



# MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

## Fixture List: January - March 2012

### CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Members

This weekend I joined Christine Bro's Xmas Hike to McKenzies Cave. As usual, hiking through the Berg, admiring it's ever changing beauty, gives you ample time to think about events past, and future plans. Having accepted chairmanship of the club I am honoured to have been nominated.

Thinking back to the purpose and planning of COP17 in Durban I realised that to grow the club we have to spend time and money to market it. We know and understand what mountain backpacking brings to you. Healthy living, experiencing nature, time to get away from it all, seeing new places, and meeting new friends. For the sake of the preservation of these awesome mountains and ourselves, it is really important for us to "spread the word".

What I am asking is that we as club members need to invite friends and family on trails. The club has equipment for hire, and we have interesting and experienced leaders that volunteer their own time and effort to lead hikes.

Considering the time and effort Christine put into the planning of this celebratory hike I realised that we are very fortunate to have such talented leaders.

As with any group of talented and dedicated individuals we have members, such as Tanya Hall, who are full of ideas and energy that can help in taking the club forward. These are welcome, please feel free to suggest and/or assist.

Lastly, we have created a facebook site; 'Mountain backpackers club'. Have a look at it, and comment. If you have photos please email them to [mountainbackpackers@gmail.com](mailto:mountainbackpackers@gmail.com) and we will add them.

Have a look at the following fixtures for the next three months, and enjoy the experience!

Have a prosperous and safe 2012

Eddie von Bargaen

MBC Chairman

## MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Eddie von Bargaen	083 2811288
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
Committee member	Heidi Dinan	082 7064283
Socials Committee	Alan Etchells	082 3984103
Socials Committee	Barry Stapleton	082 6574345
Socials Committee	Brendon Cadman	082 4556986
Socials Committee	Karen Miller	082 7423266
Socials Committee	Lisa Guastella	082 8604043

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 Email: [info@mountainbackpackers.co.za](mailto:info@mountainbackpackers.co.za)

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

Anton Nel  
 Nicole Fox  
 Sarah Linscott

#### **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.

### Reminder

Annual Club membership fees are now due.  
**No increase this year.**

R130 single, R160 family

FNB Westville, Branch code 223526  
 Account name: Mountain Backpackers Club  
 Account number: 507 8000 7264

Please use your membership number and your surname as a reference.

## January 2012

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grd.
31 Dec- 2 Jan	New Year Hike: <b>Bushman's Nek Hut from Garden Castle</b> , or you can walk the 500 metres up to the hut from the Bushman's Nek car park with all your party goodies. Day hike along the Bushman's River on New Year's Day. The cost of accommodation is R150 pp for the two nights. Combined MBC/MCSA hike.	28 km 350 m	Dave Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) <a href="mailto:cougar1@telkomsa.net">cougar1@telkomsa.net</a>	3-4
7	<b>Streets of Emberton and Impithi conservancy</b> Meet at car Park in front of Gillitts Post Office at 13.45 pm. Donation of R5.00 towards upkeep of conservancy. Start the New year with some good cheer. After the hike, Werner and Lois are inviting members to enjoy Bongji's Chicken Curry and Rice. Cost R30.00 pp. Bring your own cutlery and crockery and drinks. Space is limited to 20, reservations asap to secure your booking. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Lois	031 7672969	
15	<b>Zwartkop.</b> Francois Marais, Chairman of PMB Ramblers, will be leading the superb hike which starts off through the Cedara Agricultural grounds and forest to Cedara Dam for tea and then on to the top of Zwartkop and Little Zwartkop. Back to the cars via Mondi Nursery. Approximately 15 km and level of fitness required. Drinks at Crossways afterwards. Meet in Pinetown at 7.00 am or the Rotunda at Hilton at 8.00 am. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Jenny or Francois	084 9520622 or 083 9838007	
13-15	High traverse. <b>Twins Cave via Bell traverse - Roland's Cave via Cleft Peak.</b> Return via Organ Pipes Pass and the Camel (3 days). A head for heights and a high degree of physical fitness are required. (Cathedral Peak area). GT qualifier	40 km 1830 m	John Pickup	072 1512031 <a href="mailto:johnpickup9@gmail.com">johnpickup9@gmail.com</a>	4-5
14-15	<b>Whyte's Cave from Garden Castle</b> via the Giant's Cup Trail, Langalibalele Cave, Painters Cave and White Horse Cave, returning via Wave Cave and Hidden Valley. Combined MBC/MCSA hike.	31 km 690 m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) <a href="mailto:cougar1@telkomsa.net">cougar1@telkomsa.net</a>	3-4
21	<b>Kloof Gorge Walks</b> - Circuit Route via the Beacon, down to the River. Meet at the falls picnic site at 12 pm. Small entrance fee. Bring sun protection, hat, water, snacks and a rain jacket. Moderate fitness required.	4-5 hrs	John McGovern Karen Miller	John 082 6595111 Karen 082 8604043	2
22	<b>Casuarina Beach, Westbrook</b> New hike and great walk for a hot day. A walk around the area north of the Umhloti River. Some beach and some inland. Meet at Pick 'n Pay Hyper at 6.30 am or Beach Bums at 7.00 am. The walk will be finished by noon in time for lunch at Beach Bums. Petrol sharing costs R20. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Jon	082 4591522	

