

## MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2017

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVIES	LEADER
<b>1st October Sunday</b>	Grade 3 600m 10km+	MOUNT GILBOA Climb to the top of Karkloof through forests filled with clivia .A Big 4 hike.	Eric Essenwein <a href="mailto:erigres@gmail.com">erigres@gmail.com</a> 0835542239
<b>6 - 8 October Camping Weekend</b>	Grade 4 1200m ascent	RHINO PEAK Camping weekend at Drakensberg Gardens with a steep climb to Rhino Peak on Saturday for the stronger hikers or something less strenuous like a hike to Pillar Cave or a stroll around Garden Castle.	Brian Henwood - 0826556359 or <a href="mailto:bhhenwood@gmail.com">bhhenwood@gmail.com</a>
<b>15th October Sunday</b>	Grade 1 6km	BEACON HILL Through forests and open grassland. Easy morning beginners hike.	Carolee Thompson <a href="mailto:caroleejoy@gmail.com">caroleejoy@gmail.com</a> 0784825003
<b>21-22nd October Cave weekend</b>	Grade 3 24km 400m climb	KAMBERG Sinclair's Cave Seldom visited cave in Kamberg. Few hikers know how to get there. Great walks and views from above the cave. View Rock Art sites on the way back. Cave has limited sleeping space. Late bookers must bring tents. My last time to this cave- chance for a leader to learn the route. Last booking 18 Oct. Book email only	Dave Sclanders - email only <a href="mailto:dave@bergfree.co.za">dave@bergfree.co.za</a> Overnight Cave Cost 70.00 pp
<b>29th October Sunday Day Hike</b>	Grade 2+ 12-15k	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. Combined hike with Midlands Hiking Club & Mountain Backpackers. Last booking by Wed 25 October.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a> R30 pp
<b>10-12 November Weekend</b>	Grade 3	ORIBI GORGE Nature Reserve. Day trails from the reserve include the Hoepoe trail (7 km) and the Umziki trail (9 km). 5 Rondavels have been booked .Cost R294pp for 2 nights. Camping available.	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 <a href="mailto:alanixav@gmail.com">alanixav@gmail.com</a>
<b>12 November Sunday hike</b>	Grade 1 7km	BOUGHTON From Ashby Rd through Boughton forest to Big Gum tree. Beginners morning hike. Rd. Dogs are welcome	Katy Hart 083 277 6272 <a href="mailto:katyemma.hart@gmail.com">katyemma.hart@gmail.com</a>
<b>18th-19th November Tenting or 2 x day hikes</b>	Grade 3 14 km 10 km	HIGHMOOR Hikers can come for whole week end and tent overnight or Saturday hike - round trip to Mt Lebanon - new route - bit of a climb to start. Sunday hike to Mpopana Valley way - flat hike Last booking for all hikes 15 Nov. Book email only	Dave Sclanders- email only <a href="mailto:dave@bergfree.co.za">dave@bergfree.co.za</a> Tenting - R80.00pp Day hike - R40.00 pp
<b>21st November Tuesday</b>	Social evening	Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Talk to be announced. Wine and light snacks available.	FREE to members. R20 guests
<b>25th-26th November</b>	Social plus day hikes	NHLAZANE CHRISTMAS PARTY WEEKEND at Mount Park farmhouse. Can accommodate 20 inside plus campsites and smaller cabins available. Saturday morning short hike. Saturday lunchtime party. Sunday climb Nhlazane. Another Big 4 climb.	R160 pp in farmhouse <a href="mailto:cathy.amies@gmail.com">cathy.amies@gmail.com</a> 0846932340
<b>2 December Saturday</b>	Grade 3 12km	KLOOF GORGE via the beacon and then fairly steep down to Soreass Pool for our lunch spot. Back along the river with a fairly steep climb back up. Start at main picnic site at 08h30. Please book. Safe parking available. Please bring at least 2L of water - it usually very hot.	Margret Kirsten <a href="mailto:mjkaway41@gmail.com">mjkaway41@gmail.com</a> 0837837852 R30pp
<b>10th December Saturday hike</b>	Grade 1 7km	HILTON and Mondi Forest and open grassland .Easy beginners morning walk	Sue Rowley <a href="mailto:sue524024@gmail.com">sue524024@gmail.com</a> 0732131314
<b>17 December Sunday hike</b>	Grade 1 10km	CEDARA morning hike through farmland and forest	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 <a href="mailto:alanixav@gmail.com">alanixav@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sat-Mon 30 Dec - 2 Jan Weekend Mountain Hut</b>	Grade 3 12-16k per day	BUSHMAN'S NEK- CELEBRATE NEW YEAR IN STYLE IN A STUNNING AREA - Short (just over 1.4 km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a three-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 other clubs. Don't forget your drinks & goodies -Please book (FOR 3-NIGHTS ONLY) early to secure your place - last bookings by 15 Dec.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a> R120 pppn (R360 Tot. for 3 nights)

### SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING

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.
2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate.

3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.
4. If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.
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.
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.

We encourage all hikers to attach their membership badges to their backpacks with these details available.

<b>GRADINGS OF HIKES</b>	
FF	Family friendly
PF	Pet friendly
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness
Grade 3	Moderate. Physical fitness advisable
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness essential

### **CLUB NIGHTS**

Our Club nights are held on the third Tuesday of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall, Hilton starting at 19:00. Wine, snacks, tea & coffee served. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindy Road, Hilton.