

UTRECHT A WAY FORWARD

BY

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ABSTRACT

South Africa's industrialisation gave rise to the establishment of many small towns in the vicinity of mineral deposits. Today many of these small towns face economic decline as these resources become exhausted. These small towns, however, can play an important role in the new South Africa. With the delivery of services in urban areas coming under more pressure, the lack of infrastructure and services has consequently led to many people being without services. Development in small towns can help reduce the pressure placed on big cities. This has resulted in environmental degradation occurring in urban areas. At the same time one should not run the risk of creating environmental degradation through development initiatives in these small towns. A procedure needs to be put in place that ensures environmental considerations are taken into account in development proposals. Many of these small mining towns have existing facilities that can be utilised for development. These existing facilities should be used instead of using development funds to build such facilities.

This case study focusses on the town of Utrecht in north western Kwazulu-Natal, where the town is heavily dependent on Welgedacht Exploration, a coal mine that is the chief employer in the town. Welgedacht faces closure within the next few years and this study attempts to make suggestions on a way forward for this town after closure of the mine. The study explores the possibility of using the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedure as a means to initiate development proposals. The study found that IEM can be an effective tool with regard to small town development, since through this process, appropriate sustainable development initiatives can be identified. IEM is appropriate as it makes provision for:-

- Environmental considerations,
- Ensures community participation, and
- Enforces legal compliance

thus making it an effective tool in development.

DECLARATION

The research described in this dissertation was carried out through the School of Environment and Development, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg under the supervision of Professor R.J. Fincham, Professor R. Edgecombe and Mr K.K. Smith.

This thesis represents the original work of the author and has not otherwise been submitted in any form for any degree or diploma to any University. Where use has been made of the work of others it is duly acknowledged in the text.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EMPR	-	Environmental Management Programme Report
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
IAAP 's	-	Interested and Affected Parties
IEM	-	Integrated Environmental Management
NGO 's	-	Non Governmental Organisations
SIA	-	Social Impact Assessment
SEA	-	Strategic Environmental Assessments

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Bioclimatic - It is the grouping of the distribution of species and vegetation types in terms of its microclimate. It is the local conditions of temperature, light, humidity and moisture which help determine where certain plants can be found. Plants which exist in a similar climate are grouped into the same bioclimatic group.

Biophysical - The part of the environment which did not originate with and is not dependent on human activities (e.g. Biological, physical and chemical objects and processes).

Blending - The mixing of different qualities of coal to achieve the required quality.

Conservancy - is an associative group of conservation minded landowners that work together to make a larger piece of land to be managed as a unit for conservation uses, more specifically ecotourism.

Discard Dump - A demarcated area where the carboniferous residues and waste rock from the beneficiation plant are collected.

Slurry - The finer residues from the beneficiation plant which are transported by water and usually contained in an evaporation dam.

Terms of Reference - refers to the conditions which a consultant has to adhere to when carrying out his investigation.

Washing Plants - they are beneficiation plants where the coal is washed to remove any waste material that might be found with the coal.

CHAPTER 1

SMALL TOWNS AND THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1.1 INTRODUCTION

At the core of sustainable development and human well being, lies economic development, a healthy environment and good quality of life. Economic development can be described as the continuous process of trying to improve the living conditions of individuals or societies by making better provision for basic needs and luxuries of life. Environmental health is found in the beautiful surroundings that become part of our life. Quality of life has to do with the faith, freedom of spirit, happiness and self-fulfillment that is essential for the complete individual (Huntley, 1989). A balance between these three components is needed in sustainable development, for too much concern in one direction will be to the detriment of the other two. “ In the South African context, the ideal of sustainable development - meaning development which ensures that the use of resources and the environment today does not damage prospects for future generations - can only be approached through a path of sustained economic growth. For without this, there can be little improvement in the condition of the environment and the quality of human life” (Huntley, 1989, p13).

Even if South Africa were to adopt such a strategy, it will have to build its own dynamic model with compromises of its own in order to ensure sustained economic growth leading to a more fulfilled life for South Africans. In doing so, South African commerce and industry will have to look at new opportunities of how they and society can help in the future development of the new South Africa.

At the turn of this century, development of South Africa's wealth of non-renewable resources was applauded by governments and communities. It was seen and is still seen to be central to the country's economic survival. It is a well known fact that mining is not a sustainable activity but it can be argued that mining helps create a sustainable environment. One only needs to think of cities on the Highveld such as

Johannesburg, Witbank and Middelburg which sprang up and grew due to accelerated growth in the mining sector. It is correct to suggest that through mining evolves sustainable activities in the secondary and tertiary sector. The growth of the mining industry saw many small towns springing up throughout the country as well, but unlike big mining towns, they did not manage to create sustainable activities around them. These towns developed because of the mining activity in areas such as Evander and Kriel. After the long and continued exploitation of these valuable resources, imminent closure of these mines would become a strong possibility as the resources become exhausted. This harsh reality of closure of the mines has thus created the possibility of decline setting in on these towns as economic regression becomes a reality with the closure of the main economic activity in these towns. What is required today is a diversification in the economic activity to maintain the sustained economic growth previously provided by mining to supplement the original and continuing economic base which is usually agriculture.

There are approximately five hundred small towns in South Africa which cumulatively accommodate about one tenth of the total country's population (Bernstein, 1996). Small towns are thus important, yet little is said about the future of these small towns beyond local government level. These small towns are not identified as possible future nodes of development and thus receive limited funds for development initiatives unlike big towns and cities (Pers. Comm., Mr L. Barnard). Many of these small towns have existing facilities, amenities, social and physical structures which should be used instead of being allowed to decay. New development initiatives should not be embarked upon unless it is clear that citizens are getting the greatest value for money out of what already exists (Bernstein, 1996). Small towns can play a vital role in the above equation since many of their facilities are not used to full capacity. If this philosophy is to be employed, small mining towns will have an important role to play in the period after closure of the mine. In terms of the Mineral Act of 1991, Section 40:

'Whenever a prospecting or mining authorization that is held is suspended, cancelled or terminated or lapses and the prospecting for or exploitation of any mineral finally ceases, the person shall demolish all buildings, structures or any other mining thing that was erected or constructed in connection with

prospecting or mining operations on the surface of the land concerned and shall remove all debris as well as any other object to the satisfaction of the regional director' (Teurlings, 1993, p17).

However, if these existing values can be shown to have potential residual value, they can be discounted for or allowed to exist at the liability of the landowner. Many buildings and other infrastructure that become available, can be used for development, thus also helping reduce mine liability since these buildings will not have to be demolished.

Alternative forms of development in the area will ensure that these towns do not die economically and depopulate as local residents move elsewhere in seek of employment but will continue to prosper through appropriate sustainable development by promoting and building on the assets of their history and surrounding environment.

This philosophy will be supported by the major mining houses of the country who want to enhance their corporate image by showing that they are not merely concerned with profits only but are also concerned about the environment and the welfare of the people found around their mining operations. Evidence of this philosophy being supported by major mining houses was expressed by Mr E. Scoltz, Senior Manager: Operations in Ingwe, when he described Welgedacht as not only having a responsibility to its shareholders but to the community as well (Newcastle Advertiser, 26 Sept. 1997). Big business has been identified as being one of the major role players in the shaping and building of the new South Africa and thus the major mining houses would like to get involved in the upliftment of the communities situated around their mining operations. Furthermore, they would like to leave something behind for these communities after their mining operations cease for these communities can build on and earn a living.

The major mining houses realise that they have a moral and social responsibility towards these communities surrounding their mining operations after having depleted the natural resource found in the area and would thus welcome initiatives

to use their redundant facilities for community development (Pers. Comm., Mr N. Finch). By making full use of existing infrastructure, development costs will be reduced from having to build these structures elsewhere and at the same time prevent further degradation of the environment. This saving can be used to meet other needs such as job creation, education, healthcare and housing or for the upgrading of current infrastructure. Coupled with economic and infrastructural development should go socio-economic development of the communities. Adequate training in terms of providing trade skills and capacity building skills should be provided to rural communities. An educated workforce is an efficient workforce.

1.2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

This study will aim to look at the development of small towns which have primarily a single commodity based economy. It is a common feature that when the primary economic activity of that small town ceases, it results in that town experiencing economic decline. This project undertakes to look at the possible development of small towns to ensure their economic survival after closure of their primary activity, placing special emphasis on the town of Utrecht, a small coal mining town on Northern Kwazulu-Natal as its case study. The primary activity of Utrecht is coal mining. At least seventy percent of Utrecht's residents rely directly or indirectly on Welgedacht, the coal mine, to earn a living (Pers. Comm., Miss P. Zietsmann). The mine has been in operation for almost a 100 years and as with any mining venture, closure is inevitable. Part of the study will look at suggesting a way forward for the town of Utrecht, after closure of the mine and how the mine using its capacity, expertise and infrastructure can help in the development of the town.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The study will also concentrate on the formulation of a model for small town development using integrated environmental management (IEM) principles as being the process to set up, implement, monitor and evaluate the proposed development. This model should be generally applicable to development of other small towns. A key informant interview will be carried out to test if such a model can be applicable

with regards to small town development. A key objective is to incorporate the utilization of mine infrastructure as part of the proposed development as they become available. The end result is to ensure sustainable development to suggest the continued survival of the town with minimal environmental impact for the area.

1.4 TOWARDS A DEFINITION OF SMALL TOWNS

The Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) defines small towns as “centres having less than 50 000 people”. This definition, however, should not be viewed as absolute. CDE identifies three distinct forms of settlement as forming their category of small towns:-

- Small towns in commercial farming areas, often experiencing economic decline.
- Former homeland area small towns.
- Dense homeland settlements’ which lack services and facilities and which are concentrations of landless and often ‘displaced people’.

Small towns can best be identified by the features and functions of that town. These features are:-

- Close links with, and servicing the needs of, surrounding rural communities.
- A higher density of buildings and concentration of services and facilities than rural areas.
- Low level of economic and retailing specialization and concentrations of either branch firms or small, purely local concerns.
- Small town populations contain a larger proportion of young and aged than in cities; with less skill and income variety than larger centres; and
- More obvious physical expressions of their history and the importance of the surrounding natural environment than larger cities (Centre for Development and Enterprise, 1996).

1.4.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL TOWNS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A careful analysis of the characteristics of small towns will highlight the developmental challenges that face small towns. Among the most common characteristics are:-

- A dual demographic structure, with a slow growing or even declining group of more prosperous whites and a much bigger rapidly growing black population. Of this declining group of whites, population statistics show that they are the aged group.
- Literacy, educational and skills levels are low amongst the black population.
- The structure of the economy is simple with limited economic diversification, thus making these towns susceptible to economic decline.
- In terms of physical form, towns have distinct black and white residential areas. Economic activity as well as essential services are lacking in the black areas (Dewar, 1995).

1.5 METHODOLOGY

Exploratory studies are very valuable in social scientific research. They are essential whenever a researcher is breaking new ground and they can almost always yield new insights into a topic for research (Babbie, 1992). This study can be considered to be of exploratory research nature since there is no recorded literature of development initiatives in small towns and how the use of mine infrastructure can contribute towards development. In addition, there is little recorded literature of how integrated environmental management (IEM) principles and procedures can help stimulate development in small towns.

A list of those who participated in the key informant interviews and the various sectors they represent is provided in Annexure A. There were five people from industry, two from labour, four from business, one from local authorities and four from the various Community Based Organisations (CBO's). While they may have

not been equal representation within each category, the various categories catered for is indicative of the inclusiveness of the IEM process.

Field research was carried out using face to face interviews with key informants as the method of obtaining information. Such a research method was decided upon, since perceptions of key informants and that of the local community were sought regarding future development in Utrecht and how the application of IEM principles and procedures can be an effective tool in creating sustainable development. The study approach attempts to draw on the community's perceptions of how they perceive Welgedacht and the degree to which the area is reliant on the coal mine. An attempt was also made to see how the community perceive the role Welgedacht should play with regards to future development in the area. ✓

Interviews were carried out on a formal and informal basis. Formal interviews were initiated through pre-arranged meetings while informal interviews were conducted with local residents on chance meetings. The questions asked of respondents were semi-structured and open ended. Open ended questions were asked since the study aimed to get a feel of the attitude of the people regarding development of the town. Part of the interview focussed on how environmentally aware the community was and how they perceived their surrounding natural environment. Their feelings towards tourism initiatives in the area were also sought. Questions regarding the history of the area and whether the promotion of it could be a viable tourist option were addressed as well. A description of how individuals viewed Utrecht in the past, present and what changes they would like to see in the future were asked. Through the ranking of their needs, individuals highlighted what future development they would like to see occurring in Utrecht, to improve their quality of life. Part of IEM procedure is to identify possible factors that can hinder development, therefore questions were posed to address what factors or situations exist in Utrecht that can slow down or prevent any future development of the town. The development of Utrecht as part of the greater region was addressed as well. ✓

Part of the fieldwork exercise was to carry out an analysis and description of mine infrastructure at the Zimbutu and Umgala sections. Closure cost figures to demolish

or dismantle possible infrastructure that could be used for alternative purposes were obtained from the environmental management programme report (EMPR). A visit to each of these buildings was also undertaken to assess the condition of these buildings. ✓

1.6 CONCLUSION

Focus on small town development has changed to using a bottom-up approach involving small centres and their hinterlands. It is possible for a bottom-up approach to be implemented through IEM since it involves the local community and interested and affected parties. Stohr and Taylor (1981) consider bottom-up development to be based on maximising the potential of natural, human and institutional resources with the key objective being to meet the basic needs of that community. (Baker, 1990). IEM accomplishes more than merely maximising the potential of a resource since it provides a framework for these resources to be investigated, provide various alternatives and assesses the impact of the proposed development.

Utrecht fits the criteria to be classified as a small mining town. Initially being established as an administrative centre for the local farmers, the introduction of mining saw it rapidly developing into a small town. However, this small town had little success in trying to diversify away from mining and with the possible closure of Welgedacht, Utrecht faces the prospect of economic decline. This town has a wealth of history and surrounding natural beauty which are assets/resources that can be developed on, to help diversify the economy. A good management plan is required to initiate the process of development and the following chapter on IEM will help identify a procedure for future development. ✓

CHAPTER TWO

THE USE OF IEM IN SMALL TOWN DEVELOPMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The latter half of the twentieth century has seen an increase in environmental awareness taking place. The last thirty years has seen Earth Summits being held by World Leaders and the introduction of environmental legislation to combat excessive pollution by industry. The process of industrialisation, World War Two, mass consumption of natural resources and an increase in world population has resulted in the quality of our living environment being degraded.

The present rate of consumption of natural resources - renewable and non-renewable - is too high for it to sustain itself. This has resulted in reduced fish populations and diminishing rain forests and environmental degradation. Carson (1972, p11) describes man's present rate of consumption by suggesting that "future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of prudent concern for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life." There are two roads for the human race to choose. There is the "smooth Superhighway" filled with tremendous progress but ultimately leading to disaster or we have the choice of the "less travelled road" of sustainable growth which guarantees the preservation of earth (Carson, 1972). The latter road is becoming popular as displayed with public voice having an influential role in denying Richards Bay Mineral (RBM) the right to mine the eastern shores of St Lucia in favour of sustainable development. It has become necessary to take the environment into account in future planning and development projects if we are to protect our environment.

This chapter sets out to look at the evolution of IEM and why South Africa has chosen IEM as a tool to facilitate large scale development. The principles and procedures of IEM are addressed, paying particular attention to small town development. By citing examples, the chapter stresses the importance of following the procedure of IEM to ensure successful application, as a tool to initiate

development.

The pioneers of bringing environmental evaluations into public policy was the United States. They introduced the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), a law which saw the introduction of environmental evaluations into forward planning and developing major projects (Gilpin, 1992). Many governments of developing countries followed the example of the United States, resulting in environmental evaluations becoming widely institutionalised. Third world countries have also implemented environmental impact assessment (EIA) into their legislation or have done so because it is a requirement of major international funding agencies such as the World Bank (Fuggle & Rabie, 1991). Developing countries have been cautious in their approach to introducing EIA as part of their policies since they do not wish to deter foreign investment into development projects or in setting up industries in their countries.

“The integration of environmental concerns into public policy depends on an open system of government, a wide disclosure of information and an informed citizenry. South Africa has historically lacked these elements of government” (Fuggle & Rabie 1992, p748). South Africa is a country where the more pressing needs of food, water, shelter and security are more important resulting in little consideration being paid to the well-being of future generations or to the aesthetic and scientific aspects of the environment. South Africa has adopted a rather cautionary approach with regard to development and industry, preferring not to repel development but to encourage responsible development. The country needs to attract foreign investment and would not like to deter such investment with harsh environmental legislation. By working with industry and developers one can ensure that there is no severe environmental degradation. In 1984, the Council for the Environment established a committee to recommend a national strategy to ensure the integration of environmental concerns into developmental actions (Fuggle & Rabie, 1992). After an extensive period of research and consultation, a constructive process of guiding and documenting development actions was recommended. This process was called Integrated Environmental Management. Integrated Environmental Management will play a significant role in the new South Africa. It will ensure that the environment is

taken into account, especially with the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) in progress. The RDP has been replaced by the Growth, Equity and Redistribution economic reform programme (GEAR).

2.2 DEFINITION OF IEM

Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) is a systematic approach developed in South Africa for ensuring the structured inclusion of environmental considerations in decision making at all stages of the development process (Fuggle, 1990). IEM is a procedure designed to ensure that the environmental consequences of developments are understood and adequately considered in the planning process. It is intended to guide, rather than impede, the development process by providing a positive, interactive approach to gathering and analysing useful data and presenting findings in a form that can be easily understood by non-specialists (Fuggle & Rabie, 1992).

IEM thus strives to create various scenarios in development by encouraging participation from interested and affected parties and suggesting that appropriate development - one that is desired by the community and has a minimal impact on the environment. IEM addresses the physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, historical and political components as part of its environment. It can be considered to be a positive and pro-active approach to development since it emphasises the positive aspects of the proposed development as well as mitigating the negative impacts. "IEM attempts to ensure that the social costs of development (those borne by society) are outweighed by the social benefits (the benefits to the society as a result of the development)" (Fuggle, & Rabie, 1992, p750).

2.3 THE PRINCIPLES OF IEM

The basic principles of IEM are:-

- informed decision making;
- accountability for information on which decisions are taken;
- accountability for decisions taken;

- a broad meaning given to the term environment (ie. one that includes physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, historic and political components);
 - an open, participatory approach in the planning of proposals;
 - consultation with interested and affected parties;
 - due consideration of alternative options;
 - an attempt to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive aspects of proposals;
 - an attempt to ensure that the 'social costs' of development proposals be outweighed by the 'social benefits'
 - democratic right for individual rights and obligations;
 - compliance with these principles during all stages of the planning, implementation and decommissioning of proposals (ie. from cradle to grave); and
 - the opportunity for public and specialist input in the decision making process.
- (Dept. of Env. Affairs.1992. part 1)

IEM is thus a mechanism coupled with an EIA to act as of watchdog over major development projects in order to see that the environment is not abused. It achieves this by involving all roleplayers in the decision making progress and by making them accountable for their decisions, tries to ensure that environmentally responsible decisions are made.

The principles of IEM thus serve to aid decision making by providing objective information on the environmental consequences of plans and projects. IEM strives to create alternatives in development proposals by assessing the various options available and by assessing the best possible means or method to achieve the proposed development by offering solutions that ensure maximum benefits while the negative effects are mitigated to the greatest extent possible. A principle of IEM is informed and accurate decision making. This is best achieved by gathering accurate information and the communication of this information to both decision makers and interested and affected parties.

2.4 THE IEM PROCEDURE

There are three distinct stages of the IEM procedure as illustrated by the flow diagram (Figure 2.1). With regard to development, stage 1 is to develop and assess a proposal. Stage two is the decision stage followed by the third or implementation stage. Taking a number of factors into account, the flow diagram illustrates the various paths one's proposal could follow.

2.4.1 STAGE ONE

The IEM procedure begins with a proposal initiated by the funder of the project or by an interested party. It is important from this early stage that all parties become involved in the process. The main role players should be made up of interested and affected parties (IAAP's), the developer, the relevant government authorities and the local community. The relevant role players should establish a forum or a working committee which should oversee the running of the project. In developing and assessing the proposal the forum should establish what policy, legal and administrative requirements need to be fulfilled in order for the proposed development to go ahead. In assessing the proposal, the forum should call on outside expertise in identifying the best means and method to implement the proposed development and to identify problems and find the best possible, most cost effective and environmentally responsible solution to such problems.

Once the proposal has been accepted, it needs to be classified. There are three possible routes into which it can be classified based on the impact it will have:-

- Full impact assessment
- Initial assessment
- No formal assessment (Dept. of Env. Affairs, 1992, part 1).

The first route is usually followed if the project is to have significant impact on the environment. This will require a full EIA to be carried out before the project will obtain approval from the relevant authorities. Route two is taken if there is uncertainty regarding the impact of the proposed development. If it is seen in the

initial assessment that there will be a significant impact, a full EIA will be required before approval can be gained. The third route is normally given for authority review when a project meets the necessary planning requirements and the proposal will not result in any significant impacts.

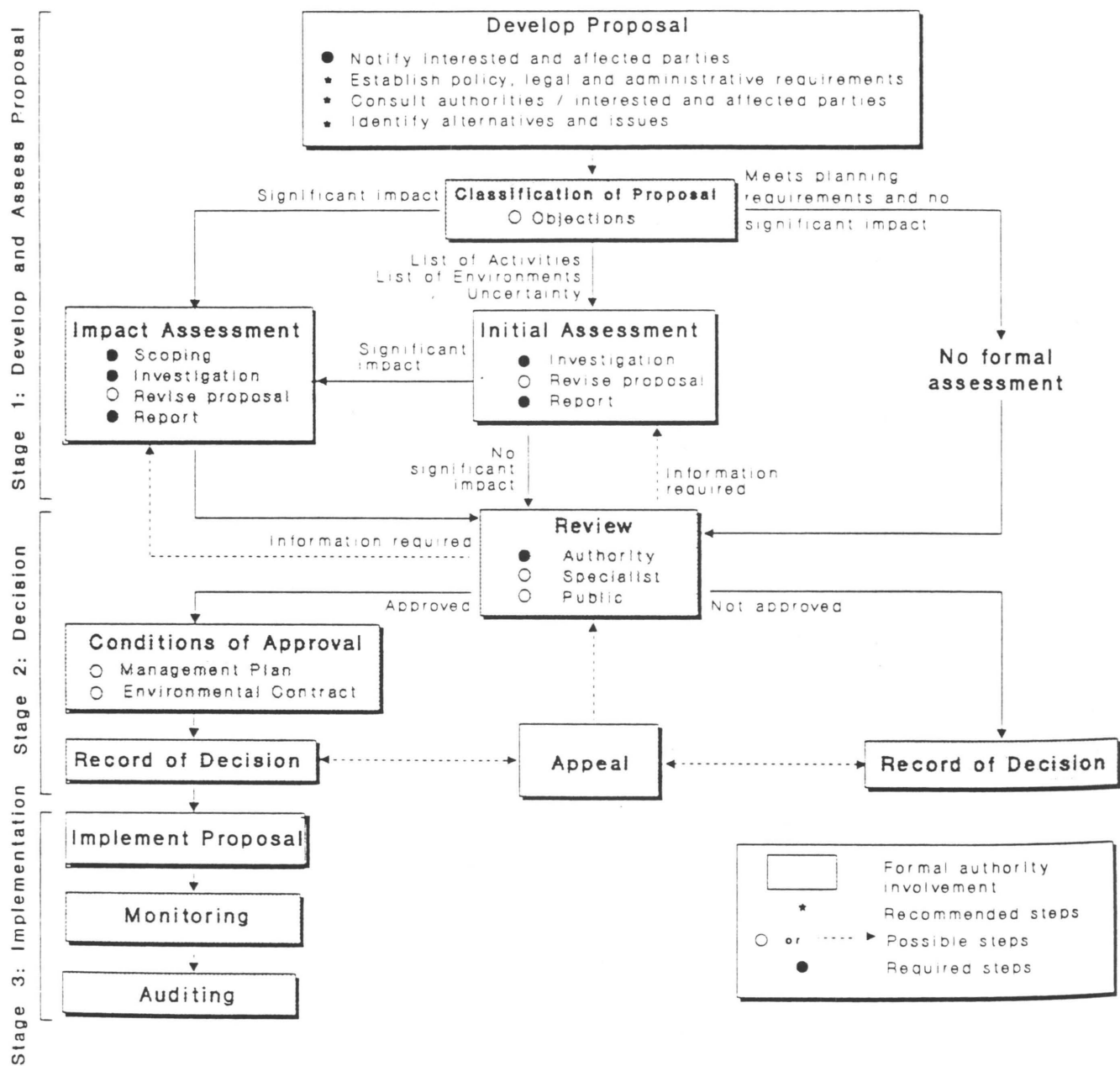


Figure 2.1: The IEM Procedure

When one considers small town development, it will be important that the local council, business, community leaders, interested and affected parties and the relevant government authorities get together and set up a forum. Working through the forum they should develop a proposal that is unanimously accepted. It is important that the elected representatives of the forum give feedback to their respective organisations on the progress and decisions made by the forum. This could be accomplished by placing articles in the local paper, report back meetings or billboard notices. The involvement of the local community is essential and they should be part of the decision making process and not merely advisors with no power in the process. The forum should consist of a member from each relevant sector. It should have as its constitution, democratic principles which ensure equity, justice, transparency, accountability and regard for individual rights. It is in all likelihood that a full EIA will be required for small town development since it will involve land use planning. The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, General Bantu Holomisa, in his talk on the view of the new government and the sustainable use of resources said that with regard to landuse planning, "participation by communities in such decisions are indispensable. For this purpose environmental impact assessments are required which provide for full participation by the public" (Adisu & Croll, 1994).

The first component of an EIA is the scoping exercise. A scoping exercise determines the extent and approach to the investigation. Scoping is an ongoing, open and interactive process which should commence at the initial stages of project planning and may continue throughout the planning and assessment stages of the project cycle. A scoping exercise involves the following tasks:-

- Involvement of relevant authorities and interested and affected parties;
- Identification and selection of alternatives;
- Identification of significant issues to be examined in the impact assessment;
- Determination of specific guidelines or terms of reference for the impact assessment (Dept. of Env. Affairs, 1992; part 2).

It is important that the established forum work together in setting the framework for

which the scoping exercise is to be carried out. The forum should decide on the terms of reference and to ensure that only significant issues and reasonable alternatives are examined. All parties should be satisfied with how the scoping exercise is to be carried out since this will set the groundwork of how the EIA will be undertaken. A proper scoping exercise will ultimately lead to fewer delays and prevent any added costs that may arise later on in the process as well as greater satisfaction with the completed EIA by all the role players involved.

