



MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

Fixtures List: October-December 2017

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER – Fourth Quarter 2017

This is the last Chairman's Chatter that you'll be receiving from me as Chairman of the MBC. I have had a wonderful 5 years leading this fantastic and social Club. I have been fortunate to have the support of the committee members who have served with me in this time. And I thank you all so much for all the laughs and experiences we have had together.

I remember attending my first MBC meeting in the late 1990's. The hall was full of hikers and the atmosphere buzzing with news and catching up among friends. Those friendships and meaningful connections seem to have lasted a lifetime already. I will still be around- I am just handing the leadership torch to Andy Brown so that I may have a break.

I was fortunate to travel to the Northern Berg in September. The scenery remains unparalleled and among my favourite places in the Berg. However the landscape is bleak and dry. The Free State and that part of KZN is still very brown and dusty. The water at the top of the Tugela Falls is in low puddles, not even a stream. Please be particularly considerate with our natural waterways in the Berg under the circumstances. Please ablute and wash far from the water- which is used for drinking by other hikers downstream.

Keep an eye on the MBC Facebook page for MBC news. If you're a paid-up member, you'll receive weekly or bi-monthly emails on fixtures updates and any new announcements. If you are NOT receiving these mails, kindly let us know on membership@mountainbackpackers.co.za.

We look very forward to the Annual Photo Competition judging. This will be done at the Social evening on Thursday 09.11.2017 by Maggie and Wendy from the Bluff Camera Club.

We welcome you ALL to join us for the Annual MBC End of Year Party on the 23.11.2017. This festive affair is always a happy one and a good opportunity to catch up with friends.

Remember that the fixtures list can also be found on and downloaded from www.mountainbackpackers.co.za, along with a host of other interesting information about hiking, equipment and some articles about Club activities.

Please pay your subs for 2017 if you haven't already. Huge thanks to those who have!

There is notice given in the Socials list for the MBC AGM on 12 October 2017. The AGM will be held at the Sherwood Bowling Club at 7pm. Boerie /Cheese rolls will be catered for attendees.

We look forward to seeing you OUT THERE.

Happy Hiking.

Karen Miller
Chairman: Mountain Backpackers Club

MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB COMMITTEE 2016

Chairman	Karen Miller	chairman@mountainbackpackers.co.za
Vice Chairman	Andy Brown	072 101 2498
Treasurer	Bobby Stanton	031 465 5535
Fixture List / Magazine	Andy Brown	072 101 2498
Marketing	Heidi Cox	082 706 4283
Secretary	Amy Grantham and Brent Kloppers	grantham.kloppers@gmail.com
Social media	Karen, Heidi, Andy, Amy	info@mountainbackpackers.co.za
New member mentorship	Sorin Dimitriu	084 681 8920
Student/youth liaison	Amy Grantham	amygrantham@futurenet.co.za
Leadership liaison	Amy Grantham and Brent Kloppers	amygrantham@futurenet.co.za
Membership: (paid position)	Philip van Gass	083 440 1651

Fax: 086 504 3382

Website: www.mountainbackpackers.co.za

Email: info@mountainbackpackers.co.za

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2017

Single memberships: R250

Family membership: R310

(50% Reduction in Fees are offered to NEW members from September to November 2017)

(NEW members joining up in December will be at the 2018 rate, but will include December and all of

2018.)

If you have not done so already, kindly pay your 2017 MBC Fees as soon as possible.

Please pay by EFT and NOT cash deposit or cheque at the bank! (The bank charges are prohibitively expensive).

Should you wish to pay cash, please pay the Chairman/committee member at one of the Socials (make sure you get a receipt!) and we will process your payment with the administrator.

If you do pay by EFT, please give us a meaningful reference –surname, name and membership number is ideal.

Please EFT your payment to:
FNB - Westville Branch
Account Name: MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB
Account No: 50780007264. Branch code: 223526

THE GRADING OF HIKES

1. Very easy trip.
2. Easy trip.
3. Moderate trip – Hiking fitness required.
4. Strenuous trip – Backpacking fitness required.
5. Very strenuous trip- High degree of physical fitness essential.

