



Mobility

APRIL 2019



24-Hour N3TC Helpline
0800 63 4357



@N3Route



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www.n3tc.co.za

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Cover photo: N3TC Photo Competition Merit Award : Dirk van Zuilekom "Leaf floating in water"

Route Map



Welcome

Photo by Stephen Pryke

“
**We can all play
our part to make
our roads safer
for everyone. The
N3TC team,
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responsibility
towards road
safety seriously,
and to always
drive defensively.
Life is precious.
Drive to protect it.**
”

Dear Reader

Welcome to the Easter edition of N3TC's Mobility magazine. As always, this edition is filled with interesting stories, events, projects and advice all centred around the N3 Toll Route and the people who work, live and drive this transport corridor.

With the upcoming long weekend expected to be yet another very busy traffic weekend, we encourage you to read more about the initiatives to help keep you safe on our road. We tell you about expected traffic patterns and how to carefully plan your trip. Also, take note of the initiatives to crack down on intoxicated drivers. In KwaZulu-Natal a new evidential based breathalyser alcohol test is now being piloted. N3TC has been informed by the Roads Traffic Inspectorate that there will be zero tolerance of drunk and negligent drivers. We can all play our part to make our roads safer for everyone. The N3TC team, therefore, implore you to take your responsibility towards road safety seriously, and to always drive defensively. Life is precious. Drive to protect it.

Additional information about N3 Toll Concession and the section of N3 route it manages between Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal and Heidelberg in Gauteng is available on N3TC's newly launched website (www.n3tc.co.za). Our new user-friendly website makes it easy for you to navigate to various informative pages and to contact us directly should you have any questions with which we can assist.

With the advancement of communication technology new simple and convenient ways to 'stay in touch' are at our fingertips. Another worthwhile communication invention for tourists is the N3 Gateway Radio App. By downloading this application from the Google Playstore or Apple iStore you can obtain useful information about the N3 Route, its history, places to visit, and even order a pizza while en-route.

Just remember, never use any mobile device while you are behind the wheel. On the road, any distraction can have serious consequences. Stay out of harm's way. Always only use your device when your vehicle is stationary, or get your passengers involved in the journey by accessing the various media platforms at your disposal.

The N3TC is always on standby to answer questions and to assist with emergencies. Please do not hesitate to contact us on our 24-hour N3TC Helpline on 0800 63 4357 or talk to us on Twitter: @N3Route and follow us on Facebook at: N3TC – N3 Toll Concession Pty Ltd.

We wish you and your family a pleasant and relaxed Easter holiday.

Take care.
Neil Tolmie
CEO

NEW DRUG AND ALCOHOL SCREEN TEST

**Don't
even
think
about getting
behind the
wheel with a
drop of
alcohol in
your body**

Authorities are getting tough on drivers driving under the influence of alcohol. With the newly released Evidential Breath Alcotest (EBAT) testing for the presence of alcohol can be effectively done on the spot and the results are admissible as evidence in court.

The advanced EBAT screening equipment now delivers watertight results eliminating the need for blood samples to be sent for analysis to district surgeons.

The National Road Safety Act makes it an offence to drive while “under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or drug having a narcotic effect”, and sets the limit to the concentration of alcohol allowed in a person's blood or breath. The EBAT screening device takes into account the gender and age of the person being tested and the results are printed on thermal paper which lasts for seven years.

Even the smallest amount of residual alcohol can have a negative effect on a person's concentration and sense of judgment. Alcohol impairs the cognitive function of a person's central nervous system, making them too slow to respond to difficult situations which may lead to a crash with disastrous consequences.

Transport minister Blade Nzimande launched the new system at Pietermaritzburg's alcohol evidential centre shortly before the Easter long weekend. He also released his preliminary road safety report for 2018. The report revealed that there were 767 fatalities on South African roads in 18 days from December 1 to December 18, and over the Easter holiday period last year, fatalities on the country's roads increased by 14% with 510 people who lost their lives compared to 449 in the previous year.

He noted that most of these fatalities were the result of excessive speeding, reckless and negligent driving, and a total disregard of road signs. Drinking and driving incidents had also



increased, as did incidents involving fatigued drivers. The latter had caused some of the more serious accidents, and were especially prevalent in drivers of heavy vehicles and those transporting groups of passengers.

The minister's report revealed that countrywide 44 trucks and 34 taxis were involved in fatal collisions in the 18-day period in December last year.

