reserve and surrounds. Drinks afterwards at the Kloof Country Club. R20 donation to the Tanglewood Reserve.	079 980 0488	3 Strenuous ± 11km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 15 Oct	Toti Trek	Anna Kapp	
	An exploration of Amanzimtoti, incorporating a walk along the Toti River. A slightly different route from the one done previously . Meet at the Lord and Legends, Riverside Rd. Amanzimtoti at 8.00 . Drinks after at the Sports Bar!	071 427 7139	Grade 2 15 km
Sat 21 Oct	Beacon Trail KKNR	Abdullah	
	Meet at the KKNR main entrance at 13:45 for a hike through the forest then up to the open grassland and the beacon. Entrance fee R30.00. Meet afterwards for drinks at the Nature Café in Kloof Falls Road.	084 478 6779	3 Moderate to Strenuous Vertigo warning ± 7km
Sun 22 Oct	(Amashova) Umzinto Farm	Jon & Sharon	
	Hike on a farm in the Umzinto area. Lovely views. Meet in road at Glenwood Village, 397 Che Guevara Rd (Moore rd) at 7.30 or the Park Rynie offramp at 8.00. BYO for drinks /braai at the farm house after the hike. Petrol sharing R45	082 459 1522	Grade 2-3 15 km
Sat 28 Oct	Ubikwe Eco – Trail	Linda	
	New Hike! Meet and park at the start of the trail at 1 Deeptank Road, Lower Illovo Business Park. Please inform security that you are going to the trail. Beautiful walk with lots of birdlife. R20 to the Eco-trail Conservancy.	083 353 8319	2 Moderate ± 5km
Sun 29 Oct	Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve	Keith Ashton	
	Lovely day hike in a beautiful area - great views & a chance to see plenty of game & bird life. Several trail variations. Combined hike with Midlands Hiking Club & Mountain Backpackers. Please phone the leader to book a place on this hike by Wednesday 25 Oct. Immediately thereafter, contact Stella to co-ordinate transport from Durban, if required. Entrance fee to reserve R30	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncaaped.co.za Stella Wells 078 319 8979 stellawells4@gmail.com	Grade 2-3 12-15 km
Sat 4 Nov	Shongweni Hike	Werner	
	New Hike! Meet and park at the Shongweni Polo grounds (parking to the right of the Polo Pony parking) at 13.45. Hike will go to the lower dams across from the N3 , then through the grounds to the K4 dog entrance , down to the M3 and back Drinks afterwards at the Polo Pony.	084 2067836	2 Moderate ± 8km
Sun 5 Nov	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 11 Nov	Gillitts Suburbs and Iphithi Nature Reserve	Ann	
	Meet at 13.45 at the Gillitts Post Office. A walk around suburbs of Gillitts and the lovely Iphithi Nature Reserve. Drinks afterwards at a local pub. R20 donation to the Iphithi conservancy	083 666 5630	2 Moderate ± 8km
Sun 12 Nov	No hike scheduled		
	Weekend away.		

