

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014 [Revised (1):2014.10.07; (2):2014.11.13]

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER	APPROX COST
October Thursday 2	Leaders and Potential Leaders Meeting			Meeting for all our current leaders and for anyone who would like to know what is involved in leading a hike, with a view to possibly becoming a club leader. The aim of this meeting is to relook at safety measures introduced to ensure safe hiking, and to help/encourage other club members to take on the responsibility of leading some hikes. Thursday 2 October 6.30pm.	RSVP Mary Clover 083 700 6199	
October Sunday 5	DAY HIKE	2+	15 km (200 m ascent)	HIGHMOOR - day walk to Mount Lebannon, via a circular route. Good walk and veivs, some game path, some over the grass. Undulating different views from the top of Highmoor. Last booking by 1 October.	Dave Sclanders - 033 239 5013 phone evenings only	R 30.00 + share petrol (± 260 km from PMB)
October Sat 11-Sun12	CAVE (leader training)	3	26 km (450 m ascent)	SINCLAIRS CAVE, KAMBERG. Chance to visit San Paintings. Cave only takes 8 in comfort, late booking can bring tents. Last booking by 7 October.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za	R 45.00
October Saturday 11	DAY HIKE	2	6 km	*NEW HIKE* POPLAR GROVE - A circular route that starts off going through farmland, then down to the river. The trail follows the Mooi river upstream through an indigenous forest to a waterfall, then crosses the Mooi on one of 5 suspension bridges that criss-cross the river heading down stream back to the start.	Sven Jager jagers@mcollege.co.za	
October Fri 17-Sun 19	CAMPING/ RONDAVEL WEEKEND		About 8 km	ORIBI GORGE Nature Reserve. Day trails from the reserve include the Hoepoe trail (7 km) and the Urnziki trail (9 km). (Rondavels all booked now. Limited camping still available.)	Carolee Thompson caroleejoy@gmail.com	R70 pppn
October Sat 18-Sun 19	WEEKEND TRAIL	2+	8 km each way	BLINKWATER TRAIL - Possible slack pack to the cottage. Beds, hot water. "Land of indigenous forests, upland grassland, vleis, streams and plantations." Home to the Oribi and the rare Blue Swallow. Over 100 km of trails right on our doorstep. Your leader will choose a trail to suit the hikers.	John Fourie 074 370 8189 john4ie@gmail.com	
October Sunday 19	DAY HIKE	2+	15 km	HOWICK MEANDER. Local day hike. Symmonds Stream Conservancy, Beacon Hill Conservancy, along the Umgeni River to Howick Falls, with option to go to the bottom of the falls. Several local eateries for food and drink. Note the distance and the grade. Combined hike with MBC.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R20 per person for conservancies
October Sat 25-Sun 26	HUT (leader training)	3	28 km return (600m ascent)	BANNERMAN'S HUT, GIANTS CASTLE - Overnight Bannerman's Hut, return by a different route altogether, not done before NB, hut sleeps 8. Last booking with money 10 October. KZN Wildlife wants money with booking !	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za	R 45.00
Oct/Nov Fri 31-Sun 2	WEEKEND		About 12 km	PENNINGTON - Along the beach to Iffafa Caravan Park from Pennington and return along the railway line (about 12 km). On Sunday we will hike in the Umdoni Forest and have a fish and chips lunch at the club. Accomodation available in Dave's houses. Bring own mattress and bedding.	Dave Coward 082 565 7546 dacoward@gmail.com	R100 pp for the weekend
November Sunday 2	DAY HIKE	3	4 Hours	Hike at KILLARNEY ROCKERIES. Near to Cato Ridge. Use Exit 53 off-ramp from N3 then left, carry on straight to Thomas Ammann N27 Herb Farm Cato Ridge. Hike starts at 08h00 at the Herb Farm. Trust that we shall have the old horse-cart trail re-opened as a hiking trail to the Umlazi River Ravine, then back via the Rockery's & Rock art on the way to the car park. Note this is an Arid Trail. Bring ample water and snacks. This is a combined hike with MBC and Durban Ramblers.	Philip Swart 031 465 2776 / 072 606 6599 Co-leader Dave Tighe	R45 per person
November Sunday 9	DAY HIKE	2+	10 km	Well maintained Hilton Conservancy hike. grade 2+ 10 kms. Lovely Boma to have a braai afterwards so bring a picnic. Meet at Hilton College Gates at 8 a.m. Hopefully share 4X4 vehicles as the road can be tricky in the wet.	Annie Waterhouse 072 095 8610 annie.waterhouse@gmail.com	R20 per person
