

## FIXTURES – JANUARY TO MARCH 2026

### 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.
8. Further information on the Rules and Regulations, for your safety, [please click here.](#)

### GRADINGS OF HIKES

- ❖ FF Family friendly.
- ❖ PF Pet friendly.
- ❖ Easy - A short, flattish walk 3-8kms.
- ❖ Moderate - 8-15km hike without big and steep inclines. Physical fitness advisable.
- ❖ Difficult - 8-25kms, a **few** big and/or steep inclines and possibly some moderate rock scrambling and/or rocky paths and/or no paths and/or tricky river crossings. Physical fitness essential
- ❖ Very difficult - more than 8kms with **many** extremes. Physical fitness essential.

#### Exposure Scale:

- ❖ None - no exposure.
- ❖ Mild - mild exposure: the path is on steep ground or near the edge of small cliffs. Those with a fear of heights will feel uncomfortable.
- ❖ High - High exposure - the path is on very steep ground, or near the edge of high cliffs. Those with a fear of heights should not attempt this.

	DATE	LEADER	EVENT DESCRIPTION	NOTES
	Saturday 3rd January	Janna de Gouveia	<p><b>TWIN FALLS, BRACO FARM (TBC)</b></p> <p>Join us for a scenic hike from the stunning 'Braco', 14 acres of prime gardens, through this mist-belt grassland and forest biome. Surrounded by rolling green hills, wild natural bush, indigenous fauna, and flora to the two twin falls deep in the forest. See: twinfallsfarm.co.za</p>	<p><b>Grading: Easy</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 10 km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R100</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Sunday 4th January	Ali Engelbrecht	<p><b>BASE OF THE KARKLOOF FALLS (TBC)</b></p> <p>Drive into Karkloof Spa, with some game viewing on the way in and out. Park at the river, past the Buffalo wallowing area. Walk to the base of the Karkloof Falls (last kilometre will be on the board walk). Snack at the falls. This hike is dependent on having sufficient 4x4 vehicles to transport hikers. (5 persons per vehicle x 5 vehicles required = 20 hikers + 5 drivers. Total 25 hikers) <b>Payment is non-refundable if the hiker cancels.</b> Should there be a high demand, we can arrange another trip at a later date.</p> <p>Hike is on first come first booked basis. This is a closed hike to MHC members only and the special rate applies to Ali as the Hike Leader.</p>	<p><b>Grading: Easy</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: none</b></p> <p><b>Distance: TBC</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R200 p.p. Driver free.</b> <b>Payment to be cleared by 2nd January 2026.</b></p> <p><b>Please note this is a special rate just for the MHC with Ali as leader. Usual charge is R2,500 per vehicle (R500 p.p.)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p> <p><b>THIS HIKE IS VERY STRICTLY MEMBERS ONLY.</b></p>
	Sunday 11th January	Dawn Norton	<p><b>ST IVES (OPPOSITE PIGGLY WIGGLY ON THE R103) - A NEW ROUTE TO EXPLORE</b></p> <p>Park at St Ives Boma and walk up into the forest behind the dam. First part is in the open so bring umbrellas and sunscreen. We then move into the forest and climb up a fairly steep hill before stopping for tea. There is game so no dogs. The venue has asked for a donation or join us for beers and food at the Boma afterwards</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: none</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 8-10km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: By donation</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Sunday 18th January	Libby Deysel	<p><b>FOUNTAINHILL ESTATE - REICHE TRAILS</b></p> <p>There are several trails in this reserve with the opportunity to see game and birds. Depending on the weather, there is the possibility of walking to the bottom of the waterfall and then climbing to the top of the gorge with beautiful views over the estate.</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 10 - 14 kms</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R50 +/-</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>

