



# MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

## Fixture List: April - June 2009

### CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Members

We are a quarter of the way through the year already and the club committee is working hard to make the club as successful as it has been over the past 20 years.

The Club Campout is just around the corner, and we have loads of exciting activities lined up (have a look at the program on the back page). Last years campout was a great success with an attendance of 60 keen members who all had a fantastic time. This year's campout will be held at the Cathedral Peak Campsite from the 13-16 June. Please note that you will have to book leave for the 15th, however I have heard rumors that the schools will be closed on this day (to be confirmed). KZN Wildlife has also come to the party and will be giving us a 30% discount for the weekend, so this takes the nightly charge from R80 to just R60 for an adult. Day hikes have been a problem for quite some time, and the evidence is in the current fixture list. I've conducted 2 new leader training events of the last 6 months and I've only received one attendee. Please, if you know of someone who can or might want to lead please let myself or Eddie Von Barga know so that we can follow up and encourage this person to take the lead.

Our new club Website is on its way. In this regard Brendon from Brilliant Web will be doing a presentation on how the website works, so be sure to make the effort to attend as there is loads of new functionality that we can all use to share our hiking experiences.

We've taken on two Special Projects this year, one of which has already been completed. Dave Gay organised to have the cottage at Mkhomazi re-thatched and restored in memory of Luciano Colombo. This was very well received by the rangers at Mkhomazi. The 2nd project is an Eco-schools hiking weekend for a local Kamberg school and takes place on the 27-29 March. Dave and I will be doing a presentation on the special projects so keep any eye out for that.

One area that we would like to address is marketing of our club and getting a steady influx of new members, in this regard the committee is looking for someone who is passionate about the club and has a flair for marketing. Sound like you? If so then please contact me or one of the committee members to find out how to get involved.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Gary Sharp for his donation of backpacks, and a tent. The timing of this donation has really been fantastic, as I've needed some extra equipment for the Eco-Schools hiking trip. The sale of wools rolls at the club socials has been well received. I'd like to thank the committee members for being so willing to help and I'd also like to thank Carol Kristensen for her valued assistance.

Alison Chadwick has also stepped forward and agreed to chase the local newspapers to include our weekly fixture. This has always been a source of exposure and marketing for the club, so I'd like to extend a big thank you to Alison for taking on this job.

I'm looking forward to another exciting quarter and hope to see you all out on a hike in the next 3 months.

All the best  
Happy Hiking  
Grant Wilkinson  
MBC Chairman

## MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Grant Wilkinson	073 616 8789
Vice Chairman:	Bobby Stanton	031 465 5535
Treasurer:	Laura Wood	073 279 5289
Fixture List / Magazine:	Bobby Stanton	031 465 5535
Membership / Subscriptions:	Jovita da Silva	082 691 9180
Backpacking Convenor:	David Gay	031 765 4246
Day Hikes Convenor:	Eddie von Bargaen	083 281 1288
Socials / Pro	Jeanne Rapson	074 148 6474

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### THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE CLUB

Michael Tivers & Family Theodora Niekerk & Family Michele Jones Dwayne van Zyl Helen Hicks Caroline Kelland Reinhart Jacobs Harry Holderness Adriaan Diederichs Duncan Haynes & Family	Samantha Stephenson Jo-anne Burse & Family Hillcrest High School Adventure Sports Bradley Scott Roodt Sheldon Bode Abert de Jong & Family Piero & Claire Jonck & Family Linda Goldman & Family Hilgard & Jana Muller & Family
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#### Grading of hikes

1. Very easy trip
2. Easy trip
3. Moderate trip - physical fitness advisable
4. Strenuous trip - **physical fitness essential**
5. **Very strenuous** trip requiring a high degree of fitness

Please take particular note of **distance and height** as well as the **grading of the backpacking trip** you intend doing and ensure that your level of fitness is adequate.