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

FIXTURE LIST – 4th QUARTER

October 2017

Date	Description	Dist / Elevation	Leader	Contact	Grd
30 Sept to 4 Oct	The Giants Cup Trail. Sani Pass to Bushman's Nek. 4 Nights. 5 days.	60km 700m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3
Sunday 8 Oct	Day walk from Karkloof country club to Karkloof Falls and return. Bring a picnic lunch for the falls. Refreshments available at the club before and after the walk COST R35.00 for the trails. Meet at Karkloof Polo Country Club 8.30	15km round trip	Christine Pickup	082 782 6025 christinebro3@gmail.com	2
12-15 Oct	4-day hike to Makeke. Lesotho. 3462 metres (second highest peak south of Kilimanjaro) from Giants Castle. Day 1. Giants Castle Camp to bottom of Corner Pass. Day 2. Climb Corner Pass to Upper Injasuti Cave Day 3. Climb Makeke and return to Upper Injasuti Cave Day 4. Return to Giants Castle Camp via Judge Pass. Physical fitness and head for heights required.	56km 1700m	John Pickup	johnpickup9@gmail.com 0721512031	5

13-15 Oct	Garden Castle area. Rhino Peak 3056 metres, via Mashai pass. There and back in one day. Early 5:00 am start. Day packs. Approximately 12hr hike. Meet Friday evening, camping or Swiman Hut. On return, overnight at Garden Castle again Saturday night. Depart Sunday.	20km 1200m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	5
14-15 Oct	Bushman's Nek area. Tarn Cave via Bushman's Pass, returning via ridge route and Cedric's pool.	21km 690m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon-Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3
21 Oct	African Fish River Trail. Lots of birdlife, walk through Beachwood Mangroves and along North bank of Umgeni river, meet at Green Hub Durban @ 08h00 & leave 08h15. Rain stops Play. Bring cash for tea at Springfield SPCA 1/2 way. Please confirm if joining walk by 14 October .	13km	Heidi Cox	heidi.dinan@gmail.com m 0827064283	2
22 Oct	Krantzkloof Gorge. Sunday morning training hike. Yellow route and old white routes combined. Meet at Nkutu car park, Valley Drive at 08:30. Bring water, back before lunch. R30 entrance fee.	14km 400m	Andy Brown	072 101 2498 andybza@gmail.com	3
28-29 Oct	Cobham area. Gxalingenwa Cave via Ndlovini mountain, returning via Emerald Stream path.	26 km 465m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon-Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3
29 Oct	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. Cost R30pp.	15km	Keith Ashton	033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2

November 2017

Date	Description	Dist / Elevation	Leader	Contact	Grd
11-12 Nov	Garden Castle area. Whyte's Cave via Gaint's Cup trail, returning via Rob's Cave and Hidden Valley	27km 660m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon-Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	4
18 Nov	Meeting at 8.30 Saturday at Giba Gorge car park. Look for my Jimny with the MBC banner. Stop at waterfall for snack break. Please phone leader, to confirm your attendance.	10km	John McGovern	082 659 5111 Between 08:00 and 13:00	2
18-19 Nov	Garden Castle area. Pillar Cave. Ideal for first time backpackers unsure of their fitness level.	8km 160m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3

18-19 Nov	Monk's Cowl area. Sterkhorn Peak (Mount Memory) 2973 metres. UP and DOWN in one day. Day packs. Approx' 11hrs. On return, overnight at Monks Cowl, Saturday night. You MUST be fit for this hike.	18km 1400m	Andy Brown	072 101 2498 andybza@gmail.com	5
25-26 Nov	Cobham area. Mzimkhulwana Hut via the Giant's Cup Trail, returning via the eSiphongweni rock art site, high contour path (NEW ROUTE!) and Tortoise Rocks. Also visit two "new" caves you didn't know were there!	19km 340m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon-Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	4