Public participation is a vital component of scoping. A scoping exercise is either carried out through public meetings that are a day long or small meetings held between the key role players. In small rural town development, it is advisable that public hearings are held since the type of development will centre around what the local community thinks is appropriate and their perceptions of the proposed development. There are two problems as identified by Kennedy (Gilpin, 1992). In scoping the main aim is to identify the significant issues and eliminate the insignificant ones. However, one finds that environmentalists rarely agree to eliminate any issue. As a result more issues arise from a scoping meeting than were initially cited. A second problem is the criteria to be used to determine the "significance" of an impact or an alternative, are highly subjective. "Public concern" is often cited as a factor in determining significance.

Common problems noted from past experience is that communities in South Africa are not environmentally conscious and one therefore finds poor attendance at these meetings. People are also not familiar with the operation of the IEM process and thus fail to see the value of the exercise. A common problem is the language and literacy barrier that exists between the consultant and the community. It makes the day's proceeding slow and tedious, usually resulting in some matters on the agenda not being fully addressed. A common problem is that community expectations are automatically raised once they hear about the proposed development and trying to meet these heightened expectations is an almost impossible task. One also finds that certain members tend to hijack the process for their own benefit. With any study there is bound to be limitations which can arise through lack of information, the cost of additional research may be too expensive or limited time. These limitations

should be noted in a scoping exercise (Gilpin, 1992).

Following the scoping exercise, the actual EIA takes place guided by the decisions and terms of reference prescribed during the scoping phase. The duration of the investigation can last about two weeks or a more lengthy investigation lasting between 6-8 months. The duration of the investigation usually depends on the size of the project. Encompassing a full EIA will mean that the following aspects are addressed:-

- I) a study of the hydrology and geohydrology of the area;
- II) a study of the geology of the area;
- III) a study of the physical environment of the area, i.e. topography, natural resources;
- IV) a study of the fauna and flora present in the area;
- V) an archaeological report of the area; and
- VI) a study of the atmospheric conditions may also be needed.

Part of the IEM process is to also undertake a social impact assessment (SIA). This may or may not be carried out by the same consultant. The SIA is done to gain peoples' perceptions regarding the project and to obtain an idea of how it will affect the lives of individuals or society. These impacts can be of a positive or negative nature. An example of a possible impact would be an increased traffic flow in the area, thus resulting in more noise and pollution or how local residents will benefit from the tourism spin-off which will result from the proposed development or the equity of employment from the proposed development.

A positive feature of SIA is that it makes the surrounding communities more aware about the proposed development and psychologically creates awareness and optimism about the project. It also makes the community feel like they are part of the process. An SIA helps strengthen the relationship between the developer and the local community.

2.4.2 STAGE TWO

Once the SIA and EIA (specialist biophysical reports) have been completed, these reports are then presented to the relevant authorities for their approval and to IAAP's for their perusal. These reports should be drawn up according to the guidelines for report requirements as published by the Department of Environmental Affairs as stated in its IEM guideline series. These documents should also be reviewed by the forum to see if the reports from the consultant are satisfactory and within the terms of reference. A record of decision which is the last step of stage two is then taken. The relevant government authorities should be satisfied that:-

- sufficient information is provided in order to make a decision;
- that sufficient consultation with interested and affected parties has taken place;
- that the proposal complies with the necessary legal requirements (Fuggle & Rabie, 1992, p751).

The record of decision must be noted whether approval is gained or not since this can provide an explanation to the concerned parties on how the positive and negative environmental and social concerns were weighted against each other before a decision was taken. This also makes the process more open, transparent and creates accountability. To make the IEM procedure more complete, an appeal has been catered for which can be lodged if the record of decision is against any particular person or if the conditions attached are perceived to be unfavourable.

2.4.3 STAGE THREE

At this stage, the proposed development is implemented subject to the conditions of approval laid down by the relevant authorities. The key to implementing the proposed development without significant problems is to have a detailed, well formulated environmental management plan. There should be a full time project manager employed to oversee the project and to take care of the day to day tasks of the project. A good budget and a time schedule is essential in making the project a success. Progress meetings and reviews should occur on a regular basis as changes may have to be made to the original plan or as new information becomes

available.

Part of stage three is monitoring. This should be carried out during and after the implementation of the project. A monitoring exercise can help analyse the short term and long term effects the proposed development has on the area. The monitoring exercise need not necessarily focus on the environment but also the socio-economic impacts the project has had on the local community. Monitoring can be specific, looking individually at certain sections of the development or the entire project as a whole. It is recommended for SEA that the project be monitored in subsections and in its entirety since in small rural town development, there will be a number of small projects which form part of the overall project.

The last step of stage three is auditing.

“Environmental auditing is a systematic, documented periodic and objective evaluation of how well environmental management systems are performing with the aim of helping to safeguard the environment by facilitating management control of environmental practices and assessing compliance with company policies, which would include regulatory meetings” (Dept of Env. Affairs, 1992, Part 6, p3).

An environmental audit is carried out by a consultant who has had no involvement with the project. The consultant carries out an assessment of the project to see if the project complies with the legal requirements and the environmental management plan. An audit also helps to see if the aims and objectives of the project have been met. An audit works out the value of a project or the cost of decommissioning a project and to rehabilitate the area. Auditing helps provide valuable feedback to the developer of the project as a whole.

2.4.4 CONCLUSION

As it has become necessary to address environmental concerns as part of future planning, IEM can be used as an effective tool to address this need. The use of IEM principles and procedures in the development of a proposal through to the implementation can be an effective tool if it is correctly applied. The use of IEM can

help form the initial database for environmental and developmental considerations in the future. The input regarding future development and other valuable information can be added to the database to assess the cumulative impacts of all development in the area and on a positive side enable more holistic planning in the future. An updated IEM can provide the necessary information for the development of a regional strategy for the greater region i.e. in the case of Utrecht, the IEM document can be incorporated into a regional strategy for the Northern Natal area, once a regional strategy for the area is formulated. The advantage of IEM is that it brings together the major role players, thus providing for the opportunity for decisions to be made to the satisfaction of all role players.

Success in rural town development can be achieved by promoting the strengths of that community via a good management system which incorporates all relevant parties and is a system which takes into account the biophysical and socio-economic components of that area. The correct application of IEM can be this management system which can create sustainable development in small towns so reliant on a particular economic sector for economic prosperity. In the next chapter, the focus will be on looking at and assessing the strengths of Utrecht and how with the use of IEM, sustainable development for this rural town can be created to obviate inevitable economic decline after the closure of Welgedacht Exploration.

CHAPTER THREE

UTRECHT - THE STUDY AREA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The following chapter aims to give one a spatial reference of the location of Utrecht and to create a visual picture of Utrecht by outlining its history and the surrounding environment. By giving an account of the economics of the sub-region, the chapter attempts to provide an understanding of how the town functions. At the same time the chapter highlights the development potential the town possesses and the constraints it faces in terms of development.

Utrecht is a small Afrikaner town located in north western Natal. It lies nestled in the foothills of the Balelesberg Mountains. By road distance, it is approximately 50 kilometres from Newcastle, 50 kilometres from Vryheid and approximately 50 kilometres from Dundee. To the north of Utrecht lies the towns of Volksrust and Wakkerstroom. Paulpietersburg and Vryheid are found in the east. The town of Dundee is situated south of Utrecht and the town of Newcastle with the townships of Madadeni and Ozisweni are found to the west of Utrecht (Figure 3.1). The township of Osizweni is the closest place to Utrecht. Utrecht has a wealth of history being closely linked with the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Anglo-Boer wars of 1880 - 1881 and 1899 - 1901.

Utrecht serves as the commercial and administrative centre for the surrounding farming community and for the coal mines in the area. The villages of Kingsley, Groenvlei, Dejagersdrift and Bloedrivier are administered by the Utrecht municipality. Within the Utrecht magisterial district, the population is predominantly rural based with over 90% living outside town. Utrecht covers 6 400 hectares, most of which is used for mining purposes. Mining has had a significant visual and physical impact on the town as discard dumps and washing and crushing plants are visible from any entrance into the city due to the locations of the various sections (Figure 3.2).

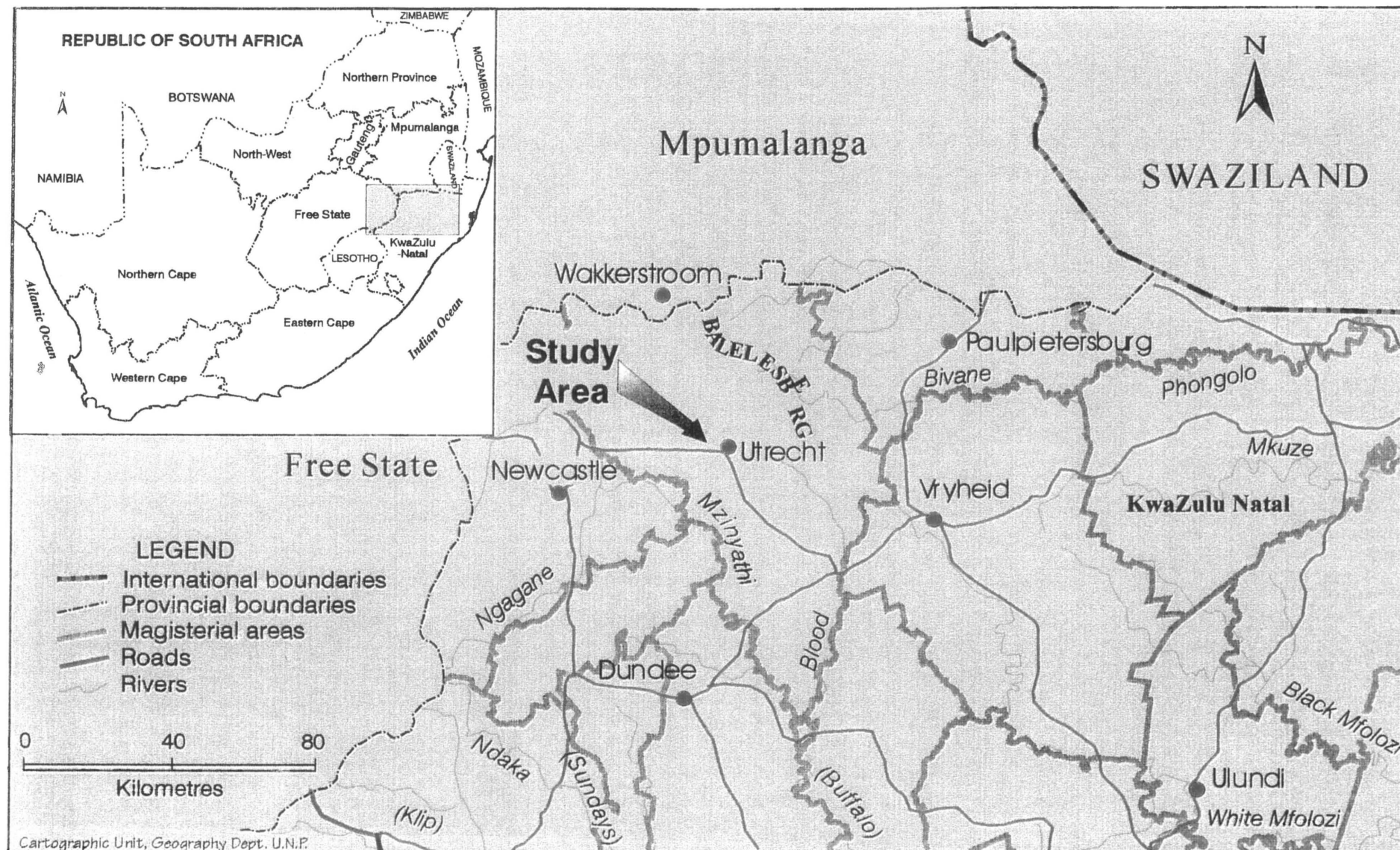


Figure 3.1: Location of study area in North-West KwaZulu Natal

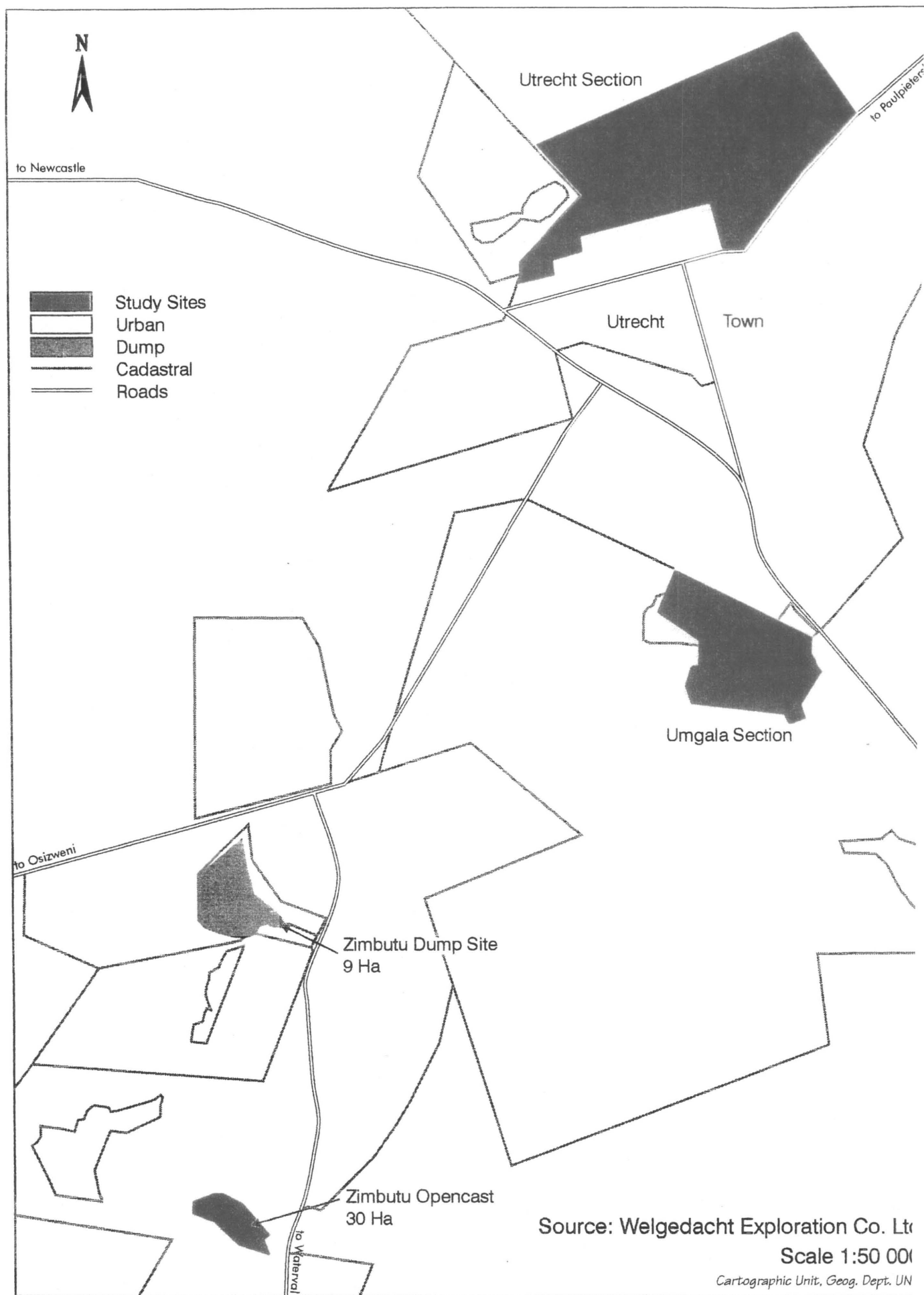


Figure 3.2: Location of Mine Sites

In terms of physical characteristics, the region can be divided in two (Harrison, 1990). In the north there is the high lying areas of the Balelesberg and Skurweberg. The area is included within Bioclimatic Group 4 - Highland Short/Medium Thicket. The northern portion of the region is an area of high potential soils for agriculture, with rainfall of 900 mm to 1200mm. The southern part of the region is a large flat, featureless plain. It is classified as Bioclimatic Group 8 - Upland Mixed Short Thicket - Drier). It has low rainfall with an annual average of 650mm to 900 and the soils are not well suited for intensive crop cultivation.

3.2 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UTRECHT

Prior to the arrival of the Voortrekkers, the district was occupied by Zulu. When the Voortrekkers defeated the Zulu at the Battle of Blood river in 1838, they took over control of the land. This control came to an abrupt end when the British annexed Natal in 1843. A few Voortrekkers led by Andries Spies moved further into Northern Natal where they negotiated with the then Zulu King, Mpande, for grazing rights between the Buffalo and Blood rivers. Utrecht was one of the five original Voortrekker settlements prior to the 1850's (Thukela Experience, 1996). In subsequent years the Utrecht republic was amalgamated with the Lydenburg Republic and thereafter the Lydenburg Republic became part of the "Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek" (Harrison, 1990).

The town established in 1855 was first known by the name of Schoonstroom. The name Utrecht was adopted for the town in March 1856 when Rev. Dr. H.E. Faure of Pietermaritzburg upon his second visit to the area persuaded the congregational church to change the name to Utrecht since his father had studied at the University of Utrecht in Holland (Harrison, 1990).

From 1860 till 1902 the Utrecht district was administered by the Transvaal Government. This period saw an increase in tension in the region over land disputes and boundaries resulting in war firstly with the Zulus, followed by two intense wars with the British. In 1879, the first battle of the Anglo-Zulu War was fought bringing to an end the dispute over the boundary of the land. War was

declared in 1880 when attempts by the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek failed to regain their independence through negotiation. This was the start of the first Anglo-Boer war when British and Boer forces clashed at Laing's Nek (Battlefields Route, 1997). The second Anglo-Boer war took place between 1899 to 1902, the aftermath of which saw the district being transferred to the Colony of Natal for administration (Harrison, 1990). Due to uncertainty, tension and war in the region, very little development took place during this period.

3.3 DEVELOPMENT IN UTRECHT

Until the early 1900's much of the development in the Utrecht region depended on agriculture. With the introduction of the railway line from Newcastle to Durban, the coal industry took off throughout north western Natal. In 1910, Utrecht coal mine opened together with a private railway line from Utrecht to Newcastle (Harrison, 1990). Development of mines within the Utrecht coalfield was particularly slow for two reasons. Firstly, there was a lack of physical infrastructure within the district, and secondly, the Utrecht coal was of the low volatile bituminous type for which there was not a big market. Due to the slow development of the coalfield, the growth of Utrecht was slow as compared to surrounding towns such as Vryheid and Dundee.

Utrecht is a town that experienced accelerated growth in the 1960's and 1970's. This growth was attributed to the fact that the international market for anthracite increased, which saw the opening of the Zimbutu section thus increasing the workforce of Welgedacht and consequently having spin-off benefits for Utrecht. During this period the town expanded and most of the infrastructure was developed. Growth of the town has been slow over the last twenty years. This is evident with more than 76% of the buildings in Utrecht being more than 20 years old (Korsmann & Van Wyk, 1993). The impact of apartheid can still be seen in the town of Utrecht. There is no formal Black area and workers to Utrecht must commute daily from the former Kwazulu regions-Madadeni and Osizweni.

3.4 THE ECONOMY OF UTRECHT

The working population of Utrecht declined drastically from the 1980's onwards. This was mainly due to the closure of the Zimbutu section of Welgedacht Exploration, coupled with the agricultural sector suffering from a severe drought. The working population was reduced from 33,62% to 26,35%, a loss of 2 073 jobs. Although there was a drastic reduction in the number of jobs up to 1991, the mining and agricultural sector still accounted for 75% of employment available. Table 4.1 shows the dependence of the area on the mining and agricultural sector. An external factor adding to this bleak picture is that the country as a whole was in an economic decline due to sanctions and labour strikes.

The lack of a black residential area in Utrecht has meant that valuable spending power earned by the black workers in Utrecht is spent outside Utrecht. This money is now mainly spent in Osizweni, Madadeni and Newcastle. This pattern of spending has resulted in the limited growth of local business in Utrecht. Due to the high dependence on mining and agriculture, the national economy has a tremendous impact on the area. The low price of coal and low demand for coal on the international market resulted in the closure of the Zimbutu section, for example. Europe experienced warm winters and economic sanctions placed on South Africa contributed to a low demand for coal on the international market. Much of the buying power comes from the mine as employees are paid relatively good salaries. The Utrecht Town Council suffered since there was less coal mined from the townlands, they received less royalties from Welgedacht. This could have been a possible reason for the limited development during the 1980's.

TABLE 3.1: Employment figures by sector

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR	NO. OF PEOPLE (1991)	NO. OF PEOPLE (1985)
Agriculture	3 766	4 299
Mining and brickworks	1 714	3 034
Industries	91	61
Electricity and Water	12	26
Construction	96	133
Small Business and Retail Outlets	217	188
Transport and Communication	34	102
Financial Services	41	40
Community, Business and Personal Services	1 354	1 517
TOTAL	7 325	9 398

Source: (Harrison, 1990, p161)

3.4.1 The role of agriculture

In a survey conducted by the Central Statistical Services in 1981, agriculture was the second biggest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agriculture accounted for 27,6% of the GDP (Proceedings of a Workshop, 1990). The importance of agriculture is best highlighted in the percentage of residents it employs within the Utrecht Magisterial District. In 1985, the agriculture sector employed 4 299 people which accounted for 43,9% of the employed labour force.

In terms of crop production, maize is the dominant crop grown in the region. Wheat, soya and groundnuts are also grown on a medium to small scale. The Utrecht

Magisterial District is an important livestock producer as well (Table 4.2). A survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture in 1984, showed that Utrecht was responsible for just under 50% of the north western Natal's wool sheep population.

TABLE 3.2: LIVESTOCK IN THE UTRECHT REGION

LIVESTOCK	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE OF N.W. NATAL
Dairy Cattle	20 228	15.0
Beef Cattle	80 915	14.3
Wool Sheep	205 583	48.8
Goats	11 998	19.4
Pigs	2 706	9.6

(Harrison, 1990).

The high lying areas of the Balelesberg and Skurweberg which make up the Highland Short/Medium Thicket (Bioclimatic 4) make for excellent grazing conditions for sheep and goats.

3.4.2 Problems faced by Farmers

The southern portion of the region falls within the Bioclimatic Group 8 which has low rainfall and poor soils. This land has low agricultural potential and is unsuitable for intensive crop cultivation. Intensive crop cultivation practised in the past has resulted in increased soil erosion and veld deterioration in the area. Economic factors are the biggest threat to much of the farming community in north western Kwazulu-Natal (Pers. Comm., Mr E. van Druten). Increasing production costs and poor soils has seen smaller profit margins over the years. High interest rates has resulted in large debt repayments as well. Farmers also have high transport costs as market centres are far away. Farmers have also identified the conservation of water for the dry, winter months as a problem since there is a lack of storage dams

and the underground water supply is unreliable.

The following factors have hampered the agricultural industry's progress:-

- Poor farming methods as a result of a lack of knowledge and inadequate expertise has resulted in environmental degradation and poor crop production;
- There are a number of absentee landlords who neglect their farms;
- Natural watercourses are polluted as a result of acid mine drainage from coal dumps, waste water from industry and high silt loads due to soil erosion;
- Health, education and security services in the outlying areas are inadequate; and
- There is a lack of suitably trained labour force within the agricultural sector (Harrison, 1990).

In addition, the government's policy regarding a minimum wage for farm labourers will add to farmer's costs. At the same time, security of land tenants will add stability to work situations.

3.4.3 The prospects for forestry

The plateaux of the Balelesberg and Skurweberg Mountains is a good region for timber production since it is an area of very high potential soils with an average rainfall of 900 mm to 1200 mm.

A document called the "National Forestry Development Plan" released in 1990, described the acute shortage of timber in the country and to try and meet this shortfall in the future, north western Natal was identified as one of the regions with good potentials for forestry (Harrison, 1990). There are water implications concerning forestry. Trees tend to use up much of the shallow groundwater thus making recharge of the groundwater table difficult. This results in low stream flows. Trees also use up water through evapotranspiration.

3.4.4 The role of mining

The Utrecht coalfield extends along the Balelesburg, Skurweberg and Elandsberg into the Paulpietersburg districts (Harrison, 1990). The Utrecht coalfield has extensive resources but has never enjoyed a competitive edge over the other

coalfields for two reasons. Firstly, the development of the mining industry has been hindered by the lack of infrastructure within the district, and secondly, the poor quality of coal found in the Utrecht coalfields has made it undesirable. The coal within the district is found to have a very high sulphur content and low ash fusion temperature (Harrison, 1990). Much of the growth of Utrecht in the twentieth century has been closely linked to the coal mining industry. In 1910, the Utrecht coal mine together with a private railwayline was officially opened. Initially, the growth of the town was slow due to the lack of physical infrastructure within the district and poor transportation. Up until the late 1950's, Utrecht was still producing less than 2% of Natal's total coal production. Improved technology resulted in this previously undesirable coal made desirable through washing to remove impurities and through blending of coal to improve quality. The opening of the Balgray, Umgala and Zimbutu section in the late 1960's resulted in the growth of the coal mining industry in Utrecht. Utrecht was now producing 13% of Natal's coal during this period. This period of boom saw significant growth of the Utrecht town which continued through the 1970's as coal production increased in response to improved export prospects.

The increased dependence of Utrecht on the mining and agricultural sectors, resulted in economic decline for much of the 1980's as both these sectors experienced problems (Harrison, 1990). Coal exports dropped, forcing the closure of the Balgray colliery and labour force reductions at the Utrecht, Umgala and Zimbutu sections of Welgedacht Collieries. At the same time the agriculture sector suffered a severe drought, resulting in serious economic problems in this sector.

At the present coal mining in the Utrecht district is carried out by the Welgedacht Exploration Company whose parent company is the Ingwe Coal Corporation. Welgedacht operates three sections, namely, the Umgala, Utrecht and Zimbutu sections which are situated at various sites around Utrecht town (Refer to map). Currently, the mine produces bituminous coal for the Natal inland market and anthracite for the export market.

TABLE 3.3: RESOURCES IN THE UTRECHT COALFIELD

COAL TYPE	IN SITU MINEABLE RESOURCES	EXTRACTION PERCENTAGE	RUN OF MINE RESOURCES
Bituminous	341.5	69	235.5
Coking	122.0	68	81.7
Anthracite	518.0	67	347.0
TOTAL	981.5	67	664.2

Source: Harrison (1990, p163)

The future of coal mining within the district is difficult to assess. Table 4.3 indicates that the existing mines have adequate reserves to last well into the 21st Century, but the large amounts of capital required to exhaust this resource as well as the rather average quality of the coal counts against these existing reserves being mined. Another disadvantage is that mining in this region is difficult and dangerous often resulting in injuries and accidents. Harrison (1990) did identify a positive factor for Utrecht in that the exhaustion of anthracitic resources elsewhere in Natal may lead to renewed interest in the Utrecht coalfield. As can be seen from the table 4.3, Utrecht has 347 million tons of economically extractive anthracite.