The picture painted by minister Nzimande resonates well with the information from N3 Toll Concession's crash database for the N3 Toll Route.

From January to December 2018, a total of 1232 crashes were reported on the N3 Toll Route; a 9,7% increase from the previous year. Of the total number of crashes in 2018, 86 were fatal and 73 were serious. Although, the number of fatal crashes decreased in 2018 (from 119 in 2017 to 86 in 2018), a 40.3% increase was noted in serious crashes from 52 in 2017 to 73 at the end of 2018.

Human error (including negligence, reckless and drunk driving) caused the majority of both heavy and light vehicle crashes in 2018. Of the 415 heavy vehicle crashes, 360 were directly linked to human error; and the data is very similar for light vehicles (519 crashes of which 374 were caused by human error). Vehicle failure, including tyre bursts and brake failure, is another major cause of crashes.

23 pedestrian fatalities were reported on the N3 Toll Route during 2018. Very often, these fatalities can also be linked to intoxication. Worldwide it is estimated that over a third of all pedestrians involved in fatal crashes were over the legal alcohol limit for drivers.



Alcohol evidential centre in Pietermaritzburg

This state-of-the-art facility is a joint partnership between the national department of transport, its provincial counterpart in KwaZulu-Natal and South African Breweries. It is equipped with all the necessary equipment required by law enforcement officials to accurately and efficiently determine the breath/alcohol level of a person suspected of driving under the influence.

Officers of the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) in the province will be deploying EBAT devices at various check points throughout the Easter weekend. "Offenders will have no chance of getting away scot-free," warns N3TC's road incidents manager, Praveen Sunderlall. "This breathalyser evidence will certainly help to increase conviction rates and ultimately eradicate the scourge of drunk driving on our roads."

Driving high: what you need to know about cannabis

Most people interpret the term “driving under the influence” narrowly as meaning driving while drunk. But this view needs to change, especially in the light of recent legal developments regarding the use of cannabis.

When South Africa's Constitutional Court ruled last year that adults may now legally grow and use cannabis in the privacy of their homes, it meant that the personal use of cannabis, in the context of a home, is no longer a criminal offence.

But while smoking a joint at home may be legal, it doesn't make it right to do so before getting behind the wheel. An impaired driver could drive negligently and cause accidents, as it is known that cannabis can affect attention, vigilance, perception of time and speed, and the use of knowledge.

A recent US study of cannabis' effects on driving found that drunk drivers tended to go faster, took more risks, and drove closer to the cars in front of them because they didn't realise how impaired they were. On the other hand, people under the influence of cannabis drove slower and kept a larger distance from the vehicle in front of them. But their reaction times were also slower, which is dangerous on the road.

This raises the question of how long a dagga user should wait before getting behind the wheel. In short, it depends on how the cannabis is consumed as well as how often, since regular users build up tolerance and may be less impaired than those who only use it occasionally. It also depends on whether one smokes it, ingests it, or absorbs it through the skin. The effects of THC are felt soon after smoking and do not last all that long, but when ingesting THC via food or pills, the effects can take at least 30 minutes to be felt and last for hours.

Current recommendations in the US advise people not to drive for at least six hours after using cannabis. But the waiting time can be longer depending on the frequency and intensity habits of the user, and the properties of the cannabis product used.

All of which makes it safest to say, don't light up and hit the road.

Like many prescription and over-the-counter medicines used for anxiety, pain, and colds and flu, cannabis can have side-effects that negatively influence a person's driving. Impaired driving is bad, dangerous driving – whether the cause is legal or not.



EASTER IS
A BUSY
TIME

Expect a busy N3 Toll Route this Easter holiday

Traffic on the N3 Toll Route between Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal is expected to increase sharply from Thursday, 18 April and high traffic volumes are expected to continue through Friday, 19 April. Thereafter, the busy conditions will taper down until Easter Monday, 22 April when peak traffic conditions are expected throughout the day as holidaymakers return from their long weekend breaks.

Easter Monday is always one of the busiest traffic days on the N3 Toll Route. Road users are encouraged to carefully plan their trips and to be prepared for possible congestion and delays.

“N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) highly recommends road users plan their trips in order to travel outside of peak times. Do not leave your departure for your destination until too late in the day. With between 2500 and 3500 vehicles per hour expected to be on the N3 Toll Route at peak times the risks and demands on drivers increase exponentially,” says N3TC’s traffic engineer, Miles le Roux.

