

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JANUARY TO MARCH 2019

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Thursday 3 January	Grade 1 Morning hike	KILGOBBIN Crab Apple Cottages D707 Dargle 9am Stroll through the beautiful mist-belt forest and the adjacent grassland with custodian Barend Booysen.	Donation R20 Book Barend Booysen 082 787 0797
Saturday 12 January	Grade 3 9km	KRANZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE – Meet at Picnic Site off Kloof Falls Road at 8:00. A 4-5 hr hike via Upper Nkutu Falls to a stunning viewpoint, down into the Gorge, cross the Molweni River at the pools, up to the grasslands where the zebras graze, pass the Uve Falls and return along the Beacon Trail. All invited to braai at the leader's house.	Brian Henwood – 0826556359 bhhenwood@gmail.com KZN Wildlife ent fee – R 35
THURSDAY 17 January	Social evening	"Photographs of Nguni Cattle" by Ed Schroeder. Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Wine, tea ,coffee and light snacks available	Free to members. Contact Penny Purchase Email chrispenny@telkomsa.net
Sunday 20 January	Grade 1	KARKLOOF BENVIE Gentle stroll around Benvie Gardens where after we will have a picnic on the lawn. Please bring a picnic lunch and blanket. Will meet at the entrance to the gardens at 9h30.	Entrance fee R50 - Contact Katy Hart on 0832776272 or at katyemma.hart@gmail.com
25-28th January Cottage	Grade 2 10km	LEISURE BAY Stay in comfortable accommodation close to Peter Pan beach. Beach hikes to Port Edward or Wild Coast fossil beds. Hike in Umtanvuna Nature Reserve. Book by 17 th January	Cathy Nixon 0846932340 cathy.amies@gmail.com R280 pp for 2 nights or R400pp for 3 nights
Sunday 3 February	Grade 1 Morning hike	BEACON HILL into forests. 7-8km. Meet at Eagle Ridge clubhouse at 8.30am	Contact Carolee Thompson caroleejoy@gmail.com 0784825003
Sunday 17 February	DAY HIKE 14 km 150 m climb	HIGHMOOR Hike to ka-Dedeakusha Falls and old ranger's outpost. These falls are not visited by hikers. It is an easy steady walk on paths. Very slight climb up and down to the falls. Good walking legs needed. Camping also available. Contact Dave earlier.	Dave Sclander - email only dave@bergfree.co.za last booking - Wed 13 Feb
Sunday 24 February	Grade 1 10km	COBHAM (Himeville) Easy hike and swimming. Meet at Merrivale 7am	Sue Rowley SMS OR WhatsApp 0732131314 sue524024@gmail.com
Saturday 2 March	Grade 2 10km	SHONGWENI – Meet at the Polo Club car park in Kassier Road at 8:30. (40min from Pmb) Hike through cane fields and bush along farm roads to the top of Dellville Wood Falls, and back. Socialize at Club afterwards.	Brian Henwood– 0826556359 bhhenwood@gmail.com No Cost.
Mon-Thurs 4-7 March	HUT 12-16km each day 2+	GARDEN CASTLE - 3-night stay in Swiman Hut - hiking each day to various caves in the area & including Bushmans paintings & pools - last booking 25 Feb.	Keith Ashton – e-mail only keimarg@iuncapped.co.za
Sunday 10 March	DAY HIKE 12km 100m climb	HIGHMOOR 3 FALLS CIRCULAR WALK - Visit 3 water falls. Easy long days walking, chance to see game. Good walking legs needed. Book by e mail only, with a cell contact number. Camping also available	Dave Sclander - email only dave@bergfree.co.za – Last booking by Wed 06 March
THURSDAY 14 March	Social evening	Jackie Kalley on her book "Farmhouses of Old Natal". Many of the 36 farmhouses described are in the Midlands. Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Wine, tea, coffee and light snacks available	Free to members. Contact Penny Purchase Email chrispenny@telkomsa.net
Sunday 17 March	DAY HIKE Grade 2 10-12 kms	Tillietudlem Game farm and Trout Lodge in the Dargle. Rolling green hills, dam and Nguni herd. Afterwards, an option of tea and scones at the old colonial farmhouse for R50.	Contact Penny Purchase chrispenny@telkomsa.net Phone 078 948 3730
Sat-Sun 23-24 March	CAVE Grade 3	MKHOMAZI - Cyprus Cave - Ideal for first time backpackers but good for experienced hikers as we will explore from the cave - max 6 hikers – Last booking 15 March	Keith Ashton – e-mail only keimarg@iuncapped.co.za
Sunday 31 March	DAY HIKE	HILTON COLLEGE Hike details to follow	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 alanixav@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING

1. Hikes are graded so that members can select the activity best suited to their own level of fitness and do not cause unreasonable delay to fellow hikers.
2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate. If you need to cancel please contact the leader as soon as possible. Numbers are often limited and there may be a waiting list.
3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.
4. If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.
5. Leaders have the prerogative to exclude a member if they doubt their health condition, physical fitness or suitability of their hiking gear for a particular activity.
6. Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.
7. Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times. We encourage all hikers to attach their membership badges to their backpacks with these details available.

GRADINGS OF HIKES	
FF	Family friendly
PF	Pet friendly
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness
Grade 3	Moderate. Physical fitness advisable
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness essential

CLUB NIGHTS

Our Club nights are held on the third THURSDAY of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall, Hilton starting at 19:00. Wine, snacks, tea & coffee served. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindy Road, Hilton.

