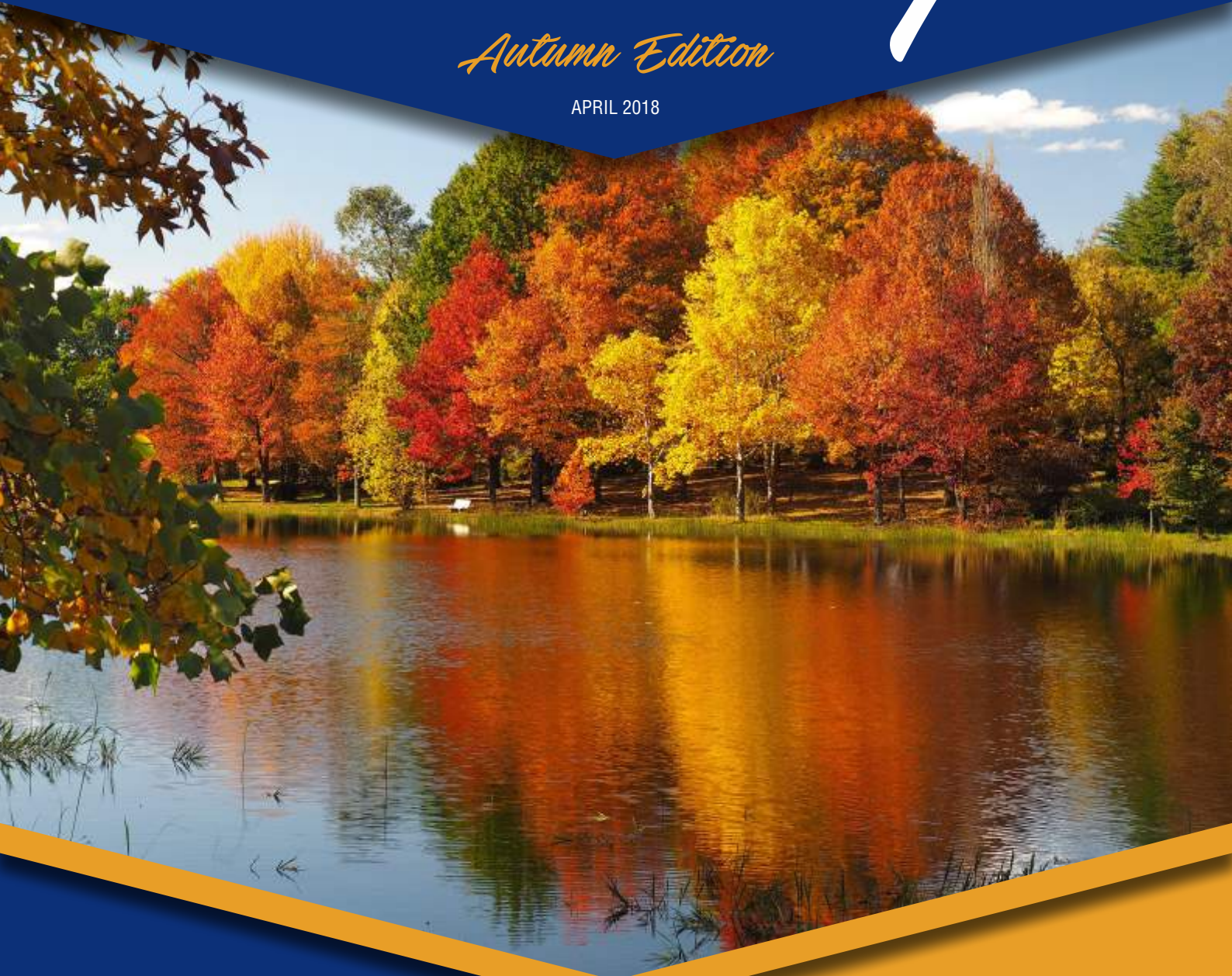




# Mobility

*Autumn Edition*

APRIL 2018



**N3TC Customer Careline**  
**0800 N3 HELP**  
**0800 63 4357**



@N3Route



N3Route



N3Route



[www.n3tc.co.za](http://www.n3tc.co.za)

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**Cover photo: Lake Kenmo, Himeville by André Keijser /** Landscape Merit Award Winner 2017 – N3TC Photographic Competition in collaboration with N3 Gateway Tourism Association.

In April, the dazzling autumn trees around Lake Kenmo in the Southern Drakensberg and the stillness of the water as the bright orange, red and yellow reflections catch it, bring moments of sheer wonder. This is a place of exquisite beauty and serenity.

# Welcome

Photo by Stephen Pryke

## Welcome to the first edition of Mobility online!

N3TC extends a very warm welcome to each person reading this edition of Mobility.

The N3 Toll Route, from the Cedara interchange in KwaZulu-Natal to the Heidelberg South Interchange in Gauteng, is managed by N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC). This is a challenging and rewarding endeavour, given the importance of the N3 as a key economic and leisure arterial in the country.

With the Autumn edition of Mobility, we are excited to announce a shift from print to online. You can now read your N3 news in an easily accessible format with endless future possibilities. This strategic change to digital media will provide N3TC the opportunity to connect with our customers, and build a greater relationship as a result, as well as provide you with interesting, relevant stories, bringing you closer to the heart of the N3 Toll Route.

This edition of Mobility is packed with many interesting articles giving insights into our world.

Recently, N3TC was devastated by the untimely passing of one of our Route's conservation heroes, Nkanyiso Ndlela. Join us as we pay tribute to this exceptional young man. May his legacy live on!

Take a look at the contributions that are made to our communities through spectacular sporting events, such as the aQuellé Midmar Mile and the joBerg2c mountain bike stage tour.

Photo by Stephen Pryke

**Read more about our operations, the challenges of maintaining a world-class road and our continuous efforts to manage traffic and make the road as safe as possible. Please join us in our drive to help keep our road users safe.**

We encourage you to explore the regions the N3 Toll Route traverses and meet some of the wonderful people who champion the diversity of this region.

WELCOME  
from Neil Tolmie  
cont.

*Welcome*

This holiday season, we encourage you to slow down and fully appreciate your #N3Journey, until your safe return home. Explore and enjoy all we have to offer.

We hope that through reading this edition of Mobility you will agree that the N3 is more than a road. You are welcome to provide us with your feedback through any of our well-established communication channels. We'd love to hear from you.

Our Twitter feed, @N3Route, provides updates relating to traffic flow, weather conditions, incident management, and other pertinent N3 Toll Route information. It is certainly a service we highly recommend as a means to stay informed during your #N3Journey. In addition, social media enthusiasts are encouraged to follow N3TC on Facebook (N3Route) and Instagram (n3route). Here we share our exciting 'more than a road' experiences through pictorial content and productions showcasing our Touching Lives Programme, project-specific events, and road safety activities.

We are proud to announce that a combined reach of 8.2 million was achieved during 2017 across all our social media campaigns.