Traffic forecast for 18 – 22 April 2019

The grid below provides an overview of expected traffic volumes and peak conditions on the N3 Toll Route in a southbound (SB) direction (towards KwaZulu-Natal); and a northbound (NB) direction (towards Gauteng).

GREEN: Light to slight increase in volumes < 800 vehicles per hour (vph) in a particular peak direction

YELLOW: Busy traffic conditions with 800 – 1500 vehicles per hour (vph) in a particular peak direction

RED: Heavy (high) traffic volumes (with slow-moving conditions) > 1500 vehicles per hour (vph) in a particular direction.

ALERT: High peak flows of 2500 vph on Thursday, 18 April March and Friday, 19 April (in a southbound direction towards KwaZulu-Natal); and 3500 vph on Monday, 22 April (in a northbound direction towards Gauteng) can be expected.

Time	THURSDAY 18/04/2019 [Peak Flow SB]	FRIDAY 19/04/2019 [Peak Flow SB]	MONDAY 22/04/2019 [Peak Flow NB]
00h00-03h00	GREEN	YELLOW	GREEN
03h00-06h00	YELLOW	RED	GREEN
06h00-09h00	YELLOW	RED	YELLOW
09h00-12h00	RED	RED	RED
12h00-15h00	RED	RED	RED
15h00-18h00	RED	YELLOW	RED
18h00-21h00	RED	GREEN	RED
21h00-24h00	YELLOW	GREEN	YELLOW

EASTER IS
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TIME

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Toll plazas will operate at capacity

All N3TC toll plazas will be operating at maximum capacity. If congestion occurs, the Roads Traffic Inspectorate may have to manage traffic flow at toll plazas to ensure road users' safety.

No road works at peak times

Although N3TC is currently busy with road construction projects along Van Reenen's Pass and between Cedara and Mooi River, no road works (except for essential remedial work, if absolutely necessary) will take place during the Easter long weekend and all lane restrictions will be lifted. The concessionaire's road rehabilitation projects will commence immediately after the Easter holiday.

Every effort is being made to ensure road safety

All emergency services and law enforcement authorities have been placed on high alert for the duration of the Easter weekend.

N3TC is combining its road incident management efforts with various partners to enhance emergency capacity and safety along the entire route.

Road users can expect visible law enforcement, 24-hour emergency and breakdown assistance, traffic check points, enforcement of public transport compliance and random alcohol and drug tests to be performed along the N3 Toll Route.

Provincial and private medical services with intermediate and/or advanced life support units will be stationed at strategic points along the route. Volunteers from various medical rescue and humanitarian groups will be available to assist at major crash scenes and provide post-crash care support to victims.

Arm yourself with information

Being informed of road and travel conditions helps you to make safe choices prior to and during your journey. Unforeseen incidents, changing weather patterns and emergency situations can all impact on traffic conditions.

Stay up-to-date with the latest news updates from N3 Toll Route and get verified traffic information by contacting the 24-hour N3TC Helpline on 0800 63 4357. Essential information is also shared on an on-going basis from N3TC's Twitter platform: @N3Route.



Report any problems or obtain emergency assistance by contacting the N3TC Helpline. The nearest N3TC route patrol team will be dispatched to help ensure your safety. These highly trained teams are geared to provide help at crash scenes and with vehicle breakdowns. They also provide basic emergency medical care, assist with fire-fighting, remove hazardous objects from the road and provide regular patrols to ensure conditions along the N3 Toll Route remain as safe as possible.

TRAFFIC ALERT

Implementation of new three-way stop at Cedara interchange (N3/R103 intersections)

N3TC will implement a new permanent three-way stop on the R103 (at the north- and southbound N3/Cedara Road interchanges in KwaZulu-Natal) to improve traffic flow and enhance safety at the R103-intersections. The new three-way stop will not impact traffic on the N3 Toll Route.

Road users are advised to be alert when traveling along the R103 at the Cedara interchange and to expect and obey the new three-way stop signs.

N3TC cautions road users to always reduce speed and stay alert when approaching these intersections.

“Three-way stops in areas where traffic volumes are high go a long way to control traffic, enhance mobility, and to reduce congestion and driver frustration,” explains Lukas Edwards, N3 Toll Concession's project engineer.

Kids need special protection in vehicles

Car Seat Clinic

Bergview Complex, Harrismith
Thursday, 18 April 2019

Whilst the excitement of family holiday trips take hold, the importance of taking extra precautions when travelling with children should not be forgotten.