## April 2009

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Phone	Grd
4	<b>Training course at Monteseel:</b> Mountain-related illnesses.		Andrew Friedemann	031 7672160	
4	Kloof Gorge. Come down Kloof Gorge and along Molweni River to base of Kloof Falls. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	7 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	2
4-5	Roman Baths from Highmoor (Highmoor-Kamberg area). Tents required for overnight.	23 km 300 m	Dave Tighe	031 4649033 084 6899384	3
4-5	McKenzie's Cave (Mkhomazi area). Email: Elaine.bushell@maccaferri.co.za	22 km 690 m	Elaine Bushell	031 7675414 (18h00 -20h00 only)	3
4-17	<b>Grand Traverse 2009:</b> Sentinel car park to Sehlabathebe Lodge.	240 km	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (A/H 18h00-20h00 Mon-Thu only)	5
6-13	<b>Contour Traverse:</b> Lotheni to Cathedral Peak. Physical fitness essential. Email: bergfree@absamail.co.za	137 km	Dave Sclanders	033 2395023 082 4434287	4
11	Longshadows Trail, Kloof. Hike upriver in the Krantzkloof reserve to the escarpment and down again. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	8 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	2
10-11	<b>GT Resupply at Bannerman Pass</b> (Giant's Castle area). We need your support, so please volunteer! If you are fit enough, there will be an option to join the GT party and continue to Sani Pass with them (10-14 April). Alternate contact: Dave Gay	TBA	John Pickup	072 1512031 (after 20 March)	4
10-13	Grand Traverse re-supply and mini traverse to Mafadi South Africa's highest peak. Start on the evening of the 9 <sup>th</sup> .	48 km 1800 m	Grant Wilkinson	073 6168789	4-5
18	Palmiet Nature Reserve, Westville. Walk through beautiful scenery to Cascades waterfall. Meet at Village Market carpark, opposite Westville Hotel, for a 2pm start.	7 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1
25	Kloof Beacon. Downriver & up Kloof Gorge to the survey beacon on top of the escarpment. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site, Kloof Falls Road for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	8 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	2
25-26	Climb Intunja (Gatberg) from Zulu Cave (Monk's Cowl area). Email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	28 km 765 m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (A/H 18h00-20h00 Mon-Thu only)	3-4
25-27	Fangs Pass to Mbundini Pass (Mnweni area). Tents required and physical fitness essential.	45 km 1260 m	Christine Bro	082 7826025	4-5
25 Apr - 3 May	<b>Wild Coast: Port Edward to Port St Johns</b> (110 km). 7-day backpacking trip along the spectacular Transkei coastline. <i>Experienced hikers only</i> . Max. 12 people - book early to avoid disappointment.		Eddie von Bargaen	083 2811288	

## May 2009

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Phone	Grd
2	Mpiti & Porcupine Falls. Hike upriver from Kloof Picnic Site to see both waterfalls. Meet for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee	5 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1
3	Inhlosane Long Distance Day Hike (North and South	24 km	Philip Grant	033 997817	4