November Sat 8-Sun 9	CAVE	3	10 - 12 km each day	INJASUTI - Backpacking hike via Van Heyningen's Pass to overnight in Wonder Valley Cave. Good venue for less experienced back packers. Lovely pool for swimming and stream for water close by. Combined hike with MBC. Last bookings by 30 October.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	
November Sunday 16	DAY HIKE	2+	8 km	BUFFELSBOSSCH "NEW HIKE" "Jewel of the Midlands" The first 20 mins is uphill, then easy hiking along the plateau dividing the Littegon/Dargyle grassland and indigenous forest. Private property with no-one to be seen. ONLY first four accepted. You snooze you lose.	John Fourie 074 370 8189 john4ie@gmail.com	
November Tuesday 18	CLUB NIGHT			An illustrated presentation of the EL CAMINO TRAIL by Carl Welling - Church of the Ascension, Brindy Rd, Hilton at 7pm.		No Charge
November Fri 21-Sun 23	COTTAGE WEEKEND	2-3	10 - 12 km each day	MAKURUMANI COTTAGE bordering on the Drakensberg Wilderness in the Cathkin area. Fully equipped, secluded cottage with hot water baths and showers. Various short to medium distance walks along the contour paths or up to the top of the little 'berg, or just chill out and enjoy the solitude and wonderful 'berg views. Max 10 people.	Mary Clover 083 700 6199	R95 pppn R195 pp for weekend
November Sunday 23	POSTPONED	3	14 km	KARKLOOF FALLS - Joint Durban Ramblers/MBC/Midlands hike. UNFORTUNATELY THIS HIKE HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO ANOTHER MAJOR EVENT TAKING PLACE AT THE SAME VENUE	POSTPONED	
November Sat 29-Sun 30	CAVE (leader training)	3	20 km return (400 m ascent)	STABLE CAVE, MONK'S COWL - Walk from Calfargie , shorter walk to Stable Cave, possible visit to Rock Art site. Easy walk for 1st time backpackers. Large Cave. Great views of the Cathedral Range. Last bookings by 18 November.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za	R 45.00
December Sunday 7	CHRISTMAS PARTY	1	3-4 km	EAGLE RIDGE - in Howick. 10am Hike over Beacon Hill. 12 midday Lunch - Bring and share braai, followed by Father Christmas's mystery gift lotto.	RSVP Carolee Thompson caroleejoy@gmail.com	No Charge
December Sunday 14	DAY HIKE	3	6 Hours	MINERVA HEIGHTS, Byrne area. This is a combined Ramblers, MBC hike. Walk through plantations, indigenous forests and grasslands. Meet at BP Garage on the Main Road (Shepstone Road) through Richmond at 08h00	David Tighe 031 464 9247 076 028 0708	R10.00 paid to the Farmer
December Wed 31-Thur 1	CAVE	2-3	12 -15 km each day	HIGHMOOR. Your chance to celebrate New Year's Eve (& New Year's Day) in Assvoelkrans Cave with Keith and Margaret for their 10th time at New Year. Short backpacking hike to the cave, then explorations of the area from the cave. Lovely waterfall and pool - bring swimming gear and all your goodies to celebrate in style.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R45 pppn incl entry and levies. R90 pp total.

GRADINGS OF HIKES		SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING		CLUB NIGHTS	
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required	1.	Hikes are graded so that members can select the activity best suited to their own level of fitness and do not cause unreasonable delay to fellow hikers.	Our Club nights are held on the third Tuesday of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall starting at 19:00. Tea & coffee served. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindy Road, Hilton.	
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness	2.	Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate.		
Grade 3	Moderate. Regular exercise advised	3.	Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.		
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential	4.	If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.		
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness is essential	5.	Leaders have the prerogative to exclude a member if they doubt their health condition, physical fitness or suitability of their hiking gear.		
		6.	Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.		
		7.	Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times.		