We value the opportunity to engage with our customers. Please contact our 24/7 Customer Helpline – **0800 N3 Help (0800 63 4357)** – for any emergencies or to report problems. This service offers you the peace of mind that there is always someone to call should you need assistance during a vehicle breakdown, crash, or to obtain Route-specific information.

We wish you safe and enjoyable travels. If at all possible, it is highly recommended that you plan your journey to avoid peak days such as Easter Monday (the busiest day of the year on the N3 Toll Route). Please drive responsibly and take the utmost care of those travelling with and alongside you.



*Photo by Stephen Pryke*

Thank you for taking the N3 Toll Route.

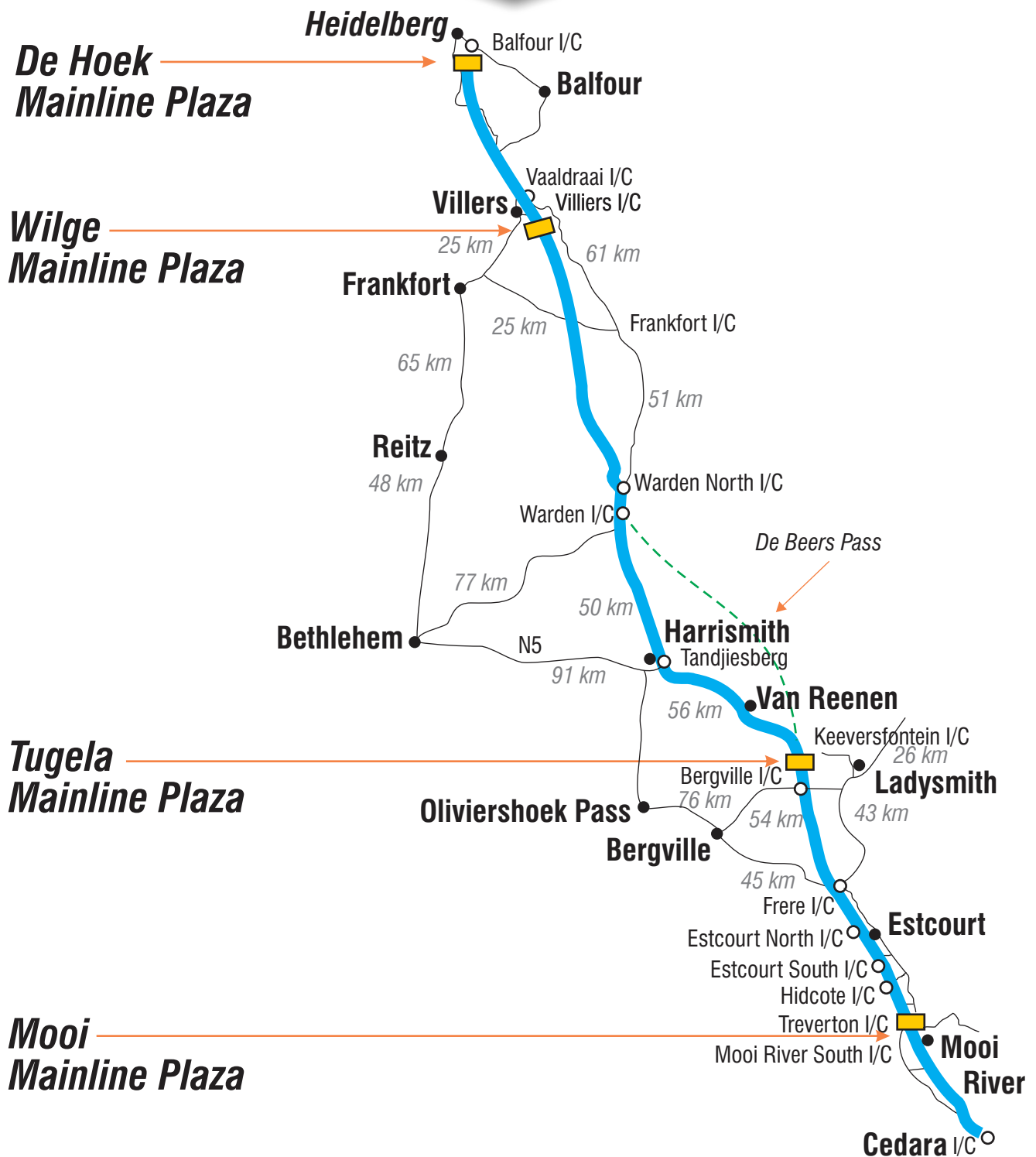
**Neil Tolmie**

CEO

*We wish you safe and enjoyable travels.*

# About a Road

## ROUTE MAP





# **MAINTENANCE:**

## **Preserving our roads**

**Roads are public assets which need to be preserved through timely maintenance.**

During peak traffic periods, like the Easter weekend, we quickly become aware of the importance of quality road infrastructure, with a good riding surface; which is well kept, clearly signposted, where water drains adequately, and where ample lighting and various other safety features improve road users' overall driving experience.

Travelling on a well-maintained road is not only easier and more convenient, but it also enhances the general safety of road users.

Quality road infrastructure facilitates the mobility of people and the movement of goods. It forms the bedrock of economic development, creates investment and employment opportunities and bolsters regional trade.

Transport infrastructure is often taken for granted, and people seldom pay attention to the importance of preserving this national asset. However, the failure to maintain roads, can easily result in economic decline as the infrastructure starts to fail. Infrastructure failure in turn leads to an escalation in transport costs, which drives commodity prices up and ultimately impacts on individual livelihoods.

### **No one wants to use unsafe roads in poor condition**

If neglected, roads deteriorate very quickly. Once roads have fallen into disrepair, it costs vast amounts of money, time and effort to bring them back to life, and the total cost to the economy is immeasurable.

### **Timely maintenance brings immediate benefits through improved accessibility**

“N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) understands the strategic importance of the N3 Toll Route, as a key transport link between Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

As a company, we take our routine road maintenance responsibility very seriously.

N3TC works according to a carefully scheduled and tightly controlled road maintenance management plan to bring out the best in our asset,” explains routine maintenance manager, Anesh Madanlal.

“This maintenance plan guides our engineering team and contractors on the best ways to optimise the value and lifespan of the N3 Toll Route.”

Regular day- and night time inspections are undertaken by N3TC's road maintenance teams to identify potential problems and to evaluate the quality and standard of the N3 Toll Route between Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal and Heidelberg in Gauteng. Approximately R75000 per kilometre, over a 415km distance, is spent annually on routine maintenance. This excludes ad hoc maintenance work which may



arise from unforeseen circumstances, such as damages caused by crashes, fires, storms, severe weather conditions or any other disasters.