3.5 PRESENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The town of Utrecht has essential services and good infrastructure. Areas on the periphery of the sub-region, however, have a lack of infrastructure. District roads are in a poor state and are often impassable during wet conditions. Communication is difficult in the outlying areas due to a poor telephone network. An adequate electricity supply exists in the outlying areas. Water and sanitation is almost non-existent.

There are a number of recreational facilities, all of which are concentrated in and around Utrecht town. Areas on the periphery of the sub-region lack the variety of recreational facilities found in town. While there is the presence of various

commercial services in town, there is not a wide range within each service to provide much of a choice to consumers.

Table 3.4: List of existing recreational facilities.

EXISTING RECEREATIONAL FACILITIES
Caravan Park
Chalets at Utrecht dam (Figure 3.3)
Swimming pool
Six tennis courts
Two bowling greens
Squash Court
Nine hole golf course
Rugby sportsfield
Clubhouse



Figure 3.3: Chalets at Utrecht Dam

3.6 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS OF UTRECHT

There are 32 000 people within the Utrecht sub-region. (Harrison, 1990). Of this 32 000 people, over 90% of them are living in the rural areas. The gender ratio of Utrecht indicates that there are more males than females. The explanation for such a ratio is that the mines employ mainly men from the former Kwazulu areas whom are housed in mine residences. The population within the Utrecht Magisterial district has experienced a negative growth rate of 0.09% from 1985 to 1991. It is assumed that the reason for this negative growth rate during these years can be attributed to the fact that the agricultural and mining sectors had suffered severe setbacks during this time period forcing retrenchments. The community of Utrecht is stable with 51% of the residents living for ten years and longer.

Table 3.5: Population Statistics of Utrecht town

	1980 CENSUS	1991 CENSUS	1996 ESTIMATE
WHITE	1 605	1 521	2 500
COLOURED	308	465	600
BLACK	1611	878	2 500
ASIAN	1	2	6
TOTAL	3 525	2 866	5 606

Source: (Mayor’s Report, 1996)

The buying power of the Utrecht community is limited. As mentioned earlier in the chapter much of the spending power earned by the blacks is spent outside of Utrecht. Twenty three percent of Utrecht's community are pensioners which also means they have limited buying power. (Korsmann & van Wyk, 1993).

Within the sub-region, there are four schools. There are no tertiary facilities within the region. Students who wish to further their studies either study at the technical colleges in Newcastle or at the Technikon and University institutions located in

Durban, Pietermaritzburg or in the Gauteng. Utrecht has a provincial hospital with the capacity of 101 beds. There is also an old age home that has the capacity to accommodate 50 people. There is room for expansion of the old age home.

House ownership in Utrecht is less than fifty percent (Korsmann & Van Wyk, 1993). This reflects the impact the mine has on the area with over half the houses in the town belonging to the mine. With the Utrecht population residing for more than ten years or longer at their present place of residence and not having or working towards house ownership, indicates that most residents are happy to live in mine subsidised housing. It also indicates that most residents do not wish to buy housing because when their employment ceases, they will move out of Utrecht. The average number of people per household is 4,4 but that of family size is 3,3 (Korsmann & Van Wyk, 1993). The difference between household size and family size can be due to the fact that most households have live in maids.

3.7 UTRECHT'S STATUS WITHIN THE REGION

Within the Northern Natal region, Utrecht is recognised as one of the major coal producing areas, along with Vryheid and Dannhauser. Utrecht and Paulpietersburg are the only two built up areas that are considered to serve agricultural interests only. Utrecht is an integral part of the Battlefields route and working with the other towns in the region, can use this route as a tourist attraction. Utrecht has low status within the region as it only receives a small percentage of the development funds available from the regional council (Pers. Comm., Mr L. Barnard). The town had hoped to benefit from the spin off benefits when the National Party government implemented its Decentralisation Policy in the 1990's, choosing Newcastle as a decentralisation point, but this did not materialise since Iscor did not expand as expected and growth was relatively slow. The aim of the Decentralisation Policy was to encourage development away from metropolitan areas and big cities. Newcastle was one of the towns chosen by government to benefit from the policy.

3.8 CONCLUSION

The picture for Utrecht is bleak. Is there hope for this little town nestled in the foothills of the Balelesberg Mountains? The town, with its attractive natural environment, coupled with its rich history, could have the potential to ensure the future survival of the town. What is required is a sound management strategy that can help create sustainable development, that meets the community needs without compromising the natural environment of the area. There is the need to diversify the local economy towards more sustainable economic activities. Mining activities have helped establish an economic platform on which Utrecht can build in a more sustainable manner. The following chapter will look at how best to develop a management strategy for the town as well as assess the various scenarios for development that can be implemented.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO A WAY FORWARD

4.1 INTRODUCTION

While the town of Utrecht has essentially survived and developed around its two primary activities, agriculture and mining, it has become necessary to diversify the economy of this town to ensure not only survival but continued growth. A sound management strategy is the key to achieving this goal and the idea of IEM being the management strategy will be investigated in this chapter. Part of the IEM philosophy is to create development in line with peoples' needs and desires. Sustainable development should aim to meet the community's aspirations in order for the proposed development to be positively perceived. This chapter focuses on how the philosophy and the application of IEM procedure can help stimulate appropriate sustainable development which at the same time addresses the needs of the community, lessens the impact the closure of the mine will have on the town, and also ensures that the proposed development is not at a great cost to the environment. Since the development of various scenarios is part of the IEM process, these will be formulated and analysed as a part of suggesting a way forward for Utrecht.

Five key questions were asked of the major informants identified by me as having influence on the development of Utrecht and the role of Welgedacht mine in the future development of the town. These questions were open ended in order to try and extract greater detail regarding the views held by the respondents. Their responses to those questions will be evaluated below.

4.2 IEM AS A MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Poor management and meeting the developers' interest only, have been the reasons for many a development strategy failing to meet its objectives. A good example of such a project is the Paris Dam project in the Vryheid region which was implemented

without considering the views of affected parties. In this case, the location of the dam was questionable as other sites were seen to be much better suited. However, the building of the dam went ahead and during the construction phase, many problems were experienced with the surrounding community. Such projects can cause untimely delays and add to the project costs due to insufficient participation by interested and affected parties. It is therefore important to have a management strategy acceptable to everyone. To analyse the perceptions regarding the IEM process, the major roleplayers were asked to comment on the various stages of the process.

Table 4.1: Responses to the importance of the various stages of IEM

STAGES OF IEM	NO OF RESPONDANTS WHO VIEWED IT AS IMPORATANT
Scoping	12
Scenario Development	16
Decision Making	16
Implementation	12
Monitoring and Auditing	14

n = 16

Advantages of the IEM process

Interviewees found the following to be a positive aspect about the IEM process:-

- I) The process incorporates all interested and affected parties;
- II) It takes the environment into account; and
- III) It provides for holistic planning (Table 4.1).

The responses suggest that consideration for the environment as part of planning is becoming more important as people realise that there are limited resources available and that the wise use and the conservation of our resources are important. A positive feature of the process identified is that it encompasses holistic planning.

The notion of holistic planning is a relatively new facet. Poor planning in the past led to developments which opposed each other due to poor land use planning and no foresight regarding long term consequences.

The disadvantages of the IEM process

The following disadvantages were pointed out by the respondents:

- I) The process is time consuming;
- II) With so many participants being involved in the process, it is difficult to get people to meet on a regular basis;
- III) Since the process is open and transparent, it is difficult for a developer to maintain a degree of secrecy concerning the proposed development. He will therefore hold no advantage over other interested developers;
- IV) It is easy for parties to derail the entire process by being uncooperative or utilising the process to satisfy their own needs;
- V) People like to see the development occurring first, before they become involved;
- VI) It is therefore difficult to have them involved in the initial stages; and
- VII) The IEM process can be expensive since EIA and SIA have to be done for projects.

The point of communities wanting to see concrete evidence of development first before becoming involved in the process is a debatable one. Many communities like to be part of the process from the beginning as it gives them a sense of ownership and pride by playing an active role with regard to the proposed development. This is highlighted in the Martha Hill Gold Mine case study in New Zealand, where communities were involved in the process from the beginning and this has resulted in the community being proud of having the mine in the area (Gilpin, 1992). It also led to a positive relationship between mine management and the community. Having communities involved throughout the process, will mean that they will also have an understanding of the problems encountered and this helps create tolerance should the project not proceed according to plan. An important skill gained from participation in the implementation stage and from the relevant training is that after project completion, maintenance can still be done by the community.

The view that the IEM process is time consuming is quite valid. If the process of having an EIA and the SIA passed by the relevant government departments becomes quicker, this can save much time. These documents usually take a long time to be passed by the various government departments.

4.3 THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINE

To gain an idea of the role the mine should play with regard to development in Utrecht, interviewees were asked if the mine had a responsibility to the surrounding community.

Table 4.2: Response to the responsibility of the mine

	YES	NO
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	12	4
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	16	0

n = 16

The response to this question was interesting and varied. It outlined that while everyone thought that the mine had an environmental responsibility to control pollution and rehabilitate the affected area, not everyone felt that the mine had a social responsibility to the community. Within the context of social responsibility, responses were varied to the type of role the mine should play. The following points were highlighted to as the role the mine should play:-

- Improve quality of life
- Social upliftment through funding of social activities
- Capacity building
- Provide expertise and skills training for workers and the broader community
- Provide employment for as long as possible
- Support local business and activities.

Comments varied on how active a role the mine should play within the social context. Many were of the opinion that the mine should play a facilitation role and provide the necessary expertise and support needed to kick start training and capacity building workshops. One interviewee was of the opinion that the mine had a tremendous responsibility to the surrounding community, since during the mining operations, those living in close proximity to the mine face the problems of polluted water, high levels of dust and subsidence caused by mining and cracks to housing due to blasting. These communities should thus benefit from mining in the area not only through employment but also from the social and training programme of the mine. This responsibility should be part of the mine management's forward planning as part of preparing for final closure.

An interesting statistic from this question was that all those who were part of mine management said that the mine had a responsibility to provide skills training and social development to the surrounding community. The respondents from the business sector saw the mine as operating like any other business and besides having to provide employment to the local community, the mine had no other responsibility. One other interesting point, was that the local municipality shared in the benefits of mining since they were paid royalties by the mine and they too should have a responsibility to improve the social conditions and to provide social upliftment programmes to the local communities.

du Plessis (1995) identified the mining sector as the next sector after government as playing a major role in the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). This was due to the mining sector being the second largest employer in the country and the major contributor to the country's gross national product (GNP) (du Plessis, 1995). The mining sector should thus play a major role in addressing the inequalities of the past caused by years under the apartheid rule.

4.4 WHAT DOES UTRECHT NEED?

Table 4.3: Facilities identified by respondents as essential

Supermarket	16
Sports Facilities	8
Restaurants	13
Cinema	10
Hotels and Guesthouses	12

n = 16

The number of respondents that would like to see a supermarket in the region is indicative that at present Utrecht offers a poor range of services to the public. A Spar or a Shoprite franchise will offer Utrecht a wider range of products and also of a better quality. As identified earlier, valuable spending power is lost to the town since many people choose to do their shopping in Newcastle where there is a greater range of choice and a variety of goods.

The town is lacking in recreational facilities. There was need for a greater range of sports facilities as well as a cinema. Although Utrecht has many sports facilities as listed in the previous chapter, access to these facilities are to club members only. An interesting point noted from discussion is that Utrecht lacks facilities for the youth. Future planning should address the needs of the youth and provide for community centres and public recreational facilities.

Given the high rate of unemployment in the sub region, the establishment of industries would also be welcomed in the area. Industry would create growth and increase spending power in the town. Small labour intensive industries were seen to be appropriate, as this would not disturb the tranquillity of the town. Industries thought to be ideal were clothing, textile and shoe factories. While the introduction of factories into the area will be greatly welcomed, it is difficult to foresee such a scenario taking place as Utrecht is off the major transport route and railway lines.

Transport costs will be thus high for the bringing in of raw materials or for the exporting of finished products. This will not give factories an edge over other competitors. The other disadvantage is the lack of a skilled labour force within the sub region.

There was agreement that for the population size of the town, the existing infrastructure was adequate. Respondents were of the opinion that to drastically change the town would be a tragedy. The town offers its own set of infrastructure and to have major development will offset the romantic aura offered by this historical town.

4.5 WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD FOR UTRECHT?

Table 4.4: Future options to Utrecht

SECTOR	RESPONES IN FAVOUR
TOURISM	16
SMALL INDUSTRY	3
AGRICULTURE	2
CONSERVANCY	4

n = 16

Tourism was identified as the best way forward for the town of Utrecht. With its rich history and the scenic beauty of the surrounding Balelesberg and Skurweberg mountains, Utrecht will be an attractive destination for ecotourists and those interested in the Anglo-Boer and Anglo-Zulu wars. Although Utrecht was not closely linked to these wars, the role prominent residents of the town played in the war and its close proximity to the Battlefield sites does make it an attractive destination within the Battlefields Route. In order for tourism to work, it was noted that it needed good management and promotion of Utrecht for it to become a popular tourist destination.

A number of respondents saw the need to have industry as well to relieve the pressure created by closure of Welgedacht. With a few small industries and the strong agricultural sector, Utrecht will continue to survive. The success of the tourism industry will create the much needed growth in the town. Four responses were in favour of a conservancy. The logic behind this response was to preserve the natural environment should Utrecht not realise its development potential. While the idea of creating a conservancy is good, it does, however, rule out other forms of development, except eco-tourism.

4.6 WILL UTRECHT HAVE TO WORK IN A REGION?

All respondents indicated that Utrecht would have to function as part of a region to prosper economically. Utrecht could survive on its own but working as part of a region, it most probably will do better. Utrecht could always rely on its original economic activity - the agriculture sector to keep the town economically active, but being involved with the rest of the region can see not only growth for the sub region, but for north western Kwazulu- Natal as well. Tourism has been suggested as a possible way forward and in order for it to be successful, Utrecht will have to work as part of a region since it is part of the battlefields route.

4.7 AN EVALUATION OF MINE INFRASTRUCTURE

It is a commitment made in Welgedacht's Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR) and of the Mineral Act of 1991, that at final closure the mining area must be returned to its pre-mining state. To fulfil this requirement demolition of buildings, sealing of shafts and adits, dismantling of plant structures and rehabilitation of all disturbed areas has to be done. A closure cost assessment is usually calculated on a yearly basis on how much it will cost to return the area to its pre-mining state. The mine uses the closure cost assessment figure as a means to note how much capital should be set aside to obtain final closure. While the requirement of the EMPR is such, it does, however, make provision for items with potential residual value that can either be sold or donated to remain, thus lowering the final closure cost figure as these will not have to be demolished or dismantled.

An analysis was undertaken to look at what structures and facilities were available at the Umgala and Zimbutu sections that could be discounted, if they could be utilised alternatively or sold to interested buyers.

Table 4.5: Closure cost figures to demolish buildings at Umgala Section

ITEM	COST(Rands)
Food Preparation Centre	35 520
Hostel Blocks	701 760
Dining Hall	69 720
Administration and Clinic	57 670
Mine Stores	71 980
Outside Workshop	37 200
Main Workshop Offices	12 960
Machine Shop	24 200
Electrical Workshop	23 650
Main Office	59 250
TOTAL	1 096 910

Source: Stefan, Robertson & Kirsten (1996)

Table 4.6: Closure cost figures to demolish buildings at Zimbutu Section

ITEM	COST(Rands)
Security hut and Toilet	1 500
Office Building	2 370
Hostel Block	260 700
Dining Hall	81 340
Administration Block and Clinic	36 340
Food Preparation centre	47 680
Sports Change Room	19 200
Electrical workshop	6 600
Mine store Offices	4 740
Mine Stores	24 000
TOTAL	484 470

Source: Stefan, Robertson & Kirsten (1996)

As can be seen from tables 4.5 and 4.6, a tremendous saving can be made if these structures and facilities are not dismantled or demolished. This would save demolition costs for the mine and in terms of development, the cost of putting up similar structures if the existing structures are utilised. It is therefore in the mine's interest to have these items with residual value sold or donated. In an interview, Chairperson of the Grass and Wetlands Tourism Association, Elna Kotze suggested that in return for the negative impact that the surrounding community experiences during mining operations, these structures should be donated to them or utilised in a manner which benefits these communities.

Figure 4.1 shows a layout of surface infrastructure at the Umgala section. Various options can be explored as to how to utilise these buildings for the community's benefit. As can be seen from Figure 4.2 and 4.3, these buildings are still in good

condition. A possible way for these buildings to be used is to try and set up satellite schools. With Northern Natal being far away from centres such as Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg, most people from this area do not have access to Technikons and Universities. If one could reach an agreement with a tertiary institution to run distance teaching centres, one will be raising the education status of the people in the area and to the community's benefit. Technikons and technical colleges can make use of the workshops to offer practical training. Most rural communities are associated with low literacy levels. Mine offices can be used to run Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) classes as well as job skilling classes such as sewing, brick making and pottery. Ideally these classes should be located at the Zimbutu section since it is close to the nearby Osizweni and would enjoy good support of the above stated educational ventures.

The Balele Bewaria Conservancy has been set up by Ingwe, the municipality, Kwazulu-Natal conservation, farmers and other interested parties. "The conservancy team envisages this area becoming a popular ecotourism destination in which there will be hunting lodges, traditional houses, arts and crafts" (Ingwe Coal Corporation, 1997). Building structures can also be used for the above purposes. One of the aims of Balele Bewaria is to attract youth to come on camps and other groups for team building exercises. The hostel can thus be converted to house these people when they come on such excursions. The food preparation centre as well as the engineers office block can be utilised by the conservancy.

The concrete silos can be sold to seed companies such as Oos Transvaal Korperasie (OTK) or to Natal Landbou Korperasie (NLK). As a supermarket has been identified as an essential for Utrecht residents, the Umgala mine stores can be converted into a supermarket. The advantage of having it here is that there will be ample space for parking and it is within close proximity to both Utrecht and Osizweni residents. With vast amounts of vacant land, one of the community initiatives will be to set up community gardens. Small offices can therefore be used as an office for the venture and also as a stockroom or a toolshed.

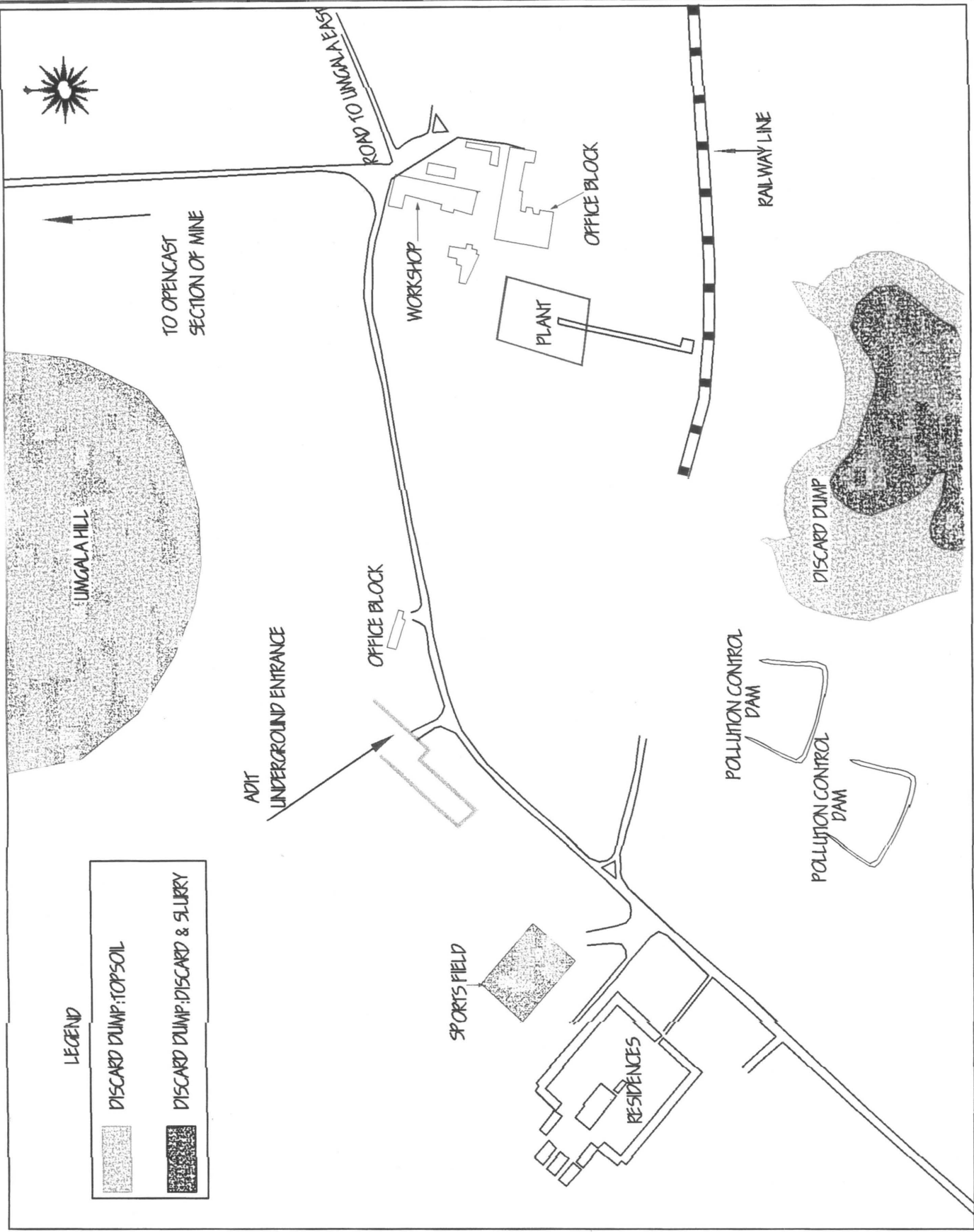


FIGURE 4.1

UMGALA SECTION - SURFACE INFRASTRUCTURE

NOT TO SCALE



Figure 4.2: Administration Offices at Umgala section

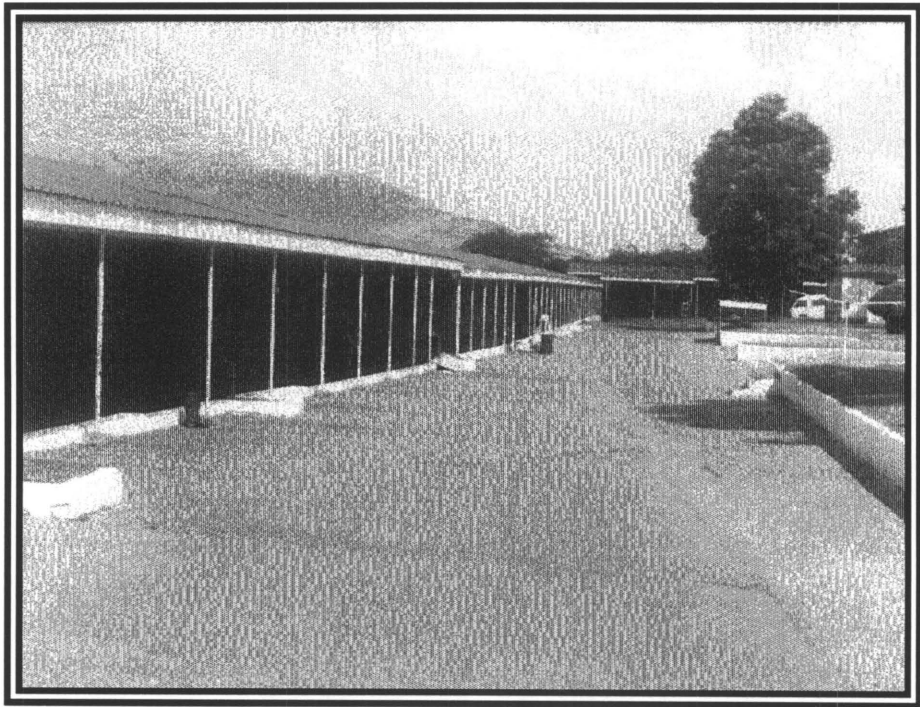


Figure 4.3: Hostel complex at Umgala Section

4.8 VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS

4.8.1 Mining

The future development of the mining sector will depend on whether the Aasvoelkrans Projects is approved by Ingwe. This project is a mining venture. Ingwe is investigating if it is feasible to mine a new section called Aasvoelkrans. Should this project be approved, it will considerably increase the expected lifespan of Welgedacht Exploration. Mining in Utrecht could still continue in Utrecht through contractors (Pers. Comm., Mr A. Kruger). Contractors have fewer overheads than a full scale mining operation, thus making mining more profitable. One does, however, run the risk of increased environmental degradation since contractors tend to be more production minded than environmentally minded and therefore do not always make environmentally responsible decisions (Pers. Comm., Mr E. van Druten).

A possibility for mining is to sell the mine with its mineral rights to mining operations such as Kuyasa Mining. Kuyasa Mining was initiated by black entrepreneurs in conjunction with Ingwe Coal Corporation as a venture to create empowerment of black entrepreneurs (Sunday Times; 13 July 1997). Small coal deposits are bought by them and developed into mines. Welgedacht could sell off sections of the mine and the necessary infrastructure to its employees as an empowerment scheme, and Ingwe Coal Corporation could offer its technical expertise to help such a scheme become successful. This could result in mining operations continuing in the area for a longer period of time. With such a scheme in place, closure of the mine will have a less significant impact than originally anticipated.

4.8.2 Agriculture

Agriculture will continue to be the core of economic activity in Utrecht, but this sector has not realised its full potential within the sub-region. Poor farming practices in the past has resulted in lower crop yields and environmental degradation (Proceedings of a Workshop, 1991). Utrecht farmers have about fifty percent of the sheep population in north western Kwazulu- Natal which represent over 200 000 sheep.

The development of a textile factory, a spin off from sheep farming will help create employment within the sub-region.

Forestry has been identified as a potential growth point. The upper regions of the Balelesberg and Skurweberg have been identified as good areas for tree plantations due to the good soils present in this region and the high rainfall it receives. Forestry, however, is a long term investment but is bound to have positive results since South Africa is currently facing a timber backlog. The prospect of having a timber mill in the future can also be considered. This can, however, take place only after about five years since one will have to wait for the first plantation to grow. There are environmental considerations which must be considered with the introduction of forestry. The plateaux of the Balelesberg is a key area of the catchment area and forestry will have a negative impact on stream flows. The introduction of forestry will have to take place in a controlled manner to mitigate the negative environmental impacts associated with it.

4.8.3 Industry

The prospects for industries within the sub-region is bleak. Utrecht is off the major transport networks for both road and rail. There is also the lack of a skilled labour force and a lack of businesses that offer specialised services such as telecommunication repair companies and computer services. Utrecht does have a vast amount of vacant land which it can offer at a highly discounted rate in order to attract industries. Other than the local clothing factory, the few industries in the area are unlikely to expand in the future.

