

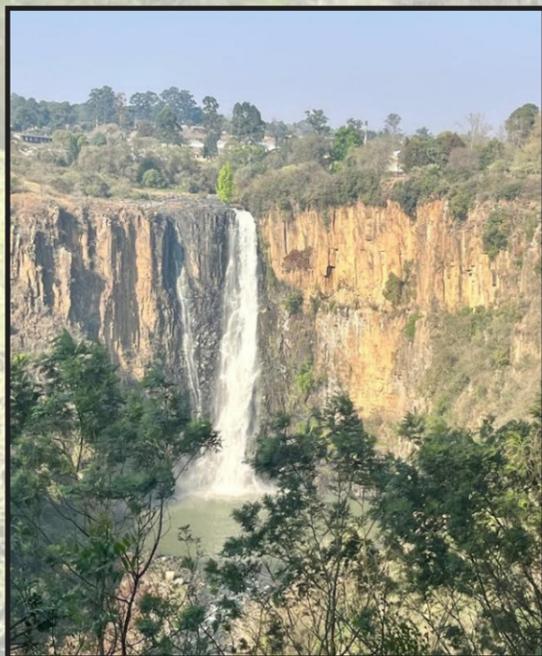
# UMGENI VALLEY HIKE - 31st August 2025

**Hikers: 8**

**Hike leader: Keith Ashton**

**Report by: Libby Deysel**

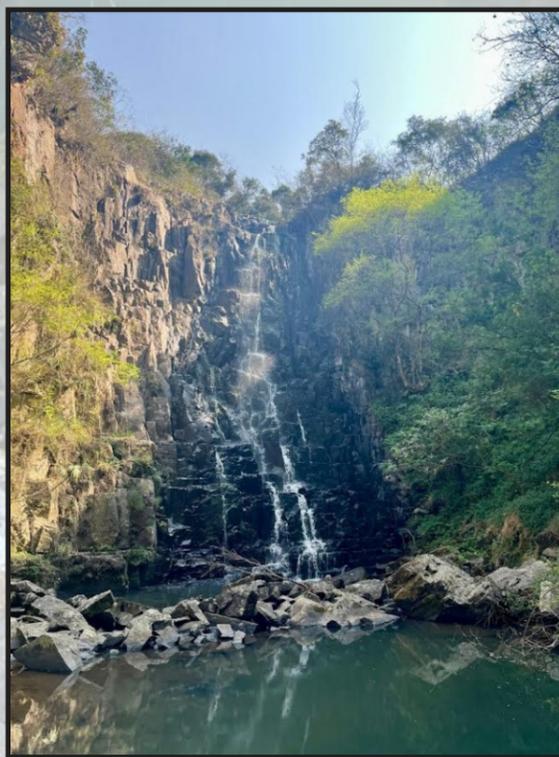
Keith Ashton and a small group met at the Wessa office to start the day's hike. Keith was leading and having completed all the formalities and welcoming a new member, we walked on the Excelby property to view the Howick Falls. Keith gave a bit of a history about the Hydroelectric plant built on the Umgeni River in 1919 to power what was then the Dunlop factory.



We then proceeded down to where there used to be an adventure/obstacle course - sadly non-existent now, and then on to Bum Slide Falls. No one volunteered to do the slide as the water was low.



The next path led us to the bottom of Shelter Falls - again not much water coming over the falls, but quite spectacular with the rock formations behind the falls. I wonder if anyone has had the nerve to climb up the 37 metres? The next leg of the hike was to the top of these falls, looking down into a secluded ravine.



From Shelter Falls we walked to Cascade Falls before climbing out of the valley to take the Black Eagle Trail. From this path we had a view of Fish Jump Falls.



We stopped for lunch at one of the cottages which sadly has been vandalised. Fortunately they are solid buildings so we hope that they can be restored. The final leg of the hike was back along the road to the cars.

Thanks Keith and fellow hikers:  
Margaret, Charmaine, Kim, Thenjiwe,  
Vanessa and Tracy for a lovely day in the Valley.