N3TC's routine maintenance activities include, amongst others:

- repairs to the road pavement (surface)
- crack-seal and patch asphalt pavements
- clean and maintain all drainage structures, including the removal of grass and debris from grids and clearing bridge drainage ports and scuppers
- repair and stabilise slopes, 'washaways' and cuttings
- construct drainage works to combat erosion
- repair damaged fencing
- clear refuse from the road serve, lay-byes and interchanges and recycle waste
- repair, replace and install road signs, guardrails, road studs, etc
- clean road signs and remove illegal signs
- paint road markings (lines)
- cut grass in the road reserve and along the median, and remove cuttings
- eradicate weeds and undesirable plants or alien species
- maintain existing trees and shrubs, and plant new ones
- supply and maintain sub- and top-soil
- provide emergency assistance and help with traffic accommodation
- skills training and development

“Our maintenance work never stops. Although we make every effort not to disrupt traffic with routine maintenance work at peak periods, we will not hesitate to immediately fix a problem which may have occurred unexpectedly, and which could pose a danger to road users or further damage our infrastructure if left unattended,” says Madanlal.

*Our maintenance work never stops.*





# LITTER

## Pervasive litter harms all of us

N3TC fights an on-going battle to rid the N3 Toll Route of heaps of litter that continues to be carelessly dumped alongside the road.

“It is sad to see the mountains of waste that are being dumped along one of the most beautiful tourism routes in our country,” says N3TC's commercial manager, Con Roux. Between 4000 and 6000 bags of litter are collected along the Route on a monthly basis. This figure excludes litter that cannot be bagged such as metal, rubber and dropped loads.

**It seems a misperception is rife that “litter creates jobs”. However, that is far from the truth.**

Litter degrades our roadsides, can be unsafe, cause harm to the environment, and has a detrimental effect to the communities along the Route. Our economy and

people suffer as litter takes a toll on quality of life, natural habitats, waterways and the welfare of people and animals.

Yet, despite this, people continue to be thoughtless and careless, dispersing of anything from empty bottles and plastic to food containers and soiled nappies along our roads.

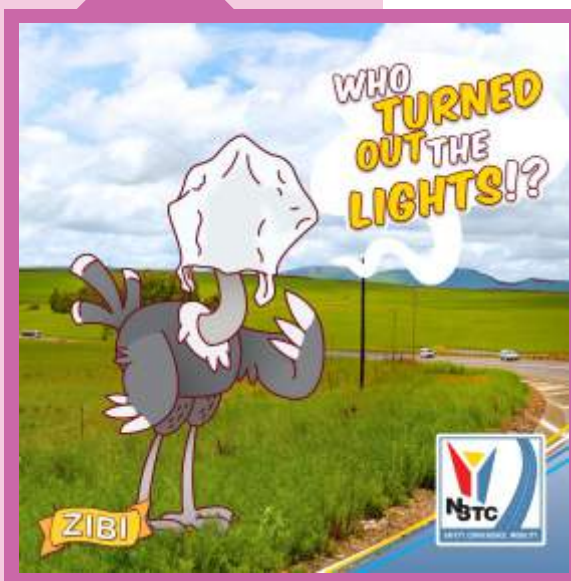


N3TC is very aware that litter invites more litter. “That is why, as part of routine maintenance programme, N3TC's refuse collectors walk the Route daily to pick up any visible litter, including large and sometimes dangerous objects, such as tyres, vehicle parts, flammable and hazardous materials,” explains Roux.

“Litter is often concentrated at specific locations, such as at interchanges, where vehicles park illegally and drivers leave their trash behind. It is particularly bad after a weekend and during peak traffic periods. Our clean-up efforts never cease. It seems to be a battle that starts afresh every day,” laments Roux.

**N3TC's litter control programme not only focuses on actual clean-up efforts, but they also do on-going community and environmental education.**

“Education is key to stop littering,” says Con Roux. “We believe a clean road is a safe road, and fundamental to the creation of a law-abiding culture.”

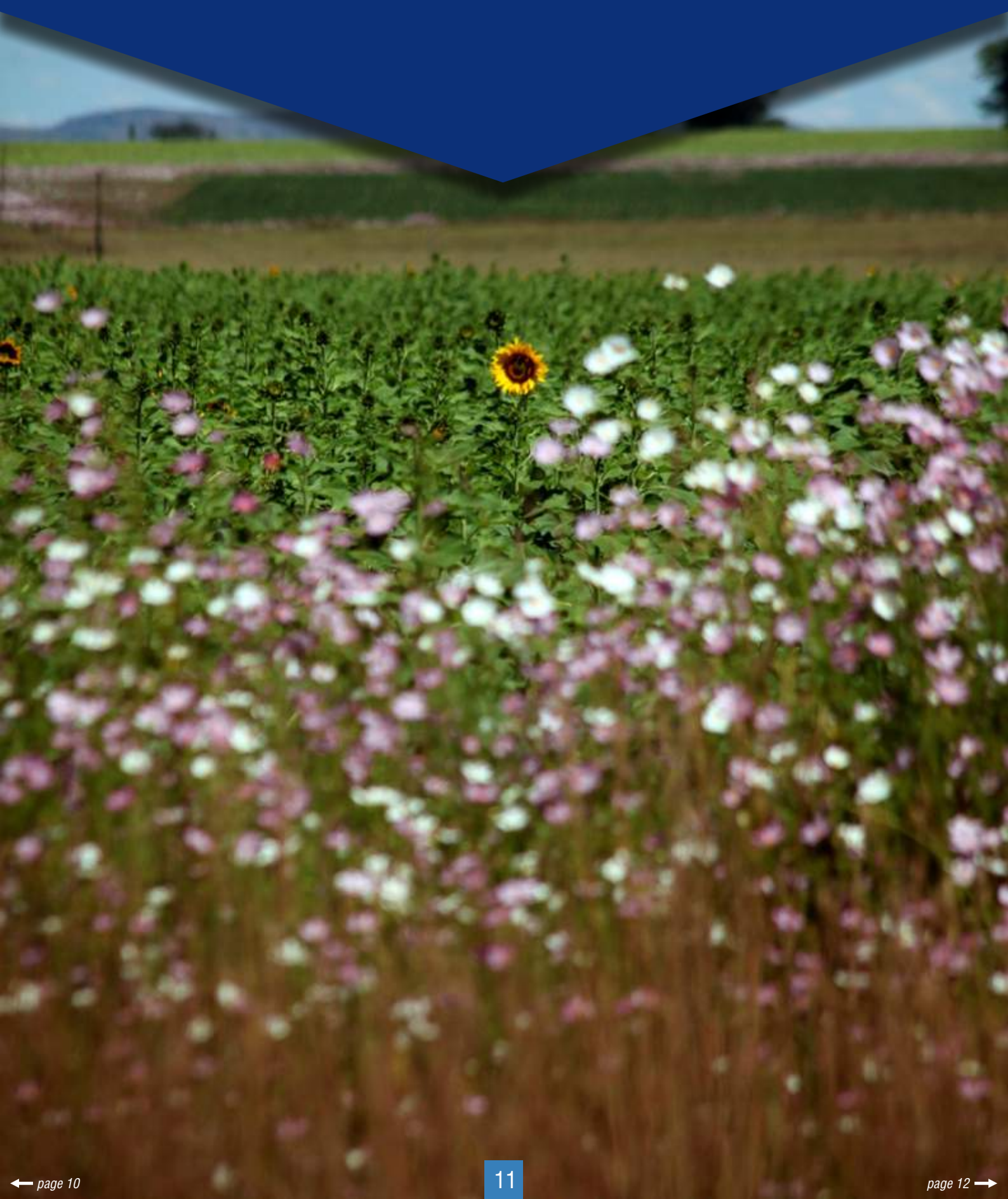


N3TC sorts all waste and recycles as much as possible. One of the education and recycling programmes which N3TC supports is the Singakwenza initiative. Singakwenza's Early Childhood Development Programme focuses on teaching children through play, utilising recyclable materials to ensure sustainable resources in economically disadvantaged communities of KwaZulu-Natal.