4.8.4 Housing

There is no formal township in Utrecht. The development of low cost housing within the Utrecht municipality boundary will help relieve the demand for housing which has become a problem at the nearby Madadeni and Osizweni townships. Housing projects will help create jobs, although they may well be of a short term nature. The construction of low cost housing will increase the population of Utrecht and create

much needed spending power within the town. The down side of low cost housing is that it might destroy the aesthetic value that Utrecht possesses as being an old Afrikaner town.

In the likelihood of a housing project being approved for the area, careful planning will have to take place. With mining occurring in over a third of the municipality area, housing will not be a viable landuse as the stability of houses cannot be guaranteed. The possibility of subsidence occurring in the future is a threat to any such projects (Pers. Comm., Mr A. Kruger). It will be best for housing to take place in the stable areas of the buffer zone between Utrecht and Osizweni. This will help create a link between the township and Utrecht, thus helping to attract people to shop in the town.

4.8.5 Tourism

Tourism has been identified as the best possible way forward for Utrecht. The mountains surrounding Utrecht offer much in terms of horse trails, hiking trails and recreational sports such as paragliding and mountain bike riding. Utrecht is also part of the area where some famous battles of the Anglo Boer and Anglo Zulu wars were fought (Figure 4.5).

For more information on each of the Battlefield sites, please refer to Annexure C. Figure 4.4 and 4.6 are illustrations of some of the historical monuments found in Utrecht. The potential of the Battlefields route should not be underestimated. In 1989 a one day centenary was held to commemorate the centenary of the Anglo-Zulu war and up till today the rewards of the centenary are still being reaped (Pers. Comm., Miss P. McFadden).

Utrecht has many historical monuments which are of great value to the town and also have tourism potential. Most of these buildings were constructed towards the end of the last century and represent the architecture of that time. There are a number of national monuments in Utrecht. (Refer to Annexure B for more information).

The South African tourism industry (SATOUR) has chosen culture as its theme from 1997 till 1999. The idea is to promote the cultural dimension South Africa has to offer to its foreign tourists. Utrecht should aim to capitalise on the cultural theme, being part of the area encompassing the Anglo Boer and Anglo Zulu wars which form part of South Africa's culture and history. Utrecht is also within close proximity to the former Zululand and should also aim to promote Zulu art and culture found within the sub region. In a survey conducted by SATOUR, 24% of tourists came to South Africa for its scenic beauty. The surrounding environment of Utrecht is blessed with an abundance of scenic beauty in the form of the Balelesberg and Skurweberg, the Utrecht dam, the Zaaihoek dam, Bivane river and flora of the area.

In 1995, foreign travels to South Africa exceeded one million. (SATOUR, 1996). Thirty one percent of these foreign tourists visited Kwazulu-Natal. If north western Kwazulu Natal could capture ten percent of these tourists that visit Kwazulu-Natal, they will attract 31 000 visitors annually. If each of these tourists spent an average of R100 in the area, they will have spent R3 million within the region. This could provide vital spending power within the region. In addition, there is also the domestic market which needs to be tapped. Kwazulu-Natal is the most popular Province visited domestically (SATOUR, 1996). With most of its visitors being from the Gauteng region and with the north western Natal region located between Gauteng and the coast, good promotion of the region can draw these visitors to the area on day trips or longer.

For tourism to be a success, Utrecht will have to promote itself as part of a region. The region as a whole has the potential to attract visitors to the area. This does not mean that Utrecht does not possess the potential, the problem is that if they promote themselves only, the success of the tourism trade will be limited. Utrecht has also set up a publicity house to help prepare for the Anglo-Boer war centenary which is to take place in 1999. This event could be the catapult that sends tourism soaring into the region and be the possible saviour of this town.

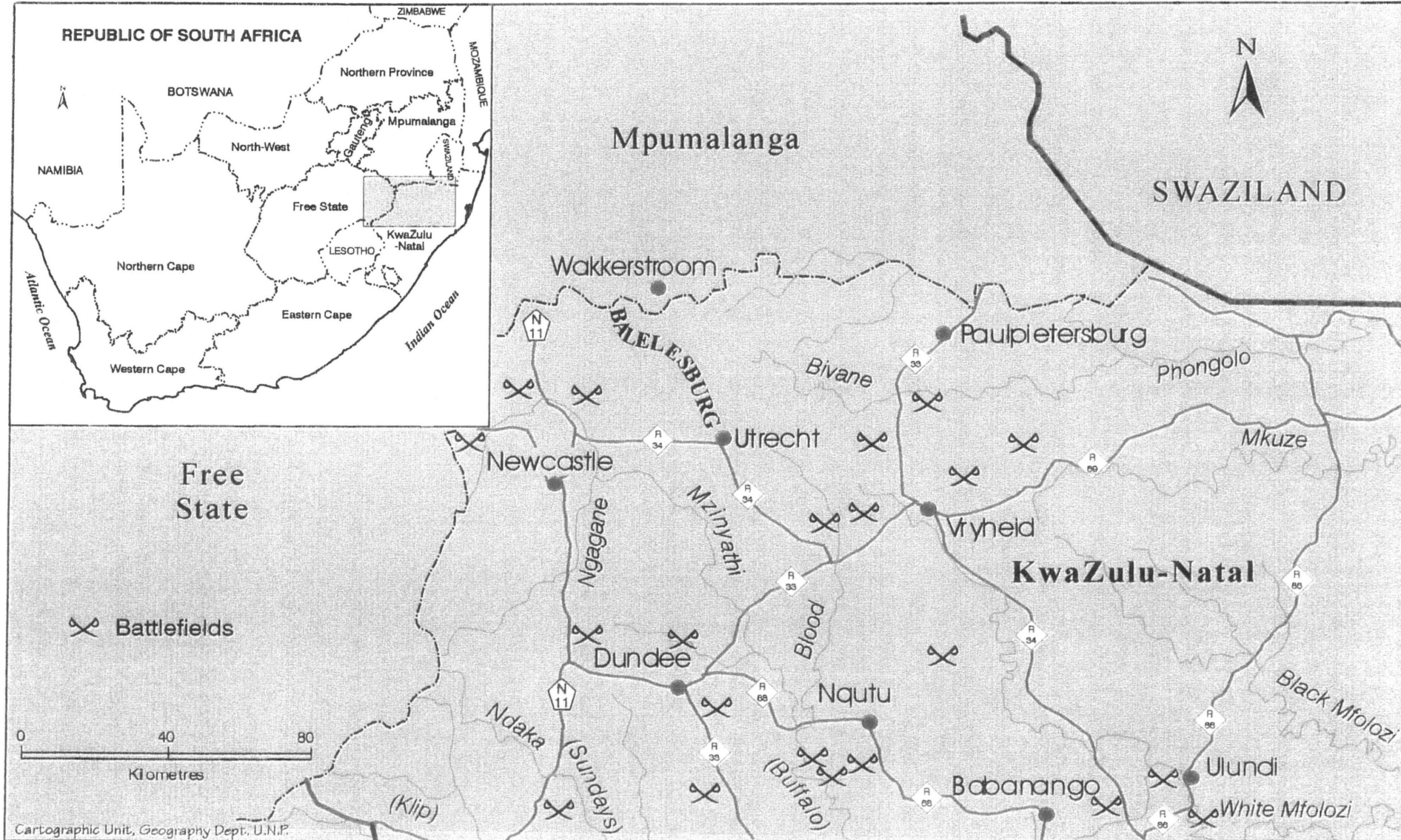


Figure 4.5: Tourist Map Showing Battlefield Sites in North Western KwaZulu Natal



Figure 4.4: Utrecht Museum

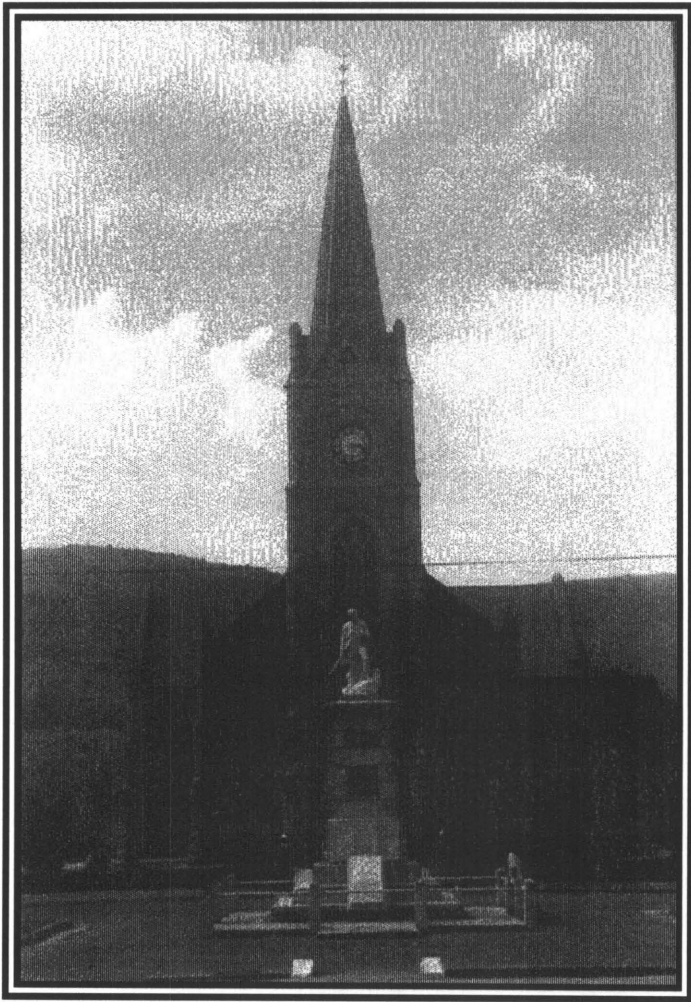


Figure 4.6: N. G. Kerk of Utrecht

4.9 ANALYSING THE OPTIONS

While each development scenario has been individually analysed for its development potential, there is the need for a set of scenarios to be put together for development initiatives to be a success within the sub-region. What is required is the correct combination of scenarios to achieve economic growth and IEM can be used as an effective tool to select this correct combination to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

IEM identifies the major role players who should be part of the development process. It also makes provision for interested and affected parties (IAAP's), as well as specialist input if required, to become involved in the process. IEM suggests an open participatory approach in the planning of proposals. Having the major role players and IAAP's around the table, decisions can be made based on the information available and the transparency of the process ensures that the wider community will be informed about the decisions taken. The key idea of IEM is that its basic principles should aim to direct planning. Policy, legal and administrative requirements should determine the framework around which proposals should be developed (Dept. of Env. Affairs, 1992; Part 1).

Once a path forward has been decided upon, a scoping exercise can be carried out with a full EIA and SIA. The results of such an exercise can help identify possible constraints on the development proposal, or alternatively, identify solutions to already identified problems on how to minimise or eliminate them. Once a proposal has been approved by the relevant authority, IEM makes provision for the proposal to be implemented according to the conditions prescribed. Monitoring of the project aims to see that the development initiative is progressing according to plan. The IEM process makes provision for the proposal to be audited in order to see if the development has achieved the goals and objectives it has set for itself.

Utrecht needs to set up a development forum involving the major role players, the community and IAAP's who can adopt the IEM policy and procedure to create sustainable development in the region. This development forum should consist of

representatives from the following sectors:-

- Local Municipality
- Representative of the farmers association
- Mine management
- Representative of the local community
- Businessmen
- Tourism
- Government Authorities, e.g. Dept. of Env. Affairs
- NGO's e.g., Balele Bewaria

The development forum can then formulate a proposal which can aim to maximise development within the sub-region. With the various possible scenarios suggested earlier on, the forum can help select the correct combination that can work for Utrecht. A similar strategy was adopted at Hlobane. A forum was set up by mine management, interested and affected parties and the local community. An analysis was carried out of the community's needs and a five year development proposal created to help meet these needs (Hlobane Community Complex, 1995). The forum should aim to have a project co-ordinator who can manage the various small projects that form part of the bigger development. One perspective of looking at the way forward is to see how effectively, development initiatives can be combined with the ongoing rehabilitation that will be required after closure.

As much of Welgedacht involves underground mining and the land above is unsuitable for housing, this land can be best utilised for community gardens, game farms and recreational facilities. With the land being utilised in such a manner, subsidence and cracking of the surface due to underground mining, will not have a severe impact. Small intensive vegetable gardens can be set up and managed by women from the community. The advantage of such a scheme is that it addresses the creation of employment opportunities for women. Such an initiative is also an empowering exercise. The mine can initially help set up the scheme by providing the necessary equipment such as pipelines for irrigation and shade netting with the view of handing the project to the community, once it is well established. The products of the vegetable garden can be sold to the local community and with

tourism identified as the best way forward, a number of guesthouses and lodges can also buy their daily vegetable from these gardens. With the Balele Bewaria established, such an initiative can help supplement the conservancy's vegetable needs.

It is advisable to convert rehabilitated opencast pits into game farms if there is insufficient topsoil for rehabilitation. According to Chamber of Mines requirements, rehabilitated areas having a topsoil layer of <25cm should be utilised for wilderness. Areas with topsoil layers of 25cm to 75cm can be used for grazing and wilderness purposes (Pers. Comm.; Mr J. Cronje). Having game ranches in the area will attract tourists. Hunting expeditions can be organised to attract tourists.

The setting up of Satellite Schools should be investigated by the project leader. Negotiations with a Technikon or a University to open such a school should be initiated. The restructuring of available mine infrastructure for the running of skills training classes should be set up. A survey should be conducted on what the community would like to acquire and an appropriate curriculum set up to start such training. The use of the mine hostel and offices for the Balele Bewaria should be initiated. While establishment and conversion of the above is being initiated, rehabilitation of disturbed areas will take place. It would be a positive response of the mine if they could involve the local community with the rehabilitation process. Contractors should be encouraged to employ people from the local community. Tasks such as seeding and fertilising should be done by local people. This will help ease the depression created by retrenchments due to the closure of the mine.

The viability of a mining venture undertaken by contractors or by mine employees if the mine is sold to them should be investigated by mine management. Areas with sufficient coal deposits which can be profitably mined should be identified if such a scheme is possible. The legal and administrative consequences with the implementation of such a scheme should be identified. If such a scheme is to be implemented, the contract rights to sell to the existing market should be handed over as well, thus making the mining option worthwhile.

The municipality should look at the possibility of low cost housing projects. Suitable areas should be identified and proposals put forward to the Provincial Government. The local municipality should look at means of attracting small industry to Utrecht. These industries should be agriculturally linked towards forestry or wool as these factories have a greater chance of being a success within the sub-region.

Tourism initiatives have started in the area. A publicity association has been set up at the main entrance of the town. The person employed for the publicity association should also manage and encourage tourism in the area. The incumbent should be able to provide expertise to those who wish to become involved in the tourism trade and should have a relatively good knowledge of the area and history to help tourists visiting the area. A brochure outlining the towns tourist attractions needs to be made and distributed to other publicity associations. This will help create awareness of the town. This person should also represent Utrecht at regional and provincial level with regards to tourism, thus ensuring that Utrecht benefits from any promotions and development within those structures.

The caravan park in Utrecht is very popular but can only accommodate a limited number of people. Plans for the future upgrading of the caravan park should be made. There is also a lack of guesthouses and lodges in Utrecht. Local residents should be encouraged to start guesthouses. These guesthouses should be of a high standard and ideally should be evaluated and given a rating by the Provincial Tourism Authority or by SATOUR to maintain a high level of quality within the industry.

4.10 MAKING TOURISM WORK

Utrecht must become actively involved in the Anglo Boer War centenary or it might lose out to other centres within north western Kwazulu-Natal. There should be a network established of the various activities found within the region. The region should aim to have a wide range of facilities on offer to the tourist. This will ensure that a tourist interest is constantly maintained when visiting the area. A network of activities in the area is thus required to avoid duplication. With a network

established, each centre can offer some other kind of activity to maintain the tourists interest in the area. An established network of activities and the promotion of it will ensure that each centre within the region benefits from tourists coming into the area.

Not only is there a need for a network of activities, but there must be co-ordination of any activities and functions held within the region. There cannot be a number of functions taking place at the same time. Tourists will be unsure which to attend and since each function will be in competition with each other, there will be poor attendance. Activities need to be planned in accordance with each other to prevent such mishaps. There should also be a blend between the different activities. For example, if a sports activity is occurring in Newcastle, Vryheid should have a cultural type of activity thus offering an option to those within the region. Activities must be planned such that it ensures visitors will eventually visit each area. A good example can be that of fishing. There are a number of fishing clubs and fishing competitions held within the region annually. Competitions should be held at different centres regularly thus attracting visitors to visit areas they have not been to previously. A regional competition should also be held which ensures that members of the fishing clubs visit the various dams in north western Kwazulu-Natal.

There is a definite need for a person to represent Utrecht with regard to tourism at regional level. Such a representative can partake in the establishment of a network and co-ordination of the broad ranging activities that takes place within the region. Good networking by the various centres and the cross fertilisation of activities will increase the appeal of the area for tourists.

4.11 HOW CAN THE MINE CONTRIBUTE?

Initially, the mine can help facilitate the setting up of a development forum. The mine has the necessary infrastructure and expertise to implement a development forum. They can provide the administrative expertise required to get such a forum working. Welgedacht can also fund the conducting of an SIA to assess the community needs and the major roleplayers who should be part of the development forum. In the past, there has been a poor response by communities to become

involved in development initiatives due to failure to see the benefits of being involved (Pers. Comm., Mr B. Zungu). SATOUR has trained staff who help in educating communities on the benefits of community participation. Such an initiative could be undertaken by Welgedacht to ensure greater and more fruitful participation by communities. Welgedacht can also help in the provision of training for a full time person committed toward increasing tourism in the sub-region. Adequate training should be given to this person by sending them on capacity building workshops to acquire the appropriate skills.

4.12 CONCLUSION

Tourism has been identified as the best way forward for Utrecht, but there are a number of segments within this industry which have been identified to be lacking and these should be improved upon before tourism can start realising its potential. With the improvement of the relevant infrastructure and good promotion of Utrecht, the town can capitalise on the upcoming Anglo-Boer war centenary which is to take place in 1999. Welgedacht has a number of facilities which can be utilised for community development. A full SIA should be carried out to identify community needs and how the mine infrastructure, its technical expertise and administration can be used to meet these requirements. Utrecht can grow, provided it draws up a good plan of action on how best to promote and develop itself. The application of IEM can help create this plan of action. This chapter has identified potential sectors which have growth and employment potential and these should be explored in greater detail as the basis for initiating development in Utrecht.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The value of IEM lies not in the process leading to the development of a proposal or in its implementation and monitoring of a project, but what it aims to achieve in the development process. It aims for greater and more useful community participation, holistic planning and better landuse management. IEM strives to guide rather than impede the development process. "It aims to provide a positive, interactive approach to gathering and analysing useful data from the earliest stages of planning to the final operational stages of any conservation or development action" (Council for the Environment, 1990).

There is the general feeling that community participation in South Africa occurs at a level of tokenism. It is difficult to direct blame towards the developers for failing to ensure greater levels of community participation or actual communities for not wanting to become actively involved with development initiatives in the area. Part of the problem does lie with community leaders. From past experience, it has been noted that leaders fail to give feedback to the rest of the community thus alienating it from the proposed development. If community leaders could act as good communicators between the community and developers then there will be a better flow of information, increased awareness of impending developments and a more positive attitude displayed towards the project by such communities. What is required is effective means of mass communication that can be used to convey messages to the community, such as the local newspaper, placing notices at community boards and pamphlets. There is also a need to educate community leaders about their roles. This can be achieved through capacity building workshops.

IEM helps to utilise one's resources in a sustainable manner. The use of IEM allows one to operate at a local, regional, provincial and at a national level. IEM makes provision for this by allowing for new information to be added. With new information always being added to the database, decisions can be made based on the best set of data available at that time. The continued use of IEM can effectively

result in a single environmental database being established and updated as more information becomes available with time. This single database can grow as other centres employ the IEM procedure or conduct individual EIA's and SIA's. The database will also ensure the sharing of information between neighbouring towns and cities and, consequently result in effective corridor development. Cumulative impacts of development can be taken into account on a wider scale as the database grows. The database can ensure that better landuse management and planning takes place on a regional and even provincial level.

IEM can be an effective tool in small town development if it is applied correctly. Welgedacht should employ the IEM procedure as a mechanism to initiate development proposals for the town of Utrecht. The IEM procedure can help identify the sub-region's assets and provide alternatives on how best to utilise them in a sustainable manner to the benefit of the region. Welgedacht should also explore how the company can contribute to the development process in terms of its facilities, expertise, administratively and financially. A second component of exploration should be on how to combine the rehabilitation programme with the development process. In this way the mine can try to achieve legal compliance with its commitments as stated in the mine's EMPR without having to compromise the development process.

Ingwe Coal Corporation's environmental mission is to care for the environment with the long term welfare of society as its guiding principle (Ingwe Coal Corporation, 1997). As closure of the mine gets closer, they can start employing the principles outlined in this document, to create sustainable development in Utrecht. This study can be used as a starting point to explore various alternatives in terms of development once a development forum has been established. Utrecht has beautiful surroundings provided by the surrounding mountains and the area has a fascinating history and this should be capitalised upon to stimulate economic growth. Pujol and Coit (1995) note that many of the proposals suggested to reverse the decline of old mining and industrial areas in developed countries is to emphasise the cultural and environmental dimensions as key components of future development initiatives for these areas. They use the example of Cardona in Spain

to show the transformation of this town which was dependent on a potassic salt mine for most of the employment in the area and how the resources of the area were used to promote leisure and tourism. There is no reason why Utrecht cannot follow suit.

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PERSONNEL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr N. Finch	-General Manager - Welgedacht
Mr E. van Druten	- Environmental Manager - Welgedacht
Miss P. Zietsmann	- Human resources Manager - Welgedacht
Mr A. Kruger	- Production Manager - Welgedacht
Mr L. Barnard	- Utrecht Mayor
Mr A. Lotz	- Bank Manager- First National bank
Mr R. Stanaard	- Ranger - Balele Bewaria
Miss P. McFadden	- Curator - Talana Museum
Mr B. Zungu	- Utrecht Development Forum
Mrs E. Kotze	- Grass and wetlands Tourism Association
Mr V. Morgan	- Laboratory manager (Savmore Colliery)
Mr J. Cronje	- Environmental Manager - Middelburg Mine Services.
Mr M. Ghazi	- Welgedacht - Accountant
Mrs C. Camren	- Managing director - Hlobane Community Complex
Mrs L. Pieters	- Manager - Standard Bank.
Mr T. Briel	- Chief Timekeeper
Mr S. Buthelezi	- NUM Official
Mr A. Van Wyk	- Businessman

ANNEXURE A

List of key informants and who they represent.

Industry

Mr N Finch	- General Manager - Welgedacht
Mr E. van Druten	- Environmental Manager - Welgedacht
Miss P. Zietsmann	- Human Resources Manager - Welgedacht
Mr A. Kruger	- Production Manager - Welgedacht
Mr M. Ghazi	- Accountant - Welgedacht

Labour

Mr S. Buthelezi	- NUM Official
Mr T. Briel	- Chief Timekeeper

Business

Mr A. Lotz	- First National Bank
Mrs L. Pieters	- Standard Bank
Mr A. van Wyk	- Local Businessman
Miss P. McFadden	- Curator - Talana Museum

Local Authorities

Mr L. Barnard	- Mayor of Utrecht
---------------	--------------------

Community Based Organisations

Mr R. Stanaard	- Balele Bewaria
Mr B. Zungu	- Utrecht Development Forum
Mrs E. Kotze	- Grass and Wetlands Tourism Association
Miss C. Camren	- Hlobane Community Complex

ANNEXURE B

List of Utrecht Attractions

Attractions

Anglican Church erected in 1899

Commemorative Tablet One of the most famous foreigners who fought with the Boer forces during the second Anglo-Boer War was Captain Leo Pokrowsky, a Pole who was an officer in the Russian army. He was killed in a skirmish on Christmas Day 1900 when he and his men attacked the British garrison in Utrecht.

Dutch Reformed Church A national monument, this magnificent old building was erected during the ministry of Rev. H.L. Neethling, the first moderator of the Nederduitsche Hervormde or Gereformeerde Kerk of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal).

Historical Walk Experience Utrecht's rich architectural heritage. The route is set out in the Historical Brochure obtainable from the Information Office.

Irrigation system - started in 1860 the system was considerably extended up until 1865.

Landdrost, Pos en Telegraafkantoor - a national monument erected in 1892.

Old Cemetery Graves of well-known Voortrekkers and British soldiers.

Old Parsonage Museum This charming sandstone building on the corner of Kerk and Loop Streets, now a national monument, houses the Utrecht Museum. Besides the period rooms, the museum portrays the border dispute between the Transvaal and Zululand.

Old Residency erected in 1892 - a national monument.

Old Republican Powder Magazine erected in 1893 is one of three similar structures built by the Transvaal.

Peter Lafras Uys Monument A well known Zulu War Hero, Petrus Lafras Uys was one of the original settlers in this area in 1847. He was the first Landros (magistrate) appointed by the Z.A.R. after Utrecht was officially incorporated into the Transvaal.

Rothman House & Shaw House Both national monuments, these houses are considered to be among the finest examples of colonial residential architecture in rural Natal. Both are now private residences.

Sandstone section of the Old Gaol - not a national monument but it is one of the two remaining sections of gaols of the ZAR (before 1900) still in existence.

Site of the Battle of Blood River and Baltes Spruit Blood River battlesite is situated in the district of Utrecht and the site was for many years the property of the Utrecht Dutch Reformed Church. It was later transferred to the Nederduitsche Hervormde Kerk of the Transvaal. (See *Zulu-Voortrekker War feature on pg 14*) Baltes Spruit was the site of Col Wood's fort and stores depot - approximately 25km on the road to Blood River.

The Buffalo Bridge 30km from Utrecht on the old road to Newcastle.

The Bloedrivierpoort Battlefield on the road to Vryheid is the site of the battle fought to prevent Louis Botha's second attempt to invade Natal in 1901.

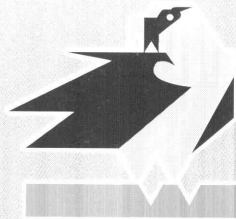
Town Hall (1913) a national monument; Waainoek Farm about 14km out of town on the way to Blood River.

