



MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

Fixture List: January - March 2016

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER – 1st Quarter 2016

Welcome to a new hiking year with the MBC. We have a fixtures list filled with hiking events from easy-beginners to grade 5- extreme. The Socials calendar looks really impressive too with a line-up of talks from our own members and their adventures in Spain and South Africa, as well as local restaurant owner (Conscious Café, Hillcrest) Andre Rutishauser, who recently returned from captaining one of the Sea Shepherd vessels in the Faroe Islands. Neil Williamson, resident scorpion and spider fundi will also present a medically/hiking oriented guide to enjoying and understanding these outdoor companions.

Welcome to Andy Brown who joins the 2016 MBC Committee (and also as a new Club leader), and thanks and farewell to Chris Cox and Alan Etchells, who have stepped down. The energy of the remaining committee members plus Andy, remains high to bring you relevant, bigger-and-better and up-to-date news and activities.

Please keep an eye on the MBC Facebook page for all the latest news, photographs and upcoming events. Also, the MBC website www.mountainbackpackers.co.za has a vast amount of hiking information from nutrition to packing tips and articles on past activities within the Club.

Please pay your 2016 subs asap. You will find the bank account details further on in this magazine. Please pay via 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 (and make sure you get a receipt!) and we will process your payment with the administrator. 2016 is nearly upon us, so with this in mind, please don't forget to renew your membership. You can do an EFT, but please give us a meaningful reference –surname, name and membership number is ideal. 2016 fees are as follows: Single membership= R220.00 and a Family membership= R280.00

If you have any queries, please direct them to info@mountainbackpackers.co.za or chairman@mountainbackpackers.co.za. Membership queries, applications etc, may be directed to membership@mountainbackpackers.co.za (Philip van Gass).

Happy hiking, and we look forward to seeing you OUT THERE...

Karen Miller
Chairman: Mountain Backpackers Club

MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB COMMITTEE

Chairman	Karen Miller	chairman@mountainbackpackers.co.za
Vice Chairman	John McGovern	082 659 5111
Treasurer	Bobby Stanton	031 465 5535
Fixture List / Magazine	Alan Etchells	082 398 4103
Marketing	Heidi Cox	082 706 4283
Committee member	Andy Brown	072 1012498
Social media	Brett Bentley	
New member mentorship	Sorin Dimitriu	084 681 8920
Recruitment	Roy Bowden	082 901 5301
Student / youth liaison	Amy Grantham	
Leadership liaison	Jacqui Kennedy	083 399 9255
Secretary / admin: (paid position)	Philip van Gass	083 440 1651

Fax: 086 504 3382
Website: www.mountainbackpackers.co.za
Email: info@mountainbackpackers.co.za

THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER TO THE CLUB

Gerard Griessel

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2016

Single memberships: R220

Family membership: R280

Kindly pay your 2016 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 (and 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 - 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.

FIXTURE LIST – 1st QUARTER

January 2016

Date	Description	Distance / Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
31 st Dec – 2 nd Jan 16	BUSHMAN'S NEK- CELEBRATE NEW YEAR IN STYLE IN A STUNNING AREA - Short (one km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a two-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 Midlands Hiking Club. Bring your favorite tippie & goodies to celebrate. - Please book early to secure place - last bookings by 14 Dec. New cost after 01/11/15 - R100 pppn (R200 Total pp)	12- 15km each day	Keith Ashton	Tel: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2-3
16 – 17 th Jan	MKHOMAZI - McKenzies Cave. Mkhomazi is one of the least visited areas of the Berg but is ideal for exploring. Initially this hike entails continuous climbing until you reach the old Repeater Station area, then its downhill towards the two McKenzie's caves - we sleep in the best one. Beautiful views all around & spectacular rock formations, waterfalls & Bushmans paintings. Combined hike with other clubs. Last booking by Mon 11 Jan. Cost; R60pp	10 - 12km each day	Keith Ashton	Tel: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2-3
Sun 17 th Jan	KLOOF GORGE HIKE Meet at Ezemvelo car park, Kloof Falls Rd at 08.30 Direction of hike route will be decided at that time & will depend on weather conditions, size of group, etc. These routes are graded in severity from 1 to 3 (fitness required). Duration varies from 3 to 5 hours depending on the route selected. If it rains phone John .		John McGovern	John 082 6595111	1-3
16 - 17 th Jan	LOWER INJISUTHI CAVE: Meet at the Injisuthi KZN Wild Life Office at 9:00. Ideal hike for first time backpackers.	14km 100m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3
16 - 17 th Jan	HIGHMOOR: Aasvoëlkrans Cave, returning via Ka-Dedakushe Falls.	20Km 120m	David Gay	031-7640298 (18h00 – 20h00 Mon-Thurs only) email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5
23- 24 th Jan	COBHAM AREA: Magnificent eSiphongweni. Famous for its prolific rock art. Two day hike. Day one - Mzimkhulwana hut via Giants Cup trail. Easy walking. Pools by hut for swimming. Day two - Steep bundu bash up to eSiphongweni plateau. Visit rock art. Returning via Pholela valley.	Day one- 8 km Day two- 10km 600m	Andy Brown	Tel; 072 101 2498 e-mail: andybza@gmail.com	3
31 st Jan	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. As it can be hot this time of year we will keep to high ground. Combined hike with other clubs. Last booking by Wed 27 Jan. Cost: R30 pp for entrance fee.	13km	Keith Ashton	Tel: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2-3