“However, despite our best efforts, we will not win this war if every single person does not take individual responsibility to stop littering and to care for our environment. **Just imagine what we could invest in creating sustainable opportunities for people**, if we could cut back on our waste collection cost. Hopefully, through greater awareness and education, this dream can be achieved,” ends Roux.

*Remember: Don't toss it. Bin it!*

# *Safe Travelling*





# 35 YEARS ON...



**35 years of volunteering emergency  
rescue services on Van Reenen's Pass –  
a remarkable achievement for CMS**

The Community Medical Services (CMS) team under the careful guidance of Philip Hull has become an institution at peak traffic periods on Van Reenen's Pass – the winding section of N3 Toll Route between the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal – over the last three decades.

“We have come to rely heavily on this group of volunteer paramedics to assist our emergency services teams on the N3 Toll Route during peak periods such as the Easter weekend and the December holiday season when traffic often is congested and safety and emergency demands spike. The CMS team has been with us every step of the way as we attempt to improve road safety along the N3 Toll Route, and they have been at our side every time that weather conditions played havoc in the area, particularly during winter snow fall season,” says Con Roux, commercial manager of N3 Toll Concession.

**This Easter weekend, the CMS team will celebrate 35 years on the Pass.**

“Over these years, a highly skilled group of individuals – specialising in trauma and rescue – have volunteered their time and expertise to assist motorists over busy traffic periods. We shared many experiences – some good; others tragic – that will remain with us forever,” says founder Philip Hull.



**CMS seems to have done it all. They assisted at crash scenes; providing scene safety under all sorts of weather conditions, during the day and at night; delivered babies; responded to many varied emergencies within the community; fought vehicle and grass fires; cut vehicles apart to free victims who were trapped; got involved in community projects where they built kitchens at schools; handed out food, blankets, beanies and educational materials; and even organised eyesight screening tests for children at local schools and for older local residents.**

“I have realised many times over the last years, that this operation – probably the longest standing community project of its kind in South Africa – has been blessed by the support of exceptional individuals who freely give their time and expertise. Everyone is a hero in his or her own right. I have the utmost admiration for every member of our team. Knowing that we have treated and assisted hundreds, if not thousands of people, and have saved many lives, makes every little sacrifice worthwhile. We remain a close-knit team,” continues Hull.

Petro Kruger of the Road Safety Foundation says it has been a privilege to work with Philip and his team. “Being part of this team has been gratifying, and at times terrifying and heart breaking. I would not have wanted to go through it all with any other group of people.”



For 25 years, the Pass Masters' (as journalist Adrian Burford fondly dubbed Philip Hull and his partners) home-away-from-home was a humble Help Centre at Van Reenen Caltex at the top of the Pass. "Unfortunately, our lease agreement ended at the end of last year, and we are now in the process of developing a new home for the CMS team," explains Hull.

A piece of land, opposite the Little Church, was recently donated to CMS by Rory Dyer, son of the late Ian Dyer, who was a long-time friend of CMS and an icon in the area. "We hope to develop a brand new facility here which will once again house our emergency team members under suitable conditions in close proximity to the busy highway. Plans are already afoot and we will begin our fundraising endeavours shortly, so watch this space as we start a new chapter in our lives!"

"At this time, I would like to thank all of our friends and colleagues who have been with us over the years – the N3TC team, KwaZulu-Natal's Road Traffic Inspectorate officials, and many road safety organisations who have stood with us in various weather conditions at crash scenes and obstructions. We are looking forward to continuing our journey together," ends Hull.

At the start of the Easter weekend, N3TC wishes the CMS Pass Masters well for the task that lies ahead. We cannot imagine what life would be without the CMS team on Van Reenen's Pass.

*N3TC Salutes you!*





# EASTER TRAFFIC UPDATE

**Peak traffic conditions ask for extra care and caution.**

Carefully plan your trips over the upcoming long weekends and holidays so that you are well prepared for any traffic event that could delay your journey. Better informed road users often have easier travel experiences as they can take preventative measures to avoid stressful traffic situations.

**Drive positively and be mindful of your environment. Choose to reduce road trauma.**

High risk driving behaviour or simple errors of judgment can quickly lead to serious road crashes; which always come at a huge cost. People suffer tremendous physical, emotional and financial trauma on our roads due to crashes – trauma that often could have been avoided by driving defensively.

Poor driving attitude is a leading cause of the carnage on our roads. This includes driver distraction e.g. using cell phones, fatigue, excessive speeds and reckless behaviour, driving under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or medication and not wearing a seat belt – all which should be avoided.

### **Road safety is our first concern**

With the Easter long weekend about to start, and high traffic volumes expected onwards from Thursday, 29 March, all emergency services and law enforcement authorities will be on high alert.

N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) manages the N3 Toll Route between Heidelberg in Gauteng and Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal. N3TC has joined up with various partners to enhance emergency management capacity so that road users may have a safe journey on the N3.

**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 checks along the Route.**



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

### **Be prepared for peak traffic conditions**

No effort has been spared to maximise traffic flows and general safety along the Route. No construction will take place during the Easter weekend and

all traffic lanes will be open. Remedial work will only be performed where absolutely necessary.

Peak traffic conditions are demanding and stressful. Drivers should plan their trips in advance, be aware of road and weather conditions ahead, remain patient and courteous, stay alert and take regular rest stops.

## 29 March – 02 April 2018

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, 29 March and Friday, 30 March (in a southbound direction towards KwaZulu-Natal); and 3500 vph on Monday, 02 April (in a northbound direction towards Gauteng) can be expected. If possible, road users are advised to plan travel times outside of the high peak periods.

## Expected traffic volumes on N3 Toll Route

Time	Thursday 29/03/2018 [Peak Flow SB]	Friday 30/03/2018 [Peak Flow SB]	Monday 02/04/2018 [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

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

### Obtain advance traffic information to help plan your trip

Road users can obtain advance information about road, traffic and weather conditions, or report problems by contacting the 24-hour N3TC Helpline on 0800 63 4357 (0800 N3 HELP) or by following the N3 Toll Route on Twitter: @N3Route.