ANNEXURE C

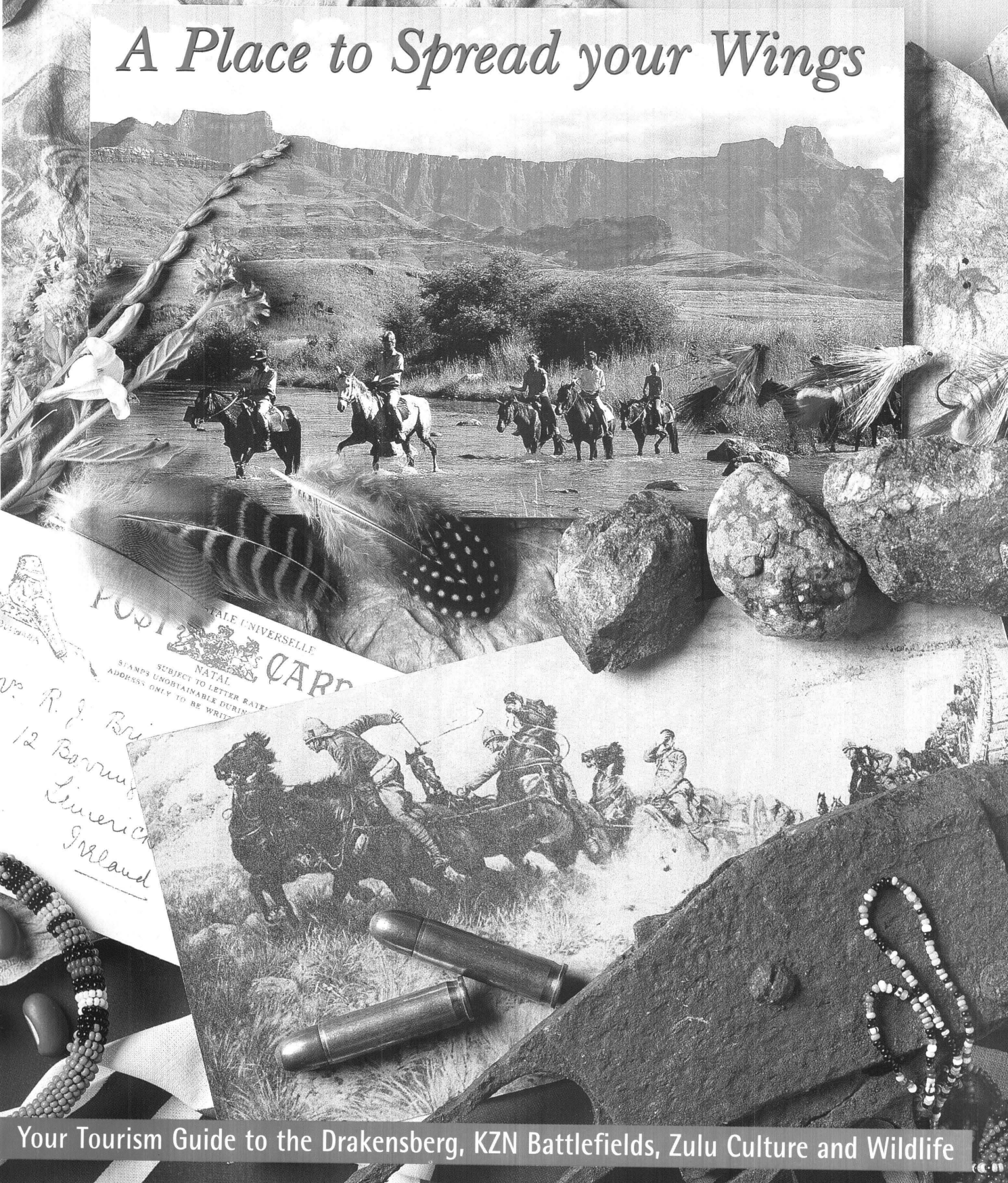
Added information on Battlefield Sites

The Uthukela Regional Council and Umzinyathi Regional Council welcomes you to

BERG & BATTLEFIELDS



A Place to Spread your Wings



Your Tourism Guide to the Drakensberg, KZN Battlefields, Zulu Culture and Wildlife

Welcome to Berg & Battlefields, a joint tourism initiative by the Uthukela Regional Council and Umzinyathi Regional Council of KwaZulu-Natal. It is not practical for this publication to be a comprehensive travel guide, but we believe it will whet your appetite and lead to your planning an exploration of the region soon. Whether its the magic of the Drakensberg mountains, the evocative and poignant memories of the Battlefields, a fascinating insight into the customs and culture of the Zulu nation, the thrill of driving the Roof of Africa, or a discovery of the fauna and flora, our region has so much more to offer the visitor.



Berg & Battlefields is published by the Uthukela Regional Council and Umzinyathi Regional Council as a service to tourists and holiday-makers.

The publication was designed, compiled and edited by Kenyon • Conway AMP, with the assistance and support of the publicity associations of the region.

Project Editor: Rodney Kenyon

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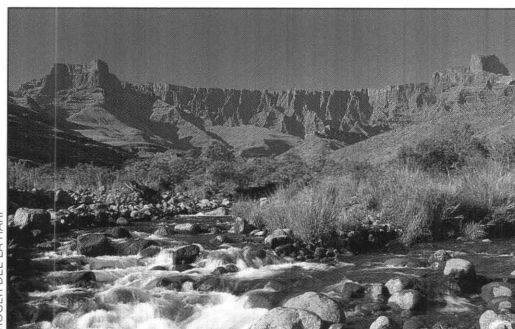
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Every effort has been made by the publishers to ensure that the information contained in the publication is accurate at the time of going to press.

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BERG & BATTLEFIELDS CONTENTS

*Your Guide to the Drakensberg, Roof of Africa,
KwaZulu-Natal Battlefields, Zulu Culture and Wildlife.*



ROGER DEL LA HARP

The Barrier of Spears

It is the legendary abode of dragons - and one of the most spectacular tourism attractions in all of Africa. The Central and Northern Drakensberg mountains beckon young and old alike. Here you are free to set your own pace - and every season has its own special magic.

page 1



STEVEN PRYKE

The Roof of Africa

Explore this spectacular self-drive circular route through the mountains of Lesotho, the golden Eastern Free State, and the Kingdom of the Zulu. Comfortably within the capabilities of the family car, it offers a fascinating insight into Africa's soaring mountain kingdom.

page 12



JACQUES BREEDT

The People of Heaven

The Zulu are a proud people who treasure their heritage. During your stay in the region you will constantly come into contact with the customs, traditions and culture of the amaZulu - the People of Heaven; and learn that there is a reason for every action and gesture.

page 14



STEVEN PRYKE

The Battlefields

Over a period of 55 years, the scenic and tranquil landscape of the central and northern regions of KwaZulu-Natal was the site of the bloodiest and most significant battles fought on South African soil. Every town, historical building and battlesite has a tale to tell.

page 18



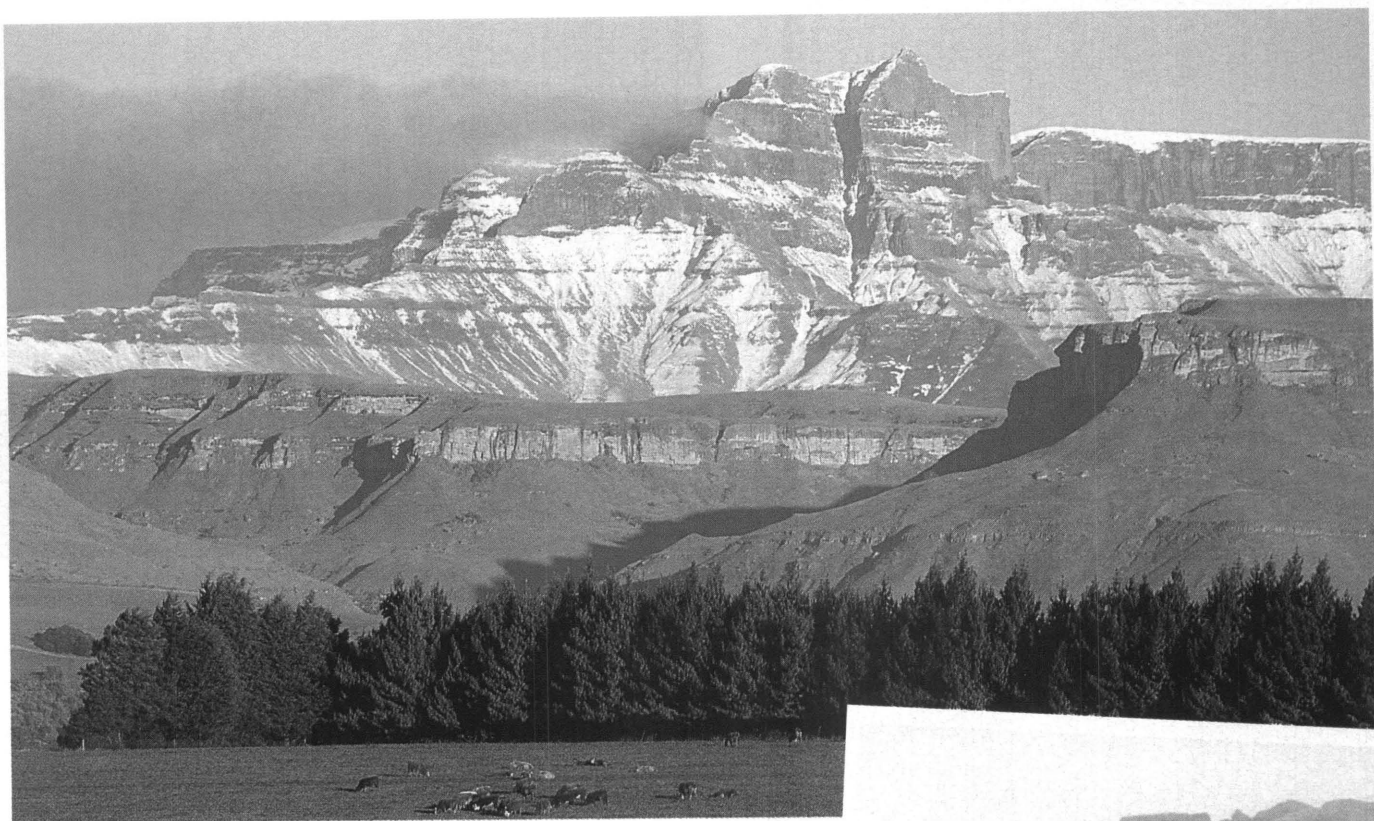
STEVEN PRYKE

Wildlife

Whether its watching the giant predators of the mountains at a vulture restaurant in the Berg, or game spotting elephant and white rhino in the Thukela Biosphere, there are numerous game parks and nature reserves throughout the region to capture the imagination of every visitor.

page 33

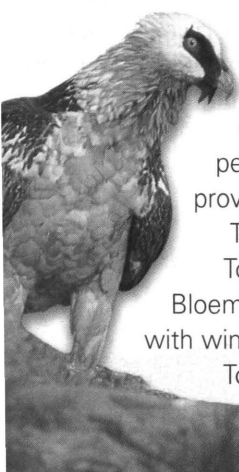
The CENTRAL AND NORTHERN DRAKENSBERG



STEVEN PRYKE

*The Zulu call it uKhahlamba
- the barrier of spears. It is the
legendary abode of dragons - and one
of the most spectacular tourism
attractions in all of Africa.*

The geologists explain that it all began with a big bang - a global upheaval that sundered the continent of Gondwanaland. One of the fragments formed the shape of South Africa. Its southern tip was exposed to the elements for millions of years, and the mass of basalt along its eastern flank began to erode at the rate of 30 centimetres every 250 years. An undulating and fertile scar, which we call KwaZulu-Natal, was left behind.

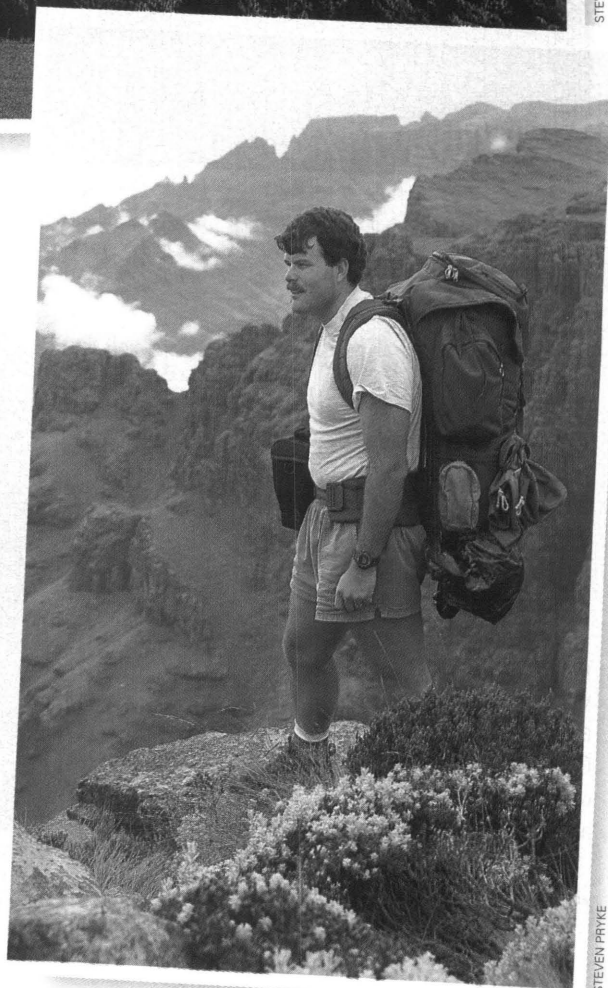


The remnants of that original basalt mass remain as an imposing mountain range soaring to 3 000 metres - the majestic Drakensberg.

If the scientists have reduced the origins of this natural wonder to cold hard facts, the people who have opened their hearts to it have provided the flights of fancy.

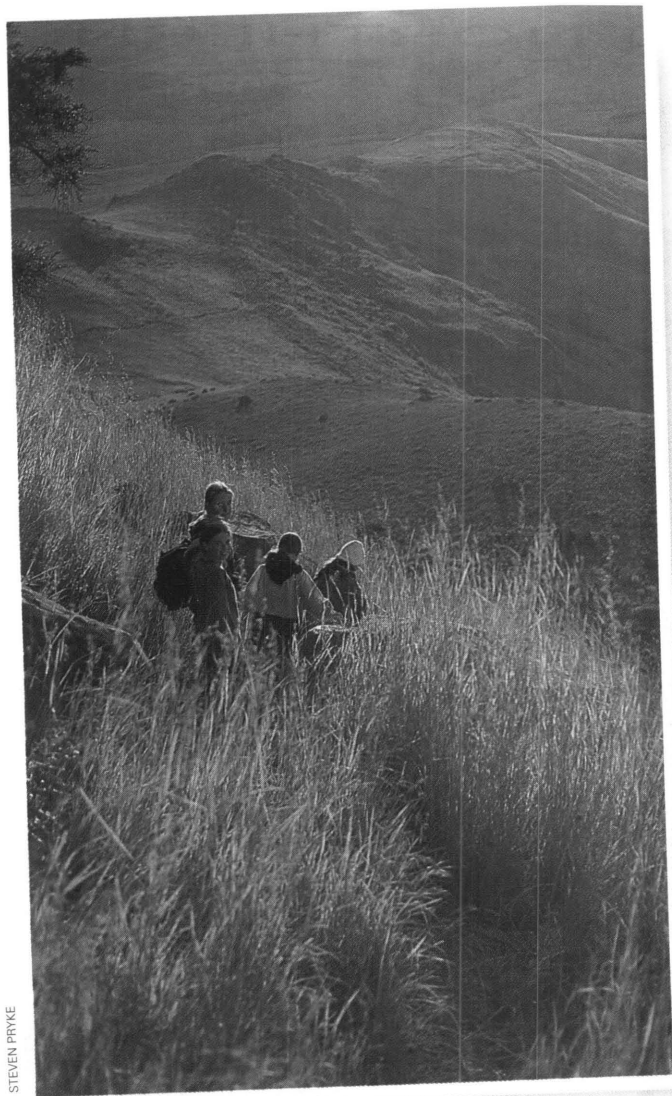
To the poetic Zulu the Drakensberg was a barrier resembling a row of spears - *uKhahlamba*. To the superstitious it was the abode of spirits and legendary monsters. In 1877 a report in a Bloemfontein newspaper told of a farmer and his son who claimed to have seen a dragon - a giant lizard with wings and a forked tail - flying high above the cloud-shrouded peaks of the dragon mountains.

To the modern traveller the Drakensberg is a wonderful holiday destination - a place of unforgettable beauty, outdoor pleasures and entertainment.



STEVEN PRYKE





STEVEN PRYKE

- *The Berg is a wonderland of discoveries for young and old alike. Every season has its own special magic and there are countless places of interest to explore, and a wide range of outdoor activities to pursue.*

Set Your Own Pace

With a long-established reputation for superb accommodation and stop-over options, the Drakensberg - or Berg as it is more popularly known - offers countless places of interest and a wide range of outdoor activities to all comers. Or you can simply soak up its awesome quiet and solitude.

The Berg beckons young and old alike.



STEVEN PRYKE

- *Hiking in the Berg can range from an easy amble to view a nearby attraction to an overnight climb to the higher reaches of the mountains.*

Music and art lovers, hikers and nature seekers, anglers and birders, rock climbers and historians, golfers

best time of year to be in the mountains. Summer days are hot and sunny, with calm, cool nights. Winter brings crisp, clear days with the long evenings cold and bracing.



STEVEN PRYKE

- *Mountain bikers are always welcome in the Berg, and there are two-wheel trails of varying levels of fitness and competence. Bikers must, however, not compromise established walking and hiking trails.*

and mountain bikers : there's something here for everyone, and every visitor is free to set their own pace.

One of the pleasures of holidaying in the Central and Northern Berg is that every season is the

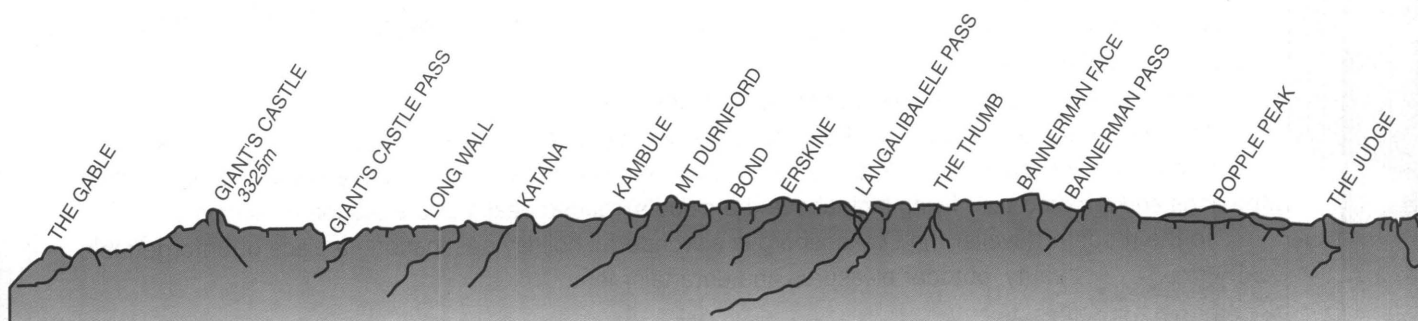
Daywalks and Hiking

Whether you prefer to stroll through secluded, shaded valleys, walk the rolling foothills, hike the upper reaches or take on the challenge of man against mountain, the Drakensberg is certainly a wayfarer's paradise.

The nicest thing about hiking in the Drakensberg is that there are so many

fascinating landmarks that can be reached with a comfortable walk and the minimum of climbing.

Most resorts, hotels and camps in the Berg can recommend a wide variety of routes, from a short easy amble through indigenous fern forests to admire a nearby attraction, to more strenuous one-day hikes that trail over river and hillside - or head for the more imposing high ground.



THE GABLE

GIANT'S CASTLE
3325m

GIANT'S CASTLE PASS

LONG WALL

KATANA

KAMBULE

MT DURNFORD

BOND

ERSKINE

LANGALIBALELE PASS

THE THUMB

BANNERMAN FACE

BANNERMAN PASS

POPPLE PEAK

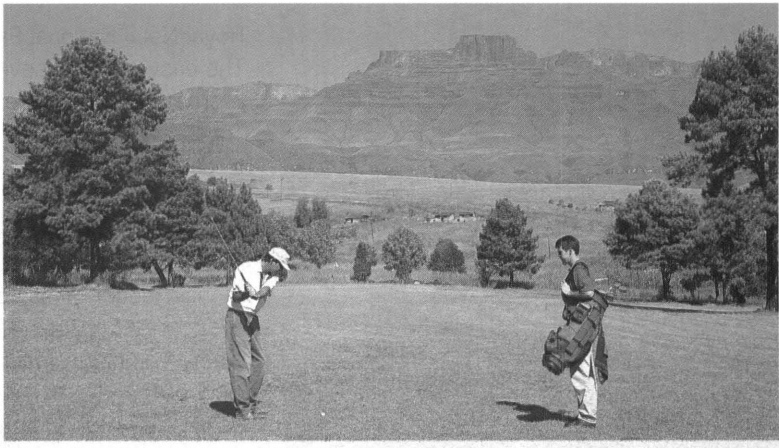
THE JUDGE

There is nothing to beat walking or hiking in the high country. You can breathe clean, crisp mountain air as you revel in the sights and sounds of nature. And you'll have sensational memories of finishing an outing with an exhilarating dip in a crystal clear stream or a plunge into a mountain pool hidden in the sandstone bedrock.

Walking and hiking in the Berg is safe and secure - provided a few simple ground rules are observed.

In winter, the higher reaches become spectacular snow-scapes, with the valleys and peaks transformed into a wonderland of white. But if you're adventuring at this time of year, you need to be aware that glorious sunny days can quickly turn into misty, snowy conditions. So it is essential that you sign the hiking register at your resort, or at the beginning of the trail, before heading out.

In summer, the Berg is idyllic with bird-song, luxuriant grasses and

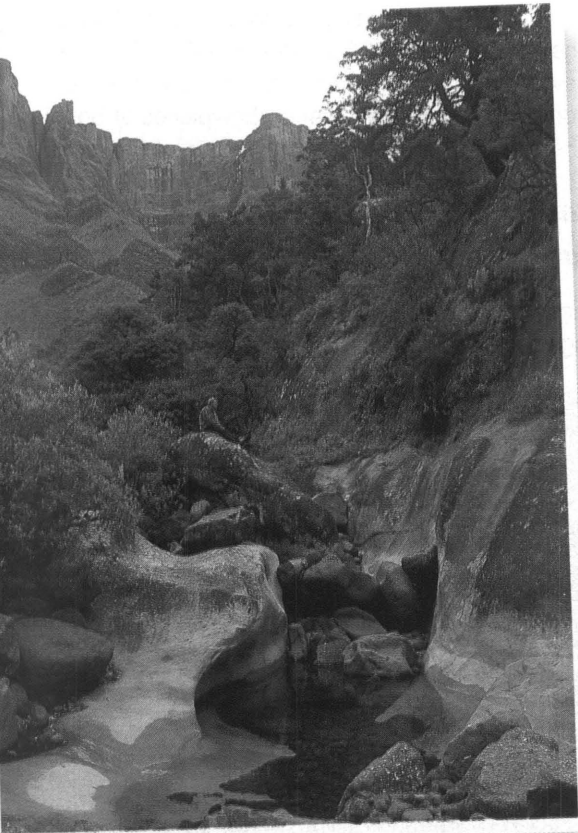


CHAMPAGNE SPORTS RESORT

A Swinging Affair in the Mountains

There are four challenging golf courses in the Central and Northern Berg area, each set against the backdrop of the majestic mountain peaks. The courses are open to the public but it is recommended that visitors telephone ahead to confirm starting times.

- Cathedral Peak Hotel 9 holes Tel: 036-4881888
- Champagne Sports Resort 18 holes Tel: 036-4681088
- Hlalanathi Berg Resort 9 holes Tel: 036-4386303
- Monks Cowl Country Club 9 holes Tel: 036-4681918



• The Tugela Gorge, is a favourite destination for hikers in the Berg. In winter, the river often ices over, transforming this secluded spot into a sparkling wonderland of ice.

wildflowers - and cool streams cascading through gorges and rock pools. But if you're setting out on a walk on even the most benign summer afternoon, be alert for sudden thunderstorms that seem to come from nowhere, and may be followed by a short spell of unseasonal cold. So in addition to a camera, do carry a jersey or rain jacket.

The Berg is also tempting terrain for mountain biking, and trails of varying levels of fitness and competence have been developed. But bikers are invited to pursue their sport only on condition that walking and hiking trails in the area are not compromised.

Champagne Valley

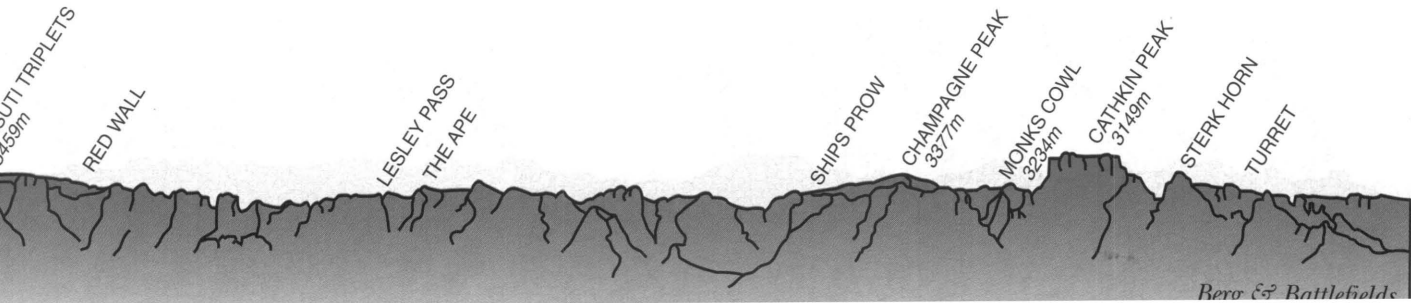
Snuggled up against the towering and imposing summits of Cathkin Peak and Champagne Castle, and bisected by the Sterkspruit

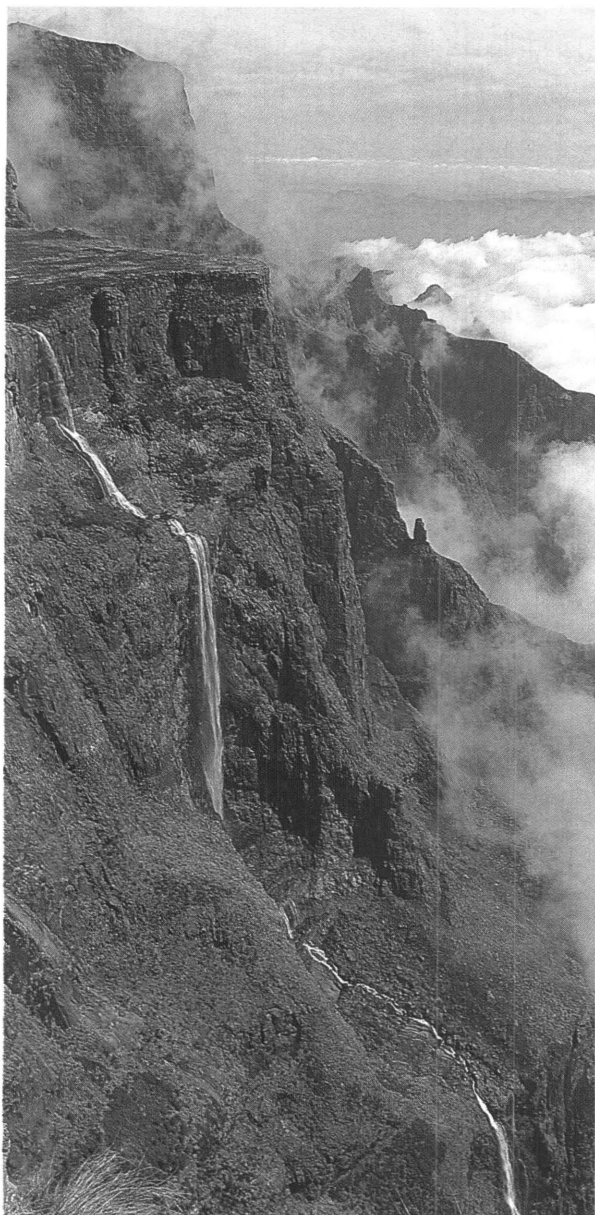
River, the Champagne Valley in the Central Berg is a natural stepping-off point for a leisurely exploration of the attractions of the Berg.