December 2017

Date	Description	Dist / Elevati on	Leader	Contact	Grd
1-2 Dec	Cathedral Peak area. Cathedral Peak 3005 metres. UP and DOWN in one day. Day packs. Approx' 8hrs. On return, overnight at Didema or depart.	19km 1500m	Andy Brown	072 101 2498 andybza@gmail.com	5
Sunday 10 Dec	Beach Walk. Bluff Lords and Legends to Whaling Station and back. Please confirm if joining walk by 3 December.	12km	Heidi Cox	heidi.dinan@gmail.com 0827064283	2
9-10 Dec	Monk's Cowl area: Tented summer hike. Camp at the base of Intunja. NB: Tents required.	11km each way	Christine Pickup	082 782 6025 christinebro3@gmail.com	3
9-10 Dec	Garden Castle area. Bushman's Nek Hut and return via Giant's Cup Trail	27km 345m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon-Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3
9-10 Dec	Cobham area. Tented hike along the Pholela river. Camp next to the pools below eSipongweni. Ideal for first time hikers unsure of their fitness. NB: Tents required.	12km 100m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3
30 Dec to 2 Jan	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 <u>three-night stay</u> .- 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. Cost R120 pppn. R360 total for 3 nights.		Keith Ashton	033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2

Note: It is the prerogative of a hike leader to accept or reject members or other applicants from 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.

Day hikers are requested to phone the leader beforehand to confirm their attendance and that

the hike is still on schedule.

Advance Notices

Date	Description	Dist / Height	Leader	Contact	Grd
JANUARY 12TH – 21ST 2018	"Team Pickup" WILD COAST HIKE FROM COFFEE BAY TO KEI RIVER Approximately 120kms		John and Christine Pickup	Contact John or Christine Pickup for details. 0721512031 or 0827826025 johnpickup9@gmail.com christinebro3@gmail.com	
April 2018	The Grand Traverse 2018 Please advise interest EARLY so we can plan ahead. Circa April / Easter. Dates TBC.	220km	Andy Brown	Tel; 072 101 2498 andybza@gmail.com	5



DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB
Saturday and Sunday Hiking Programme
OCTOBER 2017



Sun 01 Oct 2017 (08:30am) – Mt Gilboa, Howick (members only)

Hike Leader: Marie Gurr/ Stella Wells 082 586 0266/ 078 319 8979

Join the 'weekenders', who will be staying at Shawswood, on this hike. Please let Marie or myself know if you will be joining us, preferably before Friday 29 Sep. Guide fees R20.

Sat 07 Oct 2017 (13:45pm) – D'Moss/ Portuguese Club (Umbilo)

Hike Leader: Philip 082 417 0204 | Grade 1 Easy; ±7 km

Great beginners hike intended to explore the Umbilo D'Moss trail and surrounds.

**Meet and park at 13:45pm at the Portuguese Club (5 Wright Place, Carrington Heights).

Sun 08 Oct 2017 (07:30am) – Killarney Rockeries (Cato Ridge)

Hike Leader: Margie Forbes 073 437 6915 | Grade 2-3; ±14km

Steep in places and hopefully lots of spring flowers. Refreshments at Highstakes after the hike. Petrol sharing from Pinetown R30.

Sat 14 Oct 2017 (13:45pm) – Tanglewood (Kloof)

Hike Leader: Sue 079 980 0488 | Grade 3 Strenuous ±11km

This hike will take us around the beautiful Tanglewood Nature Reserve and surrounds. Drinks afterwards at the Kloof Country Club. R20 donation to the Tanglewood Reserve.

****Meet and park at 13:45pm at the Kloof Country Club (26 Victory Rd).**

Sun 15 Oct 2017 (08:00am) – Toti Trek

Hike Leader: Anna Kapp 071 427 7139 | Grade 2; ±15km

An exploration of Amanzimtoti incorporating a walk along the Toti River. A slightly different route from the one done previously. Drinks after at the Sports Bar!

Sat 21 Oct 2017 (13:45pm) – Beacon Trail, Krantzkloof Nature Reserve (KKNR)

Hike Leader: Abdullah 084 478 6779 | Grade 3 Moderate to strenuous, Vertigo warning; ±7km

A hike through the forest then up to the open grassland and the beacon. Entrance fee R30. Drinks afterwards at the Nature Café in Kloof Falls Rd.