# People and Places



Photo by Stephen Pryke



All joBerg2C photos in this article by Em Gatland

© Em Gatland | Nikon/Lexar

# joBerg2c

**Next to  
cyclists,  
communities  
are the most  
important part  
of Old Mutual  
joBerg2c**

When cyclists line up for this 900km nine-day mountain bike stage race on 20 April, it will be the ninth year that they contribute to the development of the communities they traverse.

The Old Mutual joBerg2c route starts at Karan Beef near Heidelberg (south of Johannesburg in Gauteng), and 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.

From the hustle and bustle of the city to the rural villages and towns, riders get to experience some of the most spectacular off-road tracks, whilst sampling the legendary South African hospitality.

Nearly all of the route is off-road. It consists of many kilometres of single-tracks, rural secondary roads and district roads; with only about 10km of tar along the entire

900km stretch. Riders are treated to the variation and beauty of this country, along trails they've never ridden.

Since its inception, the organisers of the Old Mutual joBerg2c cycle tour involved local communities in the development and on-going maintenance of riding tracks; and to provide support to the 750 riders at road crossings, water points and overnight race villages along the way.



“What makes our event unique is that we work exclusively with community groups and organisations to provide all services required during the race. For many local communities this event is an exclusive fundraiser for their schools, farmers' associations, churches and other institutions,” says race organiser, Craig Wapnick.



“Schools are paid by the organisers and event sponsors to host the race villages. They erect tented camps for the cyclists and provide catering services. Each school can make as much as R400 000 profit from hosting the Old Mutual joBerg2c riders.”

Whilst local schools are responsible for the race villages, community organisations raise funds for their projects by hosting the 24 water points along the route. Riders can feast on a range of homemade delicacies, sustaining snacks, energising drinks, ice-cold water, and even colder beers.



© Em Gatland | Nikon/Lezax

“Jabu's legendary potatoes, the 'potjiekos', juicy steaks and early morning rusks are firm favourites. It's often said that the food alone ensures that riders keep on coming back,” smiles Wapnick.

**“The beauty of our model is that parents, teachers, community leaders and farmers from the area all work together on the event, and riders get to experience the genuine warmth and true spirit of South Africa's people.”**

Over the past eight years Old Mutual joBerg2c has invested more than R20-million in the communities along the route. “We are determined to create a better South Africa through our nurturing partnerships and positive actions. Riders can be proud of their part in this success story,” ends Wapnick.

Entries into this year's race are closed, but if this event takes your fancy, be sure to put your name down to Ride the Beloved country in 2019 and help us celebrate Old Mutual joBerg2c's 10th anniversary.

Get more information at [www.joberg2c.co.za](http://www.joberg2c.co.za) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



© Em Gatland | Nikon/Lexar



# drOp'ngo2c

## SUPPORTERS TOUR

# 2018



This nine day  
Supporter's Tour is designed to give  
Supporters the freedom to experience  
the Old Mutual joBerg2c from a different  
perspective, and to enjoy the best South  
Africa has to offer while supporting the  
riders – whether loved ones, colleagues  
or friends.



### Supporters participating in the tour will benefit from:

- A self-drive itinerary that offers exciting tourist activities, coupled with experiencing the excitement of watching cyclists 'ride the beloved Country' from the designated event spectator points;
- Reduced stress, as you will be following your hosts to spectator points where you will be able to see your riders en route;
- Experience some shade and comfort in the exclusive N3TC Chill Zone; and
- Enjoy delightful local cuisine arranged especially for our special guests at the N3TC Chill Zones.

**CONTACT**  
Isabel Potgieter  
[isabelp@n3tc.co.za](mailto:isabelp@n3tc.co.za)  
for more information  
or to book your place!



## MIDMAR MILE'S 8 Mile Club

**Midmar's elite  
8 Mile Club  
swims with  
purpose.**

Every year in February, tens of thousands of swimmers arrive at the Midmar Dam north of Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal to participate in the world's largest open water event. The event takes place over two days to accommodate the vast numbers of competitors who are hyped to each complete swimming a mile (1,6km) in one of the event's eight races.

But, amongst them, there is group of elite swimmers who belong to the 8 Mile Club. As their name suggests, this elite club requires their members to complete all eight races on the aQuellé Midmar Mile programme to raise funds for local charitable organisations.

“In many instances, the dedication of the 8 Mile Club helps to keep our local charities afloat,” explains event director, Wayne Riddin. “The Mile itself is a challenge, but to spend your weekend swimming in every event takes guts and heaps of stamina and preservation.”

Midmar's 8-'milers', also known as the gold caps, line up for each race, swim the distance, cross the finish line and then make their way back to a food and rest area where they spend 15-20 minutes catching their breath before tackling the next race.

**The idea for the 8 Mile Club was born in 2001 when Stan Kozlowski completed his first full house of eight miles in a bid to raise funds for the KZN Wildlands Conservation Trust. Three years later in 2004, Stan and Mervyn Bremner formalised the 8 Mile Club. Together, they lead the list of elite swimmers who have completed hundreds of miles over the last years.**

Whilst the Wildlands Trust is still being supported, other charitable organisations have been added to their beneficiary list.

Six larger charities benefit from the commitment and passion of these elite swimmers, whilst 11 smaller charities receive over R20 000 per year. The main beneficiaries include Pink Drive, KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife (Save the Rhino), CHOC, Singakwenza, Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation and CANSA.

“We are also particularly proud of the 8-'milers' from the Mandeville Dolphins Swim Club who raise funds for swimmers with disabilities. The Midmar Mile is closely associated to this group through our special race (event 1) for swimmers with disabilities, and paralympian, Tadgh Slattery's support. He not only participates, but also coaches this group,” continues Riddin.

And then there's the likes of a dozen fanatic swimmers, who are members of the 8 Mile Club, but who have doubled the Club's distance by swimming 16 miles at the Midmar Mile to raise funds for the Duzi Umngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT).



Swimmers who wish to participate in the 8 Mile Club submit requests to aQuellé Midmar Mile, and the event organisers then allocate swimmers to the 30 openings available per charity. Most charities get their full number of swimmers. Swimmers enter for one race only; aQuellé Midmar Mile sponsors their participation in the remaining seven events.

**“At my last check almost R3,3-million has already been raised by the 8 Mile Club during our 2018-race. What an incredible achievement!” ends Riddin.**

N3TC is proud to sponsor the work of the Water Safety Committee. This committee is responsible for all safety measures to help competitors make it through this world class race.



*8 Mile 2018: left to right John Wright, Julie Hay, Brad Ray, Abi Ray, Tracy Kerr*



# SECRETS

## of the Mountains and Hills

**“In this book, Stephen Pryke, lends credence to the phrase 'to paint with light', writes Darryl Earl David, Head of the English Department, University of KwaZulu-Natal in the preface to Secrets of the Mountains and Hills.**

The book is intended to give an overview of the magical area that stretches from the dramatic peaks of the highest mountains in Southern Africa, crosses the rolling hills and grasslands of the KwaZulu-Natal interior and climbs into the sandstone cliffs of the Eastern Free State.