It is the heart of the Mountain Meander, a tourism initiative which invites you to visit surrounding battlefield sites (particularly Spioenkop, one of the most bravely fought battles of the Anglo-Boer War), game reserves, numerous arts and crafts outlets and, of course, the world famous Drakensberg Boys Choir.

The Champagne Valley offers visitors accommodation in a wide range of establishments, from camp sites to guest farms and mountain lodges - including many of the best known and longest established hotels in the Berg - and many visitors to the region use it as a base for their daily explorations further afield.

Attractions in the valley include two golf courses, well stocked trout and bass fishing spots, hiking and horse trails, white water sports, the fascinating vulture restaurant and Bushmen caves, which are acknowledged to contain some of the greatest examples of rock art in the world.





- *The second highest in the world, the Tugela Falls plummets 948 metres in a series of sheer falls and cascades.*

The Amphitheatre and Tugela Falls

A mountain walk in the Northern Berg that must not be missed is the path that will take you right to the foot of the Tugela Falls, where the head-waters of this great river tumble over the edge of the Amphitheatre to plunge 948 metres down sheer cliffs in a series of breath-taking cascades. The walk to this spectacular sight - the second highest waterfall in the world - starts from the

scenery in the Northern Berg, the spectacular 8 000 hectare Royal Natal National Park gained its regal prefix after a visit by the British monarch King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in March 1947.

Royal Natal National Park. The easy gradient seven kilometre climb up the Tugela Gorge winds through indigenous forests. The last part of your journey into the Tugela River is a boulder hop. A chain ladder takes you over the final stretch from where you have a stunning view of the falls rushing down the Amphitheatre in a series of five spectacular cascading drops.

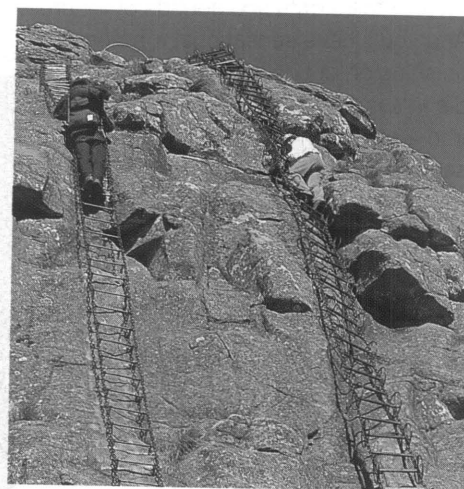
There is also a 22,5 kilometre hike to the summit of the Mount-Aux-Sources, but for the less energetic a shorter route to the summit is afforded by driving to the Sentinel car park at Witsieshoek in the Free State, from where it is a relatively short climb to the top of the Amphitheatre.

Detailed directions for all these routes are available from your hotel, resort or accommodation hosts.

Royal Natal National Park

A national asset which boasts the most magnificent

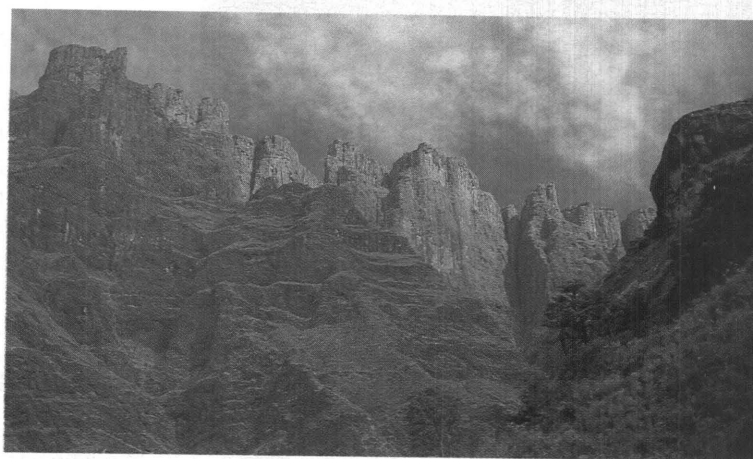
The walking and riding paths in the Park are a sheer delight. There are 31 paths, ranging from easy-going to very



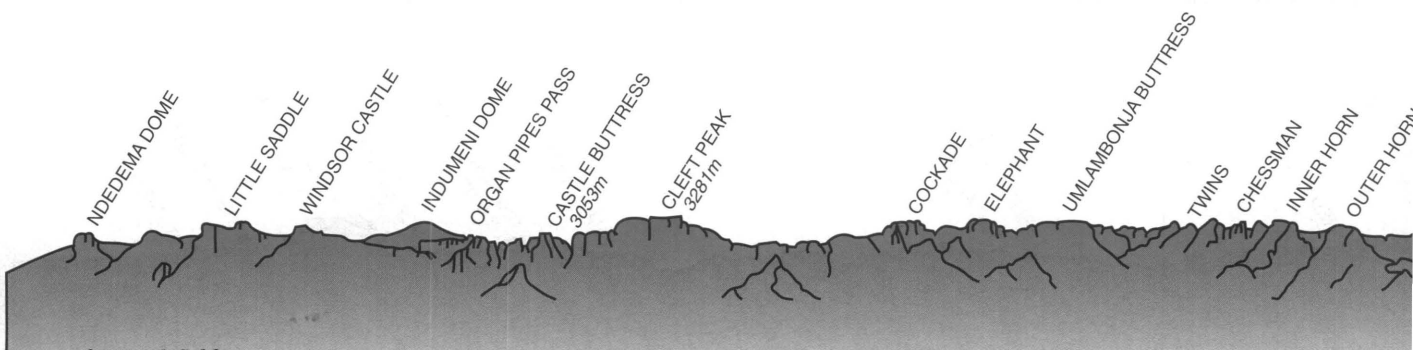
- *Two chain ladders, each with 100 rungs, give climber easy access to the summit of Mount-aux-Sources.*

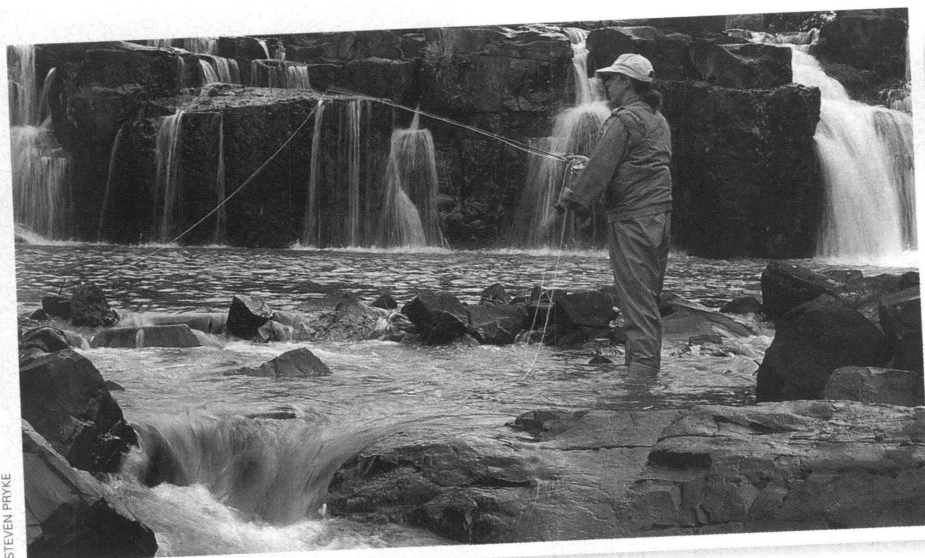
strenuous - and each one leads to a spectacular beauty spot. There are a range of well-established tourism facilities in the vicinity of the Park, as well as accommodation to suit all tastes.

Forming a backdrop to the Park are the 1 000 m sheer basalt cliffs of the Amphitheatre. Recognised as one of the great scenic showpieces of Southern Africa - and certainly one of the most painted and photographed - the wall of the Amphitheatre stretches across 4 kilometres, between the Eastern Butress (3047m) in the south and the Beacon Butress (3121m) and the Sentinel (3165m) to the north.



- *The sheer basalt cliffs of the Amphitheatre is one of the most spectacular - and certainly the most photographed - mountain showpieces in Southern Africa.*





- Oliviershoek Pass
- Mikes Pass (Cathedral Peak Valley)
- Golden Gate
- Witsieshoek Mountain Drive.

Route maps and details of these drives, as well as surrounding attractions, are available from the Drakensberg Tourism Association office in Bergville (Tel/fax: 036-4481557), as well as from local accommodation establishments.



- *The Berg is a mecca for the serious bass and trout fisherman, but even the most uninitiated will find good sport in the well-stocked rivers and dams of the mountains.*

Trout and Bass Fishing

One of the best kept secrets of the Drakensberg is its abundance of excellent trout and bass fishing. The rivers and well-stocked dams are regular favourites with the serious and skilled fly-fisherman who is in the know - although this should not daunt uninitiated visitors who wish to try their hand at this most challenging and personally satisfying of angling pursuits.

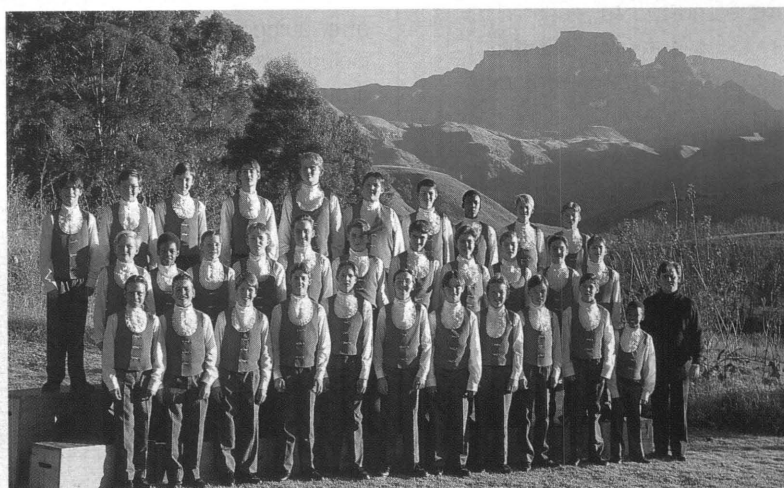
The demands of trout and bass fishing are not the sort of action to appeal to a day-tripper out for a quick catch (and locals are reluctant to encourage this sort of casual angling) - but as a resident guest, you can be sure that your resort host will do everything to help you enjoy this treasure of the Drakensberg.

Scenic Self Drives

There are a number of scenic routes in the Drakensberg that can be comfortably and safely driven in the family car.

Allow yourself enough time to drive at least one of the following during your stay in the Berg, for all of which are majestically beautiful :

- Injusuti Drive
- Amphitheatre Drive
- Monks Cowl Drive



Drakensberg Boys Choir

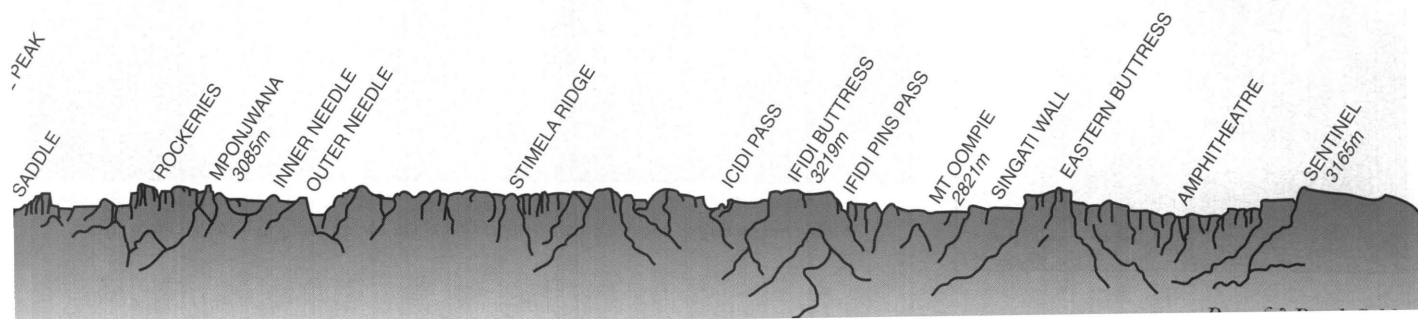
The central Berg is home to the internationally acclaimed Drakensberg Boys Choir School and the region is justifiably proud of the boys - all aged between nine and fifteen and from various cultural backgrounds.

The Choir has toured extensively, establishing an enviable reputation before audiences as far afield as the United States, Europe, Israel and the Far East. If the boys are not on holiday or touring, A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON in the school auditorium, which has excellent acoustics.

As the choir has achieved an international reputation for maintaining an exceptional musical standard, many first time concert goers expect to hear only classical and formal choral music. They come away delighted and refreshed after a varied programme of jazz, popular, religious, classical and folk music. Talented musicians perform in quartets or smaller groups, displaying the versatility that has made the choir famous.

Don't miss a performance by the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

*Contact the Drakensberg Boys Choir School for more information.
Telephone: 036-468 1012/3*





Vulture Restaurants

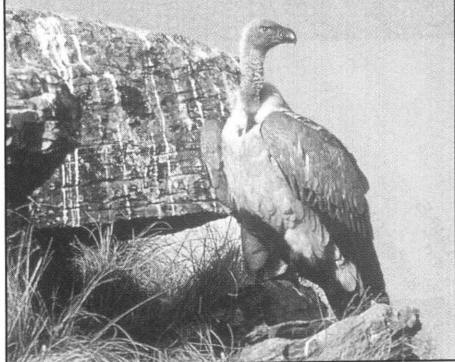
Although some 250 bird species have been recorded in the Berg - nearly a quarter of all species found in Southern Africa - it is the birds of prey which are most at home in the upper reaches of the mountains.

Impressive predators such as black eagles, Cape vultures and white-necked ravens inhabit the higher altitudes of the Drakensberg - but the undisputed monarch of these skies is the the Bearded Vulture - more commonly known as the lammergeyer.

Largest of Africa's birds of prey, these giant raptors have a wingspan of nearly 3 metres, allowing them to soar at great height and speed between the towering peaks and along the crags.

Although capable of carrying off a lamb, the lammergeyer's preferred meal is carrion, and particularly the marrow in bones. Witnessing these giant birds dropping bones while in flight, allowing them to shatter on the rocks below before swooping down to extract the marrow with its long, scooped tongue is truly a memorable experience.

There are several hides in the Berg from which visitors can watch the lammergeyer and other rare raptors planing the thermals, or feeding on carcasses that have been laid out for them. One of the more popular is at Giants Castle in the Central Berg. Ask your hotel, lodge or camp - as well as the information offices in the area - for the locations of the hides and, more importantly, the times of feeding.



Horseriding

Horseriding in the Berg is a great way to spend a day, and the full length of the Drakensberg is negotiable on horseback.

If you are a novice rider, your mountain holiday is the ideal time to aquire some horseback skills, as there are numerous spectacular bridle paths that can be comfortably managed by the inexperienced rider.

If you are confident in the saddle, this is an opportunity to explore the foothills and experience the true magic of the mountains - including one unforgettable trail leading to the summit of Mont-aux-Sources.

Almost all the resorts in the Berg offer guided horse trails, and several include overnight adventure rides for groups of five or more.



- *Most Berg resorts offer horse riding as an attraction, and there is no better way to explore the mountains.*

The higher reaches are home to the bold and powerful birds of prey - the magnificent Bearded Vulture or lammergeyer, the Cape vulture, black eagle, martial eagle and the jackal buzzard.

The vegetation of the Berg is determined by altitude and aspect (orientation of the sun), resulting in many diverse forms of plant life. Erica, tough grasses, everlastings, algae, lichens and moss thrive in the alpine summit regions. Below 2 800 metres scrub and tussock grass grow in exposed areas while ferns, rare cycads and indigenous trees are found in deep gorges and gullies.

The abundant and perennial supply of water in the Berg provides rich, plentiful grazing and the area is a habitat for a quarter of the mammal species indigenous to Southern Africa.

The game list includes blesbok, black wildebeest, eland, zebra, red hartebeest, mountain reedbuck, duiker, grey rhebuck and jackal.

Flora and Fauna



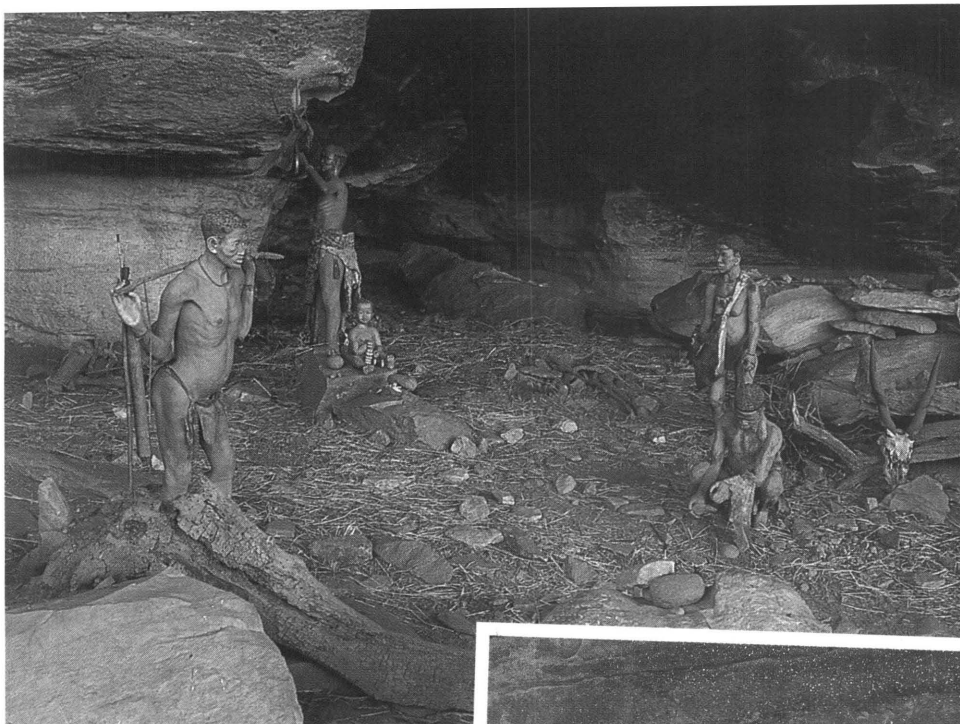
STEVEN PRYKE

- *The rare wattled crane is found in the Berg*

Binoculars and a spotting list are essential items of equipment for bird watchers visiting the Berg, for there are more than 250 bird species in the region, including the Natal sugarbird, the rare wattled crane, swifts, sunbirds, kingfishers and the orange-breasted rockjumper.



- *The Drakensberg is home to a quarter of the mammal species indigenous to Southern Africa.*



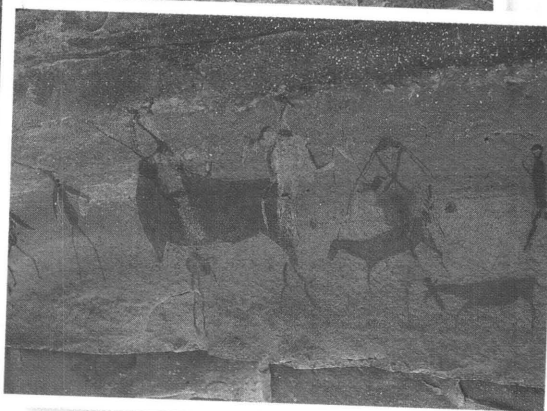
Bushmen Paintings and Cave Museum

The Berg has long been famous for the wealth of rock paintings that are a legacy of the San people (Bushmen) who inhabited Southern Africa for thousands of years before the arrival of the first settlers.

At the beginning of the 19th Century fierce competition for land resulted in the Difaquane Wars. As the great chiefs Dingaan, Shaka and Matiwane fought over land and cattle, tribes were fragmented and forced to migrate in an attempt to escape the bloody havoc spiralling across the territories of Zululand and Natal.

By the time the Voortrekker wagons emerged over the Drakensberg escarpment in 1838, most of the local

STEVEN PRYKE



- A visit to the Bushmen Cave Museum in the Giants Castle area is an unforgettable experience.

tribes had dispersed northwards and the remaining San people had fled high up into the mountain passes.

Hunter-gatherers, the nomadic San men hunted with bone or stone-tipped poisoned arrows, while the women collected wild fruits and roots. They lived in caves and rock overhangs, and with earth colours and primitive tools adorned

the walls of their dwellings with scenes of dances and ceremonies, hunts, animals and supernatural creatures. Their art was pervaded by a profound appreciation of the harmony of nature and all its wonders. Acclaimed artist Professor Walter Batiss, who studied their work, wrote: "No artist has said more, saying less."

Visiting one of these Stone Age galleries is an unforgettable experience.

The best and most accessible is in the Giants Castle area, where the open air Bushmen Museum at the Main Caves uses life-like models to depict a typical situation in the daily life of a hunter-gather family unit.

There are guides to take visitors on a tour of the caves and museum, which includes a display of recently discovered artefacts. The history and culture of the San people is also captured on a tape recorded presentation.

The Injasuti Battle Cave in the Injasuti valley has 750 paintings illustrating a pitched battle between two warring clans.

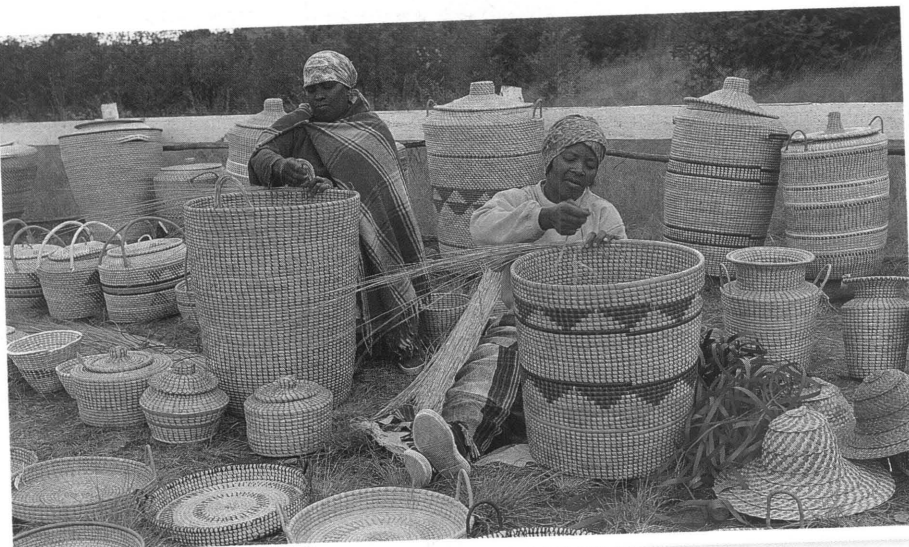
Arts and Crafts



STEVEN PRYKE

- Locally produced arts and crafts are obtainable from roadside vendors or specialist outlets.

The women of the Berg area are skilled in age-old handcrafts such as the plaiting and weaving of indigenous grasses - a Zulu tradition that has been handed down from mother to daughter over generations. The woven grass (*gashu*) creates baskets, bowls and mats in a wide variety of out-of-Africa colours.



- Women in the Berg use an art form passed on from mother to daughter over generations to create colourful baskets, bowls and mats; while the men sculpt clay animals.

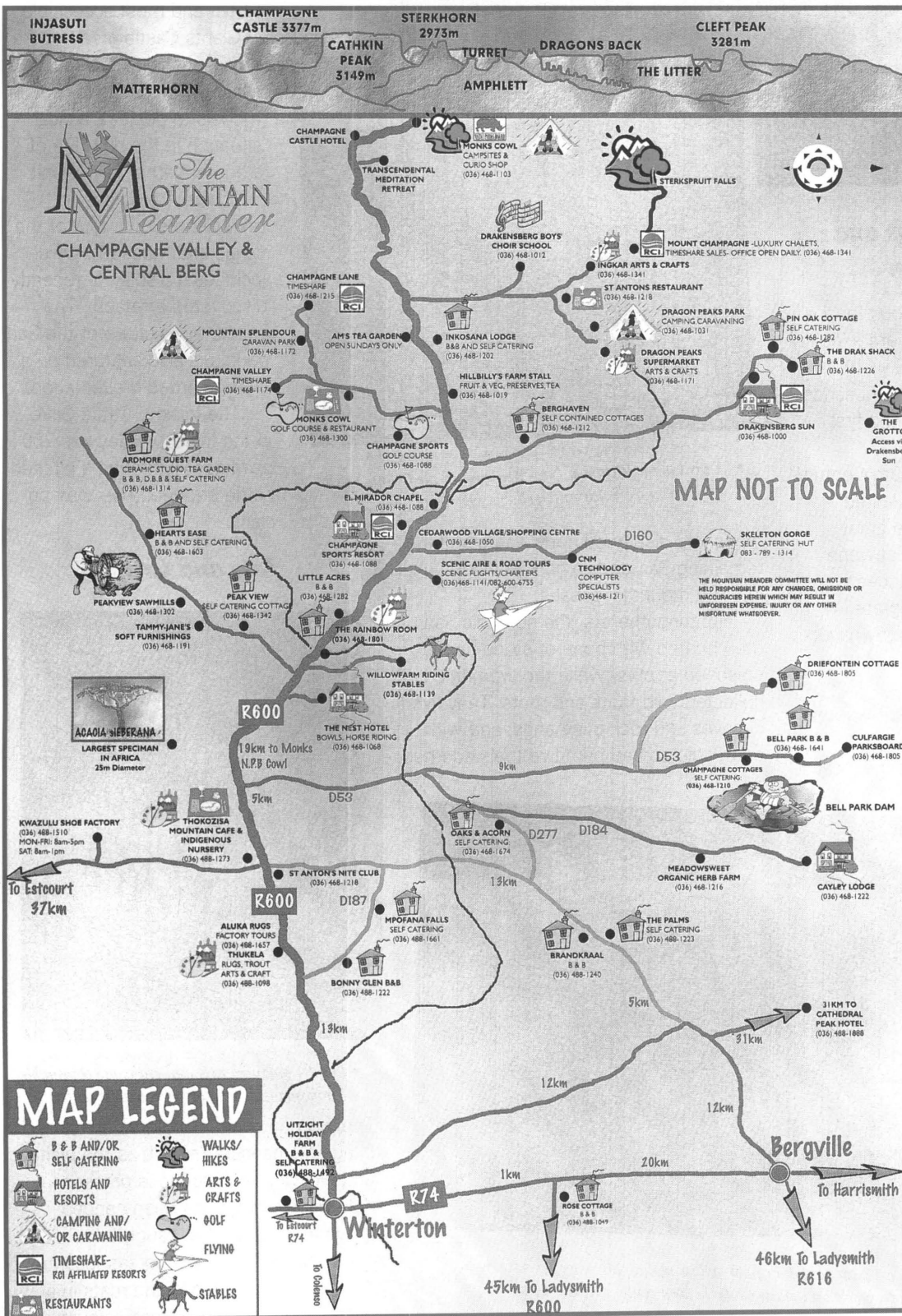
The men and young boys also produce uniquely sculptured clay animals.