Apart from packing extra clothes and having drinks, food, blankets, medicine and toys to entertain your little ones in your vehicle, it is also essential that your children are securely strapped in whilst on the road.

The vast majority of child deaths could have been prevented if children were in car seats and the seats were correctly used.

It is alarming to note that the majority of children in South Africa are not securely strapped into proper child restraints and that only 7% travel in car seats specially designed for them.

Normal vehicle seat belts are designed for adults at least 1.5 metres tall. Most children will reach that height only when they're 10 or 11 years old. Below that age, children are more vulnerable than adults to injuries or death during a crash – even if they are wearing seat belts.

“Car seats for children are specially designed to prevent them from being flung out of a vehicle during a crash. The seats also help their bodies to 'ride down' the forces of a crash in relative safety. And their designs are improving all the time,” says Peggie Marsh, founder of the non-profit organisation Wheel Well, which campaigns for better road safety for children.

“In our experience, eight out of 10 car seats are incorrectly installed, incorrectly adjusted or the wrong seat for a child altogether.”



CAR SEATS



This Easter weekend, N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) will partner with Wheel Well, the Road Safety Foundation and Community Medical Services (CMS) to advocate for the wider use of car seats and to donate car seats to families who cannot afford them.

“We understand that often the high cost of car seats for babies and young children prevents many parents from buying them, and for this reason we keenly support Wheel Well in their

countrywide scheme to create greater awareness of the essential importance of child restraints in vehicles; and to collect used car seats for distribution to families who are in dire need of them.

Parents can donate their used car seats at the N3TC Route Help Centre at the Bergview Complex, just off the N3 Toll Route near Harrismith. These seats are cleaned and checked for any defects, and distributed to parents who cannot afford to buy them,” explains N3TC's commercial manager, Con Roux.

The Car Seat Clinic will be based at the Bergview Complex on 18 April 2019 and will assist families to check the following:

- Correct installation
- Correct harness fit
- Advise on the suitability of car seats for children of different ages

For more information about the Car Seat Clinic at the Bergview Complex, contact the N3TC Route Help Centre 058 623 0860 or visit www.wheelwell.co.za.



Everyday heroes help to keep things moving safely on the N3 Toll Route

Managing a strategic transport node, such as the N3 Toll Route, requires a mammoth team effort. No single day, or indeed hour, is the same on the road. You never know what to expect, when conditions may change or disaster may strike. One minute, traffic is flowing freely, and the next some unforeseen event causes a standstill.

Behind the scenes, engineers, data analysts, law enforcement-, emergency- and ambulance services, traffic management specialists, tow truck operators, firefighters and many more are working tirelessly to ensure every traveller is as safe as possible and your driving experience as comfortable and convenient as can be provided.

“We call them our N3 heroes. They are committed, passionate and do incredible work,” says Praveen Sunderlall, manager of N3TC's roads incident management services.

To share with you their stories, insights and useful safety tips, N3TC has compiled a video series where “our heroes” relay their experiences in their own words.

Follow their stories on YouTube by clicking on the following links:



Visible law enforcement makes all the difference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQoSFT4ToHU>



Looking out for pedestrians.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djjHFAsgZbl>



When you see stray animals on the road, help us by reporting it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djjHFAsgZbl>



Share the road responsibly with heavy vehicles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN7tzYVFmAs>



Emergency medical services: Drunk driving and driver fatigue are major causes of crashes on our roads.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfJhPhlIK9U>



Managing crash scenes to ensure utmost safety

<https://youtu.be/EICnJvZlYMO>



Safety should always be the first priority

<https://youtu.be/-Ji7DihNSrg>



Be patient. Help us to do our jobs.

<https://youtu.be/iGfJn7IHxY>

Securing a future for SA's sungazers

It sounds like an idyllic life: spending much of your day relaxing next to your home, basking in the sun shining down on the grasslands around you while waiting for your food to come to you.

But for the sungazer lizards (*Smaug giganteus*) in South Africa it's getting increasingly difficult to maintain their rightful place in nature. Their habitat in a small area of highveld grasslands in the Free State and a very small portion of Mpumalanga is ever shrinking, and they now find themselves listed as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

"And this is a huge problem because they are endemic to only these areas and have nowhere else to go," says Bradley Gibbons, field officer of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT).

