

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2013 (revised 3/10/2013; 18/10/2013; 21/11/2013)

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX. DIST.	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER & CONTACT DETAILS	APPROX. COST
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October	WEEKEND	2	13km	BLINKWATER. On Greytown road to Pmb. Hot showers, Great variety of vegetation and home to endangered wattled crane.	John Fourie : 0743708189. john4ie@gmail.com	R80 pppn (12 persons) by 2nd October
Saturday 12th October	DAY HIKE	2+	14km 400m ascent 5 hours	BAYNESFIELD : This hike is in the area of the Baynesfield Estate & the farm of Malcolm McKenzie of Osgodby. The day hike takes in the historical rustic cottage built by Joseph Baynes in the 19th century. It winds through plantations & indigenous forests & returns along the Mageu Trail. Please note this is a combined hike for MBC, Ramblers & Midland Club members.	Co-leaders David Tighe & Philip Swart. For enquiries & to book your place, phone David on 076 028 0708 or 031 4649033	No charge
Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th October	FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE	3	28kms 600m climb	BANNERMAN'S HUT / GIANT'S CASTLE - Meet at Giants Camp at 16h00 on Saturday evening, supper at car, hike later. Sunday return via a different route. NB : KZN wildlife require money with booking. Only 8 hikers in the hut. Late bookings bring tent. Book Early.	Dave Sclanders: bergfree@absamail.co.za	R45. Book by 7th Oct WITH MONEY
Sunday 27th October	DAY HIKE	2	9-12 km	Blesberg Farm , near Lidgetton. Morning hike on the slopes of Bleberg through indigenous bush and across grasslands with beautiful scenery. Picnic lunch at the dam.	Brian Henwood: 082 655 6359 brian@hn.co.za	No charge
Sunday 3rd November	DAY HIKE	2	10 km	Adamshurst (Midmar Mpophomeni area). Slow stroll. Amazing rewards with stunning uninterrupted 360 degree views of Midmar Dam. To Gaints castle and the Drakensberg. Not to be missed. Coffee and scones at the restaurant afterwards.	TBA	no charge
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th November	CAVE WEEKEND	3	26kms 450m ascent	SINCLAIR CAVE, KAMBERG - chance to visit San Paintings-cave only takes 8 in comfort. Late bookings can bring tents.	Dave Sclanders: bergfree@absamail.co.za	R45. Book by 31st Oct.
Friday 8th - Sunday 10th November	WEEKEND	2		SANI STONE LODGE, LESOTHO - A trip up Sani Pass on Friday afternoon, returning Sunday. 4X4 only. Stay over at the Lodge overlooking the Sani River and 8km from the border post. Go for walks or horseriding. Alternatively hike to the highest mountain in southern Africa, Thabana Ntlenyana.	Brian Henwood: 082 655 6359 brian@hn.co.za	Self-catering accom at R150 or R200 pppn
Sunday 17th November	BEGINNERS HIKE	3	12kms 250m ascent	HIGHMOOR: Hike to Ka-Dedukusha Falls.	Dave Sclanders: bergfree@absamail.co.za	R25 per person
Tuesday 19th November	CLUB NIGHT			SLIDE SHOW and Talk by Michael Cassidy about his and his wife's visit to Antarctica. Not to be missed. Meet at Church of Ascension Hall, Brindy Rd, Hilton at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served from 7pm.		R5 for cguard.
Sunday 24th November	DAY HIKE	2+	15kms	HOWICK MEANDER - New day hike - Symmonds Stream Conservancy, Beacon Hill Conservancy, along the Umgeni River to Howick Falls - option to the bottom of the falls - several local eateries for food & drinks at the end of the hike - note the distance & grade - last bookings by Wed 20 Nov.	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R20 per person for the conservances
Sunday 1st Dec	DAY HIKE	2	10-12kms	TILLIETUDLEM GAME FARM AND TROUT LODGE. A new hike in the Dargle and Impendle area. An old colonial home with beautiful gardens in lovely rolling countryside and an impressive Nguni herd. The owners are keen to establish more trails for hikers. Our hosts will be Gareth and Kirsten Alcock	Annie Waterhouse: 072 095 8610	R50 for lunch after hike
Monday 16th December (public holiday)				Christmas Party at Hilton College. There will be a hike before the Party meet at 8.30 if want to hike. Bring meat, chairs, salad/pudding to share. Gift not greater value than R50. A Christmas Character is the theme. More details in the newsletter!! And Importantly RSVP to annie.waterhouse@gmail.com.	RSVP annie.waterhouse@gmail.com	wrapped gift valued at less than R50
ADVANCE NOTICES						
21-23 March	WEEKEND	2		CANNIBAL TRAIL, CLARENS - The Trail is on a privately-owned farm 5km from Clarens. Spend Friday night in an ox wagon or dormitory. Hike to a massive cave where toilets, hot showers and foam mattresses are provided. Stay overnight and return to base by midday Sunday.	Carolee Thompson: 072 469 9712	

GRADINGS OF HIKES	SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING	CLUB NIGHTS
Grade 1 Very easy - minimal fitness required Grade 2 Not too strenuous; moderate fitness desirable Grade 3 Moderate - regular exercise advisable Grade 4 Strenuous - physical fitness essential Grade 5 Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness is essential	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.	Our Club nights are held on the third Tuesday of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall starting at 19:30. Tea & coffee served from 19:00. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindy Road, Hilton. A R5 tip for the car guard would be very much appreciated.