The local Amazizi people, who are descendants of iron age pastoralists and have a distinct dialect characterised by clicks, produce baskets, beadwork, woodwork and a wide range of other traditional handcraft.

It is possible to buy locally produced arts and crafts from vendors at the entrance to parks and resorts, at roadside view sites or from specialist outlets in the area.

ARTS AND CRAFTS OUTLETS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON EVERY VISTOR'S SHOPPING LIST :

- **Meadowsweet Herb Farm**
Organic herb farm specializing in culinary and offering a wide gift range.
Tel: 036-4681216.
- **Ardmore Guest Farm and Ceramic Art Studio**
Internationally respected art. Every major gallery in South Africa houses their works and there are items in collections and museums worldwide. Tel: 036-4681314.
- **Open Air Bushmans Cave Museum**
Open rock art gallery at Giants Castle.
Tel: 033-471981.
- **Thandanani Handcraft Centre**
Baskets, beadwork and a range of other traditional handcraft produced by the local Amazizi people, and based on a co-operative system where local people can collectively sell their handwork and share in the profits. On the road to Royal Natal National Park. A traditional Amazizi kraal is being developed. Tel: 036-438 6653.
- **Winterton Museum**
Several impressive displays, including the geology, fauna and flora of the Drakensberg. Tel: 036-4881885.
- **Rainbow Room**
Arts and crafts shop next to Nest Hotel on the R600. Tel: 036-468 1801.
- **Ingrar Art and Crafts**
Below Drakensberg Boys Choir.
Tel: 036-468 1341.
- **Mulberry Studio**
Original fabric painting and ceramic studio in Winterton.
Tel: 036-488 1828.
- **The Purple House**
Wide range of arts and crafts in Winterton.
Tel: 036-488 1025.
- **letz Nietz**
Wide range of arts and crafts in Winterton. Also tourism information on the Winterton area
Tel: 036-488 1180.
- **The Koffiepot Gifts and Coffee Shop**
Wide range of arts and crafts in Winterton.
Tel: 036-448 1298.
- **Thokozisa Mountain Cafe and Indigenous Nursery**
Wide range of arts and crafts just outside Winterton.
Tel: 036-488 1273.
- **Tevreden Cheese Farm**
Home made cheeses. Tours available. Outside Bergville. Telephone ahead for directions.
Tel: 036-448 1840.
- **Fine Things**
Local gifts and crafts coffee shop in Bergville.
Tel: 036-448 1198.
- **Houghs Herbal Hub**
Opposite Northern Berg turn off on R74.
Tel: 036 - 438 6211.
- **Aluka Rugs and Thukela Arts and Crafts**
Factory tours.
Tel: 036-488 1657
- **Zimisele Centre**
Range of crafts at Zwelitsha.
Tel: 036-438 6012



The Berg Resorts

When it comes to choosing a travel destination, most people aim for interesting attractions, unusual events and unique local flavour. Where they will stay, once they are there, is of less concern.

Things are a little different in the Berg however. For many regular visitors, it's the welcome, the personal service and good reputation of their favourite resort, hotel or guest farm that keeps bringing them back. The fact that they're in an exquisite setting with all the outdoor pleasures of the Drakensberg on their doorstep is almost incidental.

A number of the traditional Berg resorts put down their roots at the turn of the century, starting out as simple, family-owned mountain hostleries or farms where guests were welcomed as part of the household. While the warmth has not changed, the accommodation has.

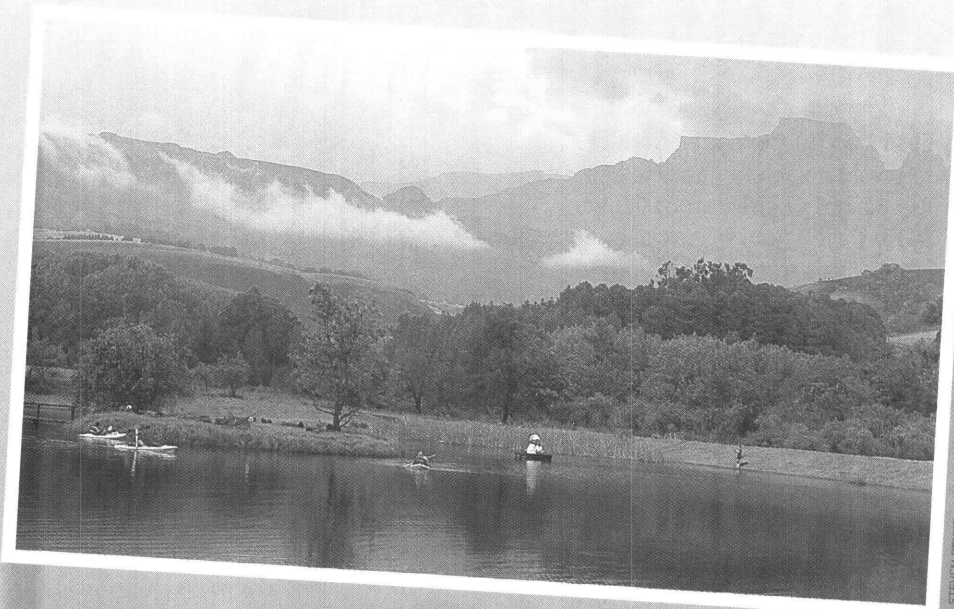
Today's visitor to the Drakensberg can choose from traditional hotels, mountain lodges and luxury timeshare chalets to cosy guest houses, B&B's, caravan parks and campsites. In addition, most of the larger establishments provide a range of facilities and activities such as organised walks and games,

guided tours, hiking and riding trails, fishing, tennis, bowls and swimming. If you want something even more novel, how about a helicopter flight over the mountains? Or taking in a Berg golf tournament, an Anglo-Boer War battlefield, or fly-casting contest? You'll receive every assistance to relax and have fun.

Each establishment has its own character, and visitors will encounter country hospitality at its friendliest,

plus a genuine willingness to please. In fact, most resorts practice a policy of on-site catering and quality guest service that is exceptional in South Africa.

The Central and Northern Berg resorts might seem a little off the beaten track but they are, in fact, easily accessed from both Johannesburg or Durban. It's a modern highway all the way, with less than three hours driving.



STEVEN PRYCE



CHAMPAGNE SPORTS RESORT

The Berg Towns

BERGVILLE

Less than 50 kilometres from the towering heights of the Drakensberg, the village is perfectly positioned for those travelling to resorts and reserves in the northern reaches of the Berg.

An agricultural and trading centre, the town was laid out in 1897 by a retired mariner, Captain Wales. A blockhouse in the town's Court House grounds, built by the British forces during the Anglo-Boer War, is a monument and museum; and the Rangeworthy Cemetery contains graves of soldiers that fell in the battles of Spioenkop and Bastion Hill.

The offices of the Drakensberg Tourism Association are in the centre of town. (Tel/fax: 036-4481557).

CATHKIN PARK

It is the most recently proclaimed Local Council in the region, serving the Champagne Valley of the Central Drakensberg.

WINTERTON

In 1905 the Natal government constructed a weir across the Little Tugela River, leading to the foundation of an irrigation settlement, later named Winterton.

Strategically situated in the foothills of the Cathedral Peak area, Winterton is a busy centre for farming and is close to Central Berg resorts and attractions.

The town's museum is open on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. Its main theme is the geology, fauna and flora of the Drakensberg. Secondary themes include history of local farms, the Bushmen (San) and other early inhabitants of the area, and nearby Anglo-Boer War battles sites.

CHAMPAGNE SPORTS RESORT



- *The Berg is a place where friends gather and families unwind from the hustle and bustle of city life. Most Berg resorts offer guests a wide range of attractions and sporting pursuits.*



INFORMATION OFFICES

Drakensberg
Tourism Association,
Thatham Road in
Bergville town centre.
Tel/fax: 036-4481557

Oliviershoek Pass Information Centre
Situated at the top of the
Oliviershoek Pass.
Tel: 036-4386130

Winterton Information Office
Tel: 036-4881180

Accommodation in the Berg

HOTELS / RESORTS

- **Alpine Heath All Suite Resort**
Northern BergTel: 036-4386484
- **Andrew Motel**
Van ReenenTel: 058-6710044
- **Bridge Hotel**
WintertonTel: 036-4881554
- **Cathedral Peak Hotel**
Cathedral PeakTel: 036-4881888

- **CavernBerg Resort**
Northern BergTel: 036-4386270
- **Cayley Lodge**
Central BergTel: 036-4681222
- **Champagne Castle Hotel**
Central BergTel: 036-4681063
- **Champagne Sports Resort**
Central BergTel: 036-4681088
- **Drakensberg Sun Hotel**
Central BergTel: 036-4681000
- **Hotel Walter**
BergvilleTel: 036-4481022
- **Karos-Mont-Aux-Sources Hotel**
Northern BergTel: 036-4386230
- **Kelvin Grove Farm Resort**
WintertonTel: 036-4881652
- **Little Switzerland Hotel**
Northern bergTel: 036-4386220
- **Royal Natal National Park Hotel**
Northern BergTel: 036-4386200
- **Sandford Park Lodge**
BergvilleTel: 036-4481001
- **The Nest Hotel**
Central BergTel: 036-4681068



LODGES / GUEST HOUSES

- **Ardmore Guest Farm**

Central BergTel: 036-4681314

- **Drifters Inn**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386130

- **Easby Guest House**

BergvilleTel: 036-4481128

- **Homestead Guest House**

GeluksburgTel: 036-4481328

SELF-CATERING / CARAVAN PARKS

- **Berghaven Holiday Cottages**

Central BergTel: 036-4681212

- **Bergville Caravan Park & Chalets**

BergvilleTel: 036-4481273

- **Bonny Glen Cottage**

WintertonTel: 036-4881222

- **Champagne Lane**

Central BergTel: 036-4681215

- **Champagne Valley Timeshare**

Central BergTel: 036-4681174

- **Dragon Peaks Park**

Central BergTel: 036-4681031

- **Drakensville Cottages & Caravan Park**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386287

- **Fernwood Lodge**

Central BergTel: 036-4681120

- **Glade Farm Cottage**

WintertonTel: 036-4881424

- **Hlalanathi Cottages & Caravan Park**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386308

- **Imani Guest House**

WintertonTel: 036-4881265

- **Mara Waters**

CathkinTel: 036-4881463

- **Mount Champagne Chalets**

Central BergTel: 036-4681031

- **Mountain Splendour Caravan Park**

Central BergTel: 036-4681172

- **Mambaso Hutted Zulu Camp**

WintertonTel: 036-4881003

- **Peak View Cottage**

Central BergTel: 036-4681342

- **Salingna Farm Lodge**

BergvilleTel: 036-4481302

- **The Berg House**

Northern BergTel: 036-4481337

- **The Palms Farm Cottages**

WintertonTel: 036-4881223

- **Uitzicht Holiday Farm**

WintertonTel: 036-4881492

- **Vilamoura**

WintertonTel: 036-4881128

- **White Mountain Cottages**

& Caravan Park

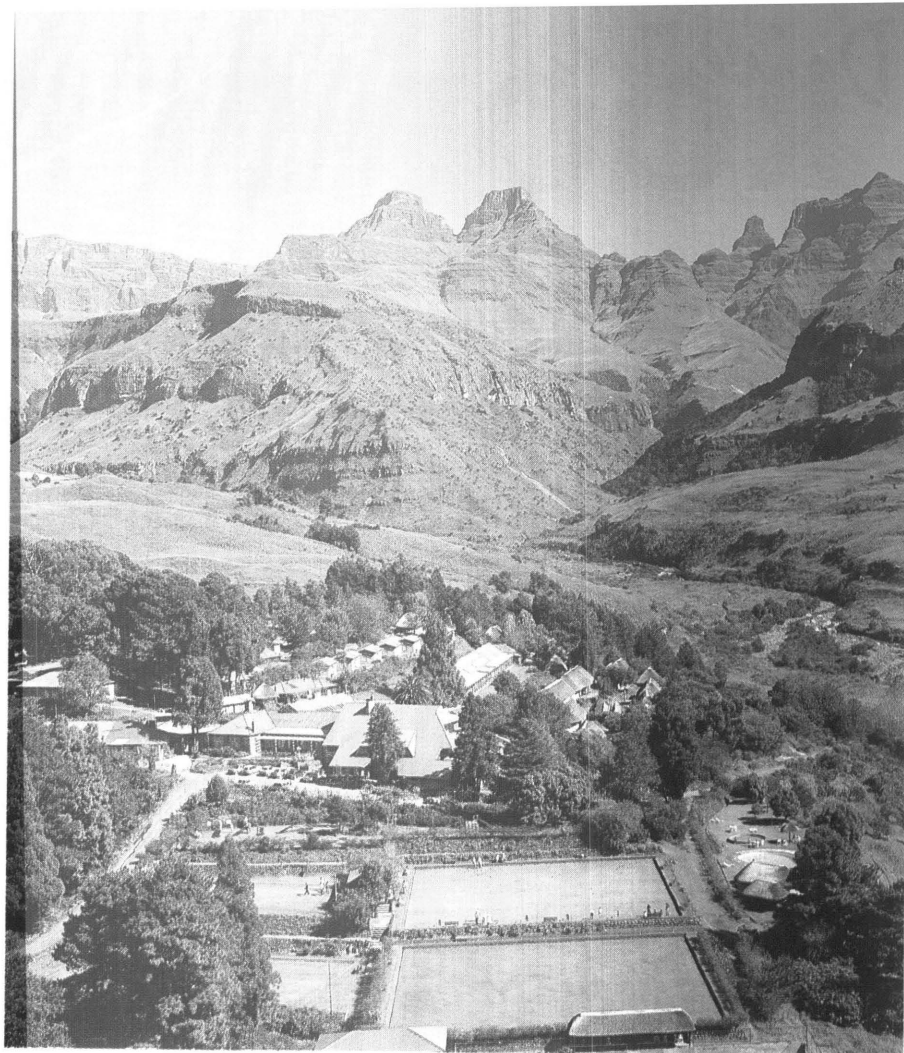
EstcourtTel: 0363-24437

- **Woodlands Cattle and Game Farm**

SpioenkopTel: 036-4881404

- **Wyford Farm**

Van ReenenTel: 058-6710025



BED AND BREAKFASTS

- **Hearts Ease Guest House**

Central BergTel: 036-4681603

- **Hough's Hub**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386211

- **Hunters Rest Cottage**

BergvilleTel: 036-4481412

- **Inkosana Lodge**

Central BergTel: 036-4681202

- **Rose Cottage**

WintertonTel: 036-4881049

- **The Purple House**

WintertonTel: 036-4881025

- **The Swallows Nest**

WintertonTel: 036-4881009

- **The Tower of Pizza**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386480

- **The Bass**

WintertonTel: 036-4881483

- **Phumula Cottage**

WintertonTel: 036-4881196

KWAZULU NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION SERVICE

- **Central Reservations**

DrakensbergTel: 0331-471981

- **Cathedral Peak Caravan Park**

CathedralTel: 036-4881880

- **Cathedral Peak Tseketseke Hut**

CathedralTel: 036-4881880

- **Giants Castle Cave**

Giants CastleTel: 0363-24718

- **Giants Castle Cottages**

Giants CastleTel: 0363-24718

- **Giants Castle Lodge**

Giants CastleTel: 0363-24718

- **Hillside Camping**

Giants CastleTel: 0363-336255

- **Hillside Rustic Hut**

Giants CastleTel: 0363-336255

- **Injasuti Caravan Park**

Central BergTel: 036-4881050

- **Mahai Caravan Park**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386303

- **Monks Cowl Caravan Park**

Central BergTel: 036-4681103

- **Rugged Glen**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386303

- **Spioenkop A-Frame Bush Camp**

WintertonTel: 036-4881578

- **Spioenkop Caravan Park**

WintertonTel: 036-4881578

- **Spioenkop Tented Bush Camp**

WintertonTel: 036-4881578

- **Tendele Hutted Camp**

Northern BergTel: 036-4386411

Drive the ROOF OF AFRICA

Visitors to the Berg and Battlefields region of KwaZulu-Natal are ideally positioned to take time off to explore the mountain kingdom of Lesotho on one of the four Roof of Africa self-drive circular routes.

These take you on a spectacular scenic tour through Lesotho, the Eastern Free State and the Kingdom of the Zulu. On your journey you will climb daunting mountain passes and travel through kilometres of fertile farmlands set against the impressive backdrop of rolling green hills and dramatic sandstone cliffs.

But take heed. This scenic self-drive route is not for the fainthearted, for it takes its name from the Roof of Africa Highway in northern Lesotho, the highest road on the African continent. Nevertheless it does offer a fascinating insight into an Africa which many travellers to this part of the world regard as off the beaten track.

Lesotho is the home of the Basotho, who refer to their country as *Maluting* - a place of mountain ranges. The terrain is a mountain jumble of waterfalls, gorges, deep pools, meandering stretches of water teeming with trout, isolated trading posts and mission stations. The country is criss-crossed with bridle paths, for the sure footed Basotho mountain pony is the most popular and practical mode of transport for the people of the region.

On your journey you will encounter seven breath-taking mountain passes, stop over in two national parks, a provincial park and a national heritage site. Included in the list of stop-and-see attractions is the second highest waterfall in the world, the smallest church in the world, the only church in the world built entirely of yellowwood, the highest dam in

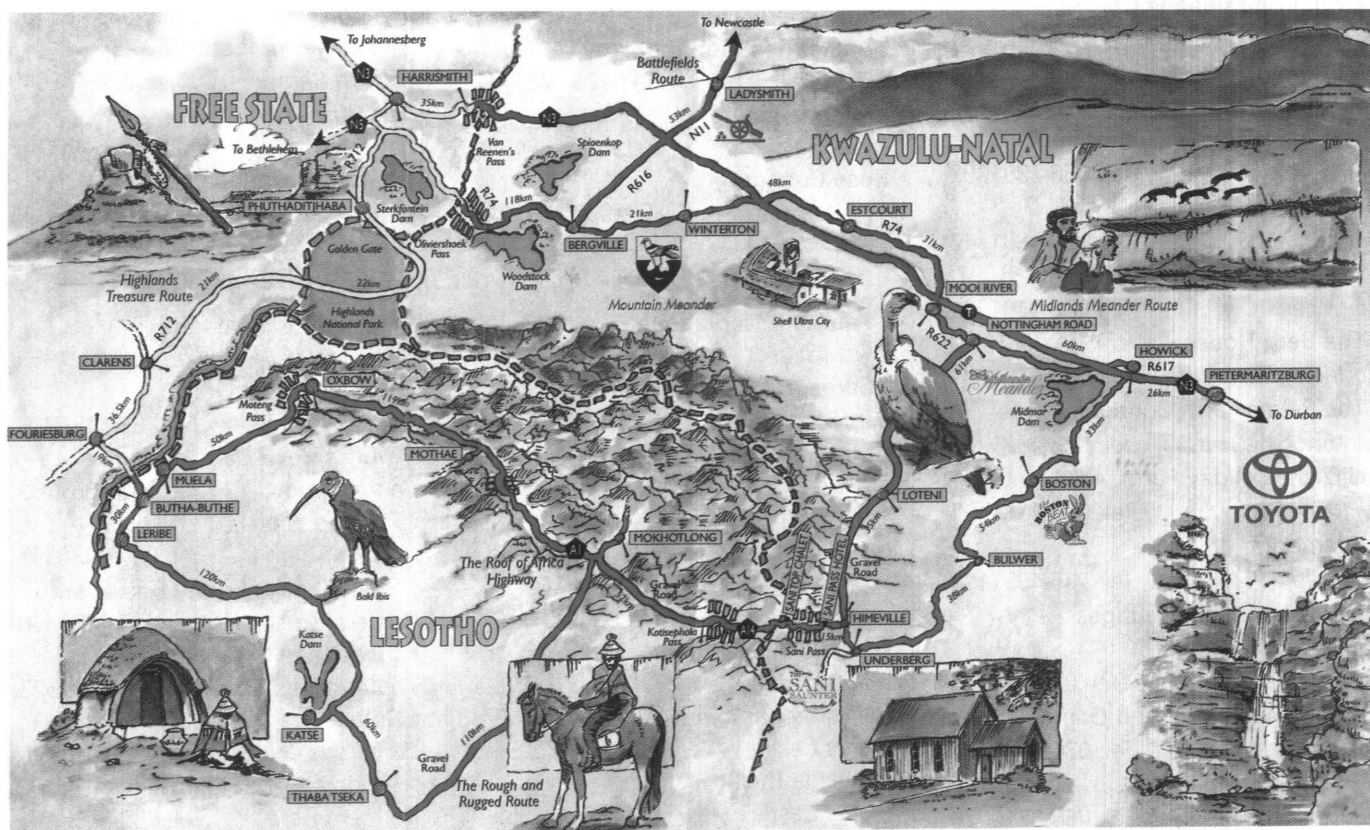
Africa, and the opportunity to visit a mission station built by Trappist monks over a century ago.

There are four major routes for exploring, all with optional detours:

- The Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, which travels along the Roof of Africa Highway, and offers the more adventurous the *Rough and Rugged* detour.
- The Highlands Treasure Route of the Eastern Free State.
- The Uthukela Region Route, which takes in the Drakensberg mountains and the Battlefields Route.
- The iNdllovu Region Route, which incorporates Eshyamoya Country tourism initiatives such as the Midlands Meander, the Boston Beat and the Sani Saunter.

With the exception of the Sani Pass route across the Drakensberg mountains into Lesotho, which requires the performance ability of a 4x4 vehicle, all the scenic self-drive Roof of Africa tours are comfortably within the capabilities of the family car. The majority of the route roads are tarred, and all the gravel roads are in good condition.

Although the Sani Pass requires a 4x4 vehicle, there is no need to exclude it from your itinerary. There are several reputable tour operators in the Southern Drakensberg area who offer trips up and down the pass on a daily basis.





STEVEN PRYKE

- *The Roof of Africa Route is a jumble of waterfalls, gorges, deep pools and meandering stretches of water teeming with trout. On your journey you will climb daunting mountain passes and travel through fertile farmlands.*

For those who may prefer to tour the mountain kingdom in a more leisurely and outdoor fashion, there is a network of hiking and horse trails that allow you to travel for days without coming into contact with either another person or the modern world, leaving the impression that you are the first explorer of this ruggedly beautiful country.

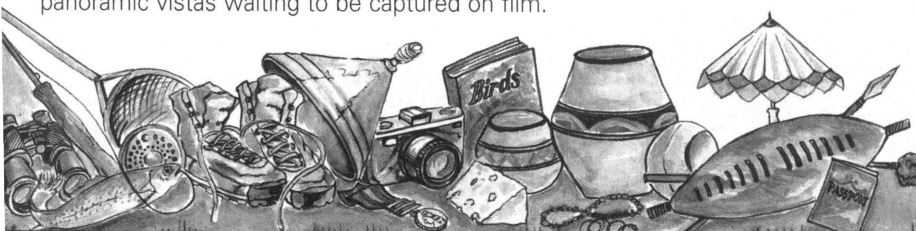
The locals who have opened up their country to travellers are committed to preserving the natural heritage of the region and are careful not to promote indiscriminate tourism development. For this reason it is essential that you plan your Roof of Africa self-drive tour well in advance. Especially allow time to explore the environment fully, and to

meet the craftsmen, potters and painters who have created their own havens of originality in the mountains.

Accommodation is best described as good old-fashioned hospitality; and ranges from three star hotels and elegant guest houses to affordable bed and breakfast establishments, self-catering cottages and chalets.

Traveller's Check

- A valid passport is required to enter Lesotho. Non-South Africans should check with their embassies regarding visa requirements.
- The Basotho people favour a blanket as their national dress, and with good reason. In winter the high ground is covered in snow and it is bitterly cold. The blankets are brilliantly coloured and with the distinctive sun hat worn by the locals, will make superb souvenirs of your time in the mountain kingdom.
- The mountain streams of the highlands offer some of the best trout fishing in Africa. In the lowlands barbel and yellowfish provide tight lines for enthusiasts.
- Remember you are in the mountains and should pack accordingly. Thermal underwear (for winter) is advisable, as well as a light raincoat, sun hat and sunscreen with a high protection factor.
- Drive defensively. All the roads are in good condition, but tight bends, stray cattle and horse-carts are a feature of the routes winding through the mountain passes.
- Take lots of film for your camera. The Roof of Africa is a wonderful world of panoramic vistas waiting to be captured on film.



