

Tekwani Hike – 9 April 2023
10 hikers and 4 dogs (written by Heidi)

We gathered enthusiastically at the entrance of the Tekwani Plantations on an incredible Easter Sunday morning and met our fellow hikers and hike leaders dogs Cody and Dusty with their wingmen (girls) Big Willow and Little Willow AKA The Willows²....Oh sorry, meant Iain, as Jack Russell's don't lead hikes.



Hike briefing

We drove to the start of our hike situated along a beautiful river where The Willows² had a dip and we were briefed by Iain and the Jack Russells

Making our way briefly on a dirt road we entered a stunning section of grassland. And this is where the adventure began.....



As we ventured up an unexpected hill, someone noticed something lying in the grass and the dogs were looking rather alert! We had stumbled on a Puff Adder trying to take a nap. Puffy slithered away without a fuss. Dogs rounded up and safe we stopped to have a long chat about the puffy (* read* good-reason-to-catch-our-breath-on-the-hill-and-not-admit-we-are-unfit). I for one was disappointed not to see it as I am fascinated by snakes and plan on doing the snake courses on offer by the Snake institute.

Photo by: Rebecca

Moving on up the hill, some of us pretended to take photos to catch our breath. But as a hiking

community we know the reward is at the top. The view was worth every single step. Living in the Midlands one can only appreciate the splendour of the hills and mountains in the distance – it's what we live for.

THE HILL was what followed the last two hills. And since they don't make sissies in KZN, we climbed on up.....and up..... finally getting to the top for breakfast, tea or lunch....it didn't matter, we were up



Willow leading the way up the steep bit before the encounter with the puffy (photo credit: Iain)



Stopping for a breather in the forest on the way up (photo credit: Rebecca)

An easy couple of ks followed as we moved onto a dirt road to find the stream that Iain had promised. The dogs were delighted, especially The Willows, who went in straight away while Dusty went rock climbing. Cody thought them all mad.



Breakfast stop at the clear running stream until the 2 Willows stirred all the mud up (photo credit: Iain)

A nice long stop for a bite to eat and to be entertained by the dogs was followed by the next section of easy road surrounded by trees on one side and a harvested section on the other.



Wide angle view of the road on the way back



Happy hikers

The view once again was a sight, with the Kamberg and Inhlosane in the distance. The final section to the cars and we were back at the river where the dogs could cool off and we could compare distances on our different GPS devices.



A bunch of weary but happy hikers after a 14km + hike – depending on which GPS you want to believe (Photo by: Iain)

Thank you Iain for an awesome day out and for leading the hike and my fellow hikers for the good laughs, easy chat, teasing of Iain and sharing of stories and experiences.