	Ridges). Very early start. Excellent views and vistas. Very long walk over rough terrain, no path. Fitness absolutely essential, brisk pace. Rating 4 or strenuous. Bring lunch in daypacks and money for refreshments afterwards! Booking essential by Wednesday 29 April. (R15 donation to Boston Conservancy).	800 m		082 4179163	
1-3	Climb Sterkhorn. Champagne Castle area. Tent at Monks Cowl.	16 km 1495 m	Arthur Bester	083 4823590	4
1-3	<b>Kututsa Hiking Trail:</b> This 2-day trail lies in a sandstone mountainous gorge in the western side of the Witterberg mountain range and has views of the Maluti Mountains. The area is renowned as one of the most picturesque in the Eastern Highlands of the OFS. Payment of R220 confirms your booking. Email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	22 km	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (A/H 18h00-20h00 Mon-Thu only)	3-4
1-3	3 Summit Challenge, Mashi peak, Walkers Peak and Rhino Peak from Curtain Cave via Hidden Valley and Mzimude pass, returning via Mashi Pass.	1500 m 40 km	Grant Wilkinson	073 6168789	4
09	Springside Nature Reserve, Hillcrest. Enjoyable walk through grassland, indigenous forest & pools. All the family welcome on this easy walk. Meet at Springside Reserve for 2pm. BYO braai.	4 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1
9-10	Mzimkhulwana Hut (Cobham area). Friday night optional at Pholela Hut. Email: Anitha.jaipal@bcx.co.za	18 km	Anitha Jaipal	082 4568739 or 031-2665207 A/H	3
9-10	Climb the Umzimkhulu passes from Fun Cave (Garden Castle area). Physical fitness essential. Email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	29 km 1230 m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (A/H 18h00-20h00 Mon-Thu only)	3-4
16	Kloof Gorge. Come down Kloof Gorge and along Molweni River to base of Kloof Falls. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	7 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	2
16	<b>Training course at Monteseel:</b> Emergency procedures.		Andrew Friedemann	031 7672160	
16-17	Bushman's Cave, returning via Ngwangwane Pass and Tomathu Pass (Bushman's Nek area). Email: homearanya@gmail.com	24 km 750 m	Carlos Gonzalez	076 4599127	3-4
17	Circular day hike from Enon Cottage – Byrne area. Route combines open grasslands and indigenous forest. Approx 6 hrs over rough terrain, physical fitness is advisable. Meet leader at the R56 turn-off to Richmond at 08h30. R10 donation. Braai facilities available.	14 km 150 m	Dave Tighe	031 4649033 084 6899384	3
23	Longshadows Trail, Kloof. Hike upriver in the Krantzkloof reserve to the escarpment and down again. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	8 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1
22-24	Combined MBC – Midlands Hiking Club weekend at Mountain Shadows. I have already booked cottages, cabins and caravans so if anyone wants any accommodation in these please contact me. If you prefer to camp, please book with Mountain Shadows directly.	14 km 600 m	Keith Ashton/ Arthur Bester	033 2395023/ 083 4823590	2-3
23-24	Climb Ka-Masihlenga Pass from the contour path campsite, returning via Redi Pass (Loteni area). Physical fitness essential. Email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	28 km 1760 m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (A/H 18h00-20h00 Mon-Thu only)	4-5
30	Palmiet Nature Reserve, Westville. Walk through beautiful scenery to Cascades waterfall. Meet at Village Market carpark, opposite Westville Hotel, for a 2pm start.	7 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1

29-31	Climb Thabana Tlenyana (the highest point in Southern Africa at 3482 m) from Sani Top Backpackers Lodge. A valid passport is required.	30 km 630 m	John Pickup	072 1512031	4
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## June 2009

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Phone	Grd
6	Kloof Beacon. Downriver & up Kloof Gorge to the survey beacon on top of the escarpment. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site, Kloof Falls Road for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	8 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	2
6-7	Secret Cave via the Sleeping Beauty valley. Garden Castle area (max 8 people or else tent).	18 km 610 m	Bobby Stanton	031 4655535 084 4655535	3
13	Mpiti & Porcupine Falls. Hike upriver from Kloof Picnic Site to see both waterfalls. Meet for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee	5 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1
13-14	Hike to Beacon at Mountain Shadows Resort . Communal braai on Sat night. Accommodation booking direct tel Resort on (033 2677 493)	10 km 600 m	Arthur Bester	083 4823590	2-3
13-16	<b>Club Campout:</b> Cathedral Peak camp site. Day hikes, games and other activities to keep the whole family in the fun zone.		Grant Wilkinson	073 6168789	
20	Springside Nature Reserve, Hillcrest. Enjoyable walk through grassland, indigenous forest & pools. All the family welcome on this easy walk. Meet at Springside Reserve for 2pm. BYO braai.	4 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	1
21	Geo-Caching exploration in Durban meet outside the Buxton's Spar in Glenwood at 9am. Bring your GPS		Grant Wilkinson	073 6168789	3
27	Kloof Gorge. Come down Kloof Gorge and along Molweni River to base of Kloof Falls. Meet at Krantzkloof Picnic Site for a 2pm start. R15 per person Reserve fee.	7 km	Linda Marsden King	083 6211687 a/h 031 7029138	2
27-28	Tenting trip to Cowl Fork via Van Heyningens Pass and Shada Ridge, returning via the contour path and Cataract Valley (Injasuti area). Email: homearanya@gmail.com	28 km 700 m	Carlos Gonzalez	076 4599127	3-4
29 June – 3 July	<b>Southern Berg traverse:</b> Sani Pass to Sehlabathebe Lodge. Two lodges, two caves (Sandleni and Mzimude) and maybe some snow! A valid passport is required. Payment of R250 confirms your booking. Email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	68 km	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (A/H 18h00-20h00 Mon-Thu only)	4-5