Turning the pages of Stephen Pryke's latest publication, the reader is drawn into the timeless beauty and dramatic imagery of South Africa's landscapes and her people.

*Secrets of the Mountains and Hills* is a series of short photo-essays that offer a little history, some anecdotes, cultural and environmental features as well as introducing a few places that you may not know about.

“This book is a photographic masterclass that will make your spirit soar,” writes David.

The author, Stephen Pryke is a humble, quiet man, who prefers to let his camera do the talking. He was schooled in England, the USA and South Africa; and received his BA Honours degree from the University of Witwatersrand in 1972.

In 1996, Stephen took up photography as a fulltime career. His interest in photography already started at the tender age of 12 when he was give his first camera.

Stephen always travelled with a camera and joined local camera clubs and photographic societies wherever he lived. In 1999, he received his Associateship of the Photographic Society of Southern Africa. As a fulltime photographer, he did all types of photography, but his passion for nature and landscapes never waned.

Stephen lives in Hilton with his family. His work is displayed in local galleries and he exhibits regularly at Art in the Park in Pietermaritzburg.

“When Stephen approached N3TC to become involved in the project to publish *Secrets of the Mountains and Hills*, we were delighted,” says Con Roux, commercial manager of N3 Toll Concession. “The end product is a book of outstanding quality, painstakingly researched, immaculately written and lovingly photographed.”



### **Below the Mountains**

The high mountains of the Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg are places of myths and legends. The mountains invoke a mood of mystery. There is a special cave in the mountains where the San/Bushman people used to live. If you choose to sleep in it overnight, it is said that you will have the same dream as the people who slept in it before you. It is a dream of the San people.



### Ixopo

The opening lines of Alan Patan's famous book, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, invoke the beauty of the countryside around Ixopo ... *"There is a lovely road which runs from Ixopo into the hills. These hills are grass covered and rolling, and they are lovely beyond any singing of it."*

### Book orders:

Secrets of the Mountains and Hills can be ordered from Stephen Pryke. Email: [stephenpryke@mweb.co.za](mailto:stephenpryke@mweb.co.za)



### The Eastern Free State

On October 7th 1837, Piet Retief, a Voortrekker leader in the Great Trek from the Cape Colony wrote in his diary, *"From the heights of these mountains I saw this most beautiful land, the most beautiful I have ever seen in Africa."*

# 2018 N3 PHOTO COMP



## ENTER:

05<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2018

**WHO:** All • **PRIZE:** Cash and Camera equipment vouchers per category

## HOW

Send images with your name/location/photo caption to [n3photocomp@n3gateway.com](mailto:n3photocomp@n3gateway.com)

Image orientation: Landscape. Resolution: 300dpi

- LANDSCAPES • ALTERED AND ABSTRACT • NATURE • PEOPLE • EVENTS AND ACTION
- SCHOLAR • ANY OF THE ABOVE BY SMART PHONE • DRONE

The N3 Gateway is a Tourism Association that believes in the future of its members, entrenching sustainable and responsible tourism practices. Let your camera capture the essence of our region between Pretoria and Durban, Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal Battlefields.



Proud  
sponsors  
of the  
N3 Photo Comp

#n3photocomp @n3gateway   
info@n3gateway.com [www.n3gateway.com](http://www.n3gateway.com)

## GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

# Ubuntu

I am because of you



*Photo by Stephen Pryke*



## PROFILE FEATURE

# Mathematics Queen: Nosisa Sosibo

**Through its socio-economic development (SED) programme 'Touching Lives', N3TC partners with the Vula Maths and Science Programme run under the auspices of the Hilton College in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.**

This programme, the brainchild of Hilton College, was launched in 2001 to give help to under-resourced schools and disadvantaged communities in the region. It uses up-to-date technologies, innovative teaching methods and experienced facilitators to concentrate on the way mathematics and physical science are taught in under-resourced schools.

It is through the Vula Programme that N3TC met with Nosisa Sosibo. “She was born with mathematics in her bones,” writes Nikki Brighton in a 2017-annual Touching Lives report. “It must be genetic because I have loved numbers as long as I can remember,” Nosisa asserts.

Enrolling for Grade One at a deep rural uMzimkhulu school with the ability to count and add certainly surprised her teachers! As is common for children who grow up in traditional areas, Nosisa had to use her imagination to invent games and toys –

stones, tin cans and sticks to draw in the dust – all became useful props in make-believe schools where Nosisa was often the 'teacher'.

Although the maths teachers were not always the best, her natural excitement and personal motivation meant that she did well. “If you really want to do something, then you can do it.”

After matric, financial constraints prevented Nosisa from furthering her studies, but while doing household chores and helping in the fields, her dream did not perish. “I knew that one day I would be able to do what I wanted. I was not crushed by circumstance.”

After three years an opportunity arose to pursue her dream to study Chemical Engineering. Despite the very real challenges of living in a tiny back room far from home, without enough money to buy food, she passed the first two years. Back in the 1990's it was not easy to find a place to do the practical component (third year) of her Diploma. “There was no internet to search for opportunities, no email, no SMS,” she recalls, “just making copies of documents and going to the post office to send letters would take a whole day of travelling. It was so costly.”

Nosisa heard of an opportunity to teach Maths at a nearby school and grabbed the chance to do something useful and earn money. She loved it. “The best thing about Maths is that it is fun, like a game or puzzle.”

She was thrilled to receive a bursary to do her Bachelor of Education. However, after starting her studies, the bursary failed to provide all that was promised, and she decided to go back to teaching. Despite Nosisa's lack of formal qualifications, her reputation was spreading and before long she was asked to teach at a high school in Donnybrook.

It was here that Nosisa completed her National Diploma in Education and was introduced to the Vula Outreach Programme. Through Vula, Nosisa learned new methodologies, was exposed to novel experiences and challenged to use technology as a teaching aid. “Vula helped grow my confidence and made me love Maths even more. The more you know, the better motivated you become and now I am able to share my skills with others.”



In 2016, Nosisa was appointed Head of Department of Maths and Science at Sonyongwana School near Creighton. Clearly, she is well loved by her fellow teachers and the principal, Mr Xulu. He is full of praise. “Our matric results went from a 70% pass in 2016 to 91% in 2017 with the improvement in our Maths marks, and Physics also doubled to an 87% pass! I am certain it is due to Nosisa's influence and that we will have a 100% pass rate in 2018,” beams Mr Xulu.

“I believe a positive leader encourages everyone and helps them to thrive,” says Nosisa. While she could have lived in town and commuted daily to school, she chose to live right in the community where she is able to walk to work. “It is important to build relationships and understand the learners' backgrounds if you want to get the best from them. I want to help my learners not to be afraid of Maths, but to have fun with it and enjoy the ride.”

“Good teachers shine a light into the darkness,” says N3TC's commercial manager, Con Roux. “We are proud to be associated with educators such as Nosisa Sosibo. It takes a deep commitment, courage and empathy to achieve what she has been doing.”

