



MOUNTAIN BACKPACKERS CLUB

Fixture List: July - September 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Members

We are in the midst of the hiking season, cool clear sunny days and cold nights in the mountains. The right time to put on your boots, pack your back pack, and head up them there hills.

We have a range of hikes to choose from - or do them all ... Berg, inland and coast, all weekend or just for a day. Enjoy.

Thanks to our leaders who have submitted hikes for this quarter, the future of the Club depends on you guys.

This quarter we have the Outdoor Adventure Family Fair happening 43 Kloof Falls Road on the 21st and 22nd July from 10 am to 4 pm. We will have a display here, Thanks to Heidi for all her effort. We are still looking for more volunteers to help.

We also have the annual Club Campout in September at Royal National. Hope to see you all there, and invite your friends!

Regards and happy hiking

Eddie
Chairman and Committee
Mountain Backpackers Club

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

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

David Jacobs	Peter Southey
Debbie Frans	Piero Loredon
Diana Patoir	Robin Morling
Jacqui Kennedy	Roger Rood
Jeanette Brueck and family	Sherifa Sheik
Joanne Mann	Vanessa Zimmermann & family
Kathryn Queripel	Wendy Moss
Martina Martin and family	

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.

Outdoor Adventure Family Fair

Sat 21st and Sun 22nd of July from 10h00 till 16h00 in Kloof at
Ufudu Fly-fishing Adventures, 43 Kloof Falls Road.

We're not alone - there are loads of stalls and things to do for any family that enjoys "GETTING OUT THERE" and having fun! Free entry, secure parking.
 Bring friends and family and come say "Hi!"

For more info: **Heidi** 082 7064283 or heidi.dinan@gmail.com

July 2012

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
30 Jun - 1 Jul	Trail Run - Camping and trail run at Cobham . We'll try and cater for all fitness levels so if you're not sure, come along to check out what happens.	21km 300m	Grant Wilkinson	081 3725611	3
30 Jun - 1 Jul	Gxalingenwa Cave via Ndlovini Mountain, returning via The Hub, Gorge Cave and the Pholela River (Cobham area).	31km 900m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	4
1	The Bluff . Joint Ramblers day. Hike around and over the end of the Bluff; see the old whaling station and enjoy harbour, city and sea views. Meet at Glenwood Village Centre, Che Guevara (Moore) Road at 8am.		Duncan Hiles	083 2297748	2
8	Giba Gorge : Hike along well maintained tracks to waterfalls and Umhlatuzana shelter. hike. Bring snacks & water. Phone leader to reserve a place on hike and for directions. The hike starts at Giba Gorge cycle track parking area at 08h00. Entrance R10 p/p.	approx 5 hours.	Dave Tighe	031 4649033 076 0280708	2
8	Trail Run in the forest and up Mt Gilboa Start at: Bushwillow Caravan Park Karkloof at 08h00. R25 per person.	15km 1500m	Christine Bro	082 7826025 christinebro3@gmail.com	3
8	Social hike up Mt Gilboa stopping at Mares Tail Falls for tea. Bring lunch to enjoy at the top. Cost R25.00 per person Refreshments available after the hike at the park.	15km	Clinton Bro	082 7826025 christinebro3@gmail.com 082 8202139 clintsttimbers@gmail.co.za	2
8	Mountain Bike Cycle Ride . Meet at Bushwillow Park - Karkloof @ 8am. Ride on dirt roads and forest tracks in the beautiful Karkloof Valley for approx 6hrs. Intermediate levels of fitness required. Refreshments after the ride with the walkers and runners back at Bushwillow.	6hrs	John Pickup	0721512031or christinebro3@gmail.com	
15	Umlazi Meander . Joint Ramblers Club hike. Enjoy a circular hike following parts of the Umlazi River above Shongweni Dam. Petrol-sharing R25 plus R10 for car guard.		Jenny	084 9520622	2
14-15	Combined Midland's Hiking Club hike to Tarn Cave (Bushman's Nek area) - will be cold, have good warm gear.	25km 650m	Dave Sclanders (book by email only, essential - R45)	082 4434287 bergfree@absamail.co.za	3
14-15	Tenting trip to Hidden Valley . Start at the Garden Castle Wildlife Office at 9:00. Explore the surrounding area. Ideal for first time backpackers.	15km 100m	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 (evenings) 083 4190196	3
22	Mimosa Rock . Joint Ramblers Club hike. The revival of an urban Umgeni River walkabout. Please check website or call Jon for details of when and where to meet.		Jon	082 4591522	2
21-22	Outdoor Adventure Family Fair See the notice further down.		Heidi	082 7064283 heidi.dinan@gmail.com	
20-22	Combined with Midland's Hiking Club Ballito - Dolphin Holiday Resort - Ideal camping spot for winter - right on the coast & very close to the sea. Own swimming pool & entertainment areas - restaurant on site & others close-by - Lovely walks through their own nature reserve plus day-	8-10 km each day	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 082 8466179 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2

