

## MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Sunday 8 July	Grade 3 + 600m 12km+	MOUNT GILBOA Climb to the top of Karkloof through beautiful indigenous forests .A Big 4 hike.	Eric Essenwein <a href="mailto:erigres@gmail.com">erigres@gmail.com</a> 0835542239
Sunday 15 July	Grade 3 + 600m 12km+	BULWER MOUNTAIN Meet at the Mountain Park Hotel Bulwer at 8.30am. (Light meals / refreshments and pub available after the hike.) Donation to the Bulwer Biosphere R20.00. Lifts can be organized. A Big 4 hike	Philip Grant 082 4179163 <a href="mailto:pjcsgrant@gmail.com">pjcsgrant@gmail.com</a>
Tuesday 17 July	Social evening	STEPHEN PRYKE, professional photographer, well known for his beautiful images of the Midlands and the Drakensberg. Wine and light snacks available. Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm.	FREE to members
Friday 20- Monday 23 July	Weekend Grade 2 10km	LEISURE BAY Stay in comfortable accommodation close to Peter Pan beach. Beach hikes to Port Edward or Wild Coast fossil beds. Hike in Umtanvuna Nature Reserve. Book by 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Alistair & Cathy Nixon 0846932340 <a href="mailto:cathy.amies@gmail.com">cathy.amies@gmail.com</a> R400 pp for 3 nights
Sunday 29 July	Grade 1	HILTON COLLEGE CONSERVANCY Short hike followed by a bring and braai. Limited to 20 people. Conservancy fee of R50 pp. Book by 22 July.	Alistair Nixon 083 6606657 <a href="mailto:alanixav@gmail.com">alanixav@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 5 August	Grade 1 10km	COBHAM (Himeville) Easy hike on the path alongside the Pholela River. Meet at Merrivale 7.30am	Sue Rowley SMS OR WhatsApp 0732131314 <a href="mailto:sue524024@gmail.com">sue524024@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 12 August	Grade 2 12km	GWAHUMBE GAME & SPA Private Ranch. Just past ESTON. NB THIS HIKE WILL BE LIMITED TO STRICTLY 20 HIKERS. We will be walking through a game area. Last booking 8 August	Dave Sclanders - email only <a href="mailto:dave@bergfree.co.za">dave@bergfree.co.za</a> Special Day Entry Cost. R50.00pp Please bring correct fee.
Tuesday 14 August	AGM	Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton 6pm. Please join us to have your say in club matters followed by a delicious meal and wine. Free to all club members.	Cathy Nixon 0846932340 <a href="mailto:cathy.amies@gmail.com">cathy.amies@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 19 August	Grade 1 8-10 km	FERNCLIFFE NATURE RESERVE. Meet at top of Warwick road. Pleasant ramble through plantations and indigenous forest.	Julia Preece 0734657609 <a href="mailto:preecej@ukzn.ac.za">preecej@ukzn.ac.za</a>
Sat - Sun 25 - 26 Aug	CAVES Grade 3 12 - 15 km each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK - FIVE Caves hike - Backpacking via Painter's Cave, Sherry Cave (New) & White Horse Cave then sleeping in Whytes Cave Sat night & returning via Langalibalele Cave on Sun - nice pool & waterfall near Whytes Cave - Combined hike with other clubs - Last bookings by Fri 10 Aug.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a>  R70 pp
Sunday 2 Sept	DAY HIKE Grade 2+ 12 - 15 km	KARKLOOF. - Day hike through EVERDON ESTATES led by the man who knows the area better than anybody - previously this hike has proved to be very popular and has some of the most spectacular views in the area including Umgeni and Karkloof rivers - Cecil Hackney will lead the hike but please contact Keith. - Combined hike with other clubs - Book early to secure your place - Last bookings by Wed 29 Aug.	Keith Ashton By e-mail only <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a> R20 pp donation
Sat - Sun 15 - 16 Sept	CAVE Grade 3 10 - 15 km each day	MKHOMAZI - Sleeping in CYPRUS CAVE - Ideal for first time backpackers as it is only about 5 km to the cave but also very good for more experienced hikers as we will explore surrounding areas from the cave. There is a lovely pool & waterfall adjacent to the cave but we will limit the numbers to 6 as the sleeping area is rather small. Last booking by Fri 7 Sept.	Keith Ashton By e-mail only <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a> R70 pp
Sunday 16 September	Grade 3 14kms. Ascent 600m	Triple Peaks, Cripple Creek, Little Bamboo Mountain, Drakensberg Gardens. Meet at NUD Sports Underberg at 8.00am. Normal KZN Wildlife day entry charges apply.	Philip Grant 082 4179163 <a href="mailto:pjcsgrant@gmail.com">pjcsgrant@gmail.com</a>
Tuesday 18 September	Social Evening	DAVID AND SALLY JOHNSON will give a presentation on Birds of the Midlands and the Drakensberg. , Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Wine and light snacks available. .	Free to members
Sunday 23 Sept	Day hike Grade 2+ 6 hours	KARKLOOF GREY MARE'S TAIL FALLS Come and see the indigenous clivias in bloom, then have lunch at Grey Mare's Tail falls. Most of the hike is in pristine indigenous forest. Meet at Bushwillow Park in the Karkloof from 8 am. We start walking at 8.30 am sharp with Durban Ramblers.	Neville Lee <a href="mailto:Neville.lee@clariant.com">Neville.lee@clariant.com</a>  083 626 9983
Sunday 30 Sept	Grade 1 9km FF	MICHAELHOUSE NATURE RESERVE Lovely views of spring over the Balgowan Valley. Good for new hikers. Not pet friendly because of the Nguni cattle and game in the reserve. R20 donation	Penny Purchase 033 343 2162/ 078 948 3730 <a href="mailto:chrispenny@telkomsa.net">chrispenny@telkomsa.net</a>

ADVANCE NOTICE Sunday 4 November. 'Impendle Nature Reserve'. Philip Grant 082 4179163 pjcsgrant@gmail.com

NEW YEAR Sunday 30 Dec 18 - 2 Jan 19 BUSHMAN'S NEK MOUNTAIN HUT . 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 early to secure your place - (Some members have already booked) - last bookings by Fri 14 Dec. Keith Ashton by e-mail only keimarg@iuncapped.co.za

### **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.