Former President Nelson Mandela said, 'education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

We, at N3TC, thank you for being a change-maker, Nosisa!





## A TRIBUTE

*Hamba kahle Nkanyiso Ndlela.  
May your soul soar amongst the eagles.*

**Our hearts are filled  
with sorrow. We weep  
at your loss.**

KwaZulu-Natal's Midlands community is grieving the untimely passing of one of their conservation heroes and much-loved friend, Charles Nkanyiso Ndlela.

Nkanyiso – who was also fondly known as “Uncle Crane”, “Star”, “Nka” and “Charles the Chameleon” – was born in Impendle in 1989. He left this life to walk on greener pastures on Thursday, 15 March 2018 after his heart failed.

At just 29, Nkanyiso was an exceptional young man, courageous, passionate, larger than life and an inspirational teacher.

Nkanyiso worked as an Education Manager at the KZN Crane Foundation where he dedicated himself to environmental education. “He loved children and he felt

## A TRIBUTE cont.

everyday was a new opportunity to make sure he made an impact on the community to protect nature. Nkanyiso was loved by all who met him, his smile could light up a room,” wrote the Crane Foundation in an obituary.

The many tributes and photographs shared of Nkanyiso's life on various social media platforms bear testament to the incredible spirit of this human being.

His close friend, Nikki Brighton, writes, “I will never forget you playing Viva la Vida a gazillion times for us when you were DJ, the crazy movie of me making pesto or how much the kids you inspired to care about the Earth, loved you.”

Another friend, Charlene Russel, writes, “My dear brother, we learnt so much from each other. I will miss the long conversations we had whilst driving, your sweet laugh, and your wonderful way with kids. Rest well, your life on Earth was too short.”

Nkanyiso influenced many lives. He was a super hero champion of the Earth!

He started his career in environmental education and conservation as a volunteer at the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA). Here he assisted the team by translating educational material on the wetlands into isiZulu, and so started his lifelong work in this field. Nkanyiso later joined the Midlands Meander Education Project (MMEP), where he quickly made his mark and established a special rapport with the children who crossed his path.

As Education Manager at the KZN Crane Foundation, Nkanyiso continued to share his passion for conservation. He spent a lot of his time in the field and with the communities of Nottingham Road and Mpophomeni through the Mpophomeni Conservation Group.



# A TRIBUTE cont.

“We have lost a shining star ... so sad for our planet and us,” wrote Bridget Ringdahl, who also had the honour of working with Nkanyiso, on Facebook. “You did so much to instil love in young children for Mother Earth. May you shine wherever you are, special star Nkanyiso.”

“Lala uphumule eznhlungwin ebesingazizwa thina ... hamba kahle kahle qhawe,” writes Lungie Mahlela-Cebekhulu as she bids Nka farewell. “Lale kahle Ndlela omuhle ngyohlala ngikykhumbula wangphatha kahle nhliziyo yami ibhlungu nenginethemba sazobuye sbonan asenan Nkulunkulu besehlelile ngawe,” greets Ntomby MakaYamkela.

“May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.” – Irish Blessing

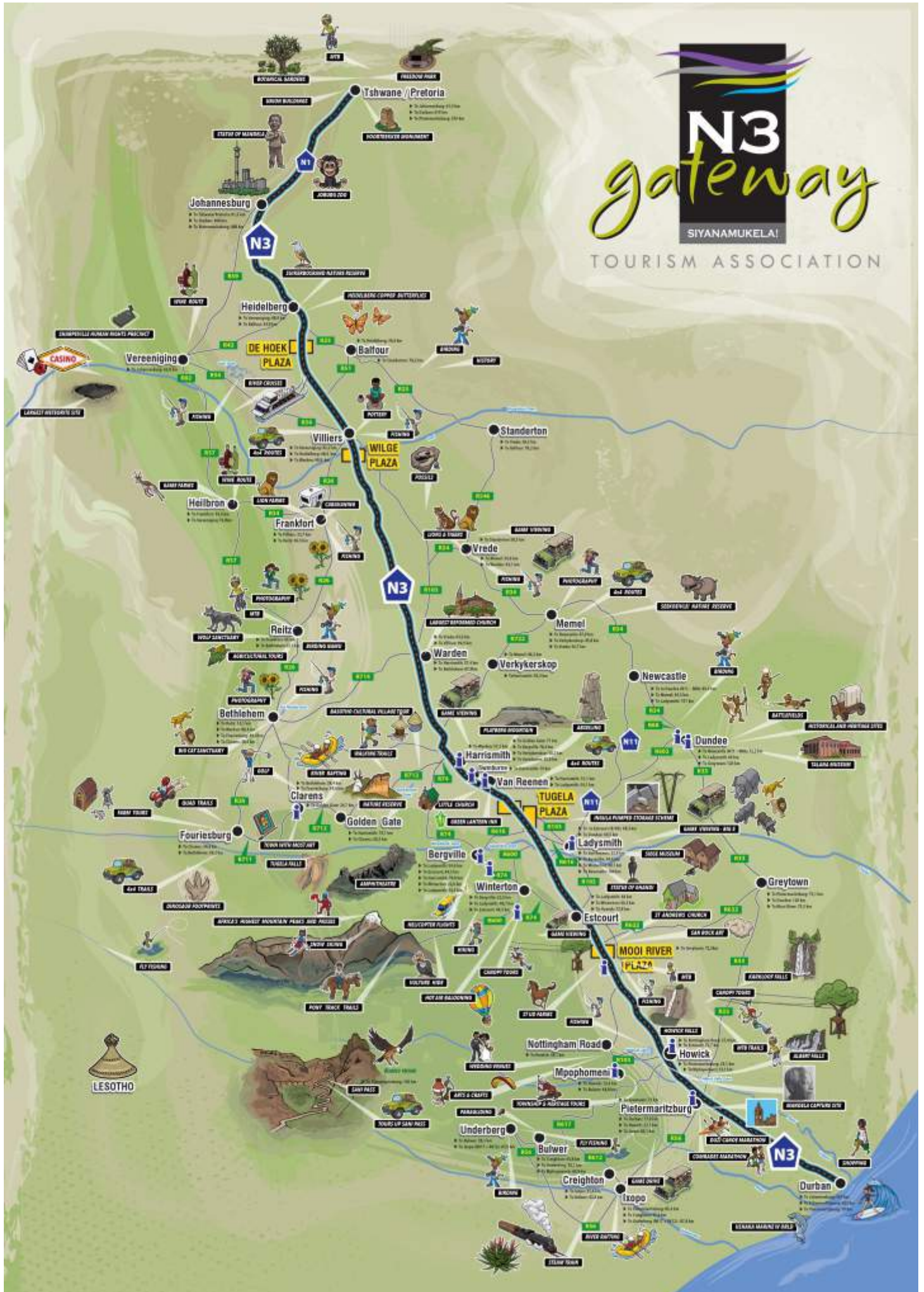
Siyabonga mfitu. Rest in peace.