	DATE	LEADER	EVENT DESCRIPTION	NOTES
	Sunday 25th January	Peter Wedge	<p><b>MIDLANDS MEANDER (with a difference!)</b></p> <p>Join us on this rescheduled hike which takes in Symmonds stream, Beacon Hill with a panoramic view of Howick and then the uMngeni River Walk with the renowned forager, edible weed expert and author – Nikki Brighton. Nikki will walk and talk us through the biodiversity of plants along the river which have both nutritional and medical benefits.</p> <p>The hike starts at Maggie's on the corner of Karkloof Road</p>	<p><b>Grading: Easy</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 14kms</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R50 Conservancy Fee</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 31st January	Iain Kerr	<p><b>BOOGALOO; The Crunch &amp; Cleveland Express Trails at Karkloof</b></p> <p>This is a relatively easy hike on the Karkloof trails. The total ascent is only about 150m and there is a very scenic spot next to a farm dam for our lunch break. The trail starts and finishes at the Karkloof club so you can grab a beer or coffee and something to eat at the end of the hike</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 13km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R60 for Karkloof club day pass</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 7th February	Chantall vdM	<p><b>HONEY HILL NATURE RESERVE - MONTESEEL</b></p> <p>A beautiful trail venue, bring a picnic lunch, a family morning out on the 1000 Hills/Comrades route.</p> <p>FF+PF one dog pp on lead</p>	<p><b>Grading: Easy</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 10km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R20pp</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 14th & 15th February	Deon Small	<p><b>PILLAR CAVE GARDEN CASTLE - Overnight Hike</b></p> <p>Limited to 12 hikers only. Meet at Garden Castle This is an easy 4.1km walk to the cave, there are 2 river crossings so water shoes could be useful. If time allows, we will explore Pillar Cave Annex and part of the Rhino Route. Return the same route. Please note you must be able to carry a backpack with your needed equipment.</p> <p>Ideal for beginners.</p>	<p><b>Grading: Easy</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 8.2km total distance</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R120 pppn</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>

	DATE	LEADER	EVENT DESCRIPTION	NOTES
	Sunday 15th February	Ali Engelbrecht and Willow Walker	<p><b>SUNRISE AT DWARFS DAWDLE</b></p> <p>Meet at WESSA reception, drive to Indulo Car Park (4x4 or high-rise vehicle essential). Walk in the dark along the escarpment and watch the sky change colour. View sunrise from Viewpoint with Champagne Breakfast snack. Hike down a steep incline to Dwarfs Dawdle returning to vehicles at Indulo Car Park. Optional extra breakfast at 41 Restaurant in Howick.</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate/Difficult</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: Mild/High</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 5 kms</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R35</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 21st February to Sunday 22nd February	Janna and Robby de Gouveia	<p><b>HENLEY LAPA 'BASE CAMP' Overnight Hike</b></p> <p>Meet at the top of the Hilton College estate and drive down to the Henley Lapa to set up camp for the night. Once set up, we will hike the Gwens Stream trail up to Pinnacles and back down along the river to base camp. We will camp the night down by the Umgeni and do a short walk in the morning before everyone heads off home again.</p> <p>The hike up from the Umgeni to Pinnacles is tough and a fair amount of fitness is required, especially if it is hot. For those wanting to enjoy the weekend but <i>not</i> brave the hike up to Pinnacles, you would be more than welcome to stay at camp and relax and enjoy the birds and the wildlife.</p> <p>Maximum 20 people.</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate/Difficult</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: Approx. 300m</b></p> <p><b>Distance: Approx. 10km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R150 pp</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 28th February	Iain Kerr	<p><b>LOWER TEKWANI LOOP along the Umngeni River</b></p> <p>This hike starts at the entrance to the Normandien Tekwani Plantation and takes us downstream, tracking the river part of the way. We stop at a deck overlooking the river, where hikers can take a refreshing swim. Thereafter we loop back and walk upstream past the plantation entrance to a waterfall, where hikers can have another swim before heading back to the cars</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 12km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: Nil</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 7th March	Dave Sclanders	<p><b>KAMBERG - KZN WILDLIFE NATURE RESERVE</b></p> <p>Gladstone's Nose loop walk, Great views of the high berg, and to Kamberg mountain. Walk on Game paths that will probably be overgrown at this time. Short steep climb on a worn path. Bring hiking sticks.</p> <p><b>Hike is aimed at showing POTENTIAL NEW LEADERS a fairly easy berg hike.</b></p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: None</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 8km</b></p> <p><b>Cost: +- R80.00</b> <b>Golden Rhino Wildcard</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>

