

Dwarfs Dawdle Hike (15 February 2026)

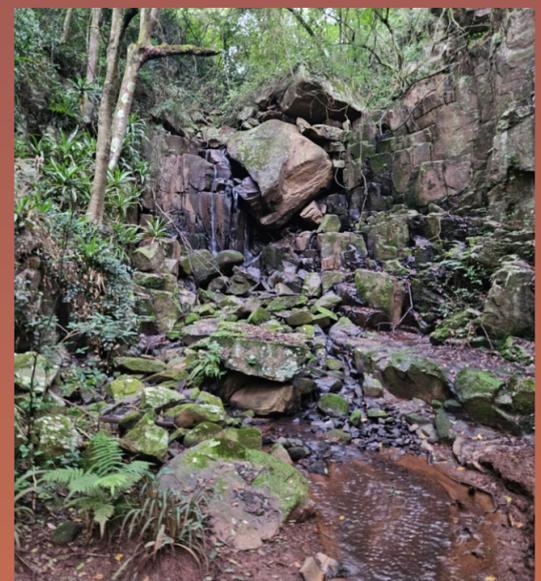
An intrepid group of Midlands Hiking Club members gathered at 4 am for a dawn start on the Dwarfs Dawdle trail in WESSA Umgeni Valley. Although the sunrise remained hidden behind clouds, the early silence offered a rare chance to listen as nature slowly awakened.



The hike began along the upper Dawdle in darkness, with a quiet walk to the viewpoint for a snack break before descending to the lower section.



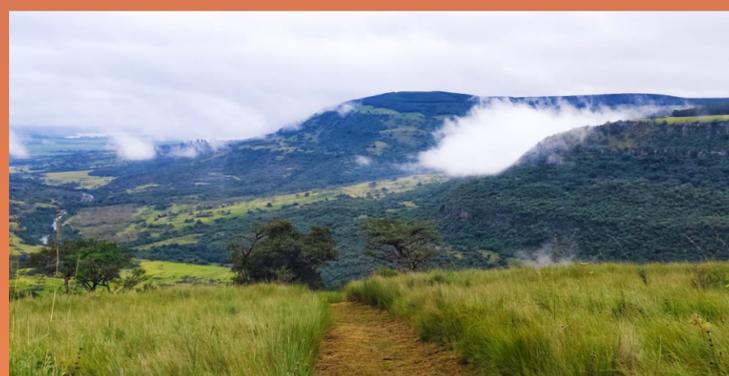
This short but demanding trail provided a full-body workout, winding beneath dolerite cliffs with sweeping views over the Umgeni Valley and river below.



The circular route of 5 km offered a mix of gentle scenic stretches and more challenging terrain, making it both rewarding and invigorating.

The morning was enriched by the presence of the WESSA rangers, whose support to the group was appreciated.

To celebrate the adventure, hikers gathered afterwards at Forty One Restaurant for a well-earned breakfast, complete with champagne and orange juice—a fitting finale to a memorable outing with friends and nature.



Report by Ali Humphries-Engelbrecht