	walks along the beaches. R200 per site for 2 people. Please contact Keith for more details or to book your place.				
21-22	Wonder Valley Cave via Van Heyningen's Pass. (Injasuti area). Suitable for first time hikers	17km 470m	Clive Powell	031 5646169 after 7pm.	3
21-22	Campout on Cleft Peak . via Tseketsese Pass, return via Organ Pipes pass (Cathedral Peak area).	30km 1600m	Grant Wilkinson	081 3725611	4-5
29	Stockville . Joint Ramblers Club hike. Walk thru to Giba Gorge, up to Winston Park and on to the Stockville Valley. Not for those who suffer from vertigo! Meet at Zephyr (ex-Whole Hog Pub), Everton Road off-ramp 8am.		Margie	073 4376915	2
28-29	Meet at Sani Border post SA side 8am on the 28th. We will drive up the pass. Leaving the vehicles at the lodge we will walk to the base of Thabana Ntlenyana . Overnight in tents, at the base. On Sunday 29th summit Thabana Ntlenyana 3482m. Then a brisk walk to the lodge for refreshments + lunch. Tent and physical fitness required.	36km 1500m	Clinton Bro	082 8202139 clintstimbers@gmail.co.za	4-5

August 2012

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
5	Cumberland Nature Reserve: (Pmburg) Hike to waterfall along cliffs. Bring snacks & water. Meet at Reserve entrance at 09h00 Entrance fee R10 p/p Phone leader to reserve place on hike and for directions.	Approx 4 hours	Dave Tighe	031 4649033 076 0280708	2
4-5	Trail Run - Camping and trail run at Injusuti. (There will be options for all fitness levels).	25km 400m	Grant Wilkinson	081 3725611	3
12	Mt. Gilboa . Joint hike with Durban and Pmb Ramblers. Guest leader Mike Kirby will lead us from Bushwillow Campsite up to Mare's Tail Falls. Meet at Union Main for prompt 7.15am departure. R50 petrol-sharing, plus R15 for the conservancy.		Contact Marie	082 5860266	2
10-12	Combined Midland's Hiking Club Drakensberg Gardens cottage weekend. Fully equipped & very comfortable - Max 10 members. Day hikes from cottage or simply unwind on the property (10 acres). Hot baths & showers - Please book early to secure your place.	12-15km each day	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 082 8466179 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	2-3
19	Beach Walk from Umdloti to Umhlanga and back, meet at the Umdloti car park at 08h00, 08h15 walk to Breakers and return to Umdloti, lunch at the Bush Tavern. Confirm walk and lunch by Fri 17 Aug. Bring cash for lunch.	± 15km	Heidi Dinan	082 7064283	2
18-19	Combined Midland's Hiking Club hike to Wonder Valley Cave (Injasuti area). Sleep in caves not normally used by clubs. Sunday, hike up towards Monks Cowl and return via old Eland fence. Great views of Monk's Range. O.K for beginner hikers - if you have the right kit. Last booking date	26km 550m	Dave Sclanders (book by email only, essential - R45)	082 4434287 bergfree@absamail.co.za	3

