



MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

Fixture List: October - December 2011

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Members

My word, how cold was that winter.? The snow certainly got in the way of a few of my hikes, but sitting around the fire place was a great second prize. Here's looking forward to summer storms.. awesome!

Unfortunately we have some bad news, Linda Marsden King, has decided to take a break from leading while she tackles some studying through UNISA. Well Linda, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, for the years of leading and imparting your passion on so many new hikers, and keeping your regular hikers thoroughly entertained. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the club, and we wish you the very best in your new challenge. However please don't be a stranger around the club, and so, we'll look forward to seeing you on many more hikes.

The AGM is coming up, and my term of office is rapidly coming to a close, I've really enjoyed the time I've had as the Chairman of MBC. Thank you for trusting me over the past 3 years, and I hope I've served the best interests of this community. I look forward to seeing MBC flourish in the future as new an upcoming members run with new ideas. In this regard, we need people to come forward to sit on the committee, so please put the 18th October into your diaries.

Congratulations to Irene Wisdom who won the MBC Photo Competition (and came second) with her entry 'Sunrise on Strandloper Hike'. Have a look at the website for the winning picture and the finalists.

All the best

Grant Wilkinson
MBC Chairman

MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Grant Wilkinson	073 6168789
Vice Chairman:	Bobby Stanton	031 4655535
Treasurer:	Bobby Stanton (temporary)	031 4655535
Fixture List / Magazine:	Bobby Stanton	031 4655535
Membership / Subscriptions:	Jovita da Silva	082 6919180
Backpacking /Day Hikes Convener:	vacant	083 2811288
Socials Committee	Barry Stapleton	082 6574345
Socials Committee	Brendon Cadman	082 4556986
Socials Committee	Lisa Guastella	082 8604043
Socials Committee	Marie von Bargaen	082 5027072

Tel: PRO: 072 226 2772
 Fax: 086 504 3382

Postal Address: P O Box 37702
 OVERPORT
 4067

Website: www.mountainbackpackers.co.za
 Email: info@mountainbackpackers.co.za

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

Andre Noel & family	Manqoba Sabela
Bernard Liebenberg	Razia Akoo & family
Billy Barret & family	Rory Evans
Bradley Cox	Satish Makan
Hilton Menne	Victoria Howell
Lisa Bielovich & family	Warwick Shaw
Lisa-Anne du Plessis	

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.

Annual General Meeting

**13th October, 7.00 for 7.45pm
 at Sherwood Bowling Club**

**Free boerewors rolls
 (let Jovita know if you are coming
 at info@mountainbackpackers.co.za)**

October 2011

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grd.
1	Clifton Watch - Steep climb from Mushroom farm to top of hill overlooking Giba Gorge. Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13.45 pm before proceeding to Mushroom farm car park. Drinks at Assegay Hotel afterwards. Joint Ramblers Club hike.	14 km	Trevor	079 5259230	1-2
2	Rob Roy - Starting from the Copper Kettle, Jon will lead a hike down in to the Valley of 1000 Hills along easy footpaths, far from civilization. Always beautiful. Long uphill on the way back. Either meet in Pinetown at 08H00 or at the Copper Kettle at 8:15am. Petrol sharing costs R15.	10 km	Jon (joint Ramblers Club hike)	082 4591522	1-2
1-2	Overnight in Bushmans Cave and return via Thomatu Pass. Bushmans Nek area.	2 km 2300 m	Clinton Bro	0828202139 or email clintstimbers@gmail.com	3
1-2	Trip to Wonder Valley Cave . Ideal for first time backpackers unsure of their fitness. Injasuti area	17 km 470 m	Clive Powell	031 5646169 (after 19.00)	3
3-6	Vaalribbokkop Cave via Steilberg, Three Pools Cave and Stable Cave . Visit Anton's Cave and Zunkel's Cave rock art sites, and Hospitalspruit Cave, on day 2. Hike to Zulu Cave via Hospitalspruit, Eagle Gorge, Eagle Cave and the Cat Cave rock art site on day 3. Return via Intunja (optional climb) and Hlatikhulu Nek on day 4. Monks Cowl area.	35 km 620 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3-4
8	Giba Gorge hike - This is a new variation of this scenic area, tougher than usual approx 6-7 hours. R10 entrance fee to secure parking, dont forget snacks and drinks. Physical fitness advisable.	16 km 150 m	Dave Tighe	Home 031 4649033 Cell 076 028 0708 email: dianet@zmail.co.za	2
9	Everton Estate in the Howick / Karkloof area with Midlands Hiking Club. a stunning hike with spectacular views in the area. A level of fitness is required. Meet in Pinetown at 7:20am. Petrol sharing costs R50.	10 km	Jenny (joint Ramblers Club hike)	084 9520622	
8-9	Kamberg - Sinclairs Cave - New Route - return via old dip site - good for 1st time hikers - Limited cave space - book early.	24 km 550 m	Dave Sclanders	082 4434287 bergfree@absamail.co.za	3
15	Nagle Dam Msinsi- Trail Run - 10km and 25km. For more info have a look at http://www.roag.co.za	10 km	Diane Wearne		3
15	Princes Grant to Zinkwazi - Jon will lead a beautiful hike from the golfing estate, which is less than an hour away from Durban, through to Zinkwazi Lagoon. Part of the return is along the beach. Meet at the Hypermarket at 7:40am or by arrangement at Princes Grant at 8:30am. Petrol sharing costs R35. NB - it is essential to book a place on this hike.		Jenny (joint Ramblers Club hike)	084 9520622	1-2
15-16	Venice Cave via Castle View farm. Also visit Chameleon Cave and climb The Island. Return via Wilson's Cave. Magnificent views of the southern escarpment. Garden Castle area.	27 km 465 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3-4
15-16	Hike to Birds Nest Cave from Vergelegen. Nice and easy, bring your costume as the cave has lakeside frontage. Young and new hikers encouraged.	20 km 320 m	Joanna Hall	083 6500914	3
22	New Germany Nature Reserve - Meet at	14 km	Philip	031 2013592	1-2