21-22	Hike to <b>Zulu Cave</b> for the night and summit Intunja, the big hole, with a day pack. Bring your camera for this one. Young and new hikers encouraged. Monks Cowl area.	28 km 950 m	Joanna Hall	083 6500914 Email: <a href="mailto:hallj@boschprojects.co.za">hallj@boschprojects.co.za</a>	3
21-22	<b>Lower Injasuti Cave.</b> (Injasuti area). Suitable for beginner hikers unsure of their fitness.	15km 300m	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 083 4190196	3
21-22	Short but hilly hike to <b>Cyprus Cave</b> (Mkhomazi area). Combined MBC/MCSA hike.	10 km 350 m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) <a href="mailto:cougar1@telkomsa.net">cougar1@telkomsa.net</a>	3
29	New/exploratory hike on <b>Top Rock Farm in Ashburton, Lower Mpushini Valley Conservancy.</b> Lovely walk through bushveld, Acacias and ravine. Excellent Gemstone and Rock Museum and shop on site. Hopefully restaurant complete for lunch and drinks after. Meet Pinetown 7.30, petrol share.		Tanya Hall	082 4147482	2

### February 2012

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grd.
5	<b>Shongweni/Summerveld Circuit</b> A combination of Colin's various hikes in this area. R15 petrol sharing. Meet at Pinetown at 7.15 am or at Assegay Hotel at 7.30 am. We will be finished by lunch time. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Colin Turner	031 7083517	
4-5	<b>Highmoor</b> - Backpacking to & overnight in <b>Aasvoelkrans Cave</b> - Ideal for first time backpackers as distance to the cave is only about 5 km - however we will do explorations of the area from the cave - lovely pool & waterfall adjacent - Bushman paintings nearby - Combined weekend with Midlands Hiking Club.	24 km	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a>	3
12	<b>Gromor</b> Starting from the Inchanga hotel, past the station and through the abandoned railway nursery, then up to the top of Bartlett's estate and down to Gromor. An industrial archaeological experience. Drinks at the hotel afterwards. R20 petrol. R10 to the conservancy. Leave Pinetown 7.00 or meet at the Inchanga Hotel (bottom gate) at 7.30 am. Finished by lunch time. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Jon	082 4591522	
11-12	<b>Aasvoelkrans Cave</b> , returning via Caracal Cave, Dangerous Hole, Fulton's Rock and the Ka-Dedakushe Falls (Highmoor area). Combined MBC/MCSA hike.	22 km 430 m	Dave Gay	031-7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) <a href="mailto:cougar1@telkomsa.net">cougar1@telkomsa.net</a>	3-4
18	<b>Kloof Gorge Walks</b> - Circuit Route via the Beacon, down to the River. Meet at the falls picnic site at 12 pm. Small entrance fee. Bring sun protection, hat, water, snacks and a rain jacket. Moderate fitness required.	4-5 hrs	John McGovern Karen Miller	John 082 6595111 Karen 082 8604043	2
19	<b>Westville University &amp; Palmiet Nature Reserve.</b> Meet at 7.30 at Westville Hotel. Set off down into Palmiet valley, around and up north of Westville University with great views. We enter the top of Palmiet Nature Reserve		Colin and Jill	031 2672201	