Gibbons focuses on ensuring the survival of sungazers in the grassland biome by encouraging landowners to protect their habitat through a formal commitment known as a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement. One such example is the Upper Wilge Protected Environment, a partnership between the EWT and BirdLife SA to work on formally declaring the area close to Van Reenen a protected environment. So far, 18 landowners are participating in this initiative, which has been supported by N3 Toll Concession for the past five years.

"Agriculture is the biggest threat to sungazers' habitat," says Gibbons. "Some farming practices, especially ploughing, destroy the burrows in which they live in colonies, never





mind entire habitats. So, I talk to farmers to educate them about how vulnerable the sungazer is, and together we try to find ways to protect them.”

Gibbons says a highly restricted habitat is not the only threat to sungazers. “They are sought-after reptiles in the muthi and exotic pet trade,” he explains. “Their scaly bodies and characteristic way of gazing into the sun fascinate people, and many of them are collected in the wild and exported overseas. The problem is they don’t breed well in captivity, so their supply is restricted to taking them from the veld.”

Gibbons says it’s also difficult to replicate their natural diet when they’re being kept as pets, and people often end up feeding them the wrong food that could lead to all sorts of ailments, infections and disease.

How then does he hope to ensure sungazers’ survival?

Two things are vital, says Gibbons. “Firstly, we need to protect their habitat, which is what we are trying to do with the Upper Wilge Protected Environment. And in this regard, I cannot thank N3TC enough for its support and sponsorship these past five years. It’s been much needed in ensuring these fascinating creatures actually have grasslands to live in.”

And secondly, he says, is educating the public about their vulnerable status and to respect their habitat by not transforming sensitive areas and not keeping them as pets. “This is a much more difficult process, because people think in the short term. They think of the few rand they can make today, or the cute pet kept in a cage, but they forget that soon we may have lost a species and our children’s children will be poorer for it.”

If you’d like more information on Sungazers, contact Bradley on 0825665803 or bradleyg@ewt.org.za.

Music Voyage SOWS seeds of success at many levels

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato said, “Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

These wise words sum up the purpose of the nonprofit organisation Music Voyage, a rural-based initiative in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, of which N3 Toll Concession is a proud partner.

Music Voyage teaches children living on farms and in villages in the Midlands region about all things musical: from the basics of rhythm and choir singing to playing a variety of instruments. “Music Voyage develops positive values and invests in the self-worth of these children,” says the director of the organisation, Katherine McClelland. “Music, through its beauty and discipline, has the ability to enable profound and life-long changes in the children, which they carry through to their communities.”

The organisation has a variety of initiatives and a team of highly skilled and trained individuals supporting them. The marimba band, especially, is catching the eye of many a music lover and has been invited to play at events such as the Cancer Association of South Africa's Relay for Life event in Pietermaritzburg. In March, the band also performed as part of a collaborative concert by the Drakensberg Boys Choir at Michaelhouse. “The children played with energy and joy, and the audience was so enthusiastic and supportive,” says McClelland. “It was really encouraging to every child in the band. Their hard work is paying off and they are actively involved in the community and beyond.”

Music Voyage also provides instruction to several choirs – some of them from farm schools – to elevate their competence to performance level. “Performance for these choirs, as for all music groups, is an important part of their journey,” says McClelland. “Belonging to a group that is successful is extremely motivating. The children learn trust, accountability, time management, organisation, and many other transferable skills.”





Then there is the brass band in Bruntville, the violin players who will hopefully be participating in the 2019 Eisteddfod, the recently added recorder group from Lidgetton, a marching band, saxophone students ... the list goes on. "We also run drumming workshops for kids, and for teachers we have workshops to show them how to bring music into the classroom in an exciting and interactive way."

All this costs money, of course, and McClelland admits that Music Voyage could not exist without the help of its sponsors. The organisation receives funding from N3TC to contract the services of music teachers in various disciplines, as well as to support the essential running costs of the project, including music exam entry fees, training materials, transport and administrative costs.

"N3TC is contributing to the all-round development of the Midlands children – supporting their education while building other life skills that positively contribute to their life journey," says McClelland. "They gain cognitive skills, and these are coupled with discipline and team

work that overflow into their daily lives at school and home.

"At the same time, they are learning skills that improve their opportunities for employment or further learning at the end of their school careers. Our students are inspired to take charge of their own lives and, in this way, a whole new world of possibilities opens up for them."