	Reserve Car Park, off Otto Volek Road, Pinetown at 13.45pm. Grasslands and riverine bush.		(joint Ramblers Club hike)		
23	Walk up Mt Gilboa the highest point in the Karkloof through the indigenous forest. Clivias in bloom.		Christine Bro	082 7826025 christinebro3@gmail.com	1-2
22-23	Bushman's Nek - Backpacking to & overnight in Sherry Cave (New) - The hike is a similar route to Whyte's Cave but we will do variations & also visit Bushmen's paintings. As access to the cave is along a ledge & there is a drop of many metres in front of the cave it is not suitable for children. Sleeping space is also limited. "Combined weekend with Midlands Hiking Club.	24 km	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	3
26-30	The Oliphants River Back Pack Trail starts from Olifants Camp in the Kruger Nat Park. The trail stretches over 4 days and 3 nights and covers approx. 42 kms. You will be required to carry your own tent plus all your food. The trail will be lead by two armed game rangers, and it promises to be an unforgettable experience! The cost is roughly R1800 per person plus daily conservation fees.	42 km 50 m	Eddie von Barga	083 2811 288 a/hrs Book early to avoid dissatisfaction	3-4
29	Quarterly Saturday/Sunday Ramblers joint hike. Kearsney College - Walk around the school grounds and the conservancy. Drive through the school gate and park on the grass area (right-hand side) just beyond the gate near the Astro turf hockey field. Entrance fee R10,00 per person	12 km	Carol	082 7486546	1-2
29-30	Bushman's Nek - Tarn Cave , possibly Devil's Knuckles - fitness required	32 km 600 m	Dave Sclanders	082 4434287 bergfree@absamail.co.za	3-4
29-30	Lower Injasuti Cave , visiting Fergy's Cave and Dead Dog Cave en-route. Injasuti area.	21 km 370 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3

November 2011

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Gr d.
5	Summerveld Conservancy and country roads. Meet at Assegai Hotel at 13.30 pm before proceeding to Hamiltons. Walk along streets and conservancy area.	15 km	Colin (joint Ramblers Club hike)	031 7083517	1-2
6	La Mercy to Mount Moreland. Starting from Umhloti, cross the La Mercy river and explore the area near the new airport and Mount Moreland. Easy but long hike. Meet at the parking lot by the sea across the road from the petrol station at 08:30am.	15 km	Brian Merryweather	083 2281981	3
6	Trail Run. Challenge Pollyshorts to Camerdown - 19.6km, For more info have a look at www.roag.co.za	15 km	Diane Wearne		3
5-6	Glade Cave via Lakes Cave, returning via Weaver Cave, middle route, Siphongweni Cave, the Siphongweni National Monument rock art site and the Pholela River. Cobham area.	33 km 530 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3-4
12	Alverstone Nature Reserve. Grasslands up and down dale with some game viewing. Entrance R15.00 per person. Meet at Assegai Hotel at 13.45pm. After hike braai at	9 km	Trevor (joint Ramblers Club hike)	079 5259230	1-2