	through shady paths down & back up to starting point. Refreshments at Waxy O'Connors. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)				
18-19	<b>McKenzies Cave.</b> (Mkhomazi area)	22 km 640 m	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 083 4190196	3
18-19	<b>Cathedral Peak</b> - Spend the weekend at Didima Camp site, summit The Peak on Saturday & finish the day with a bring and braai. Option to visit Rainbow Gorge on Sunday. Bring your family for a fun weekend.	25 km 1600 m	Joanna Hall	083 6500914 <a href="mailto:hallj@boschprojects.co.za">hallj@boschprojects.co.za</a>	4
26	<b>Eston area.</b> Lovely moderate hike on a beautiful farm just past the Tala Game Reserve. Lunch at Van's at Camperdown afterwards (optional). Meet in Pinetown at 7.00 am. Petrol sharing costs R35. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Margie	073 4376915	
25-26	<b>Sinclairs Cave</b> – fairly easy walk from Kamberg Ezemvelo offices. 20 kms round trip, climb 600m. Some of the way is on Eland tracks. San Rock Art on the way back. NB: Last booking date 21 Feb. Combined Midlands/MBC hike.	20 km 600 m	Dave Sclanders	082 4434287	3
24-26	High traverse – <b>Organ Pipes Pass to Grey's Pass.</b> Return on contour path. GT qualifier. Cathedral Peak area.	65 km 1467 m	John Pickup	072 1512031 <a href="mailto:johnpickup9@gmail.com">johnpickup9@gmail.com</a>	5

### March 2012

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grd.
4	<b>Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve</b> near Howick. Lovely local day hike in a beautiful area, great views & chance to see plenty of game & bird life. R18 entrance fee. Combined hike with Midlands Hiking Club.	12-14 km	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a>	2
3-4	<b>Marble Baths Cave.</b> (Injasuti area). Suitable for first-time backpackers unsure of their fitness. Optional camping at Injasuti on Friday night 2 Mar.	16 km 460 m	John McGovern	082 6595111 between 6-8pm.	3
3-4	<b>Vaalribbokkop Cave</b> via Jacob's Ladder, returning via the Makhulumane Rock forest walk. A head for heights is needed for the rickety ladders in the forest! (Monk's Cowl area). Combined MBC/MCSA hike.	28 km 650 m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) <a href="mailto:cougar1@telkomsa.net">cougar1@telkomsa.net</a>	3-4
11	<b>Nagel Dam (Umgeni Bend)</b> Dieter is still investigating parts of it and the parking facilities. We will leave Durban 7.30 am. Petrol sharing costs R30. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Dieter Becker	031 462445	
10-11	<b>Pholela Cave.</b> (Cobham area)	33 km 706 m	Dave Tighe	076 0280708 031 4649033	3
17	<b>Kloof Gorge Walks</b> - Circuit Route via the Beacon, down to the River. Meet at the falls picnic site at 12 pm. Small entrance fee. Bring sun protection, hat, water, snacks and a rain jacket. Moderate fitness required.	4-5 hrs	John McGovern Karen Miller	John 082 6595111 Karen 082 8604043	2
18	<b>Giba Gorge.</b> 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		Colin Turner	031 70833517	

	road bridge and on to the 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 7.30 am or Giba Gorge at 7.10 am (petrol sharing costs R10). (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)				
17-18	Tenting trip to <b>Hidden Valley</b> . Swim and enjoy a relaxing hike, optionally visit Rob's Cave. Great for first time backpackers. Garden Castle area.	15 km 100 m	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 083 4190196	3
17-18	<b>Bushman's Nek</b> - Backpacking to & overnight in <b>Sherry Cave</b> (New) - The hike is a similar route to Whyte's Cave but we will do variations & also visit Bushmen's paintings. Spectacular views from cave. 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 <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a>	3
17-18	<b>Thabana Ntlenyana</b> – a tough day hike to the highest Peak in Southern Africa. Spend the weekend at Sani Top Backpackers or camp. And enjoy a delicious dinner, at the Chalet, after a long day in the Mountains. Option to hike down Sani Pass on Sunday.	35 km 700 m from Sani Top	Joanna Hall	083 6500914 <a href="mailto:hallj@boschprojects.co.za">hallj@boschprojects.co.za</a>	3-4
24	<b>Barn Swallow Walk.</b> Meet at Mt Moreland Village Green at 13.30 to start walk at 13.45pm. Braai and sun-downers afterwards until viewing of the Swallows at 18.30pm. Directions – Take Umhloti Beach/Verulam turnoff from the N2 or M27. Turn left towards Verulam. After 1km at the white Tongaat pillar, take 1st right D575 to Mt Moreland. After 3kms take left fork over low level bridge then next right and 1st left up the hill to Mt Moreland. Park on the Village green on your right. Bring binoculars & chairs. R10.00 per person payable to conservancy. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Jenny	084 9520622	
25	<b>Salimba Farm outside Richmond</b> Wonderful views over the Umkomaas River valley. Last time we encountered a stray giraffe. Definitely not to be missed. Meet at Pinetown at 7.10 am. Petrol Sharing costs R40. (Ramblers Club hike, be sure to contact the leader beforehand)		Nevil	031 7053122/ 083 9772475	
31-1 Apr	<b>Giants Castle</b> - overnight in Bannerman's Hut. Return route optional depending on the group. Hut only takes 8 people - early booking required. Evemvelo requires deposit with booking, Last booking required by 14 March so the hut can be booked and paid for. Combined MHC/MBC hike.	28 km	Dave Sclanders	082 4434287	3