## Advance Notices

Date	Description Distance Height	Leader	Phone
26 July	<b>Spar ladies 10km Walk:</b> Ladies to walk in hiking gear. Men to walk in <b>Drag</b> as per race rules!! Details to be confirmed. Social will be organised after the walk.	Jeanne Rapson	074 1486474
19 April – 1 May 2010	Grand Traverse - 230 km	Grant Wilkinson	073 6168789

## Note

**It is the prerogative of a hike leader to accept or reject members or other applicants in participating in his or her hike, after questioning the applicant on their fitness and experience. It is a privilege not a right to participate in a hike.**

## FREE Training sessions

**WILDWAYS Adventures** will be offering free training sessions on a variety of hiking related topics. See the fixtures list for upcoming sessions. Training will be from 9am – 12 noon at our training centre at Monteseel. Cost is R10 pp to cover tea/coffee and minor printing costs. Bookings essential:- Phone **031 767 2160** or email **info@wildwaysadventures.co.za**

Your illustrious committee has produced a booklet entitled **A Survival Guide For New Members**. This will be given to all new members and will be available to existing members at Thursday social evenings. Thanks are due to Dave Gay who did all the hard work. Here is an excerpt from the booklet:

### Transport

One of the benefits of belonging to the Club is that you can share the cost of transport. Please note the following:

1. You are expected to contribute your portion of the fuel cost, which will be determined either by sharing the cost of filling the vehicle up again on your return, or by calculation based on the distance travelled, the average fuel consumption and the total number of people in the vehicle. The driver will usually give you some idea of what the cost will be, and will advise you if this will be different for you based on where you are meeting your lift.
2. It is imperative that you contact the driver in advance to discuss arrangements, costs and directions to the rendezvous point. If you live somewhere en-route, the driver will probably collect you from your home, but if you are more out of the way you will need to meet at an agreed rendezvous.
3. You must expect to be dropped off after the hike at the same place you were collected *unless* you make prior arrangements with the driver. Never expect to be driven back to your home if you live many kilometres from your original collection point; organise this additional transport yourself.
4. If the driver lives up-route, you will probably need to get yourself to his / her home. If you need to leave your vehicle there, check parking and security with the driver in advance and if you are not happy with these, make other arrangements.
5. You are expected to reciprocate and provide lifts for other members yourself from time to time assuming you have your own vehicle.
6. Vehicles are expensive items and you should treat other people's with the greatest respect. Take care not to scratch paintwork or damage upholstery with buckles, walking poles or other equipment. If you damage another member's vehicle you should be prepared to pay for the repairs.
7. Road damage and mechanical repairs – including punctures – are risks of vehicle ownership and passengers should not be expected to assist with these unforeseen expenses.
8. The Club will not be held liable in the event of an accident, damage or theft. You share transport at your own risk.
9. It is usually best to keep your mattress, tent, walking poles, hiking boots and other bulky items separate from your backpack to simplify packing them into the vehicle. Ensure that all buckles are done up to avoid scratching paintwork or getting them entangled with other equipment.
10. Bring a clean set of clothes to leave in the vehicle so that you can change into these at the end of the hike. A towel and bar of soap are also useful for cleaning up, especially if you plan to stop at a restaurant on the way home.

The following articles and/or stories are also available on the club website at [www.mountainbackpackers.co.za](http://www.mountainbackpackers.co.za)

## The Maluti Cave Trail

Hikers : David Gay, Tish Bryson, Mark & Irene Wisdom, Bobby Stanton, Stephan & Christine Terblanche