# *Out and About*



Photo by Stephen Pryke





# Transformational travel experiences will not leave you untouched

**Have you ever been to a resort or hotel where a certain amount of flying or driving time is endured before you arrive at your destination; and once there you find the vast majority of tourists lounging by the pool, day in and day out, not venturing out of the gates of the hotel?**

Oh, so often I have found this to be the case; with many travelers proudly promoting that they have been to such beautiful places as Mauritius, Spain, Mexico and the likes. Although they may have the stamp in their passport, they don't necessarily have the photographs to prove that they have experienced the country further than the resort at which they vacationed. Such a pity, as what is the purpose of travel if one only learns where the dining room is at a resort?

Being a 'professional' traveler, I always find myself looking for experiences rather than 'staycations'. With the help of social media, we often want to visit these 'outback destinations' where the traditions of the local culture dictate the fashions and trends of the people. But more often than not, to find information on how to get to these locations is quite a tricky task.

As the Marketing Manager for N3 Gateway, a tourism association that

covers a vast area of South Africa, and one that actively encourages community-based tourism, I get to discover these authentic 'transformational travel' experiences first hand. What a treat!

Set in the arms of the Drakensberg mountains lies eMazizini Village, where the Zulu culture remains intact and one can still listen to the stories of the ancestors' struggles, which have been passed down from generation to generation. Here, you can experience sustainable living practices and sample umqombothi (traditional Zulu beer) quite freely at any villager's home.



I recently hosted a diverse group of South Africans on a tour of the Northern Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal, an area rich in biodiversity, with pristine mountain ranges and authentic cultural rural living.

The experience was created by WowZulu, allowing the local community a marketing platform to be able to engage with tourists on their culturally rich story. A growing trend in the tourism industry embraces Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. It confirms that – even in travel – us humans wish to have our physiological, safety and security, love and belonging needs met in order for us to move onto greater feelings of self-actualisation.

We began our afternoon at the WowZulu marketplace near eMazizini, next door to Thandanani, a basket-weaving co-op, where the local ladies come together to create beautifully woven baskets of all descriptions. As a tourist, I was encouraged to learn from the ladies and create my own grass-woven masterpiece.

Due to the approaching thunderstorm, our guide quickly set out on village walk with us through the many interweaving village lanes, explaining the importance of cattle in the village, the various smaller animals that form part of every Zulu household, what each structure at the homestead represents and inviting us to visit and interact with local residents in their homes.



We were exceptionally inquisitive about the villagers' way of living, and it seemed they were equally intrigued by us; particularly an older toothless gentleman who decided that I was his 'chosen one' and that he would like to give my parents a certain number of cows for my hand in marriage. (Payment with cows, commonly known as 'lobola', is the traditional bride price.)

With many giggles and numerous declines, we continued on our walk and found our way to a homestead where 'mfula mfula', a traditional Zulu beer was brewed from fermented bread, oats, sugar and pineapple. We sat sipping our beer – watching life go by (young children play soccer; women doing their washing; a family goat grazing on a patch of grass) – while listening to the many tales the village men were sharing with us.



Just as the expected downpour of rain started, we made our way home. Humbled by the many welcoming acts of kindness; and touched by every person who treated us as if we were relatives.

This opportunity to communicate, engage and experience a non-western culture on such an intimate level was a thought-provoking encounter. I was left with a deep appreciation of how simply life can be lived, and how these lessons can be applied to our daily lives at home; even in the city. I personally returned home with a personal challenge: To practice the art of 'time has no limit for face-to-face communication'.

Something which seems so easy for my eMazizini friends, and yet, such a difficult task for me – a mobile device-reliant city girl!

To enjoy a similar experience, contact N3 Gateway ([www.n3gateway.com](http://www.n3gateway.com)). We will gladly advise you on the various transforming travel experiences available along the N3 Gateway Corridor.





**No need to hibernate this winter. N3 Gateway has plenty of places to keep you warm and entertained.**

The N3 Gateway route offers plenty of activities, accommodation options, eateries and farm stalls to keep you wandering for months!

Visit [www.n3gateway.com](http://www.n3gateway.com) for insights into the N3 Gateway region. Here you will find loads of information on the area's unique historical, cultural, arts and craft, and scenic assets as well as activities that may take your fancy.

During the winter months, temperatures may vary on the along the N3 Gateway. You may experience magnificent hot days to freezing snowy weather in a single trip. So, do carry warm clothing, an umbrella and extra drinking water on your journey of discovery.

### **Kwa-Rie Caravan Park, Dundee and Battlefields**

Kwa-Rie Caravan Park is situated amongst the largest concentration of battlefields in South Africa. A great location to explore the history of the area and indulge in all the Battlefields sites. Here you can bring your tent, caravan, motorhome and even your pets (by prior arrangement). Whilst in Dundee be sure to explore on foot all the heritage buildings preserved for your visit.

### **The Knoll Guest Farm, Midlands Meander**

The Knoll Guest Farm, with its expansive gardens and forest, offers you a piece of tranquility – the perfect getaway after a crazy start to the year! Set on the fringes of Hilton, along the Midlands Meander, you can hide away at this beautiful historic guest farm in one of the many room offerings. A great location to base yourself and explore the Midlands Meander.

### **The Snooty Fox**

The Snooty Fox - now doesn't that sound like a name to visit! This gem of an eatery is located in the Fern Hill Hotel ([www.fernhillhotel.co.za](http://www.fernhillhotel.co.za)), a stone's throw away from the Midmar Dam entrance, on the HUCTO route of the N3 Gateway. The Snooty Fox offers fine-dining set in old world charm. Focusing on fresh, seasonal and local produce, your meals promise to be a feast. Besides offering an a la Carte menu 7-days a week, patrons can also enjoy Sunday Roasts, Friday Curry evenings and a full Vegan menu. Children are welcome.

### **Virginia Trails, Midlands Amble**

Virginia Trails, located on the Midlands Amble, is just outside of Eston, and a paradise for those seeking new mountain biking-, running- and hiking trails to explore. It's a wonderfully safe space designed to accommodate all ages and fitness levels. They offer hot showers and changing facilities; as well as a coffee shop and accommodation on site.

### **Hike and overnight in KZN's caves**

Looking for an overnight cave experience in the Drakensberg? Try Marble Baths Cave, start and finish at Injisuthi Camp; a moderate 6 hour/9km hike. Marble Baths Cave sleeps 8 people. Book in advance with KZN Wildlife ([www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com))

Another fantastic hiking option is the 25 - 30km, 3-day Amphitheatre Heritage Trail. Once on the 'Roof of Africa' you will enjoy exhilarating views overlooking the Tugela Falls. Watch the vultures up above and keep your binoculars at hand to spot many endemic birds. For more active escapes, go to [www.active-escapes.co.za](http://www.active-escapes.co.za)



Photo by Stephen Pryke

# *Stay in touch*

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