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	Sunday 8th March	SOCIAL	<b>GROUNDCOVER DAM - CURRYS POST</b>  A BYO picnic. Join us over a relaxing lunch at this lovely setting in the Midlands.	<a href="#">Enquiries click here</a>
	Friday 13th to Sunday 15th March	Hettie Randall and Christa Gadd	<b>DRAKENSBERGKLOOF - NEWCASTLE</b>  A treat of a weekend, affordable and comfortable accommodation. We will do a leisurely walk over the rolling hills at this stunning venue, with waterfalls and lakes. Join us on this social sunglasses and sunsets weekend!	<b>Grading: Moderate</b> <b>Exposure Scale: None</b> <b>Distance: 12kms</b> <b>Cost: Accommodation R250pppn</b>  <a href="#">Enquiries click here</a>
	Fri 13 to Sun 15 March	Brian Henwood	<b>SALT ROCK BEACH RESORT - BALLITO</b>  Set up your tent in the Caravan Park or hire a Self-Catering Plett. The website provides all the information you require. The contact number is 032 525 5025. Walks along the beach to Tinley Manor and the boardwalk at Ballito. Also walks along the trails through indigenous forest inside the Simbithi Eco Estate.	<b>Grading: Moderate</b> <b>Exposure Scale: None</b> <b>Distance: 10 + 10 km</b>  <a href="#">Enquiries click here</a>
	Saturday 21st March	Andrew & Megan Loots	<b>CUMBERLAND GORGE/WATERFALL WALK</b>  We'll walk the river loop down to Horseshoe Bend, please note this is full sun exposure, then we'll drop down to the bottom of the ravine and make our way to the bottom of the big waterfall. The way back up is tricky as we hug the cliff and climb back up, lots of rock scrambling, over moist loose big rocks, lots of low overhangs to crawl under and slippery sections to navigate. Hikers must be sure footed. An adventure!!	<b>Grading: Difficult</b> <b>Exposure Scale: Moderate</b> <b>Distance: Approx 7km</b> <b>Cost: R70pp (exact cash only)</b> <b>MEMBERS ONLY</b>  <a href="#">Enquiries click here</a>
	Sunday 22nd March	Ali Engelbrecht	<b>WESSA UMGENI VALLEY</b>  A full day hikes. Park vehicles at Inkonka Car Park, walk along Black Eagle to Indulo Camp. Down into the valley, past Sunrise Rock (selfie photo opportunity 😊) to the confluence where the Lower Umhlangeni River meets the Umgeni River. Follow the valley floor past the Strangling Fig Tree (compulsory stop here) and back up at Inkonka.	<b>Grading: Difficult</b> <b>Exposure Scale: Mild</b> <b>Distance: 12+ kms</b> <b>Cost: R35</b>  <a href="#">Enquiries click here</a>

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	Midweek 23rd to 26th March	Hettie Randall	<p><b>BATTLEFIELDS TAKE TWO - FIRST ANGLO-BOER WAR OF INDEPENDENCE DECEMBER 1880-MARCH 1881</b></p> <p>This tour will take us through Vryheid, Volksrust, Newcastle. We will have a historian translator and visit the major battle sites. We will be climbing Majuba on the 3rd day (optional)</p>	<p><b>ROAD TRIP</b> with the added highlight of a fierce but short climb up to where it all ended!</p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Saturday 28th to 29th March	Deon Small	<p><b>KWADEDAKUSHE FALLS - HIGHMOOR</b></p> <p>Meet at Highmoor This is a moderate 8km walk to the waterfall, on arrival at the falls we will look for a suitable tenting spot and make camp. We will explore the area around the falls. The return route will go past the dams. Please note you must be able to carry a backpack with your needed equipment including a tent.</p> <p>Not suitable for beginners unless you are fit.</p> <p><b>Hike is aimed as a learning opportunity for LEADERS wanting to lead overnight hikes.</b></p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: Mild</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 16 km total distance</b></p> <p><b>Cost: R120-00</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>
	Sunday 29th March	Margret Kirsten.	<p><b>GNOME TRAIL - KARKLOOF</b></p> <p>Mostly forest walking some uphill to the Beacon. Hopefully colourful fungi!!</p>	<p><b>Grading: Moderate</b></p> <p><b>Exposure Scale: Mild</b></p> <p><b>Distance: 15 km</b></p> <p><b>Cost; T.B.A.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Enquiries click here</a></p>

MIDLANDS  
HIKING CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1993

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### BIG 4 CHALLENGE 2026

19 April - Mt Gilboa, the original route - straight up from the Falls  
 17 May - Nhlosane  
 23 August - Bulwer Mountain  
 06 September - Swartkop

11 - 16 April 2026 - Canyon Trail - Baviaanskloof - hike is full - waitlisting applies

1 - 4 May - Drakensberg Mountain Retreat - Oliviershoek ([Enquiries click here](#) - accommodation commitment required)

TBC - May 2026 - Everdon Farm

13 - 16 June 2026 - Mt Perazim, Clarens - ([Enquiries click here](#) - accommodation commitment required)

3 - 6 August 2026 - Base Camp Wilderness Trail - Umfolozi Nature Reserve (limited to 8 maximum) (TBC)

7 - 10 August 2026 - Umlalazi Nature Reserve - Mtunzini

9 - 14 September 2026 - Whale Trail - full - waitlisting applies

23 - 27 September 2026 - Giants Cup Trail, slackpacking. Limited to 16 ([Enquiries click here](#) - accommodation and catering commitment required)