

# Ferncliff / Boulder Dam Hike

Report by Katy Emma – hike led by Julia Preece

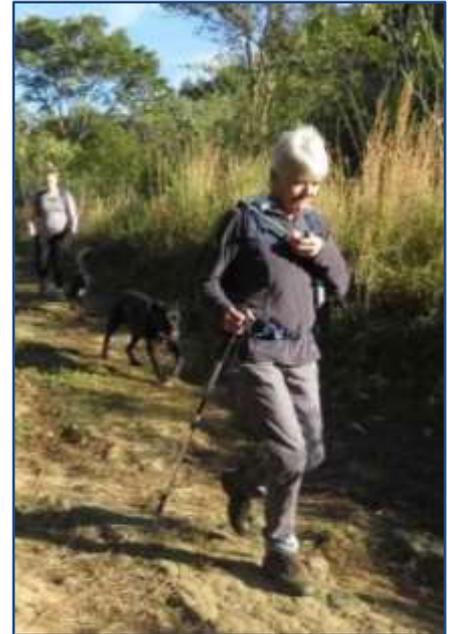
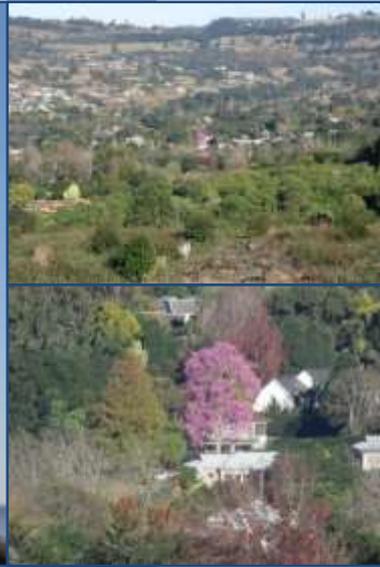


We had a good turnout of 17 hikers (including two guests from Memphis Tennessee – my sister Tam and her daughter Jessie!) as well as a few of our excited canine members. The hike set off from the end of Warwick Rd near Dunrobin Nursery where we parked our cars and then followed the dirt track up passed a mound of recently logged trees, heading towards Ferncliff. The weather forecast had predicted



a clear sunny day of 24 degrees and it wasn't long before we began to shed the jackets we'd earlier been deliberating whether to leave behind or not.

There was much chatting on the way and the dogs had a super time racing back and forth. As we reached higher ground the view of Pietermaritzburg below was spectacular.



Our first stop for a little snack was at Boulder dam. While we cooled off under the Pine trees, our bottoms comfortably nestled in the pine needles, the dogs opted to cool off in the rather green and grimy looking water.



From Boulder dam we set off again along the trail coming to a split – right up to breakfast rock or left to bat cave. A few of the fitter hikers opted to head up to breakfast rock while the rest of us waited, though the idea was short lived as the path was completely overgrown and impassable.



We headed left down some steepish slopes and back up again to bat cave. A rather forlorn looking cave, which has wisely been barred from entering by an old rusty fence. Not a bat in sight!



We made our way back down along the path to the old cottage where we sat along the garden wall for our lunch. Tummies full, we attempted the Lemonwood trail but again were forced to turn back as it had only been cleared up to the point of the little brook and waterfall.



Having had a pleasant mornings hike, we opted to take the shorter route home along the dirt road, returning to our cars.