

**MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: APRIL TO MAY 2017**

[Amended : 16/05/2017]

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVIES	LEADER
2nd Apr Sunday	Grade 1 9-10km	HILTON Easy new hike through Mondi forests below Grace College. Suitable for beginners. Coffee at Ground coffee shop afterwards.	Penny Purchase 0789483730 chrispenny@telkomza.net
9th April Sunday	Social	AFRICAN BIRDS OF PREY sanctuary Ashburton	Katy Hart 078 265 9260 katyemma.hart@gmail.com
15th April Saturday	Grade 3 15km	GIANTS CASTLE Langalibalele path R40 Entrance fee. Share petrol costs	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 alanixav@gmail.com
22-23rd April Weekend Cave	Grade 3 10-15k each day	HIGHMOOR - Backpacking hike to overnight in Caracal Cave - Ideal for first time backpacking & sleeping in a cave, but also good for more experienced hikers as we will do some exploring from the cave so smaller day-pack also recommended - reasonable fitness required - Bring enough water bottles to last overnight - Combined hike with other clubs. - MAXIMUM 12 MEMBERS, first come & paid first served - Last booking by Tue 18 April. R70 per person.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za
21-23rd April Weekend Camping	Grade 2 10-15 k each day	T.O.STRAND Leisure Bay. Day walks along the beach to fossil beds and Umtanvuna nature reserve.	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za
30th April Sunday Morning hike	Grade 2 6-8 km	FORT NOTTINGHAM HULLEYS FARM. Easy walk through lush farmland with sightings of cranes a possibility plus wonderful views of the Drakensberg. Bring your own lunch to enjoy at the farmhouse afterwards.	Penny Purchase 0789483730 chrispenny@telkomza.net
6th-7th May Weekend camping or Polela hut	Grade 3 14km each day	COBHAM Saturday - hike from Cobham, over nDlovini Mountain, return via Emerald stream Sunday -hike to Bath Plug cave and return. Early booking essential. If you want to stay in Polela hut you must do your own booking at Q.E. Park phone 033 8451000 or email bookings@kznwildlife.com Camping R80 Hut R100	Dave Sclander - email only dave@bergfree.co.za Last booking Tuesday 2 May
16 th May Tues	Social evening	Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Presentation to be confirmed. Wine and light snacks available.	FREE to members. R20 guests
21 May Sunday	Grade 1+ 9km	BOUGHTON From Ashby Rd to World's view through the Boughton forest, up old Voortrekker Rd. Dogs are welcome	Katy Hart 083 277 6272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com
26th-28th May Weekend Camping	Grade 2-3 12-16 km	GLEN GARRY On the road to Highmoor and Giants Castle. R130 ppn camping. Cottages also available	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za
30 May-2 June Mid week Cottage	Grade 2-3 12-16 km	DRAKENSBERG GARDENS - Cottage - 3 nights MID-WEEK. Fully equipped and very comfortable. Beautiful area in the heart of the mountains. Max 10 members. Day hikes from cottage or simply unwind on the property (10 acres). Full DSTV for news & Sport etc. Hot baths and showers. Combined with other clubs. Please book early to secure your place. First come and paid first served. Last bookings by Mon 22 May. Cost R360 (R120 ppn)	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za
4th June Sunday	Grade 3 14km	NHLAZANE from Satori. 400m Climb. One of the Big 4 club challenge.	Carolee Thompson 078 482 5003 caroleejoy@gmail.com
11th June Sunday Day	Grade 2 12km	DARGLE CONSERVANCY - Day hike through indigenous forest on private land - climbing to above forest for magnificent views of surrounding areas - prolific bird life. Our guide is the owner who is very knowledgeable about the local plants, trees, birds & animals - stunning location & not to be missed. Combined hike with other clubs. - Last bookings by Wed 7 June R20 pp donation.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za
16-18th June Long Weekend camping	Grade 2-3 12-16 k	MONKS COWL Camping R80.00	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za
25th June Sunday	Grade 2-3 12km	LIDGETTON . Through forested hills and open grassland. 200m climb Last booking Tuesday 20 June	Dave Sclander - email only dave@bergfree.co.za

## **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.

<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.