Who would ever have thought of spending New Years Eve in Phutadijaba (for those for whom the name isn't familiar, this is the old Witsieshoek, near the Sentinel car park). Well that's exactly what we did, well almost. After a few anxious enquiries were made at both the entrance to the Witsieshoek resort and the local police station, we finally found our way to the Tseki Hut at 1,964m, being the starting point of the Maluti Cave Trail, nestled in the foothills with wonderful views of the Sentinel in the distance. To our delight we found a quaint stone thatched hut, well equipped with 4 bunk beds (sleeping 8), solar powered hot water, gas, table, chairs, pots, crockery etc. Everything was there but the braai and wood which we had been assured would be available. Futile attempts were made to rummage around to find suitable braaing material. This meant that Stephan and I had to head back to Phutaijaba to purchase the necessary. One can imagine this town on New Years Eve; cars going in every direction almost causing gridlock, together with early celebrations in full force. To our surprise we found a large and very clean Spar, flanked by Woolworths, Edgars, Foschini etc. One would never have imagined that!

A great evening was had by all as bottles of champagne were popped and stories shared. We *almost* saw in the New Year, but the alcohol ran short before the clock struck 12 and we were all cocooned in our sleeping bags as 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 dawned.

We awoke in typical hiking fashion at a ridiculously early hour, to a cool and overcast day and awaited anxiously for the arrival of Fanjan, who was to be our guide for the next 4 days. This was necessitated by the initiation camps being held in the mountains, introducing young men to adulthood. The camps are held traditionally each year for the month of December for Sotho boys, the youngest of whom are 16, but it is not compulsory for them to attend. One is not permitted to pass by or even look at the camps and therefore due to security concerns, Jacana Trails insisted that we be accompanied by a guide at all times; the cost of which they paid for.

We were on our way at 9am, enjoying a gentle stroll, with a few small inclines to raise the heart beat a little. Our guide was knowledgeable and informed us about many of the plants as we continued on our way. We had a short tea break in an extremely large cave named Wetsi, which we learned was also an initiation cave. Lunch was a little "dry" as we were unable to find water, so after a short break, enjoying wors/steak rolls from the previous evening, we quickly headed on our way to the overnight hut Thabaputswa. Day 1 had seen us cover 9 km. Once again, the hut was fully equipped. It was a glorious afternoon and after a quick stroll to explore the old hikers' huts, some of us headed off for a dip and spent the afternoon relaxing in the pools. A spectacular electrical storm accompanied by driving rain rounded off a wonderful day.

We were greeted the following morning by another glorious day, which threatened to be exceptionally warm. Today was the day we were heading for the escarpment, so we needed to be on our way early, before the intense heat of the day. The path leading us through Casa des Valley, passing Watsonia Garden as we climbed Dagga Nek pass, was adorned with beautiful flowers and bugs, and crossed over the Kgotjwane River numerous times, allowing for plenty of drinking water. A quick dip would have been welcome, however we had more ambitious plans that day and needed to keep moving. The path zig-zagged all the way up the pass and made for an easy "summit", topping out at 2,958m. A short stroll on the escarpment led to a most spectacular waterfall, which probably fell for 150m and is definitely the most impressive I have seen in the Berg. One could easily have spent the day exploring, however we needed to begin making our way back. Our guide led us for some distance over the escarpment to the point from where we were to descend. It hardly looked possible, but we duly followed, watched closely by the hundreds of sheep enjoying the lush grass and herded by the shepherd boys. After a long, hot day and 15kms, we arrived back at the hut as the first few drops of rain began to fall. After a quick rain shower, the sun was once again out, which allowed everyone to wander off to the river to enjoy a swim. The obligatory early evening thunderstorm made it's appearance, but was over shortly.

We decided to combine Day 3 and 4 as the distance from the 2<sup>nd</sup> overnight hut to the 3<sup>rd</sup> was very short, meaning that we would have arrived there very early. However had we known of the spectacular pools which we were to pass en route, allowing plenty of swimming and photographic opportunities, we may have planned differently. Marble Baths pales in comparison to the beauty of this area. Sandstone cliffs rose steeply from the river as we moved further into the valley. As we climbed out of the small valley, we visited two caves where we viewed some rock art, but unfortunately some of this had been defaced. We arrived at the Matsieng hut around 11.30am, which is situated adjacent to a dam that was full of waterbirds including Grey Heron and Yellowbilled Duck. The view of the Amphitheatre in the background was magnificent and even the Sentinel car park could be seen in the far distance to the South, so clear was the weather.

