



MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

Fixtures List: August- September 2018

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Greetings hikers.

At last the rest of the third quarter hikes.

My sincere apology for the delay, unfortunately of late I have been unable to give the MBC the time and focus it deserves.

There are plenty of interesting and varied hikes to choose from to suit all comers from gentle day hikes to challenging grade five expeditions so dust off your boots and tents.

Don't forget to visit the MBC Facebook page for news and report-backs on hikes and socials. Remember that the fixtures list can also be downloaded from www.mountainbackpackers.co.za, along with a host of other interesting information about hiking and equipment.

The mountains are calling. See you on the trail.

Andy Brown
Chairman: Mountain Backpackers Club

MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB COMMITTEE 2018

Chairman	Andy Brown	chairman@mountainbackpackers.co.za
Vice Chairman	Heidi Cox	info@mountainbackpackers.co.za
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	amygrantham@futurenet.co.za
Social media	Heidi, Andy, Amy	info@mountainbackpackers.co.za
New Member Liaison.	Sorin Dimitriu	084 681 8920
Socials coordinator and events.	Amy Grantham and Brent Kloppers	amygrantham@futurenet.co.za
Website.	Lungile Dlamini and Trish Dunlop	
Membership: (paid position)	Philip van Gass	083 440 1651

Website: www.mountainbackpackers.co.za

Email: info@mountainbackpackers.co.za

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2018

Single memberships: R275

Family membership: R350

(50% Reduction in Fees are offered to NEW members from September to November 2018)
(NEW members joining up in December will be at the 2019 rate, but will include December and all of 2019.)

If you have not done so already, kindly pay your 2018 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 – 3rd QUARTER

August 2018

Date	Description	Dist / Elevation	Leader	Contact	Grd
9-12 Aug	Cobham area: Gxalingenwa Cave. 4 days. Gxalingenwa Cave via Emerald Stream and Pinnacle Rock; Spectacle Cave via The Hub and Gorge Cave; Mzimkhulwana Hut via Siphongweni Valley; return via the	45km 900m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon- Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5
10-11 Aug	Garden Castle area. Swiman Hut. Day hikes. Weather permitting, and subject to availability at the hut. A decision to be made Monday or Tuesday whether to go, but thus far the long-term forecast looks OK. Members will be responsible for making their own bookings (R100 pppn). Note that there is currently no electricity at the hut, but there should be a nice warm fireplace. The hut can be accessed by car and you need to bring all bedding and cooking equipment with you.	TBA	Alan & Lisa Smith	If anyone is interested, please contact Lisa on 0828604043 or on email lisa.guastella@alumni.uct.ac.za	2
18-19 Aug	Injisuthi area. Wonder Valley Cave: Meet at the Injisuthi Wildlife office at 9:00. Climb Van Heyningen's Pass to the view point and across Shada Ridge to the cave. At the bottom of the valley is a lovely waterfall and pool.	18km 470m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3
25-26 Aug	Bushman's Nek: Tarn Cave. Tarn Cave via Bushman's Nek Pass, returning via ridge route and Twin Pools.	21 Km 690m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon- Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3
25-26 Aug	BUSHMAN'S NEK - FIVE Caves hike – Backpacking via Painter's Cave, Sherry Cave (New) & White Horse Cave then sleeping in Whytes Cave Sat	30km	Keith Ashton	keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	3

26 Aug	<p>night & returning via Langalibalele Cave on Sun - nice pool & waterfall near Whytes Cave - Combined hike with other clubs - Last bookings by Fri 10 Aug. R70 pp</p> <p>Fund-raising Trail run. Mhlengitriagain Sibaya Zulu Trail.</p> <p>KZN Trails are allowing this event to be used to raise funds for Mhlengi Gwala, the triathlete who was attacked with a chainsaw in March, to contribute to his recovery and costs.</p>	Various	Heidi Cox	www.roag.co.za	?
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September 2018

Date	Description	Dist / Elevation	Leader	Contact	Grd
2 Sept	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. R20 pp donation.	14km	Keith Ashton	keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2
8 Sept	African Fish Eagle 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 6 September.	?	Heidi Cox	heidi.dinan@gmail.com 0827064283	2
8-9 Sept	Kamberg area: Sinclair's Cave. Sinclair's Cave via Willem's Shelters and Christmas Shelter. Optional: slide show and guided tour of Game Pass Shelter.	21km 510m	David Gay	031 764 0298 (18:00 to 20:00 Mon-Thurs only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5
8-9 Sept	Injisuthi area. Grindstone Caves Meet at the Injisuthi KZN Wildlife Office at 9:00. Ideal hike for first time backpackers.	10km 400m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3
15 Sept	International Coastal Clean-up Meet at the Beachwood Mangroves at 08h30 to join the MBC group and many others taking part in this massive, important, international event. Contact Heidi for details.	?	Heidi Cox	heidi.dinan@gmail.com 0827064283	
16 Sept	Drakensberg Gardens area. Triple Peaks, Cripple Creek Little Bamboo Mountain, Drakensberg Gardens. Distance 14kms. Ascent / descent 600m. Meet at NUD Sports Underberg at 8.00am. Normal KZN Wildlife day entry charges apply.	14km 600m	Philip Grant	picsgrant@gmail.com 082 417 9163	3

15-16 Sept	Mkhomazi area- Cyprus Cave. 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. R70 pp	28km	Keith Ashton	keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	3
21-24 Sept	Monks Cowl area. CHAMPAGNE CASTLE'S Big 5 in 4 Days Physical fitness, head for height and tents are a requirement. Day 1 – Monks Cowl – Sterkhorn 2973mts return to Blind Man's Corner for overnight camp - 12km Day 2 – Blind Man's Corner – Amphletts 2620mts – overnight camp at Keith Bush Camp - 10km Day 3 – Up Grays Pass for Champagne Castle 3246mts – return to camp at the base of Intunja – 18kms Day 4 – Intunja 2408mts – Matterhorn 1995mts on the return trip, ending at Champagne Hotel for celebrations – 20kms Should one wish to spend 4 days in the mountains, but not do the peaks, you are welcome.	60km Total	John and Christine Pickup	John 0721512031 or Christine 0827826025	5
22-24 Sept	Monk's Cowl area: Vaalribbokkop Cave 3 days Vaalribbokkop Cave via Jacobs' Ladder; Zulu Cave via Hospitalspruit and Mhlwazini River; return via Hlatikhulu Nek and The Sphinx. Option climb: Intunja (Gatberg).	38km 640m	David Gay		3,5

Advanced Notice Hikes and Events

Date	Description	Dist / Elevation	Leader	Contact	Grd
4 Nov	'Impendle Nature Reserve' . Distance 12kms. Ascent / Descent 300m. Meet at the Impendle turn off on the R617 (6kms past Boston coming from Howick, or 3kms past the Pickle Pot Cafe, coming from Underberg) at 8.30am. (Bring all your own refreshments for after the hike.) I will take a collection for the rangers.	12km 300m	Philip Grant.	picsgrant@gmail.com 082 417 9163	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 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. Cost R120 pppn Total R360	12-16 per day	Keith Ashton	keimarg@iuncapped.co. za	3

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.