31 st Jan	MDLOTI TO UMHLANGA - Beach walk and lunch at Bush Tavern (please pre-book with Heidi to reserve tables). 12.5km on sand, meet at 08h00 to start at 08h15 Umdlotti Beach carpark. Confirm by 30 Jan. Rain stops play.	12,5Km	Heidi Cox	heidi.dinan@gmail.com 0827064283	2
28 – 31 st Jan	COBHAM: Day 1: From Cobham car park - hike along emerald stream past pinnacle rock to Gxalangenwa Cave -12 people - 12km.. Day 2: Gxalangenwa cave up the hub, down past Fingalls Rock to Pholela cave - sleeps 8 people. Spectacle cave and Gorge cave in the same area. Day 3: Pholela Cave to Lakes cave . 3.5 km, Lakes Cave 12 people. Day 4: return to Cobham, optional climb Titty on the way back 12.5km.	Approx 40km	Jacqui Kennedy	Email: Jacqui@retsol.co.za 083 3999 255	3
30 – 31 st Jan	GARDEN CASTLE: Wave Cave via Hidden Valley, returning via Secret Cave and Sleeping Beauty Cave.	23Km 580m	David Gay	031-7640298 (18h00 – 20h00 Mon-Thurs only) email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5

February 2016

Date	Description	Distance / Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
13 – 14 th Feb	MONKS COWL: Zulu Cave via Hlatikhulu Nek, returning via Intunja.	29Km 770m	David Gay	031-7640298 (18h00 – 20h00 Mon-Thurs only) email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5
13 – 14 th Feb	COBHAM CAMPSITE , or for those wishing to book into POLELA hut. Saturday - circular walk via top of Ndlovini to Pinnacle Rock, return via Emerald Stream. Sunday - explore old jeep track old Lookout Tower. Those wishing to stay in Polela Hut must do their own booking via Q.E.P. Head Office. Book by e mail only. Last booking 09 Feb 2016	14 km each day climb 300m	Dave Sclanders	Email only: dave@bergfree.co.za	3
13 – 18 th Feb	NORTHERN BERG TRAVERSE 6 Day hike from Royal Natal, up onto the escarpment via chain ladders and along the top to Twins Cave. Return via Bell Traverse and Sqonqweni cave to Mnweni Cultural Centre. Tents required. Physical fitness and head for heights essential	97 km 1700m	John Pickup	0721512031 (between 18h00 - 20h00)	5
Sat 20 th Feb	KLOOF GORGE HIKE Meet at Ezemvelo car park, Kloof Falls Rd at 08.30 Direction of hike route will be decided at that time & will depend on weather conditions, size of group, etc. These routes are graded in severity from 1 to 3 (fitness required). Duration varies from 3 to 5 hours depending on the route selected. If it rains phone John		John McGovern	082 6595111	1-3
20 -21 st Feb	INJISUTHI: Grindstone Cave. 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

