

Swartkop Big Four 27 September 2026



Candice Piek

Tracy



Candice Piek



Candice Piek



Iain Kerr

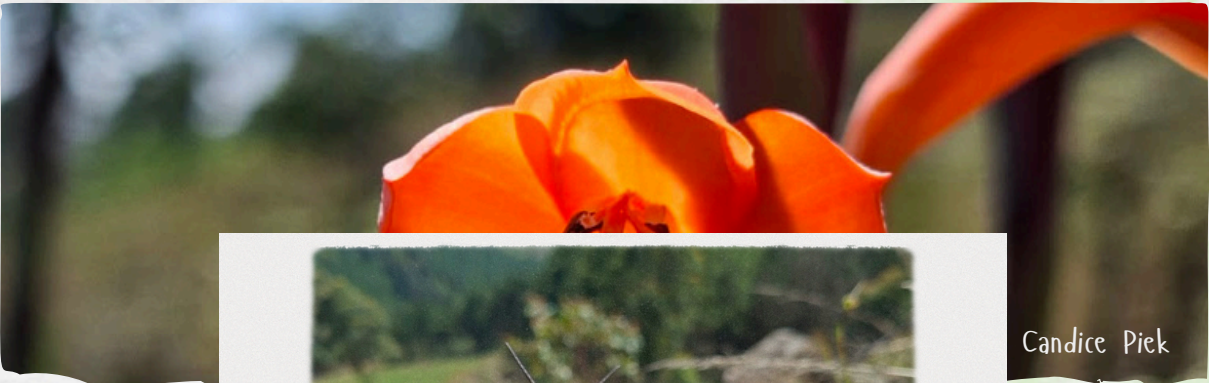


Iain Kerr



Candice Piek

Led by Iain Kerr



Candice Piek



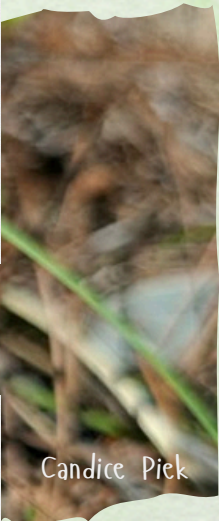
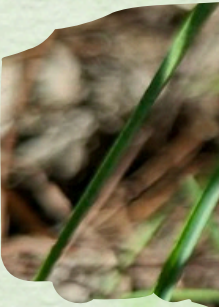
Candice Piek



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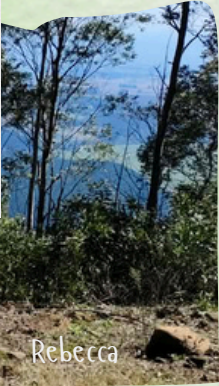
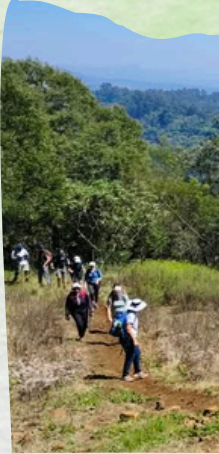


Iain Kerr



Jen

Candice Piek



Rebecca

Yesterday the Midlands Hiking Club took on Swartkop, our fourth mountain in the Big 4 Challenge.

Starting from Cedara, we climbed steadily towards the summit of this distinctive mountain overlooking Pietermaritzburg. The final ascent certainly gave the legs something to think about, but the views from the top made every step worthwhile.

At around 1,450 m, Swartkop has a fascinating history. Its isiZulu name, eMbubu, means "the place of thatching grass," and the mountain was once surrounded by extensive indigenous forest. In the late 1800's, the forests were heavily exploited for timber, and in 1867 Natal's first forest conservator was appointed to oversee the Swartkop forest. Yesterday's hike was another reminder of why we love exploring the mountains around our beautiful Midlands. Great company, spectacular views, a bit of history - and of course, plenty of tired legs by the end of it.