N3 Gateway Radio - your best touring buddy



Location-based traffic
updates, stories, things
to do and promos on
the N3 route

FIVE years in the making, after hundreds of hours of trial and error, pushing the boundaries and boldly going, N3 Gateway Radio is finally here to turn your drive on the N3 into a journey of discovery.

So what is N3 Gateway Radio exactly?

It's an app and it's free!

It's incredibly easy to use and is packed with great, painstakingly researched audio stories which start playing, as if by magic, in exactly the right spot, wherever you are on the N3 between Heidelberg and Durban.

Proudly sponsored by N3TC, **N3 Gateway Radio** features amazing true stories researched and written by renowned journalist and travel writer (and now app developer) Peter Delmar, many of the stories taken from his best-selling *The N3 Book*. Stories are narrated by celebrity voices including David O'Sullivan, ProVerb and Ashley Hayden.

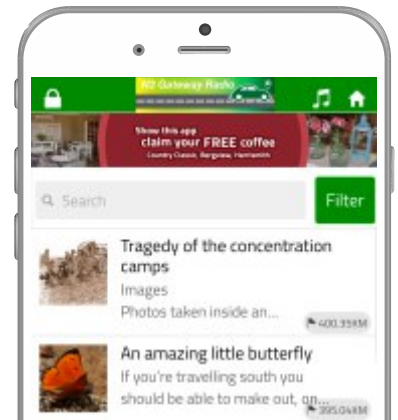
With **N3 Gateway Radio** you can hear brilliant location-relevant stories about vanished civilizations, Anglo-Boer War battles, incredible animals and their fight for survival, heroes and villains and a few place names that will surprise you and even put a smile on your face.

This Easter, N3TC's Harrismith office will be using the app to bring you near real-time traffic updates, alerting you about possible difficulties up ahead (hopefully not too many) and, if necessary, suggesting ways to avoid them.

Everyone using **N3 Gateway Radio** this holiday season also qualifies for great discounts – fully a quarter off all orders at Mugg & Bean Montrose and Steers Balmoral.

This app is so clever it can even figure out when you and your family are starting to think about pizza for lunch – and lets you order online so that your Debonairs pizza is ready, piping hot for you when you pull in to at Debonairs Bergview.

Get **N3 Gateway Radio** by searching for it on your app store. Did we mention that it is free?



N3 Gateway Radio

Live traffic updates! Factual short audio stories, magically triggered as motorists drive through particular points on the N3 Route.

[Learn more](#)

Take your tastebuds on a heavenly trip

The N3 Gateway is known for spectacular scenery and many tourist attractions and activities. Here's how to sweeten your time spent here.

Chocolate Memories, found in the Champagne Valley of the Central Drakensberg, covers your need to eat, drink and breathe chocolate. Located in the Cedarwood Village Centre on the R600, this chocolate bar is the home of a variety of locally made goodies such as chocolate bars, mousse, truffles and hazelnuts. Drinks include hot and frozen chocolate, chocolate water, and syphon-brewed coffee with truffles and chilli essence. Enjoy a free chocolate tasting or tuck into a chocolate fondue – and diabetics and vegans, you are catered for, too!



Who can resist rich, buttery squares of fudge? The word diet does not exist when the opportunity arises to sample a variety of differently flavoured fudge pieces. And the place to do it is **Tasha's Fantastic Fudge**, located in the leafy village of Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal. This is where Tasha Jardim and her team make the fantastic homemade fudge that you would have seen in select stores countrywide. To visit the home of her creations is a delight, and you can expect more than 50 flavours, including espresso, ginger, cherry and



nut, peppermint crisp, and honey and Horlicks. And don't forget goodies such as fudge-covered popcorn and fudge sauce, cookies and bars.



If you're doing the Midlands Meander and find yourself in Nottingham Road, be sure to visit **Chocolate Heaven**. The name says it all: the wide selection of more than 40 delicious combinations include biltong, curry and koeksister chocolates, as well as traditional favourites like fudge, caramel and peppermint. Turkish delight, bonbons and shortbread are available too. The store has become well known for what it calls the Dippingzâ Experience, which is a deliciously fun way to eat a selection of condiments covered in decadent chocolate. All the chocolates are freshly made and contain no palm oil or preservatives.