	8th August.				
18-19	Whyte's Cave from Bushman's Nek. Visit Painter's Cave and White Horse Cave rock art sites on the way.	20km 760m	Clive Powell	031 5646169 after 7pm.	3
26	Inland Ballito. Joint Ramblers Club hike. New leader, Collette and a new route. Please let's all show her our support! Details to be advised.		Contact Marie	082 5860266 031 7053122	2
25-26	Combined Midland's Hiking Club Bushman's Nek - Backpacking to and overnight in Bushman's Cave - Beautiful hike alongside Bushman's River via Slab Cave - lovely waterfalls & pools en-route. Options to explore further from cave.	12-15m each day	Keith Ashton	033 2395023 082 8466179 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	3
25-26	Lower Injasuti Cave. Start at the Injasuti Wildlife Office at 9:00. Maximum 12 people. A lovely hike and nice cave. Perfect for beginners.	16km 300m	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 (evenings) 083 4190196	3
25-26	Lakes Cave , return via Sipongweni Rock (Cobham area), Great views of the escarpment and Little Berg. Good for first time backpackers.	25km 300m	Grant Wilkinson	081 3725611	3

September 2012

Date	Description	Distance Height	Leader	Contact	Grade
2	Paradise Valley: Shady hike with waterfall & grasslands. Bring snacks & water. Meet at Paradise Valley Parking area at 08h30 Entrance fee R10 p/p. Phone leader to reserve place on hike.	Approx 4 hours,	Dave Tighe	031 4649033 076 0280708	2
9	Umhlanga Valley. Joint Ramblers Club hike. Explore the Umhlanga estuary. Meet and park in the nature reserve beyond Breakers Hotel, Umhlanga, at 8.30am.		Jenny	084 9520622	2
7-9	Weekend away at Port Edward. Camp at the Old Pont Caravan Park and day hike in Umtamvuna Nature Reserve. Water activities on the Umtamvuna River. Option to come through on Friday night or Saturday morning. We will do a braai on the Saturday evening. See http://www.oldpont.caravanparks.co.za/ for rates / facilities / directions. Average camping fee based on 6 people per site + 2 vehicles is R65 pppn for a river front Site. Payment secures booking.		Anitha Jaipal	0824568739 (a/h) aj@ProfPM.com	2
16	Paradise Valley to Pavilion. Joint Ramblers Club hike. A linear day walk from the nature reserve (entrance R6pp) to The Firkin Pub on the roof of the Pavilion. Meet at The Firkin at 8.15am to organise cars for shuttle.		Margie	073 4376915	2
15-16	Mzimkhulwana Hut via the Giant's Cup Trail, returning via Siphongweni Valley, Siphongweni National Monument and the Pholela River (Cobham area).	20km 395m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3
15-16	Aasvoelkrans Cave in the Highmoor area. Meet at the Nottingham Road Spar at 8:00. Ideal for beginners or to just relax and come back refreshed.	8km	Farouk Omarjee	031 5776336 (evenings) 083 4190196	3
15-16	Combined Midland's Hiking Club hike to Bannerman's Hut (Giants Castle area)	31km 900m	Dave Sclanders	082 4434287 bergfree@absamail.co.za	3

	Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning climb up to Spare Rib Cage, then back via Langalibalele Ridge. Those who don't want to climb up to Spare Rib can stay at the hut till we return. The group will not split up when the people climb up to Spare Rib. The hut is a very nice warm venue for a cold winters night. Can be a beginners hike.		(book by email only, essential – R45)		
23	Stainbank Nature Reserve Yellowwood Park. Joint Ramblers Club hike. Follow a variety of paths that meander across this popular venue. Hopefully we'll see zebra, impala, duiker and lots of birds. Meet inside entrance gate at 8.30am. Entrance R15pp.		Stella	078 3198979	2
22-24	Club Campout at Mahai campsite - Royal Natal Park. Contact info@mountainbackpackers.co.za asap. to let us know if you are coming.			info@mountainbackpackers.co.za	
30	Table Mountain Hike. Joint Durban and Pmb Ramblers hike. Up to and around Table Mountain in memory of Bill Hyslop. Forest, spring flowers, waterfalls and good views of Nagle Dam and The Valley of A Thousand Hills. Meet at Union Main at 8.00am. Petrol sharing R25pp plus R10 for guide/car guard.		Duncan Hiles	083 2297748	2
29-30	Find Forest Cave in the Ndedema Gorge via Solar Cliffs. Return via Phillip's Folly and Mike's Pass (Cathedral Peak area).	26km 740m	Dave Gay	031 7654246 (18h00 to 20h00 Mon-Thu only) cougar1@telkomsa.net	3-4

Advance Notices

Date	Description
31 September	Close of Annual Photo Competition. Start Clicking Now! (New multi category format on website)

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.