	the Boma.				
13	Hike at Cumberland Nature Reserve , Pietermaritzburg, or meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown at 07h00 to travel to Pmburg.	10 km	Dave Tighe	Home 031 4649033 Cell 076 028 0708 email: dianet@zmail.co.za	2
13	Drummond. Max's Drummond hike from his farm in Peacevale area, through to Monteseel and Inchanga, is always popular. Braai afterwards so BYO. Entrance fee. Any carrots, veggie, greens, fruits (no citrus) for the donkeys. Petrol sharing costs R20.	12 km	Jenny (joint Ramblers Club hike)	084 9520622	1-2
12-13	Bushman's Nek. Lammergeier Cave. Floweres should be out , wonderful flowers in this area - fitness required - Return via Goat Cave	30 km 500 m	Dave Sclanders	082 4434287 bergfree@absamail.co.za	3
12-13	Hike to Bannermans Hut from Giants Castle, with option to summit Bannermans Pass (extra 800m) and seek out Spare rib cave. Young and new hikers encouraged.	21 km 600 m	Joanna Hall	083 6500914	3
19	Giba Gorge. Walk along Bike tracks, streams and waterfalls. Entrance R10.00 per person. Meet at Giba car park. After the hike relax in clubhouse for tea/cake or a beer	12 km	Werner (joint Ramblers Club hike)	084 2067836	1-2
20	Giba Gorge. From the bike park we hike up and along the hillside on the left with good views of the valley, before dropping down to the valley and proceeding under the N3 toll road bridge and on to Mcintosh Falls and surrounds. We return via the upper wooded section of Giba Gorge loop, if time permits. Entrance fee R10. Either meet in Pinetown at 08:00am or Giba Gorge at 08:10am. Petrol sharing costs R10.	15 km	Colin Turner (joint Ramblers Club hike)	031 7083517	1-2
19-20	Enjoy the spring flowers. Tarn Cave via the ridge route, returning via Gargoyle Cave and Vast Cave. Also visit an un-named rock art site. Bushman's Nek area.	30 km 720 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3-4
19-20	Injasuti. Backpacking to and overnight in Wonder Valley Cave. Good venue to try for less experienced backpackers, lovely pool for swimming & stream close by. Optional walks from cave to other cave & waterfalls etc. Combined weekend with Midlands Hiking Club.	20 km 500 m	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	3
27	Ballito to Salt Rock. Duncan has planned his annual walk to take advantage of the spring tides. This is a stunning beach walk with beautiful tidal rock pools, sandy beaches and rocky outcrops. Stay on after the hike for lunch at a venue still to be decided at Ballito. Meet at the service station at Hypermarket at 7:5am. Bring rubber shoes for the rocks. Petrol sharing costs R20.	14 km	Duncan Hiles (joint Ramblers Club hike)	083 2297748	1-2
25-27	Climb Mont-Aux Sources overnighing at Sentinel Car Park dorms or Witsiehoek. Amphitheatre area.	55 km 1880 m	Christine Bro	082 7826025 christinebro3@gmail.com	3-4
26-27	Hike to summit Mashi Peak from Walkers pass. Return via Mashi pass. Garden Castle area.	20km 1700m	Grant Wilkinson	081 3725611	4-5
26-27	Aasvoelkrans Cave overnight.(Highmoor area). Bushman paintings, Swimming. Optional scramble up a gully & return walk in a stream.	12 km	John McGovern	031 7672874 johnmccg@mweb.co.za	3