27 – 28 th Feb	COBHAM AREA: Lakes Cave. Two day hike. Day one. Lakes Cave via scenic Nhlabeni valley. Easy walking Day two. Climb above caves to plateau and on to Policeman, Titty and Whale back. Great ridge walking. Returning via Pholela valley.	13 km each day 600m	Andy Brown	Tel; 072 101 2498 e-mail: andybza@gmail.com	3
27 – 28 th Feb	HIGHMOOR CAMPSITE: Circular route Saturday - New route to Mt Lebanon Sunday - A few different options - depending on the group. Hikers can do a day walk on either Sat or Sun, or tent and do both days. Last bookings on 24 th Feb Email booking only.	12 km each day climb 300m	Dave Sclanders	Email only: dave@bergfree.co.za	3
27 – 28 th Feb	KAMBERG: Sinclair's Cave via Willem's Shelters and Christmas Shelter rock art sites.	21Km 510m	David Gay	031-7640298 (18h00 – 20h00 Mon-Thurs only) email: cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5
27 – 28 th Feb	HIGHMOOR: Aasvoelskransgrot, 4km hike to overnight in the Cave, explore the surrounding area and see Bushman's Paintings. A costume is a must for a swim under the waterfall next to the cave. Because this is such a short hike, and we can carry a bit more, we want to have a supper cooking competition, bring ingredients to cook your tastiest "cave meal"... prizes for homemade/frozen and from scratch in cave. Ideal beginners hike.	4km	Jacqui Kennedy	Email: Jacqui@retsol.co.za 083 3999 255	1

March 2016

Date	Description	Distance / Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
1 st – 4 th March	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 22 Feb. Cost: R300pp (R100pppn)	12- 15km each day	Keith Ashton	Tel: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2-3
5 - 6 th March	TENTING TRIP TO HIDDEN VALLEY: Route to Hidden Valley via the Giants Cup Trail. Lovely pool next to the camp site. Bring your costume. Meet at Garden Castle KZN office at 9:00. NB: Hiking tent required.	12Km 100m	Farouk Omarjee	031-577 6336 081 530 8447 farouko@telkomsa.net	3
12- 13 th March	COBHAM: Pholela Cave via the Pholela River and Spectacle Cave, returning via Lakes Cave, the Titty, horse track and Pholela River.	28Km 695	David Gay	031-7640298 (18h00 – 20h00 Mon-Thurs only) : cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5
12 – 13 th March	INJISUTHI: Social Weekend at Injisuthi Camp Site. Come & join Jovita, Christine and myself for a fun weekend. This trip is especially for first time hikers unsure of their fitness. Day hikes will be at a relaxed pace.		Clive Powell	Contact : 0833034778 0315646169 (after hours) Email: clive.glynis@gmail.com	

12 – 13 th March	CATHEDRAL PEAK: Day 1: Cathedral Peak car park to Zeni cave. Some boulder hopping (approx 6km). Day2: Return along contour path passing the Pyramid and Colum (15km approx.)Hike ideal for anyone who has done a beginners hike and wants something a little bit more challenging.	21Km	Greg Walker	Email: gregory04@mweb .co.za or 031 7056414 from 17h00 to 20h00hrs.	3
19 – 21 st March	COBHAM AREA: Spectacle Cave and impressive Gxalingenwa Cave. Three day hike, including Public holiday. Day one: Spectacle cave via Pholela valley. Easy walking. Day two: Steep hard climb to Hodgson's contour path via Fingall's Rock and on to Gxalingenwa cave. Day three. Returning via Pinnacle Rock and Emerald Stream to Cobham. Easy walking.	Day 1: 11Km. Day 2: 7Km. Day 3: 12Km 950m	Andy Brown	Tel; 072 101 2498 E-mail: andybza@gmail.com	4/5
26 – 27 th March	GARDEN CASTLE: Swimen Hut, R100 pp, includes the hike fee - arrive at hut ready to hike to Sleeping Beauty Cave, onto Engagement Cave and then up the escarpment for beautiful views of the Rhino, at 8am on Saturday morning. 10km round trip. Bring and braai on Saturday night. Sunday to Pillar cave 8km round trip, or a lazy hazy day picnic and swim at Hippo Pools. Ideal beginners hike		Jacqui Kennedy	Email: Jacqui@retsol.co.za 083 3999 255	1
25 – 28 th March	BUSHMANS NEK: Whyte's Cave via the Giant's Cup Trail and Painters Cave; Bushman's Cave via bottom of Saddle Pass; Lammergeier Cave via Ngwangwane Pass, Senotlong Shelter and Goats Cave; return via Cedric's Pool.	36Km 875m	David Gay	031-7640298 (18h00 – 20h00 Mon-Thurs only) : cougar1@telkomsa.net	3,5