With the worker bees busy at work every day, N3 Gateway has decided to pay tribute to man's little winged friends who produce that naturally sweet wonder called honey. Grab a few variations of brittle, and with chocolates and fudge you'll have covered "sweet" in all its variations. In the Central Drakensberg, **H&D Honey Products** in the Champagne Valley offers peanut, sesame and cashew brittle, as well as raw honey, of course. Heading into Howick, you'll find brittles flavoured with pecan, macadamia and barley at **Peels Honey**. The shop also stocks a wide variety of raw honeys, as well as honey and nut butters.



Should you be heading out to any of these destinations for your sweet-tooth fix, keep us salivating by tagging us on Twitter: @N3Gateway.

2019 N3TC Photo Competition NOW OPEN

N3 Toll Concession is delighted to invite emerging and established photographers to enter the 2019 N3TC Photographic Competition.

“With this competition, we hope to inspire people to take the road and look at familiar places, spaces and events with a fresh pair of eyes, and to promote the beauty and diversity of the regions and people along the N3 Toll Route whilst encouraging photography as a hobby, especially among local communities and scholars,” says Isabel Potgieter, administrator of the N3TC Photographic Competition.

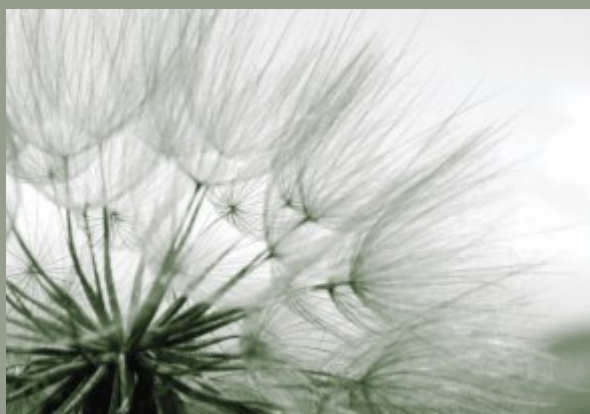


COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Photographs must be taken in the near vicinity of the N3 Toll Route (Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal to Johannesburg in Gauteng) and should be supplied in digital format with a minimum size of 2 MB.

- **Nature/Wildlife Photography:** Displays of natural elements such as wildlife, plants, birds, insects and close-ups of natural scenes and textures captured in their natural environment. Full colour only.
- **Landscape Photography:** Covers landscape, panoramic, mountains, weather phenomena and farmlands. Human or manmade elements may be present. Full colour only.
- **Sports and Recreation:** Involving unpredictable movement, this could include movement or action at a sporting event or festival, and vehicle and recreational activities. Full colour only.
- **Altered/Abstract:** A photograph that has been technically manipulated. This could include abstract, high-dynamic range (HDR), stitched and composite images, among others. Full colour only.
- **Monochrome:** Any photograph that falls into the Nature/Wildlife, Landscape, Sports and Recreation or Altered/Abstract categories that is of a single colour – monochrome (black and white, sepia, etc.).
- **Scholar*:** Photographs that fit into any of the above categories.

** To qualify for the Scholar prizes, the photographer should currently attend a primary or secondary school and be 18 years or younger. Photographers who turn 19 during the competition will still be eligible to enter this category. All information as required on the entry forms must be provided. Each individual image entered into the scholar competition must fit in any of the listed competition categories.*



HOW TO ENTER

- Complete an official entry for each entry. Download [here](#).
- Email photo entries (with relevant entry forms) to isabelp@n3tc.co.za with the subject line: **N3TC Photographic Competition**.
- Photo entries may also be submitted via WeTransfer (should the file size be larger than 8 MB). Email the link to isabelp@n3tc.co.za.
- Photographers can enter a maximum of three (3) photographs per category.