## Advance Notices

Date	Description Distance Height	Leader	Phone
6-9 April	<b>Mnweni to Mokhotlong</b> by all means possible. i.e by hiking and local transport. Exploration.	John Pickup & Christine Bro	072 1512031 <a href="mailto:johnpickup9@gmail.com">johnpickup9@gmail.com</a>
Fri. 20 <sup>th</sup> April to Wed. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Grand Traverse <b>2012</b> - 230 km Bushman's Nek to Sentinel (South to north) 230 km Grade 5. Only for the very fit and committed. Start your fitness programme NOW.	John Pickup	072 1512031 <a href="mailto:johnpickup9@gmail.com">johnpickup9@gmail.com</a>
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> April	GT Resupply at Organ Pipes Pass (18 km, 1300m, grd 4-5). (John is looking for a leader)		

**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.**

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**John Pickup sent in this article, written by Angus Mc Bride about their epic hike up Manxome Pass. Angus is a volunteer worker from Scotland in his twenties.**

The hike was listed in the fixtures list as “exploratory”, but I hadn’t expected to be precariously



balanced above certain death, clinging only to tufts of grass. Indeed, my expectations were far off. I had only been in South Africa for 6 weeks and was still under the illusion that Africa is always hot and sunny like in the photos. It was a last minute decision to bring a tent instead of a bivvi bag on the hike. My happy illusion didn’t last long. We heard thunder for a long time before the rain finally caught up with us, luckily I knew that the “Chi Chi Bush Camp” was not far away. For the last section we had to walk up the river bed, and I was somewhat surprised when John stopped at one point and announced that we had arrived. We appeared to be standing in a very rocky riverbed, and

there was no campsite in sight! Only on closer inspection did it become apparent that the small section of gravel we were standing on was roughly level, and that a tent could potentially be squeezed onto it. After further searching two other similar spots were found nearby.

The following morning we walked up a very steep slope for a couple of hundred vertical meters to reach the traverse into the gully of Manxome Pass. This traverse started off as a very steep grassy slope, and as we moved around the ridge it became an even steeper grassy slope, before finally becoming a cliff, but with tufts of grass instead of normal hand and foot holds. I would probably not have crossed this section, but I didn’t want to have to go back over what we’d just done, and John, who was showing no fear at the almost certainly lethal drop, volunteered to carry my bag. We all made it fine, but there is no way I would ever do it again. The pass after that presented no problems; it was simply a 700m steep slog, although a very dramatic one between vast cliffs and affording excellent views back across to Mnweni pass, which looked quite tame in comparison.



We hiked around the Mnweni cutback, stopping to take in the (somewhat cloudy) view from the top of Mnweni pass. We intended to stay in Mponjwane Cave, but first needed water. I became worried when Tony and John, who were walking slightly in front of us, walked straight past the first stream: it was dry! Christine assured me that there was another stream close by though, and that it never dried up – it had. To my huge relief, as I had a slight dehydration headache, we did find flowing water further down the stream. We decided against the 200m climb to the cave, and camped at the stream instead, setting up the tents just in time to avoid the rain.

Sunday's weather was horrendous at its worst. We were walking towards the top of Ntonjelanja Pass in cloud, high winds, hailstones and with thunder all around us. I had no gloves or hat, and my hands were beyond cold. As I struggled to put on my fleece, my only warm layer, my only consolation was that Tony must be having a worse time than me: he was wearing short shorts which his poncho failed to cover. When he learned that we had all been getting wet inside our waterproofs (mine were useless) he felt a little better though.