December 2011

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Gr d.
4	New hike (exploration) on private land at Top Rock Farm in the Lower Mpushini Valley Conservancy, Ashburton East . Lovely walk through bushveld with views in ravine. Fascinating rock/gemstone shop and museum on site. Restaurant should be complete for drinks & lunch afterwards. Meet at Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown to depart at 07.45. Phone (do not sms) Tanya to confirm attendance.		Tanya Hall	082 4147482 0312076305 tanyahall@telkomsa.net	2
3-4	Wonder Valley Cave . Start from Injasuti Wildlife Office via Van Heyningens Pass. Beautiful waterfall and pool in the valley. Bring your costume. Suitable for first-time backpackers unsure of their fitness.	17 km 470 m	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 083 4190196	3
10	Burman Bush . Moderate hike from Jamieson Park (opp Mitchell Park) to Burman Bush along roads and into natural Coastal Bush.	12 km	Werner (joint Ramblers Club hike)	031 7672969	1-2
11	Clifton Country House . New hike leader Cheryl Sol will be leading a new variation of a hike in the Clifton Tower / Mushroom Farm area. We will start off from the Clifton Country House, off the Shongweni Dam Road. Meet in Pinetown or at Assegai Hotel (by prior arrangement). Petrol sharing costs R15.	12 km	Cheryl Sol (joint Ramblers Club hike)	083 5570244	1-2
10-11	Hike from the Monks Cowl campsite to Blindmans Corner campsite (tents required) and summit Sterkhorn with a day pack. Young and new hikers encouraged, bring you campsite stories along.	18 km	Joanna Hall	083 6500914	3
10-11	Mzimkhulwana Hut via the Giant's Cup Trail, returning via Siphongweni Rock National Monument. Cobham area.	20 km 500 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3
17	Assegay Meander . Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre (bottom of Botha's Hill) Street walking in the Assegay area	12 km	Lois (joint Ramblers Club hike)	031 7672969	1-2
16-18	Spend 2 nights in the Ndedema Valley . Visit some seldom-seen rock art sites and several other caves in the area. Cathedral Peak area.	40 km 700 m	David Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3-4
16-18	Mweni is an amazing area of the berg and everyone should try and see it atleast once, especialy the view from Mponjwane Cave. Mweni Cultural Center to Mponjwane Cave via Mweni Pass return via Rockeries Pass.	38 km 1400 m	Grant Wilkinson	081 3725611	4-5

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.

Introducing the Num-Num Trail in Mpumalanga.

This spectacular trail opened in April 2010 offering 3, 4 and 5 day self-guided hikes through a variety of Highveld terrains. It is rated as Green Flag (moderate to difficult with pristine landscape) by HOSA.

THE TRAIL

The trail is circular and 36.5kms in entirety. Hikers should have a reasonable fitness and agility level. Much of the charm of the trail is that it takes you through rugged and hard to reach terrain. The longest day is 9.5km and the shortest 6.2km, but all sections of the trail are technically difficult: there are steep ascents and descents, swing bridges and ladders to climb. Don't be deceived by the 'short' distances - this is not 'a walk in the park'. Hikers go through hidden gorges, indigenous forests, sandstone labyrinths and ancient grasslands. As a result of extensive land restoration the trail is home to a plethora of fauna and flora – there over 109 different species of indigenous trees identified on the trail, game (blesbok, klipspringers, hartebeest and wildebeest) and lots of birds (bald ibis, fish eagles, purple-crested lorries and vultures to name but a few). From June to August there is a stunning display of aloe flowers. There are waterfalls galore – including the Uitkomst Falls which are the second highest in Mpumalanga. Views stretch all the way to Swaziland.

CAMPS

People stay in 5 comfortable and unique camps ranging from wooden huts snuggled into sandstone to renovated 1934 railway carriages. All our camps have hot water, equipped kitchens and indoor and outdoor braai areas. Two camps do not have electricity but plenty of charm. A slackpacking service is available (we transport your luggage between camps) and small honesty shops to stock up on supplies.

BACKGROUND

The trail was built and designed by Albert Bossert. It is one of the first privately owned 5 day trails in South Africa. The booking time is not as long as some other established trails.

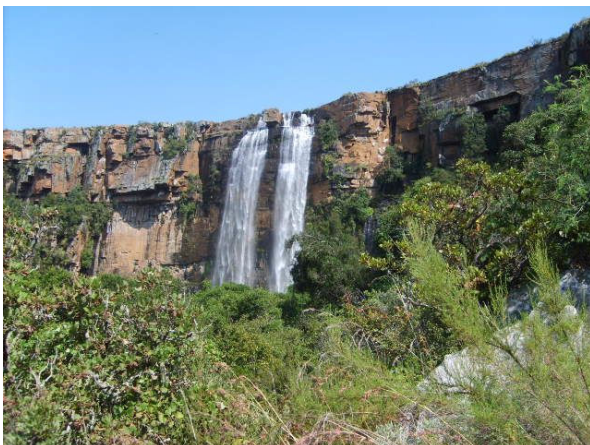
WHERE

We are on the R541 between Machadodorp and Badplaas. Approximately 3 hours from Johannesburg, 1.5 hours from Nelspruit and 6.5 hours from Durban.