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sat 18 Nov	Monteseel Hike	Linda	
	Meet at the Hacienda Pub in St Andries Street, Monteseel at 13.45. A different route used by mountain climbers down into the Monteseel Valley. Some cliff edges and boulder scrambling, 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	3 – Strenuous Vertigo Warning ± 7km
Sun 19 Nov	Gromor	Margie Forbes	
	A moderate hike across Gromor land through the old railway nursery, across the railway bridge and back to Inchanga. Meet at Union Main Centre, 45 Old Main Road, Pinetown, in time for a prompt 7.30 departure or Inchanga Station at 8.00. Petrol sharing R20	073437 6915	Grade 2 15 km
Sat 25 Nov	Wilson's Wharf hike	Phillip	
	NEW SAT HIKE. Meet and park at Wilson's Wharf. This hike will stop at the maritime museum (entrance fee R10), continue onto UShaka and explore the old Point Road area. Drinks afterwards at Wilson's Wharf	082 417 0204	1 – Easy ± 9km
Sun 26 Nov	Sunday hike / Social		
	Short hike followed by social braai. Details will be sent to all Sunday hike members nearer the time.		
Sat 2 Dec	St Helier / Giba Gorge	Werner	
	Meet and park at the Oxford Village (old Heritage Market) at 13.45. We will walk from there to St Helier road and through Giba Gorge.	084 206 7836	2-Moderate ±8km
Sun 3 Dec	Pennington Conservancy	Anne Wilson	
	Explore the coastal forest trails of Umdoni Park, including the gorge along the Nkumbane river and a short beach walk. Drinks on the club deck, overlooking the sea, afterwards. Meet in road at Glenwood Village, 397 Che Guevara Rd (Moore) at 7.00 or Umdoni golf club parking at 8.15. Petrol sharing R50	079 850 0206	Grade 2 19 km
Sat 9 Dec	Hill 'n Dale Farm	Jenny	
	A hike that takes us through the conservancy with a combination of grassland and cane in the Hammersdale area. Meet at 13.30 at the now closed Assagay hotel to drive in convey to the Hill 'n Dale Farm (-29.766542, 30.654463). R20 per person donation for the Hill 'n Dale Conservancy.	084 952 0622	2-Moderate ± 8km
Sun 10 Dec	Club End of Year Lunch.		
	See invite above.		
Sat 16 Dec	Reconciliation Day - Nagle Dam Hike and Social	Linda	
	Join us for a Ramblers social on Reconciliation Day. Meet at the first picnic site at the lower entrance of Nagle Dam at 10.00. We will do a short hike that takes us through the reserve past the dam wall and back. Entrance fee R30.00 (bring your credit cards just in case cash is not accepted). BYO braai and social afterwards at the picnic site by the river.	083 353 8319	1 - Easy ± 7 km

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF HIKE	LEADER	GRADE
Sun 17 Dec	Mount Moreland	Jenny Rooks	
	This is a redesigned version of a hike not done for several years and will start at Mount Moreland through to La Mercy. No beach hiking. BYO for after the hike. Meet Virginia airport at 7.00 or the Village Green, Mt Moreland at 7.30. Petrol sharing R20.	084 952 0622	Grade 2-3 ± 15km
Sat 23 Dec	Barn Swallows Hike	Linda	
	Meet at 13.45 at the Barn Swallow site. At N2 off ramp Umdloti/Verulam turn towards Verulam. Go just under 1km, turn right at white pillar saying Umdloti Estate, Mount Moreland. Follow the road, the rest is signposted Mount Moreland/Swallow View site. Binoculars essential for viewing the swallows. Hike will be around the area, through sugarcane, grasslands and suburbs. BYO picnic and drinks for enjoying afterwards at the bird viewing. R10 entrance fee to the viewing area.	083 353 8319	2 – Moderate ± 10km
Sun 24 Dec	No scheduled hike		
	Merry Christmas!		
Sat 30 Dec	Historical tour of Morningside	Jonathan	
	New Hike and new hike leader! Meet at the Botanical Gardens parking lot (bottom entrance) for a walk through the streets and suburbs of Morningside, visiting the historical sites. BYO Picnic afterwards in the Botanic Gardens.	082 420 9577	2 – Moderate ± 8km
Sun 31 Dec	No scheduled hike		
	Happy New Year!		

MEMBERS' STORIES

How the Wednesday group began, as remembered by Coleen.

The Wednesday hiking group started in July of 2005 when a former chairman, Bill Hyslop, mentioned in an earlier issue of this magazine this year, came to visit from Britain. He had moved there for health reasons. While here he wanted to hike another time and was here only during the week days, so Colin organised a hike and gathered the troupes. A small group met at Nqutu Picnic site. Coleen, although still working, had the Wednesday off at that time and, making up a group of 15 hikers, had their first week day outing.