Ntonjelanja Pass was dramatic, picking our way past donkey bones with glimpses through the cloud of the drop below us. The Waterfall Cave at the bottom was no less spectacular: exactly as it sounds, we slept with water pouring down in front of us. I had been told in Bush and Bundu that I would only need one pair of socks, and

that I could dry them in my sleeping bag overnight. Sleeping with wet socks in your sleeping bag is not fun, and does not dry them!

The walk out the following day was without incident, if a little painful from 3 days accumulated foot problems. I made my first ever trip to a Shebeen, and had time to reflect upon how the Drakensberg had defied all my expectations. I'll be back, but I'll check the weather forecast first next time.

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### HIKE TO LAMMERGEIER CAVE, RETURNING VIA GOAT CAVE NOVEMBER 2011 by Kathy Kruger



**“Take me to the places on the earth that teach you how to dance, the places where you can risk letting the world break your heart. And I will take you to the places where the earth beneath my feet and the stars overhead make my heart whole again and again.”**

A sincere thanks to Dave Sclanders for leading our hike in the Southern Berg over the weekend of 12-13 November 2011. With 13 years of professional guiding in the berg and over 350 trips to his name,



Dave's knowledge of the berg, coupled with his many years of experience, made for an enjoyable weekend. I'm sure that Dave must have initially had a few reservations about our hiking group. I myself was somewhat concerned when he asked if the 3 of us in the group who were wearing shorts wouldn't prefer to wear long pants, as this afforded more protection against snake bites, after which he proceeded to tell us that he had seen the most number of puff adders in the Southern Berg - not too comforting at the start of a hike! Footwear too was of concern - my niece's 'gym' shoes eventually packed in, as did one of the other hiker's boots - they later both discovered that duct tape and elastoplasts have many uses. After a quick briefing, the seven of us set off from Bushman's Nek and so our adventure began.

After a few stops, a lunch break, a look at some exquisitely detailed San (Bushman) paintings and many breath-takingly beautiful views of the mountains, we finally reached our destination - Lammergeier Cave (approx. altitude 2300m), five and a half hours later. North facing, this cave is by far the longest overhang in the entire KwaZulu-Natal berg, being well over 100 metres in length. It is relatively comfortable with adequate sleeping space and appears to be well protected from the elements. The view towards the escarpment is unfortunately blocked by the surrounding hills. There is a small stream near the cave from which water can be obtained, though the process is somewhat laborious when the water is low. A short, but steep walk to the ridge above the cave provides spectacular views of the most southerly parts of the Drakensberg range. We were all somewhat weary after our long day's walk in the sun, so, after a hearty supper, we all settled in for the night as the mist closed in, though sleep eluded some of us.

We awoke shortly before 5a.m. After breakfast, we broke camp and set off for Goat's Cave (approx. altitude 2600m). There is an uphill climb of approx. 1km to get to the cave and again there is no path. Goat's Cave is separated from Lesotho by a ridge on which Tomathu Peak is the highest point. A path to the side of Goat's Cave leads one into the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. After catching a brief glimpse of this neighbouring country, the howling wind soon forced us to retreat back to the shelter of Goat's Cave. Unfortunately there was a lot of mist that morning so the views both getting to the cave and from the cave were somewhat obscured. Nonetheless, there was still something majestic about the mountains as the mist playfully swirled around them. We followed the path away from Goat's Cave, encountering a hauntingly beautiful mare in foal en-route, who soon disappeared from sight. We arrived at Tomathu Cave (approx. altitude 2300m), another long overhang, also very well protected from the elements, where we had another brief rest, before winding our way back down the mountain to our starting point at Bushman's Nek, where the river provided some welcome relief for those who braved its refreshing waters.

Soon it was time to bid everyone farewell and set off home again. What a weekend it had been. Despite the absence of the flowers, which are often in abundance in the mountains at this time of year, the weather had been perfect, the company good and the hike memorable. It is indeed a privilege to be able to experience the Drakensberg first-hand with others who share a similar passion.

Graded 3 and covering a total distance of approximately 22km over two days, over somewhat rugged terrain in places, this is by no means an easy hike, but one that is well worth noting on the hiking calendar.