FIND OUT MORE

We are on the front page of 'Die Weg' / 'Go' for August 2011. Here is a link to our website: www.thenum-numtrail.co.za

Email info@mountainbackpackers.co.za for an 8-page information pack which provides more details about The Num-Num Trail.



Quote by the 19th century explorer Sir Richard Burton:
(Supplied by John McGovern)

'One of the gladdest moments of human life, methinks,
is the departure upon a distant journey into unknown lands.
Shaking off with one mighty effort the fetters of habit,
the leaden weights of routine, the cloak of many cares
and the slavery of home, man feels once more happy.'

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 and Lesotho, including visits to rock art sites, with a fully qualified and registered Mountain Guide (KZN0904) and Nature Guide (KZN1025). Single or multi-day trips.

Contact Philip or Christeen Grant 033 9971817 cell 0824179163/2 email pgrant@yebo.co.za or visit www.southernsecrets.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.

TOUR du MONT BLANC TRAIL

Have you ever wanted to do one of the best walking trails in the world? A trail through Alpine meadows and over 3 international passes. Join **WILDWAYS Adventures** on our 2011 trip to hike the **Tour du Mont Blanc**. For more information please contact Michelle on info@wildwaysadventures.co.za

NAVIGATION TRAINING WORKBOOK

NAVIGATION Anyplace Wild – by Andrew Friedemann This very practical workbook has tasks to complete in it, & is aimed at anyone who travels in the outdoors and needs to navigate. Although written primarily for walkers, it will work for anyone including horse riding, cycling, military teams etc. It has been fully revised and updated to be applicable anywhere in the world, so no matter where you are it will work for you.

The book is 160 pages in full colour with great pictures from all around the world where we have travelled, our guided trips and training courses – making it a great coffee table book too. It comes with a pull out map on which most of the tasks are completed and the website will have additional free tools available for download and in the near future additional tasks and maps for you to continue practicing skills and gaining knowledge once you have finished the book. Chapter 1 is downloadable for free from the website (*4mb*)

There have been a number of variations of the book over the years with each new one being tweaked after use on courses and from feedback received from people who have used it. Reviews of the book can be seen at www.navigationskills.com For all South African orders, please contact Mammoth Outdoor in Cape Town 086 100 0370 or hello@mammothoutdoor.co.za

Discounts For Members

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

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

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

Example

For a weekend hike, to hire one backpack you will need to put down a R100 cash deposit. You will be charged R20 per day, so the hiring fee will be R40 provided you return the backpack by the end of the Wednesday following the hike. If you return the backpack on the Thursday you will be charged an additional R20. You will therefore be charged a total of R60, which will be taken from the deposit. The balance of R40 will be refunded to you in cash.

All arrangements regarding the hiring of Club equipment are to be made with **Piet Smit (Tel. 031-2662881)** and the items must be collected from / returned to him at **4 Bohmer Place (off Knoll Road, off Blair Atholl Road, Westville).**

Items must be checked (i.e. count pegs, poles etc.) and cleaned (i.e. wash inner sheet of sleeping bag). Tents, sleeping bags etc. are to be hung out and shaken before returning. If it has rained on the weekend, hang items out to dry as soon as possible after your hike.

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 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 45th 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.

SOCIAL CALENDAR	
MBC Socials take place every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Sherwood Bowling Club, 7:30 for 8:00pm Wors rolls or Hamburgers are sold at the venue for R15 each.	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
13 Oct	Annual General Meeting (see notice on page 2)
27 Oct	There is more to the berg than Sani Pass! Join Mike Meyer and his team of explorers as they ventured in 4X4's on roads less travelled to discover some alternative routes in the berg"
10 Nov	Hawaii : 3rd part of Tanya Hall's amazing American trip incorporating Volcano adventuring, cycling, hiking, snorkeling and couch surfing around three of Hawaii's beautiful islands: "The Big Island" – Hawaii, O'ahu (Honolulu) and Maui
24 Nov	Gavin Raubenheimer , one of South Africa's top mountaineers and a professional guide will give a training talk on hiking equipment and hazards in hiking in the Berg.
8 Dec	Christmas Party and 'Bring and Braai' at the Sherwood Bowling Club (7.30pm). Contact info@mountainbackpackers.co.za or tell a social committee member if you are coming. Salads and rolls will be provided.