The group then consisted of:-

Colin Turner
Philip Gatenby
Bill Hyslop
Coleen Seath
Di and Gerald Hall
Norman and Shirley Radford
Jean McCourt
Margaret Pershouse
Georgette de Vos
Marcia Wild
Cedric Biggs



Two others whose names elude me!

After a hike we came back for a "welcome back" celebration.



The midweek hike was so enjoyed by all that a request was put forward to do them more frequently. At first the hikes were alternate Wednesdays but soon became weekly. Our leaders for years were just Colin and Philip, giving them a break every once in a while when they did a beach walk.. The Wednesday group has now expanded with new retirees and new leaders.

In 2015 we celebrated our tenth anniversary at the same picnic site with a hike and scrumptious picnic lunch. Sadly even then, many of the original group had moved away, died or were no longer hiking.

Colin always manages, to this day, to find new and lovely routes. Colin, like Werner, has his own

built-in GPS, finding routes that no one else knows, is never lost and has a brilliant sense of direction.

Philip Gatenby has unfortunately become unfit due to deteriorating health and had to give up hiking two years ago just before his 80th birthday when he was invited to lead his favourite hike, which was Giba Gorge.

Today we have more hike leaders who have stepped up to continue the tradition. Colin is still the chief leader with assistance from Werner, Jon, Jenny, Margie, Ann, Ismael and Steve, with some others pitching in from time to time. These hikes take place every Wednesday now followed by a picnic after the hike. It has become a great social event in the middle of the week.



Coleen organises the special Christmas lunches for this group and usually creates fun competitions for the group which usually involves a way to remember the activities of the year. Last year I was privileged to take part at the lunch held at Giba Gorge, where we had to guess the locations the photos being sent around represented. An interesting experience in memory indeed. At a function previous to that they had to look at photographs of a small part of a hiker's person and to guess who that was. This was more difficult than it sounds.

FIXTURES OF YESTERYEAR

Way back when, in the beginning of time, as the Ramblers knew it, the focus at this time of the year was more on dancing than on hiking, or so it seems.

FIXTURES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1947.

Tuesday, 2nd. Ball Committee Meeting at Harold Wanless' residence, 379 Frere Road, at 8 p.m.

Thursday 4th. Camp Committee Meeting at Isobel Ferris' residence 9 Escombe Terrace, at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY 13TH. To better our publicity for the Dance it would be appreciated if members would hand in to either Mary Yates, Hans Arndt or Bob Hughes the names and addresses of dancing enthusiasts, so that a pamphlet can be posted to them to assist the sale of tickets, so please do this as soon as possible. We look to you for your help.

Sunday 14th. Our post dance picnic at Warner Beach, This should be the usual good show, so roll up and spend a lazy day boating, fishing, sleeping etc. etc. The lorry leaves from the Alhambra at 9 a.m. and the fare will be approximately 4/- plus 6d. for visitors. Tea orderlies:- B.Milbank, P.Popkis, J.Hager, T.Jones.

Sunday 28th. Trevor will lead this medium hike to Eerst Waterval, this delightful spot promises a really good day out. Meet at the Alhambra at 8.30 a.m. the fare approximately 3/6d. plus 6d. for visitors. Tea orderlies:- M.Peterson, M.Robertson, W.James S. Kerr.

October Camp. The destination of our Camp on 4th 5th and 6th of October has not yet been decided, so further details will follow in next months circular, but no matter where we go it will be an ideal spot and the usual good time will be had by all. The fee is £1 for members and 25/- for visitors. Please hand in your names to Lindy as soon as you can.

-----oo@oo-----

USEFUL INFORMATION

Sometimes we find out things that could be useful to fellow hikers such as places to buy reasonably priced hiking goods or were to get good service. Please feel free to share your own bits of useful information here.

To start, Rose has a contact who makes **colourful gaiters** you can contact Gordon Tripp by email at gordon@trippersports.com

When I had to get **hiking socks** for a week long hike recently, I followed the advice of a fellow hiker and went to **Shongweni Farmers' market**, and got decent socks at a very reasonable price. While there I also found someone who made raincoats shaped to fit over a backpack.