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### **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](mailto:pgrant@yebo.co.za) or visit [www.southernsecrets.co.za](http://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](http://www.bergfree.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](http://www.navigationskills.com) For all South African orders, please contact Mammoth Outdoor in Cape Town 086 100 0370 or [hello@mammothoutdoor.co.za](mailto:hello@mammothoutdoor.co.za)

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**Hiking Gear for Sale**

Contact Alison Chadwick at [alisonc@webmail.co.za](mailto:alisonc@webmail.co.za) or 082 7777073 or 031 5642673 (h)

### **Cross Country – Active Gear**

Fully water and wind proof mountain jacket, lined mesh, optimum breathability with zips and air vents under the arms. Double zip up the front and press buttons. Hood with peak that folds away. Cuffs adjustable with Velcro straps. Long in length 80cms. Pull cord at waist. Ideal for outer layer over fleece or down jacket for hiking in extreme cold conditions.

Been worn on maximum 5 occasions only. Brand new condition.

Size Medium (38)

R700

### **65L – BackPack**

Fully lined waterproof. Adjustable straps, padded shoulder and back straps. 4 large size compartments on the sides with 2 big compartments making up the main part of the pack – ideal for sleeping bag and clothes.

Brand new condition – been used on less than 5 occasions.

Suitable for hiking and backpacking holiday.

R700  
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### **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.



**WESSA**  
PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH



## SANI PASS WILD FLOWER WALK

Sunday 29 January 2012

Cost **R250 per person** includes:

**transport up Sani Pass;**

**A4 Sani Pass wild flowers poster; accompanying botanical experts; transport back from SA border post to Giant's Cup Café from 3pm on-wards (not earlier);**

**afternoon tea / coffee and cake at the Giant's Cup Café after walk.**

### YOU NEED TO BRING:

**PASSPORT essential! You will be exiting SA at an official border. Also:**

**hiking boots;**

**lunch;**

**lots of water to drink;**

**hiking stick;**

**hat;**

**warm clothing;**

**raingear.**

**Flower books/binoculars optional**

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY DUE TO LIMITED TRANSPORT!**

Meet **06h30 sharp** at the Giant's Cup Cafe, 10.5km down the newly tarred SANI PASS ROAD on the left hand side.

Hats, bottled water, snacks, Elsa Pooley wild flower field guide books, Sani Pass mammals, birds and reptiles posters, WESSA publications will be on sale.

**BOOKINGS:** Sani Lodge Backpackers 033 7020330 / 0835661997 OR email [info@sanilodge.co.za](mailto:info@sanilodge.co.za)

Accommodation for the night before is also available at Sani Lodge Backpack-ers, on the same property as the Giant's Cup Café ([www.sanilodge.co.za](http://www.sanilodge.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 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>MBC Socials take place every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	In the heart of the <b>Cedarberg Mountains</b> lies the Sanddrif Resort, which is an ideal base for day hikes, bikers etc and offers spectacular rock formations such as the Maltese Cross, the Stadsaal caves, Lot's Wife and Wolfberg arch. <b>Don and Anita van Luyk</b> take us on a tour of this area, which they explored last year. Some additional footage of the hike to <b>Wolfberg Arch</b> through the cracks is provided by <b>Lisa Smith</b> .
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The <b>El Camino Pilgrimage</b> is an 800km trek from the Pyrenees in France through Spain to a place called the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and thousands of hiking enthusiasts from all over the world regularly walk this magnificent trail. <b>Jenny Rooks</b> , from Ramblers recently did this 800km journey in 27 days with a backpack weighing no more than 7kg - quite remarkable! Tonight we will be showcasing the movie "THE WAY" which is all about the Camino. The Way, written and directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father Martin Sheen in one of Sheen's best performances, depicts a spiritual journey.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	<b>Lee and Ingrid D'Eathe</b> will recount their trip with the Ramblers Hiking Club on the self-guided slackpacking <b>Num-Num Hiking Trail in Mpumalanga</b> on the R541 between Machadodorp and Badplaas in Mpumalanga and named after the 'Forest Num-num' tree, <i>Carissa bispinosa</i> .
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Join <b>Lisa Smith</b> for a presentation on a brief visit to the Kenyan coast including <b>Mombassa, Watamu and Wasini Island</b> (near the Tanzanian border), a mini-safari to <b>East Tsavo and Amboselli National Parks</b> , the latter of which lies below the impressive Mount Kilimanjaro, and a surfing trip to <b>the Maldives</b> .
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Karen Miller and John McGovern</b> A 21 day trek into the <b>Nepalese Himalaya</b> , walking up to the Gokyo Lakes (the highest altitude lakes in the world), and then up the Khumbu valley to Everest Base Camp. Preceded by and followed by days in Kathmandu, the cultural tour and also a 3 night stop in Lhasa, capital city of Tibet to visit the monasteries, including the Dalai Lama's Potala Palace.