****Meet 13:45pm at the KKNR main entrance (152 Koof Falls Rd).**

Sun 22 Oct 2017 (Amashova) (07:30am) – Umzinto Farm

Hike Leaders: Jon & Sharon 082 459 1522 | Grade 2-3; ±15km

Hike on a farm in the Umzinto area. Lovely views. BYO for drinks/ braai at the farm house after the hike. Petrol sharing R45.

Sat 28 Oct 2017 (13:45pm) – Ubikwe Eco Trail (Lower Illovo) – New hike!

Hike Leader: Linda 083 353 8319 | Grade 2 Moderate; ±5km

Beautiful walk along the Illovo River, through reed beds, grassland and riverine bush with a number of bird hides to enjoy the extensive birdlife. R20 to the Eco Trail Conservancy.

****Meet and park at 13:45pm at the start of the trail at 1 Deeptank Road, Lower Illovo Business Park. Please inform security that you are going to the trail.**

Sun 29 Oct 2017 – Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (Howick)

Hike Leaders: Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za; Stella Wells 078 319 8979 stellawells4@gmail.com | Grade 2-3; 12-15km

Lovely day hike in a beautiful area – great views and a chance to see plenty of game & bird life. Several trail variations. Entrance fee to reserve R30. Combined hike with Midlands Hiking Club & Mountain Backpackers. **Please phone the leader to book a place on this hike by Wednesday 25 Oct.** Immediately thereafter contact Stella to co-ordinate transport from Durban, if required.

MBC SOCIAL CALENDAR – PLEASE NOTE THE 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 under the pedestrian bridge and at the first traffic lights take a right U-turn to join the opposite lane, drive down and turn left just before the pedestrian bridge, up this narrow lane for about 200m and then turn left through the gate into the Bowling Club parking.

From Westville - take the M13 towards Durban, past Westwood Shopping centre, through 45th Cutting traffic lights, down Jan Smuts Highway, turn left just before the pedestrian bridge, up this narrow lane for about 200m and then turn left through the gate into the Bowling Club parking.

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 under the pedestrian bridge and at the first traffic lights take a right U-turn to join the opposite lane, drive down and turn left just before the pedestrian bridge, up this narrow lane for about 200m and then turn left through the gate into the Bowling Club parking.



SOCIAL CALENDAR

MBC Socials normally take place every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.
We gather at 19:00 for a 19:30 start.

12 October	AGM	Please RSVP your attendance for catering purposes by 09.10.2017 to grantham.kloppers@gmail.com . Boerie/cheese rolls will be served to attendees.	
26 October	<p>A mini first aid workshop.</p> <p>Being able to think clearly and think out the box during times of stress or emergency is a strong attribute for any leader. Doug does first aid training aimed at remote areas with limited access to huge amounts of medical equipment and this fits in well with the hiking. He uses simulation and re-enactment as part of his course and it's invaluable for first aiders to get an idea of how bad a scene can look.</p>	<p>Craig Smith and Doug Lang</p> <p>An "in the bush" emergency, basic first aid workshop, (not for certificate) but by a certified and very capable medic who's used to being away from civilisation.</p>	

09 November	MBC Annual Photo Competition 2017	Maggie and Wendy from the Bluff Camera Club will judge for us again.	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd place prizes will be awarded.
23 November	MBC Annual End of Year Party	Join the MBC for an End of Year Celebration. Please rsvp to Amy on grantham.kloppers@gmail.com by 09.11.2017 for catering and seating purposes. Friends and non-members are welcome at a cost of R60pp for non-members. Cash bar available. All food will be supplied by the MBC and the Sherwood Bowling Club.	Charity to be announced.
14 December	<p>“9 pitches, 1800km and a push-bike named Dlamini”</p> <p>Gavin’s bicycle ride from the Drakensberg to Table Mountain in November 2015.</p> <p>Gavin will also have copies of his latest book for sale at R390.</p> <p>“Drakensberg Select”, by Gavin Raubenheimer. Blue Mountain Publishers.</p>	Gavin Raubenheimer of Peak High Mountaineering, and also the Rescue Convenor for MCSA.	