Warning to All Hikers

This year's winter has started off very dry and the danger of runaway veld fires will probably be much greater than usual. The threat of a runaway fire that will cover a huge area of the Berg should not be underestimated. Leaders and hikers should be totally aware of this at all times, and view any smoke and fire in the area in which they are walking as potentially life threatening. Plans of escape, or safety drills should be reviewed often. It is even more important than ever that stragglers NOT be left behind the main group.

Dave Sclanders, one of our hike leaders who runs Bergfree Adventures has noted that there are few signs of preparation for firebreak burning as well. Always keep a lighter or matches handy and be prepared to burn the grass downwind if you find yourself trapped by an approaching fire. You cannot outrun it.

HIKES FROM BUSHMAN'S NEK TRAIL HUT, SOUTHERN BERG 27–29 APRIL 2012
by Kathy Kruger



“There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough to pay attention to the story”

The Bushman's Nek Trail Hut is situated approximately one kilometer from the South African Border Post and is the last hut on the Giants Cup Trail. It overlooks the Bushman's River and offers excellent views of the far southern KwaZulu Natal Drakensberg, with both Thaba Ngwangwe and Tomathu Peak being visible on the escarpment on either side of Ngwangwane Pass. It is easy to miss the hut from the trail as its natural finish of thatch and stone blends in perfectly with the surroundings.

This was a combined hike with the Midlands Hiking Club and the Mountain Backpackers Club and was ably led by Keith Ashton, whose knowledge and experience of the area and the Berg in general was both informative and interesting. Whilst leaders have an obvious passion for what they do, they nonetheless give up their own time for our benefit and we are indeed grateful that not only do we have leaders who are prepared to impart their knowledge with us but further take on the responsibility of organizing such hikes - without them we would certainly not get the opportunity to explore the mountains as we do.

The huge advantage of using the trail hut as a base is that one's backpack is left at base camp and only day packs are required for the hikes - it's quite a treat for a change and makes walking that much more pleasurable and is far less strenuous on the body. The hut is very stark - there are five separate rooms each housing 3 bunk beds (accommodating 30 persons in total), which are provided with mattresses. Centrally there are male and female ablutions, each with a shower, toilet and wash hand basin, with washing-up facilities separating them. There is no electricity and no hot water, so showers are exceptionally quick as the water is absolutely freezing. Whilst there are no guarantees regarding the safety of one's gear and equipment, there are combination locks on the doors to deter the criminal element. Fortunately our weekend was without incident. After breakfast, the days were spent exploring the area and then in the late afternoons, after braving the showers, we all sat around chatting till the sun went down, shortly after which we'd all prepare our own supper. The chatter continued into the night after which some of us took to star-gazing - we took the liberty of putting mattresses out on the grass in front of the hut, huddled together under our sleeping bags and lay looking up at the vastness of the sky, every now and then catching a glimpse of a passing satellite or a shooting star, which evoked much elation.

Despite the howling wind on the first day, we had a pleasant hike and explored the area in the vicinity of the hut. Fortunately the weather gods were kind to us for the remainder of the weekend and we were blessed with hot, sunny weather. We saw a large herd of Eland twice (presumably the same herd) and a jackal, which displayed its speed and agility by motoring it up the mountain. On day two we hiked past Cedric's Pool, which is usually very inviting on a hot sunny day, but somehow loses its appeal as it edges closer to winter. We walked in the direction of Lammergeier Cave, stopping on route to view some rather obscure Bushman paintings. We later stopped for lunch at Surprise Cave,

where Bushman paintings abound - quite fascinating if you're into that sort of thing. We headed back to base camp after a long and lazy lunch, stopping again at Cedric's Pool where some of the group braved its icy waters. On day three we did a relatively easy hike, following the Bushman's River, with its crystal clear waters, upstream, eventually stopping for lunch on some rocks further down the river. We returned via the trail leading to the border post, encountering a rinkhals on the way (incidentally, this was the second snake of the day - the other one, of unknown species, was spotted in between the vegetation and rocks, at our lunch stop) - fortunately it was well spotted by a member of the group and after a few photographs, both the snake and ourselves went our separate ways.