For those of you who have been wondering what happened to William who used to own the specialist **sport shoe store** in Glenwood Village, he is still around, just one block down at 332 Che Guevara. Call him on 031 201 5729 to arrange for a consultation and bring your old boots so he can see what kind of boot or shoe would best support you.

I have also found a family that make really good **shorts and ¾ pants and longs** out of cotton at very reasonable prices, they can be found at the Golden Hours Family market near the Hyper by the Sea. A lovely place to have a Sunday lunch under the trees and find some other bargains.

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.

What Biff has been putting up in the archives:

432 **DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB** 45

**INAUGURATION AND
FIRST HIKE**

**THIRTY MEMBERS ALREADY
ENROLLED**

(By a Special Correspondent)

Owing to the growing number of walking enthusiasts in Durban, the need of a hiking club in this town has long been felt, and with this end in view several local bikers inserted an advertisement in "The Natal Mercury" calling for replies from those interested in the movement. The response was encouraging, and a meeting was called for Feb. 17 last. This meeting

of the members proving themselves "bikers" in every sense of the word.

Although a little warm, the weather was almost ideal and the route chosen all that could be desired. There can be no doubt that those who needed any encouragement in the continuance of this sport received all that was necessary, the beautiful scenery providing ample justification.

For the most part the route lay along the river bank, and over some rough places the walk was undoubtedly strenuous owing to the rocky nature of the ground.

After about two hours' steady walking a cool spot was chosen for a halt of about 10 minutes.

The party then pressed forward, and at about 12.30 p.m. arrived at its destination—the Natal Estates Pump House. This is really a most delightful spot, and a shady glade offered an ideal camping ground.

After some of the members who had thoughtfully brought bathing kit had cooled themselves in the river, a raid was made on the lunch packs, and for some minutes the



The inaugural hiking party at a camping site

was well attended, and the club was successfully launched under the name of The Durban Ramblers Club, and, where possible, it is hoped to run the Club on the lines of the Johannesburg Hiking Club.

The chair was taken by Mr. C. E. Tomlinson, and Miss K. Remon was elected secretary and treasurer, a temporary committee also being elected, consisting of Messrs. Viles, Bisset, Parker and Davies and Misses Kerr and Sharpe. This committee will carry on until the Club has found its feet, when a further general meeting will be held.

At a subsequent committee meeting it was decided to ask Mr. J. Ford to draw up a draft constitution and rules for the Club, and at a second committee meeting, held on Feb. 24, these were discussed, and, where necessary, amended. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ford for his great help in this matter. A programme for March was then discussed, and hikes were arranged for March 6 and 20, details of which were circulated among the members.

The First Hike

The Durban Ramblers Club turned out on its first hike on Sunday, March 6, and 20 members set off up the beautiful Umgeni River Valley under the able leadership of Mr. L. Wainwright, who certainly set a good pace and enforced the walkers to keep up to scratch. However, there was very little difficulty in this direction, the majority

only sound heard was the steady munching of the hungry party. The cry of "Tea up!" was responsible for another raid, this time on the "billy," and as the members were all well-behaved the writer is glad to say that there was no sound at all during this part of the proceedings.

Studying Spoor

After luncheon the party rested, the only energetic member being Lou Wainwright, who took some very interesting plaster casts of different spoor.

At three o'clock a start was made on the homeward journey, and at 4.30 p.m. a halt was called for afternoon tea, after which the party set off at a good pace, arriving at the Umgeni road tram terminus, tired but happy, at about seven o'clock.

Naturally the expedition was not without its humorous side, and on the outward journey, while passing a group of Natives, one of them was heard to mention in English something about "training for the Chinese army."

The Next Fixtures

The next hike will be out to Copdmore on March 20. After this members may label themselves "Hikers."

All who are interested in the Durban Ramblers Club are requested to communicate with the secretary, Box 2183, Durban, who will be pleased to furnish all particulars.