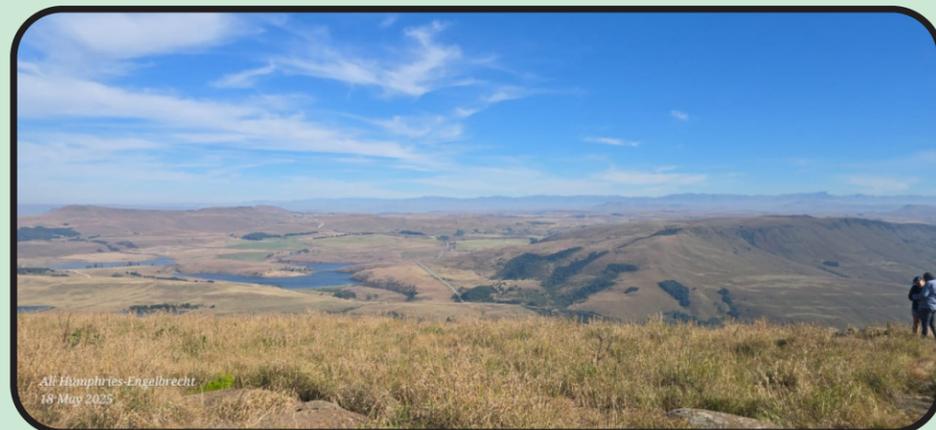
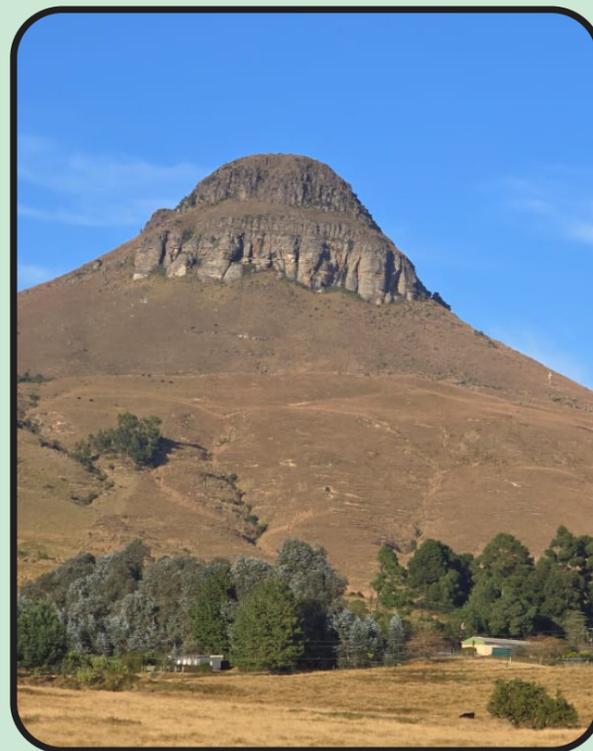


INHLOSANE 18 MAY 2025

Challenge 2: Conquering iNhlosane – A Midlands Icon

Hike Leader: Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht
Number of hikers: 30
Distance: 7 km
Elevation: 706 m
Severity: Grade 4
Author: Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht



Challenge 2 of the Big Five 2025 saw 30 enthusiastic hikers take on the legendary **iNhlosane** in the heart of the **Dargle Valley**. Towering at **1,976 metres above sea level**, this iconic Midlands peak offers sweeping views of the Drakensberg, and a trail steeped in history and local lore.



From the eastern approach, **iNhlosane** resembles the developing breast of a young girl—an image that inspired its Zulu name. But beyond its serene beauty lies a dramatic past: during the **Bambatha Rebellion**, this peak marked the furthest reach of Bambatha's warriors, their battle cries said to have sent shivers through the early settler communities.

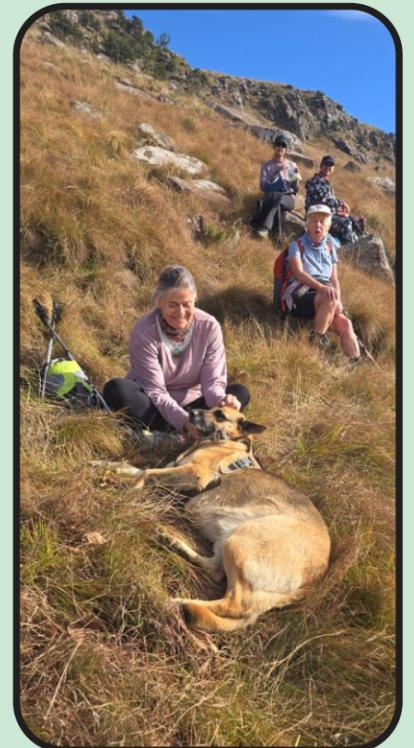
In 1945, the summit blazed with celebration as a beacon fire was lit to mark the end of **World War II**, a tradition that remains etched in local memory.



Today, hiking iNhlosane remains a beloved adventure for the **Midlands Hiking Club**. The trail is challenging from the start, meandering through green hills before demanding a final, steep push over ancient **dolerite boulders** to reach the ridge. Our group tackled the challenge with determination—and a few well-earned breathers—before celebrating the summit with snacks, drinks, and of course, those all-important photos.



The descent was smooth, spirits were high, and every participant crossed the finish line — another Big Five challenge successfully completed.



Two down. Three to go. Are you ready for the next adventure?