Advance Notices

Date	Description	Distance / Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
9 – 11 th April	MHLOPENI NATURE RESERVE: SA Natural Heritage Site, Muden area, self-catering camp (R300 pp for weekend) or own tent (R160pp for weekend), it can be chilly overnight. Guided hikes Sat and Sun, beautiful bushveld, game & prolific birdlife. Pre-booking & payment essential: joy@mhlopeni.co.za Book before 1Apr.		Heidi Cox	0827064283 heidi.dinan@gmail.com	2
1 – 10 th Sept 2017 (+ extra days for travel)	TANKWA CAMINO (2016 hike already booked.) Walk from Calvinia to Ceres. Cost R5500.00 includes meals, camp spot, fellowship, support vehicle, water, transport back to Calvinia & more. Please see website www.tankwacamino.com , for all information. Deposit required on registering. Please advise when you register, so that we can plan shared transport.	260km	Christine Pickup	Cell: 0827826025 Email: christinebro3@gmail.com	
23 rd Apr – 6 th May	THE GRAND TRAVERSE 2016 – Bushman's Nek – Amphitheatre. Only for the very fit and committed. Start your fitness program NOW.	220Km	Andy Brown	Tel; 072 101 2498 E-mail: andybza@gmail.com	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.

REPORTBACKS FROM RECENT CLUB HIKES

Wonder Valley Cave, Injisuthi area

24 -25th October, 7.5 km hike each way.

Led by Farouk Omarjee.



Five of us hiked to Wonder Valley Cave in the Injisuthi area of the Drakensberg at the end of October.

The weather forecast predicted rain for Saturday, but it turned out to be partly cloudy and cool for most of the day.

We had light rain while hiking, but it stopped as soon as we put on our rain jackets.



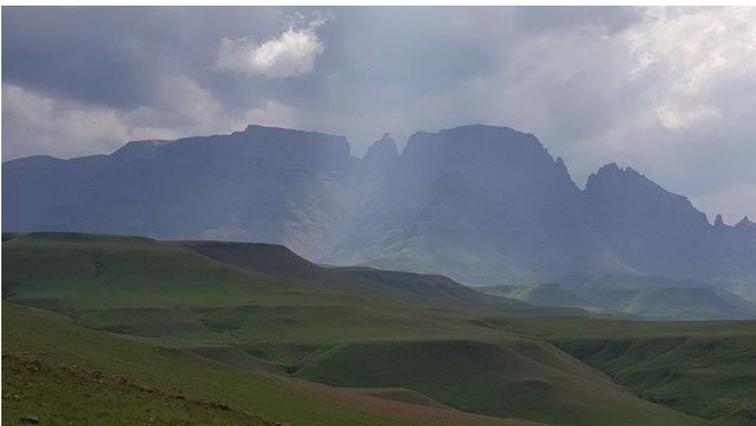
We climbed to the top of Van Heynigen's Pass where we had a lunch break. The view from the top was breath taking. We could see the escarpment all the way from Giants Castle in the South to Intunja in the North with the river meandering in the valley below.

From there we crossed Shada Ridge to the top of Wonder Valley where our overnight cave was located.

The dry and brown Winter landscape had been transformed by the green Spring vegetation, since my last visit to the Berg.

Once we were in the cave the sound of birds chirping was interrupted by loud thunder claps as an electric storm passed by.

We sat in the safety of the cave and watched the lightning bolts striking in the distance.



On Sunday morning the sun was out as we made our way back to the Injasuti Camp site.

A comfortable hike which left everyone fresh and relaxed, ready for the week ahead.

GRASSCUTTERS CAVE, MWENI AREA

21ST – 22ND November

Led by John & Christine Pickup



This was John and Christine's 11th hike that they have successfully led this year.

The Mweni area of the Berg is not part of KZN Wildlife and the hike takes you through the Mweni Village, where life is seen from a very different perspective.

8 hikers met at The Mweni Cultural Centre on Sat morning and set off in perfect weather for an excellent and beautiful hike up the Icidi River valley to the cave.

Friendly villagers wished us well on our way by shouting sweet, sweet as we walked by.



Swimming at lunch time, viewing the stars at night, perfect weather....

On the way back, coke and chips, bought at the local Spaza shop were enjoyed, as was the lift back (3km) to the Mweni Centre, making this a 36km trip of which 3 were covered in the pick-up.

Another great hike with awesome people – looking forward to the final hike in December, completing the year of the Caves with John and Christine Pickup !