CLOSING DATE

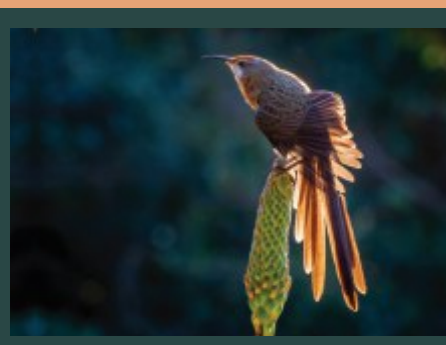
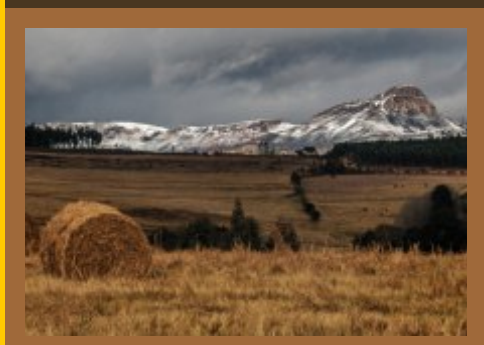
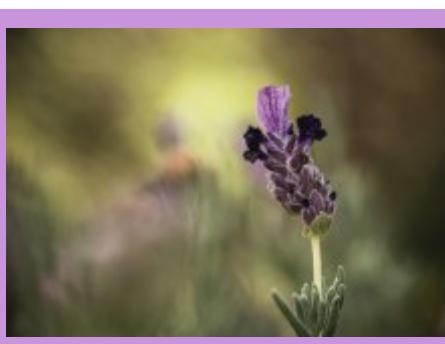
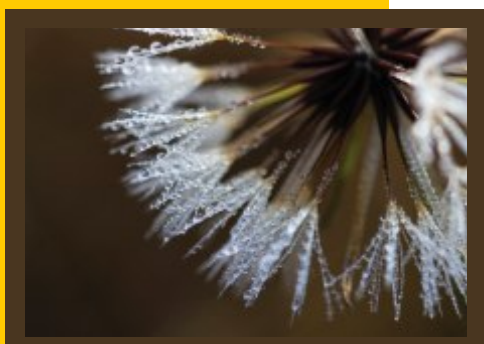
- The N3TC Photographic Competition closes at midnight on 31 July 2019.
- No late entries will be accepted.

PRIZES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Overall Winner | R10 000.00 |
| • Category Winner | R 2 500.00 |
| • Category Runner-Up | R 2 000.00 |
| • Scholar Winner | R 1 500.00 |
| • Scholar Runner-Up | R 1 000.00 |
| • Scholar winner's school | R 5 000.00 |
| • Merit awards | maximum of two per category awarded
R 500.00 each |

Winning photographs will be showcased in the 2020 N3TC Calendar.

[Click here to view the previous winning images](#)



19 – 22 April

The Lush Festival takes place on Noah's Cheese Farm in Clarens, Free State. Camp with your car, or your family, and listen to the fabulous sounds of US rock band Wheatus, as well as local artists such as Jeremy Loops, Jo Black and Refentse.

www.lushfestival.com

18 – 22 April

In the Underberg it's time for the 30th annual **Splashy Fen** music festival. This is South Africa's oldest and longest-running music festival, and is also known as its friendliest. Headliners on stage include Mi Casa, Shortstraw, Juzzie Smith, Wonderboom, Youngr, and many more.

www.splashyfen.co.za



26 April – 04 May

Cyclists line up at Karan Beef near Heidelberg for the 900km nine-day **joBerg2c** mountain bike stage race, which runs parallel to the N3 Toll Route, passing through tribal lands and 135 landowners' 'backyards' before it reaches the finish line in Scottburgh, KwaZulu-Natal. Riders get to experience some of the most spectacular off-road tracks, whilst sampling legendary South African hospitality. Supporters of joBerg2c riders are welcome to join the N3TC **drOp'ngo2c** Supporters Tour. This is a self-drive, guided tour linked to the event. It includes daily activities and special stops along the way to see the riders in action. Register for drOp'ngo2c on www.joberg2c.co.za or email isabelp@n3tc.co.za.



14 – 18 May

KAP sani2c features three mountain bike stage events – Trail, Adventure and Race – and all of them kick off at Glencairn Farm situated on the iconic Sani Pass road.

<http://www.sani2c.co.za>

17 – 19 May

The **Autumn Classic Golf Competition** is held at the Champagne Sports Resort in Winterton, Central Drakensberg.

www.champagnesportsresort.com

17 – 19 May

A sublime running experience awaits participants in Zingela Trail Events' **Bee Eater Trail Run**. It's a weekend of unbeatable running, delicious cuisine and comfy accommodation in the gorgeous Zingela Valley near Weenen.

www.zingelatrailevents.com

31 May – 22 June

The Afriski Mountain Resort in the heart of the Maluti-Drakensberg mountains in Lesotho plays host to the **Holimo Wine, Gin and Jazz Festival**. It's a three-day experiential feast of music, adventure, culinary exploits, and wine and gin showcases. It also marks the opening of the ski season on June 1.

www.afriski.net



Stay in touch

24-Hour N3TC Helpline
0800 63 4357



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