We continued on our way after lunch on the final stretch of our journey. By now it was very hot and we could feel our skin burning in the heat of the day. No fresh water had been available at the lunch spot and as we neared Phutatijaba, our guide warned us not to drink from the streams we passed. We were parched and discussions were already underway to visit the liquor store on our return, to purchase some cold beers. The heat of the day was relieved when we came across a lovely pool which Marc and Stephan decided to try out. Like little boys, after testing the water to ensure it was deep enough, they were quickly dive bombing from the upper to lower pool, much to our guide's delight, whilst the ladies watched and cooled our feet. A steep descent into the valley meant only one thing and that was a slog up the other side, through overgrown bush and overhanging trees. A trickle of water seeping through the rock allowed for water bottles to be replenished and for a short while thirst to be quenched, making the last part of the climb a little more bearable as the heat continued to press down on us.

Tseki Hut was a welcome sight in the distance as we made our final strides up the last of the gentle hills, arriving after a good days walk totaling 15km. As the only drivers of a 4x4 Stephan and I were given the drinks orders and sent off to the village to purchase a few refreshments, whilst the others enjoyed a cool shower and relaxed. As we chatted around the table, the heavens opened as a massive thunderstorm, accompanied by strong winds broke. Marc kindly invited two local ladies who had been carrying wood back to their homes, to shelter in our hut from the storm, where Bobby made them tea sweetened with condensed milk to warm them up and we gave them lots of "goodies" to eat. As the storm had not abated we decided to drive them home. Their neighbours watched on as we safely delivered the ladies to their home; one can only imagine the stories they had to tell their friends.

The following morning we packed up early and headed off home, stopping along route to enjoy a greasy bacon and egg breakfast at the Escourt OneStop.

We had all enjoyed a wonderful and new experience and certainly one that we would recommend.

Christine Terblanche

**Commemoration and Dedication of a Cottage at Mkhomazi  
to Luciano Colombo  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Dave Gay  
Colleen Lingerfelder  
Nikki Colombo  
Tish Bryson  
Elaine Bushell  
Bobby Stanton  
Mikka Khoza, Officer-in-Charge Mkhomazi

The Mkhomazi area was one that was much loved by Luciano and he visited it frequently, staying in the cottage that is situated on the Parks Board Grounds. This has sadly fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years, and it was with this in mind, coupled with Luciano's fondness for this region that prompted the Club to renovate and bring the cottage back to its former glory.

The Club has been liaising with Mikka, the new and enthusiastic Office-in-Charge at Mkhomazi and it was agreed that the refurbishment and renovation of the cottage would be a joint venture and funded equally by Parks Board and Mountain Backpackers Club. Although not quite complete on the day of the commemoration, the thatching is just about finished and all that remains is painting and cleaning up of the interior.

It is hoped that members of our club and the public will take advantage of the comfortable and beautiful surroundings and explore this area which is surprisingly not often visited. It is a mere two and a half hours from Durban and one only needs to travel 10kms on a dirt road after 20 km of tar from Nottingham Road.



Luciano's wife Nikki and a close family friend provided us with a veritable mountain of delicious home-made muffins, jams and fruit juices. After enjoying the delicious eats, the party moved outside to the cottage where Dave Gay made a short speech, telling of Luciano's special love of the area and dedicating the hut to his memory. Several local residents and local farmers Napier and Hobday also attended.

A fitting tribute to a well respected and much loved leader and member of our club – his memory lives on.

Elaine Bushell

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## South Africa – Mozambique – Tanzania - Malawi

Are you interested in seeing a bit more of Africa, straying off the beaten track, snorkeling, mountain climbing, exploring hot springs and attempting exciting river crossings ? Do you have a motorbike or 4x4 vehicle and two months or part thereof to spare ? Then phone me for details on the most exciting travel opportunities this year.

Contact Sharon Jordan 083 656 3231

### HambaNathi “Walk with us” Guided Wild Coast Hikes

HambaNathi offers guided hikes along the Wild coast, South Africa's most beautiful, wildest and most exciting stretch of coast. Camp on unspoilt beaches, swim in magical rock pools, see an abundance of marine and coastal life. All hikes are fully catered. Transport and last night's accommodation in Mbotyi are arranged. Visit our Website at <http://www.wildcoasthikes.co.za> or phone 031 202 9994.