NEW MEET LEADER – ANDY BROWN



MBC recently announced the addition of a new leader in the form of Andy Brown, who led his first 3 hikes in the last quarter of 2015.

Andy has previously led for three hiking clubs, one in Derbyshire in the UK and the others in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The Committee and the rest of the MBC wish Andy all the best as a club leader and thank him for his willingness to take up this vital role for the club.

Andy is vastly experienced and started hiking and climbing in Derbyshire in the UK at the age of 12. He has hiked up most of the peaks in England and Wales plus a few in Scotland and have backpacked the Pennine Way (430 km).

Andy has also rock climbed in Snowdonia, the Peak District, Lake District and the Cuillins of Skye. He attended Eskdale Outward Bound School in the Lake District for one month and attained mountain leadership certification there. He also worked with the Peak District (Edale) Mountain Rescue as a first-aider and first aid instructor.

Since moving to South Africa, he spent 4 years hiking and climbing in the Cape and 20 years hiking in Northern, Central, Southern Berg and Lesotho. He has led innumerable weekend tenting / caving trips and several four to five day backpacking trips. Forays out of SA include the Fish River and Kilimanjaro.

He attended and passed the Mountain Development Trust leader course in December 2014 and renewed his First Aid Level 2 certification in September 2015.

PHOTO COMPETITION 2015

The prizewinners of the annual MBC photo competition were announced at the Social on Thurs 26th Nov.

A big thank you was given to Maggie and Wendy from the Bluff Camera Club, for judging the competition and giving very useful feedback on each of the entries. The editing lesson given was also much appreciated.

The first 3 in the Competition were:



1st prize

View from Rolands Cave

by Jacqui Kennedy



2nd Prize

Garden Castle

by Lisa Smith



3rd Prize

Rhino Reflections

by Chris Coyne

Merit awards also went to Brett Bentley, Lisa Smith, Dave Sclanders, Vimal Mothilal and Jacqui Kennedy.

Well done to the winners!

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.

Peak High Mountaineering

Peak High Mountaineering is South Africa’s leader in guided hiking and mountaineering. We conduct tours and courses in a variety of destinations in southern Africa, including the Drakensberg, Cape Town (Table Mountain), Cederberg, Magaliesberg and Free State.

Contact: Gavin Raubenheimer

gavin@peakhigh.co.za

Tel: +27.333433168

Fax: +27.333433168

Mobile: +27.829905876

Discounts for Members

MBC members are offered discounted rates at the following outdoor gear outlets:

Trippler Sports: The Warehouse, Bible House, 70 Ramsay Ave, Mayville, Durban. Phone 0825627411
www.trippersports.com

The Kingfisher: 53 Hunter Street, Durban. Phone: 0313683903 (Ganny)

Flamingo Sales (Columbia gear): Contact Conrad Buchner Phone 0315395401 conrad@flamingosales.co.za

Cape Union Mart: www.capeunionmart.co.za/

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.

<u>SOCIAL CALENDAR</u>	
MBC Socials normally take place every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Sherwood Bowling Club, 7:00 for 7:30pm	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
14 th Jan	No Social
28 th Jan	Lisa Guastella & Jovita da Silva will give a talk on their hike along the <i>Camino Primitivo</i> , the original Camino route starting from Ovideo and through the Cantabrian Mountains, to Santiago de Compostela in the north of Spain. The route was first used by pilgrims in the 9 th century when Spain was under Moorish control.
11 th Feb	Cheryl Sol will do a presentation on the <i>Indlela Pilgrimage Walk</i> from Grahamstown to Patensie. The hike, which took over two weeks, includes some beautiful Eastern Cape scenery and very interesting stop over places.
25 th Feb	Andre Rutishauser was born and raised in Pinetown, KZN and then in 1994 left South Africa by sailboat to go traveling around the world. After many years of crewing on various sail boats and motor yachts he finally received his ships captains license in 2007, which gave him the opportunity to captain one of the Sea Shepherd vessels during their latest campaign up in the Faroe Islands.....Sea Shepherds goal was to try and stop the senseless slaughter of whales and Cetaceans by the Faroese people and to create awareness around the world for this barbaric practice which continues still today, unabated.
10 th Mar	Neil Williamson will give a presentation on arachnids in SA and more specifically, spiders and scorpions. The talk will cover the more common and medically important species.
24 th Mar	No Social – Easter weekend