

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JULY 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2015 (Rev 1 - 2015.07.21; rev 2 2015.08.31)

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER	APPROX COST
SUN 12 Jul	DAY HIKE	2	12 - 15 km	UMGENI VALLEY NATURE RESERVE - near Howick - Lovely local day hike in a beautiful area - great views & chance to see plenty of game & bird life. Several trail variations. Great winter venue. Combined hike with Mountain Backpackers. Last booking by Wed 8 July.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R25 pp
SAT-SUN 18 - 19 Jul	CAVE	2	7,5km each day	INJASUTHI - LOWER INJASUTHI CAVE - a not too difficult walk to the cave with nice pool to swim in before reaching the cave. The cave can sleep 12. Will return the same route	Deon Small 082 679 4244 drakhike@gmail.com	R55 pp
TUE 21 Jul	CLUB NIGHT			Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindly Road, Hilton - 7pm. Presentation entitled Treasures of the Drakensberg San; their anguish and legacy. An informative view of the Bushman from 1820-1900, their art, trance dance, social structures, and persecution. Sure to be very interesting, so please join us!	Presentation by Alex Coutts	FREE TO MEMBERS
SAT 25 Jul	DAY HIKE	3	20 km	Hike from Minerva Hights, Byrne Area to Osgodby in the Richmond Area. This scenic route follows along good tracks, plantation roads as well as open grasslands. It drops down through a magnificent indigenous forest and passes a very old stand of mature Yellow-wood trees. Please note that for anyone who wishes to overnight, accommodation can be arranged at Minerva Heights.	David Tighe 031 4649247 or 079 153 2846	nominal charge for transport & parking
SAT 25 Jul	DAY HIKE	3	10 - 12 km	KRANTZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE - starting at the main picnic site at 09.00 am for a full day's hike through beautiful natural forest with stunning views across the gorge. Picnic lunch at Sora's pool.	Margret Kirsten 0837837852 mjkirsten@telkomsa.net	R20 pp
FRI - SUN 31 Jul - 2 Aug	MOUNTAIN HUT	2 - 3	12-15 km each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK- Short (1 km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a two-night stay.- Beautiful day hikes from this base to see waterfalls, bushmen's paintings, caves & lovely pools for swimming. Hut has lockable rooms with bunk beds & mattresses + flush toilets & showers (only cold water but no problem for you tough hikers) - The hikes from this base are outstanding. Combined hike with Mountain Backpackers. Please book early to secure place - last bookings 20 July.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R90 pppn (R180 Total pp)
TUE 04 Aug	AGM			Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindly Road, Hilton - 5:30 for 6pm sharp start. All members who pay their 2015/2016 subscription fees on or before 4 Aug 2015 will receive a small gift and be entered into a lucky draw. Dinner will be served on the night. Please make an effort to attend - RSVP to Carolee	Carolee caroleejoy@gmail.com	FREE TO MEMBERS
SAT 08 Aug	DAY HIKE	3 (PF)	12 km	WORLD'S VIEW: Five hour hike starting at Cascades Shopping Centre at 8.30 and walking through Queen Elizabeth Park and the plantations with good views of the city and back via Ferncliffe Nature Reserve and Chase Valley. Pets are welcome.	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za	NO CHARGE
SAT - SUN 15 - 16 Aug	CAVE	3	10-12 km each day	CARACAL CAVE (HIGHMOOR) - not often visited - will have to carry water to the cave. Bring a 5lt water bag to fill water on the way to the cave. Visit Fulton's Rock Bushman Paintings (Combined MHC and Mountain Backpackers)	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za last booking - 10 August	R55 pp
SUN 23 Aug	DAY HIKE	1-2	10 km	NEW HIKE!! - MICHAELHOUSE NATURE RESERVE. Following tracks through forest and open ground in the Michealhouse Oribi Reserve.	Penny Purchase chrispenny@telkomsa.net	R20 pp
SAT - SUN 29 - 30 Aug	HUT OR TENTING	3	10-12 km each day	COBHAM - You can either book to stay in Polela Hut, or tent at the campsite. Do you own booking for Polela Hut at Q.E.P. Tenting, we pay on arrival. Book by e mail only, please supply a cell contact number on booking. (Combined MHC and Mountain Backpackers)	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za last booking - 24 August	Polela Hut R90 pp, Camping R70pp
SAT-SUN 5 - 6 Sep	CAVE	3 +	12-15 km each day	MKHOMAZI - SINCLAIR'S SHELTER - <u>New backpacking hike from Mkhomazi for MHC</u> - Normal routes are from Kamberg but this route is harder & very rarely done, but it is a lovely & challenging route which continues past Cyprus Cave first & follows indistinct & sometimes non-existent tracks with a final stiff climb. Combined hike with Mountain Backpackers. First 6 to respond can secure their place, additional hikers will need to bring tents. - last booking by 31 Aug.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R55 pp
SUN 13 Sep	DAY HIKE	2+	6 hours	GREY MARE'S TAIL FALLS - Come and see the wild clivias in bloom. Meet at Bushwillow Park in the Karkloof. Start walking at 8h30.	Neville Lee 0836269983	R20 pp
TUE 15 Sep	CLUB NIGHT			Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindly Road, Hilton - 7pm. Presentation to be confirmed	TBC	FREE TO MEMBERS
SAT-SUN 19 - 20 Sep	CAVE	2	8,5 km each day	INJASUTHI - MARBLE BATHS CAVE - a not too difficult walk to the cave with nice pools and water slide to swim in at the base of the cave - a steepish climb to the cave. There are 2 caves to choose from, the main cave and the Annex - Cave can sleep 12. Will return the same route.	Deon Small 082 679 4244 drakhike@gmail.com	R55 pp
THU 24 Sep	BRAAI DAY	1 (FF)	5km	MIDMAR DAM - Come celebrate National Heritage day! Those who wish to do the hike can meet at Eikendaal picnic area at 10am and we can do a short 5km along the dam edge to Hoby Point and along the road back to Eikendaal. Unfortunately Midmar looking very sad and dreary at the moment so won't be too exciting but maybe nice for the kids who could also cycle if they wished. Will start braai fires at 11h30 for those who wish to just join for the braai. Please bring own meat, drinks and a salad to share. Also bring cozzies if good weather as allowed to swim in Eikendaal area.	Katy Hart 0782659260 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	R25 pp (Midmar entrance fee)
SUN 27 Sep						

ADVANCE NOTICE						
THU 31 Dec 15 - SAT 2 Jan 16	MOUNTAIN HUT	2-3	12 - 15 KM each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK- CELEBRATE NEW YEAR IN STYLE IN A STUNNING AREA - Short (1 km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a two-night stay.- Beautiful day hikes from this base to see waterfalls, bushmen's paintings, caves & lovely pools for swimming. Hut has lockable rooms with bunk beds & mattresses + flush toilets & showers (only cold water but no problem) - Combined hike with Mountain Backpackers. Please book early to secure place - last bookings by 14 Dec.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R100 pppn (R200 Total pp)

GRADINGS OF HIKES		SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING		CLUB NIGHTS
FF	Family friendly	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 Brindly Road, Hilton.
PF	Pet friendly	2.	Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate.	
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required	3.	Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.	
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness	4.	If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.	
Grade 3	Moderate. Physical fitness advisable	5.	Leaders have the prerogative to exclude a member if they doubt their health condition, physical fitness or suitability of their hiking gear for a particular activity.	
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential	6.	Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.	
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness essential	7.	Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times.	