All too soon the long weekend was over. We bid farewell to our fellow hikers and headed for home, rejuvenated from our weekend away, once again ready to face the rat race, until the next hike.

Graded 2-3, the weekend's hikes were easily managed by the majority of the group, averaging approximately 10-15km a day, with Day 2 being the most strenuous in terms of the distance and terrain. Hiking is a wonderful past-time - it gives one the opportunity not only to integrate with nature, but also to meet people who share a similar passion and to just escape, albeit for a little while, to a place where time stands still and where the everyday stresses of modern living can be forgotten. No matter one's background or age, hiking offers something for everyone and unites people in a way that few other activities do.

Thanks again to Keith and the group for making the weekend a memorable one. No doubt some of us will meet up again on a future hike.

Congratulations to John Pickup and his merry band for completing the 2012 Grand Traverse of the Drakensberg in fine style. He lost only one person along the way. And a second congratulations for attracting nineteen people, including some first-time hikers to do the resupply up Tsetseke Pass (plus a special thanks to all of them).

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.

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.

Outdoor Adventure Family Fair

Sat 21st and Sun 22nd of July from 10h00 till 16h00 in Kloof at
Ufudu Fly-fishing Adventures, 43 Kloof Falls Road.

We're not alone - there are loads of stalls and things to do for any family that enjoys "GETTING OUT THERE" and having fun! Free entry, secure parking.
Bring friends and family and come say "Hi!"

For more info: **Heidi** 082 7064283 or heidi.dinan@gmail.com

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 Hot Dogs are sold at the venue for R15 each.	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
12 th Jul	Cycling in Italy presented by Sorin Dimitriu In 2011 my wife and I did a cycling tour of the lake district, Como, Iseo and Garda lakes of Lombardy, followed by a scenic route on the rolling hills of Tuscany. Our efforts were greatly rewarded with some of the best site-seeing, close encounters with Roman and Renaissance brilliance, and excellent food and wine.
26 th Jul	Simon and Colette Bundy. Machu Picchu. Sacred land of the Inca Trail and an insight into the Amazon. A four day journey of 45 kilometres reaching an altitude of 4300 metres to Machu Picchu and then on to Lake Titicaca.
9 th Aug	Public holiday, no presentation.
23 rd Aug	Lisa Smith – surviving and dodging tropical cyclones in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean: a presentation of Lisa’s recent “never-ending” research cruise, which started with encounters with lemurs at Andasibe (Madagascar) and surviving cyclone Giovanna prior to joining the ship, a diversion to the Seychelles through pirate waters to avoid cyclone Irina and other phantoms, and diving at Ile Tromelin and the amazing Bassas d’India.
13 th Sep	Cruising the Andaman Sea by Sharon Jordan. Step aboard for a sail on a classic yacht from Phuket, Thailand to Langkawi, Malaysia. Explore Pha Nga Bay with its astonishing limestone karsts then head south in to clear island-studded turquoise waters. A short visit to the Butang archipelago finishing off in Kuala Lumpur.
27 th Sep	Join Tanya and Brian as they share their recent trip through Uganda to Kigali in Rwanda, via any means possible. Local buses, bicycles, scooter taxis and mokoro canoes. Includes hiking the three-peak volcano in National Park. From the Sheraton to backpacking and couchsurfing. Lots of variety and great photos.

Club Campout at Mahai Campsite Royal Natal National Park

22-24 September

Book now at

info@mountainbackpackers.co.za

to secure your place

Day hikes, geocaching, trail running,
games or just slacking in the sun.