### Southern Secrets Hiking and Backpacking

Discover some of the exquisite secrets of the Drakensberg Mountains with a fully qualified Mountain Walking Guide. Single or multi-day trips. Contact Philip Grant (033) 997 1817 or Cell (082) 417 9163. or email [pgrant@yebo.co.za](mailto:pgrant@yebo.co.za).

### Berg Free Adventures

David Sclanders runs single and multi day guided trips into the Berg, visiting rock-art sites, sleeping in tents, caves and mountain huts. He is a member of the South African Mountain Guide Association registered as a guide with the Department of Tourism, Registration Number KZN0050. He can be contacted on **telephone or fax 033 239 5013, Cell 082 443 4287** or visit [www.bergfree.co.za](http://www.bergfree.co.za).

### WILDWAYS Adventures

Ever wanted to try Abseiling or Rock Climbing? **WILDWAYS Adventures** offers experiences every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend at Monteseel (half way between Durban & PMB). Abseiling from 9am – 12 noon ~ Rock Climbing from 1:30 – 4:30 Saturday & Sunday. Cost is R50 pp per session and bookings are essential. To book phone **082 864 0011** or email [info@wildwaysadventures.co.za](mailto:info@wildwaysadventures.co.za)

### Discounts For Members

**CAPE UNION MART** offers members 5% discount - **membership cards must be produced.**

**CAMPING & OUTDOORS** offers members 5% discount off most items on presentation of **valid membership cards.** The Crescent, Umhlanga Ridge.- tel 031 566 3177.

**New store at Bailey's Centre, Builders Way, Hillcrest – Behind Oscar's – 031 7657595**

**OUTDOOR WAREHOUSE** offers 5% discount when presented with a **valid membership card.**

### BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT

In the past some members have not hiked because they did not have the necessary equipment, particularly winter gear. Our club has a full range of backpacking items, making it unique in KwaZulu-Natal. In addition to the backpacks and tents, there are sleeping bags, rain gear and gas stoves. Comfortable, warm jackets are for hire on club trips by MEMBERS only.

### Hiring Fees

Item	Deposit	Daily Fee
Tent	R100	R20
Backpack	R100	R20
Sleeping Bag + Liner	R50	R10
Gas Stove	R50	R10
Jacket	R50	R10
Mattress	R25	R5
Groundsheet	R25	R5
Poncho	R25	R5

## EXCITING SOCIAL CALENDAR – PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE

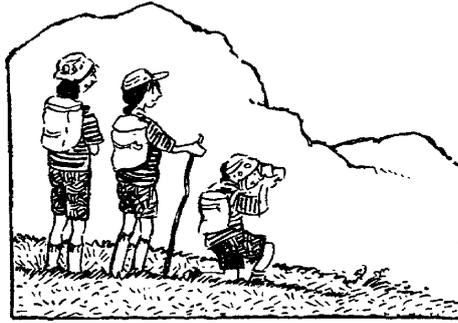
### Directions to Sherwood Bowling Club - 860 Jan Smuts Highway

**From Durban** - Take N3 out towards PMB, after Tollgate take the Sherwood off-ramp and turn right under the freeway in to Jan Smuts Highway, up the hill, past Jungle Nursery on the right, turn right under the pedestrian bridge into Tropical Nursery parking, follow the road past trees to the back of the nursery.

**From Westville** - take the M13 towards Durban, past Westwood Shopping centre, through 45<sup>th</sup> Cutting traffic lights, down Jan Smuts Highway, turn left under the pedestrian bridge (in front of Naked Ladies) in to Tropical Nursery parking, follow the road past trees to the back of nursery.

**From PMB**, from Hillcrest take the N3 past the Pavilion and four-level interchange, take the Sherwood glide-off, keep left in to Jan Smuts Highway, past Jungle Nursery on right, turn right under pedestrian bridge in to the parking of Tropical Nursery, follow road to the back of Tropical Nursery.

<b>SOCIAL CALENDAR</b>	
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>Sherwood Bowling Club</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>7.30 PM for 8.00 PM</b>
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	<b>Jeanne 074 148 6474</b>
DATE	DESCRIPTION
<b>9 April</b>	<b><u>“All roads lead to Rome on the Via Francigena Pilgrimage trail”</u>- presented by Sylvia Nilsen</b> We welcome back Sylvia Nilsen who has spoken to the club before about her hikes across the UK, France and Spain. She and four friends hiked from Lake Geneva, across the Alps to Rome, following the ancient Via Francigena pilgrimage trail
<b>23 April</b>	<b><u>How to take those picture perfect hiking shots-</u> presented by Emil Von Maltitz of “Mountain Light”</b> Emil will be presenting the long awaited second talk on making the most of your hiking photography. Both beginner and expert photographers will find this talk fascinating and practical. Emil is an avid hiker and professional photographer who offers guided photographic tours in the Drakensberg. There will be an exhibition of Berg landscapes by Emil Von Maltitz and Bobby Stanton.
<b>14 May</b>	<b><u>Introduction to new MBC website and the creation of digital panoramic movie clips using your hiking photos-</u>presented by Brilliant Web</b> Brendon Hatcher from Brilliant Web will show us the “bells and whistles” of our brand new interactive MBC website! He is also a keen hiker and photographer who turns his panoramic photos into digital movie clips! He’ll show us how!
<b>28 May</b>	<b><u>Pub night- Stokers Arms (Kloof)</u></b> A relaxed social evening at Stokers Arms to catch up with your fellow hikers over a pint.
<b>11 June</b>	<b><u>MBC Special Project Feedback</u></b> Mkhomazi Hut Re-thatching- presented by Dave Gay. This project was undertaken in memory of Luciano Colombo. Eco-schools Project- presented by Grant Wilkinson. MBC together with WESA took a group of previously disadvantaged children on an over night hike in the Drakensberg.
<b>25 June</b>	<b><u>“Cambodia, the realisation of a dream”-</u> presented by Sue Picken &amp; Pete Naylor</b> These adventurous MBC members spent 3 weeks exploring the byroads of Cambodia using only public buses and boats for transport. They spent their time travelling with and getting to know the local people of Cambodia. A unique experience!
<b>6 June</b>	<b><u>ECR Big Walk: Social and fun event!</u></b> Come along with your hiking hat, boots and poles. Wear your MBC or hiking t-shirts. Family and friends welcome. Meet fellow hikers at 06:30am outside Mugg & Bean, SunCoast Casino. Race starts at 7am (to be confirmed by race organisers). <b><u>Social afterwards:</u></b> Bring-your-own picnic at botanical gardens 11:00am. See MBC website/emails for more information or phone Jeanne on 074 148 6474.



**CLUB CAMPOUT: 13 - 16 JUNE 2009 CATHEDRAL PEAK CAMP SITE**

	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	11:00	Day Event	Rainbow Gorge Day Hike Grade 2 - 3
	11:00	Day Event	Sherman's Cave Day Hike Grade 2 - 3
	18:00		Opening Address
	18:30		Stir Fry Competition. Beef/chicken to be supplied by the Club. Vegetarians also catered for. Prizes will be awarded for the best Stir Fry so please let the judges taste!
			Get together around Bonfire
<b>Sunday</b>	05:30	Day Event	Climb Cathedral Peak Grade 4 - 5
	09:00	Morning	Mountain Bike Exploration
	09:00	Morning	Baboon Rock morning Hike Grade 2 - 3
	12:00		Lunch time
	14:00	Afternoon	Team Sports will be arranged in the campsite: fun for the whole family!
	18:30	Evening	Bring and Braai
			Braai fires to be supplied by the Club
			Get together around Bonfire
<b>Monday</b>			
	09:00	Morning	Visit Rock Art Centre at Didima
	10:00	Morning	Drive up Mike's Pass for spectacular views
	12:00		Lunch time
	14:00	Afternoon	Geocaching Competition. Get into teams with a GPS
	14:00	Afternoon	Team Sports
	18:30	Evening	Bring and Braai. Braai fires to be supplied by the Club. Get together around Bonfire
	20:00		Fun Awards & Closing address
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00	Morning	Organised brunch at Cathedral Peak Hotel