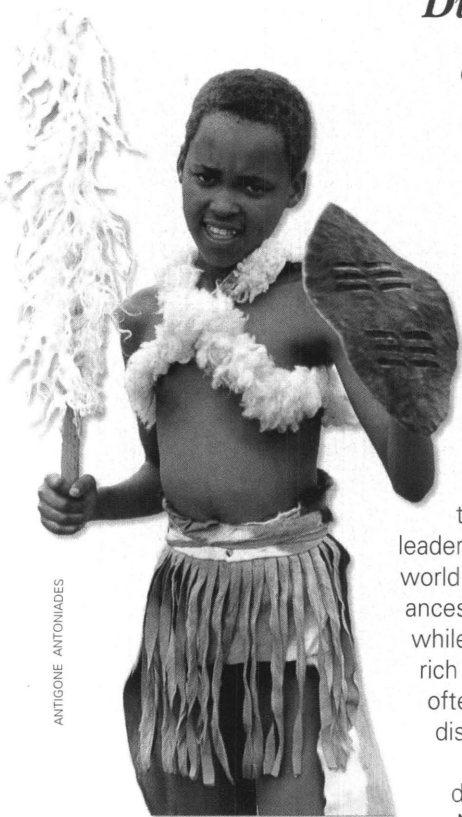
For further information and a comprehensive brochure on the Roof of Africa scenic self-drive routes, contact :

- **LESOTHO TOURIST BOARD INFORMATION OFFICE**
Telephone Maseru
09 266-312896 / 313760
Fax: 09 266-323638/ 310108
- **iNDLOVU REGIONAL COUNCIL/ TOURISM MARKETING**
Telephone Pietermaritzburg
0331-945561 • Fax: 0331-425502
- **UTHUKELA REGIONAL COUNCIL/ TOURISM MARKETING**
Telephone Ladysmith
0361-310236 • Fax: 0361-25608
- **EASTERN FREE STATE DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Telephone Bethlehem
058-3037677 • Fax: 058-3034884



The PEOPLE OF HEAVEN

During your stay in the Berg and Battlefields region of KwaZulu-Natal, you will constantly come into contact with the customs, traditions and culture of the amaZulu - the People of Heaven.



ANTIGONE ANTONIADES

The Zulu are a proud nation that treasure their heritage and are conservative, friendly and always hospitable; displaying an unyielding loyalty to their *inkosi* (traditional leader). Traditionally, their world is populated by ancestral spirits and demons, while the Zulu language is rich and expressive, very often punctuated with distinctive click sounds.

The amaZulu are descended from the Nguni people, who

lived in central or east Africa - a mystical land called *Embo*, according to the tribal storytellers.

During the 16th and 17th centuries the Nguni moved south, and a small group settled in the fertile valleys of Zululand. One of the settlers was Malandela, whose wife Nozinja bore him two sons, the second of which was named *Zulu* (Heaven). He was, by all accounts, a spirited and determined young man, and his marriage signalled the beginning of a new clan, with all their descendants proudly perpetuating the name of Zulu.

The people of Zulu initially lived in peace and harmony, but in time they became divided and quarrelled, not only within their own clan, but against tribes in

neighbouring regions. It was the emergence of the warrior King Shaka that reunited the amaZulu, forging feuding farmers and cattle herders into a proud and powerful nation.

Take time while in the region to observe the daily customs of the Zulu people. They have a heritage of strong adherence to a disciplined and well-defined social structure, and there is a reason for almost every action or gesture.

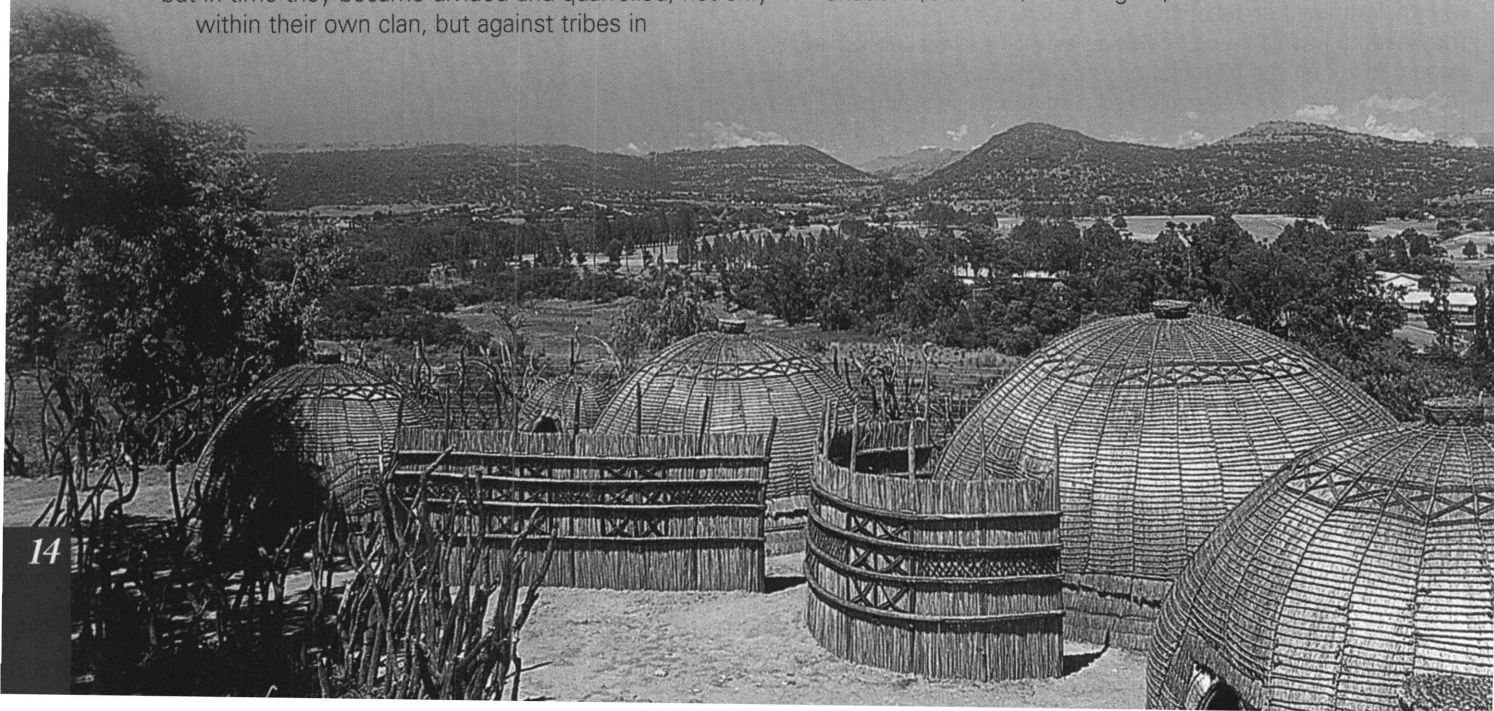
While shopping for curios, you might purchase these from the Zulu woman who crafted the goods. She will always pass the artefact to you using her right hand only. The palm of the left hand will be held under the right forearm. This custom is significant, and serves to assure you that there are no hidden weapons and you have nothing to fear.

There is an accepted etiquette among the Zulu people when it comes to greeting one another. The person with the higher standing in the community will initiate the greeting, with the inferior person remaining silent until he or she is directly addressed.

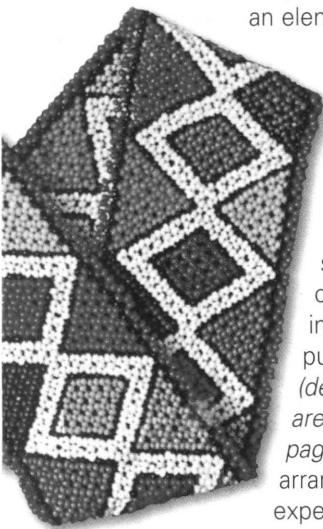
The customary greeting is *Sawubona* (I see you), to which the polite response is *Yebo, sawubona* (yes, I see you too).

A popular souvenir for visitors to the *Berg and Battlefields* region is Zulu beadwork. One of the most fascinating manifestations of this traditional craft is its unique language. Every colour has a different meaning and a Zulu woman can weave a message of love, grief, jealousy, poverty or uncertainty into her patterned creation. Young Zulu girls, in particular, use the vocabulary of the beads to send sweet (or bitter) thoughts to their loved ones who, if favoured, will wear the gift with pride.

A white bead (*ithambo*) represents love; a black bead or shadow (*isitimane*) means grief, loneliness and



disappointment; a pink bead (*isiphofu*) proclaims poverty; a green bead is rich grass (*uluhlaza*) and implies lovesickness or jealousy; while a striped bead, reminiscent of the grasshopper (*intothoviyane*), implies an element of doubt.



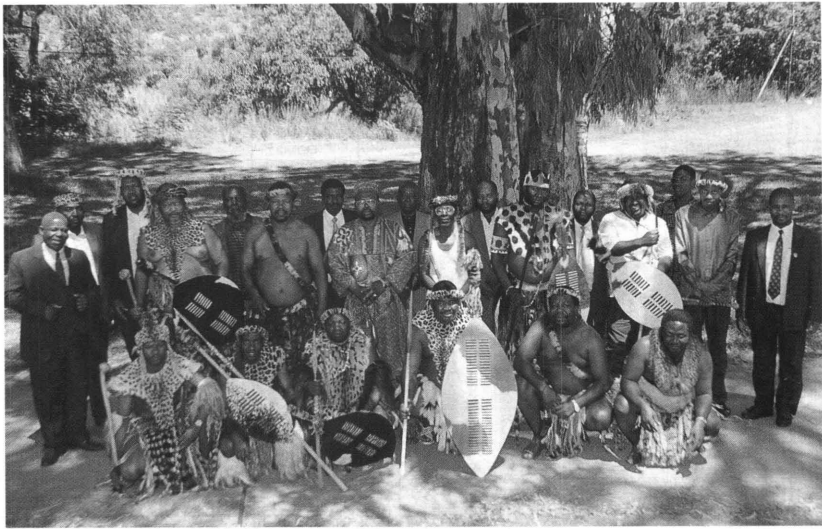
To capture the full nuances of Zulu custom, visitors to the region should consult a local information or publicity office (details of which are listed on page 16) and arrange to experience first hand some of the

fascinating aspects of the culture and traditions of the *People of Heaven*.

The military influence of the Shaka regime is reflected in demonstrations of stick fighting (*umshiza*) with which the male teenagers and men settle their personal differences in a public duel; while a spiritual healer (*sangoma*) plays a respected and meaningful role in the life of a Zulu community by using roots, herbs, bark, snake skins and dried animal parts to reveal the past, predict the future and cure ailments.

Dancing and singing is very much a part of the lifestyle of the Zulu people, and each dance formation or movement symbolizes an event or happening within the clan.

There is the rhythmical dance of the small shield, the fiery motivating body



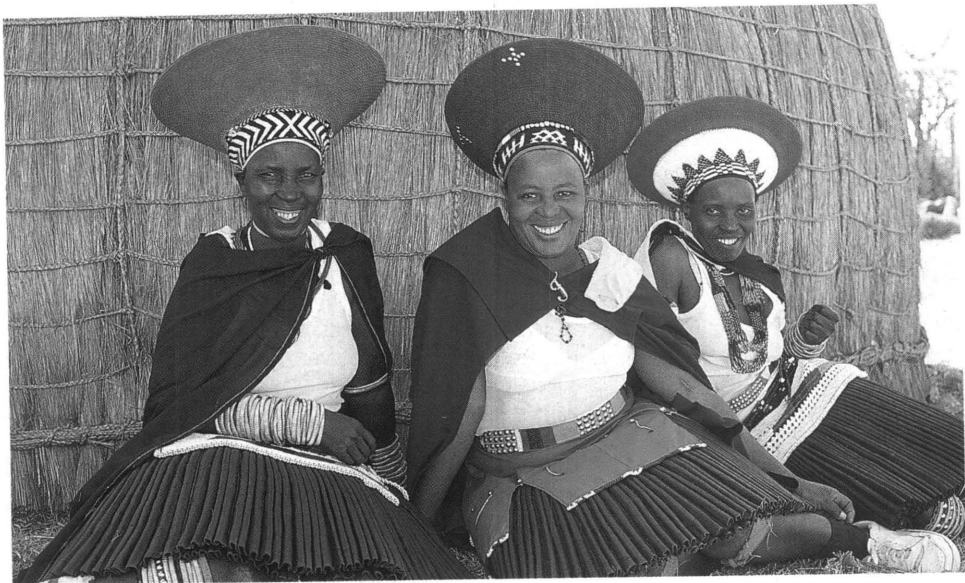
The Amakhosi

The traditional head of a Zulu clan is the Inkosi. He is regarded by his people as a father figure - the source of their wealth and well being, the spiritual symbol of their tribe, and the man who determines the fate of his people.

The traditional leaders (*amakhosi*) in the operational areas of the Uthukela Regional Council and the Umzinyathi Regional Council, photographed in Ladysmith on 4th March 1998.

FRONT FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: *Inkosi M Hlongwane (Amangwane Tribe, Bergville), Inkosi M P Mazibuko (Mangwe Buthanani Tribe, Isandlwana), Inkosi Z P Nzima (Ndlamlenze Tribe, Utrecht), Inkosi T J Ngobese (Khiphinkunzi Tribe, Nqutu), Inkosi M E Miya (Amazizi Tribe, Bergville), Inkosi Z G Mabaso (Emkhondeni Tribe, Utrecht).*

STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: *Inkosi W S Ntuli (Gule Tribe, Nyanyadu), Inkosi W M Shabalala (Thekwane Tribe, Utrecht), Inkosi L R H Khumalo (Amantungwa Tribe, Utrecht), Inkosi N W Sithole (Sithole Tribe, Mhlumayo), Inkosi M Mchunu (Mfungelwa Tribe, Estcourt), Inkosi S F Mazibuko (Amangwe Tribe, Loskop), Inkosi S J Nkosi (Nkosi Tribe, Madadeni), Inkosi W N Zwane (Inkosi of KwaThintongathintwa, Ingwe Tribe, Newcastle/Madadeni), Inkosi V R Mkhize (Abambo Tribe, Estcourt), Inkosi M Mbatha (AmaMbatha Tribe, Utrecht), Inkosi J M Dlamini (KwaDlamini Tribe, Estcourt), Inkosi S K Sithole (Sithole Tribe, Nqutu), Inkosi M C Zwane (Ingwe Tribe, Emnambithi), Inkosi H M Mncube (Mbokodwe Ebomvu Tribe, Nqutu), Inkosi S S Kunene (Sigweje Tribe, Emnambithi), Inkosi F P Hlatshwayo (Hlatshwayo Tribe, Nqutu), Inkosi S S Mabaso (Mabaso Tribe, Estcourt).*



• Visitors to the Berg and Battlefields region of KwaZulu-Natal will find the Zulu people a proud nation that treasures its heritage, and is conservative, friendly and hospitable.

movements of the hunting dance, the symbolizing of the tidal ebb and flow in the *Umbhekuzo*, the snakelike motion of the *umChwayo* and the challenging war dance (*umGhubho*) with traditional shield and spear.

Also captivating for visitors is the opportunity to witness the disciplined and dignified social structure of a Zulu homestead (*umuzi*).

Customs pertaining to food and the brewing of beer, ancestral worship and places of burial, the dress code for men, women and children, the role of the traditional healer (*inyanga*), the importance of a man's cattle, the system of compensating a father for the loss of his daughter in marriage (*lobola*), courtship, witchcraft and superstitions are still observed.



TRAVEL PLANNER

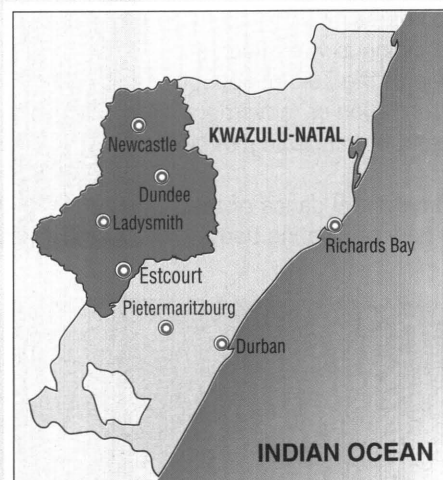
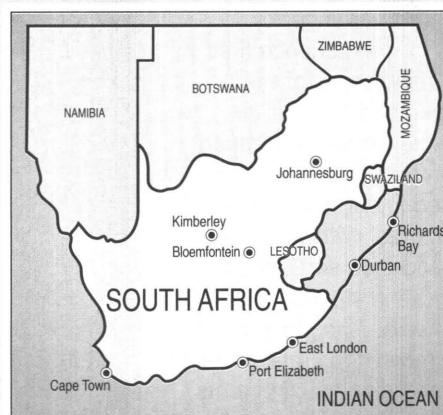
	DURBAN	JOHANNESBURG	PRETORIA	BLOEMFONTEIN	PORT ELIZABETH	CAPE TOWN	LADYSMITH	ESTCOURT	NEWCASTLE	DUNDEE
DURBAN	•	598	656	667	927	1660	251	157	350	320
JOHANNESBURG	598	•	58	417	1062	1405	367	423	300	360
PRETORIA	656	58	•	475	1120	1463	425	481	358	388
BLOEMFONTEIN	667	417	475	•	635	998	436	421	440	469
PORT ELIZABETH	927	1062	1120	635	•	756	999	943	1108	1012
CAPE TOWN	1660	1405	1463	998	756	•	1429	1413	1438	1476
LADYSMITH	251	367	425	436	999	1429	•	65	100	72
ESTCOURT	157	423	481	421	943	1413	65	•	165	136
NEWCASTLE	350	300	358	440	1108	1438	100	165	•	66
DUNDEE	320	360	388	469	1012	1476	72	136	66	•

The above distances, recorded in kilometres, are approximate guides only.

i

TOURIST INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OFFICES

- **Battlefields Route**
46 Murchiston Street, Ladysmith
Tel: 0361-28230 • Fax: 0361-22992
E-Mail: route@battlefields.org.za
Website: <http://www.battlefields.co.za/kznroute>
- **Bushmans River Tourism Association**
Old Civic Building, Harding Street, Estcourt
Tel/fax: 0363-336253 / 0363-335140(ah)
- **Colenso Information Office**
36 Sir George Street, Colenso
Tel: 036-4222111 • Fax: 036-4222227
- **Drakensberg Tourism Association**
Thatham Road, Bergville
Tel/fax: 036-4481557
- **Dundee Publicity Association**
Victoria Street, Dundee
Tel: 0341-22121 E xt 262 • Fax: 0341-23856
- **Estcourt** (See *Bushmans River Tourism Ass.*)
- **Glencoe Information Office**
Biggar Street, Glencoe
Tel: 0341-3931121 • Fax: 0341-3931802
- **Ladysmith/Emnambithi Community Tourism Organisation**
Town Hall, Murchison Street, Ladysmith
Tel/Fax: 036-6372992
- **Newcastle Publicity Association**
Town Hall, Scott Street, Newcastle
Tel: 03431-53318 • Fax: 03431-29815
- **Oliviershoek Pass Information Centre**
Situated at the top of the Oliviershoek Pass.
Tel: 036-4386130
- **Utrecht Publicity Association**
Voor Street, Utrecht
Tel: 034-3313249 • Fax: 034-3314312
- **Umzinyathi Regional Council**
NLK Building, 39 Victoria Street, Dundee
Tel: 0341-81945 • Fax: 0341-81940
- **Uthukela Regional Council**
HDW Building, 84 Murchiston Street, Ladysmith
Tel: 0361-310236 • Fax: 0361-25608
- **Weenen Information / Thukela Biosphere**
Andries Pretorius Street, Weenen
Tel: 0363-41938
- **Winterton Information Office**
Springfield Road, Winterton
Tel: 036-4881180



Wherever you travel in *Berg & Battlefields* country you will find friendly people and warm hospitality. The publicity associations and information offices are there to assist you in every way and you are urged to use their services during your stay in the mountains or on the battlefields, particularly in terms of up-to-the-minute news of accommodation, tours, arts and crafts outlets, special events and eateries. You will also require their assistance when the telephone numbers in the region change during 1998 - an occurrence which is regrettable but beyond our control.

The BATTLEFIELDS

It is difficult to imagine that the scenic and tranquil landscape of central and northern KwaZulu-Natal was once the focal point of major military clashes; where over a time span of 70 years, one historical drama after another unfolded against the backdrop of the African veld and the majestic Drakensberg mountains.

The area boasts the largest concentration of battlefields in South Africa and draws visitors from all over the world. Here military engagements that were to shape the course of South African and world history, and rock the

pedestal of the British Empire, raged over the green hills and sweeping grasslands of the region.

Every town, historical building, battlesite and memorial has a fascinating tale to tell, an event to commemorate, a poignant memory to recall.

But don't let the description *Battlefields* mislead you into thinking you are going to spend your time in the past.



The region has the climate, the scenery, the wildlife, the cultural diversity, the cuisine and the hospitality to make your visit a unique and memorable experience of the present.

Treat your *Battlefields* getaway as a self-drive adventure. Armed with informative maps and brochures obtainable from the Publicity Associations in the region - which are staffed with experienced tourism personnel trained to assist you in planning your time on the *Battlefields* - you are free to embark on a personal exploration.

Or you could use the services of a specialist guide, who will bring an exciting new dimension to your journey through this fascinating province of KwaZulu-Natal.

There are numerous routes you can take through the region, and you are always free to set your own pace and choose your own destinations. For ease of reference, the *Battlefields* towns in this guide are listed alphabetically.

CHARLESTOWN

Established as a stop-over point for railway staff and passengers at the top of Laing's Nek, this village is overlooked by the high peaks of the Northern Drakensberg. The area is renowned for its tasty biltong.

COLENSO

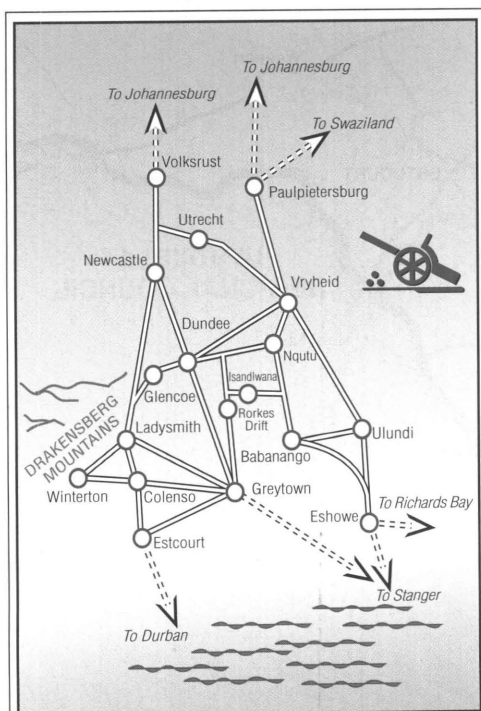
This historic town on the banks of the Tugela River, is surrounded by the foothills of the Drakensberg mountains. It was originally known as Commando Drift, but was renamed in honour of John William Colenso, who was elected the first Bishop of Natal in 1855.

First and foremost a missionary who learnt the Zulu language and translated the New Testament into Zulu, he was so popular with the people of the region that they honoured him with the title Sobantu (father of the people).

Colenso is close to the Armoured Train Cemetery where the young war correspondent Winston Churchill, was captured by the Boers. (See feature page 23) There are several military memorials in the vicinity, erected by regiments which fought in the battles in and around the town during the Anglo-Boer War. Freddy, son of Lord Roberts, was mortally wounded here, and is buried at the Chieveley Military Cemetery.

Attractions

- **R.E Stevenson Museum** (Old Toll House). Erected in 1879 as the house of the tollkeeper of the Bulwer Bridge. The military historian Dr R.E Stevenson made a specialised study of the battles fought in and around Colenso during the Anglo-Boer War. Visitors can obtain the key to the museum from the Police Station next door.
- **Ambleside Military Cemetery.** Many of the men who fell in the Battle of Colenso, during the Anglo-Boer War, particularly the Irish regiments, are buried here.



• Plan your journey through the region to explore the battlesites of the most significant conflicts fought on South African soil.

DUNDEE

• **The Tugela River** which flows wide and deep past Colenso, provides a scenic setting for water sports, fishing and a host of recreational sites featuring spectacular waterfalls.

• **Steam Tractor and Engines.**

The steam engines are from the old Eskom Power Station and the tractor is in running order.

• **The Battlefields of Colenso and Tugela Heights.**

Two of the most significant battles fought on South African soil, both of which were closely linked to the attempts by General Buller to relieve the beleaguered town of Ladysmith. The sites are situated only a few miles from Colenso.

• **Chieveley Military Cemetery.** In this cemetery, set among trees, Freddy, the son of Lord Roberts, lies buried.

• **Clouston Garden of Remembrance.** Memorials and graves have been moved to this site, which was General Buller's headquarters during the Battle of Colenso. There were a number of brigade hospitals here during the battle, and it is recognised as the place where the first moving pictures of a battle were taken. There is a monument to Lt Roberts VC.

• **Winston Churchill Capture Site.**

See Estcourt (page 21) and the feature on Winston Churchill (page 23).

Accommodation

- **Battlefields Hotel** Tel: 036-4222242
- **Colenso Caravan Park** . . . Tel: 036-4222359
- **Rockyside Farm B&B** . . . Tel: 0363-335332
- **The Aloes** Tel: 036-4222834
- **The Colenso Club** Tel: 036-4222508
- **The Water Hole** Tel: 036-4222206

A quiet town nestling in the foothills of the Biggarsberg, Dundee was named by Peter Smith, the man who first mined coal in the area, after his home town in Scotland. It was here, at the battle of Talana on 20 October 1899, that the first shots of the Anglo-Boer War were fired.

Dundee is central to many of the major battlefields in the region, including Isandlwana and Rorkes Drift, and boasts numerous historical buildings. Most of the churches in the town date from the turn of the century, and contain commemorative plaques from battles fought in the area.

The most outstanding attraction is the Talana Museum which lies 1,5kms outside the town on the Vryheid Road. (See page 21).

Attractions

• **A.G.S. Church.**

Consecrated as a Methodist Church in 1889, it served as a hospital and dressing station during the Anglo-Boer War.

• **Baskets from Africa.**

Cnr Beaconsfield & Gladstone Streets, Dundee. Made with natural products, the baskets are crafted by Zulu women who live on farms in the immediate vicinity of Dundee. The use of natural materials - grasses, barks, twigs and other plant material - has created an environmentally aware work force. Tel: 0341-23240.

• **Boswells Building.** A national monument, it was originally erected as the Biggarsberg Unity Lodge in 1898. Unique both architecturally and historically, it is the last remaining pre-1900 theatre in the province.

• **Cenotaph.** A memorial to the men who fell in the First and Second World

Wars, it stands in Victoria Street, adjacent to the Civic Centre.

• **Cottage Hospital.** Originally built as a cottage hospital, it was used as a military hospital to tend to the British wounded during the Battle of Talana.

• **Dutch Reformed Church.** Designed by Gerard Moerdyk and completed in 1922. On the clock tower is an impressive Anton Von Wouw sculpture and plaque commemorating the Boers who fell in the Battle of Talana.

• **Farmers Brewery.**

(See *Hattingspruit* page 23).

• **Magistrates Court.** Officially opened in 1905, this is the only building in South Africa which bears the royal crest of King Edward VII. In this building Mohandas Gandhi was tried and received a jail sentence.

• **Mahyeno Mission.** Formerly the Betania Mission, Church and printing



STEVEN PRYKE

• *The ELC Craft Centre is situated at the Rorkes Drift battlesite.*

shop, it started out as a Swedish Lutheran Church. This mission station, which was used as a military hospital during the Battle of Talana, ceased to function in 1979. The church has been proclaimed a national monument.

• **Maria Ratschitz Mission.** Built by Trappist monks at the end of the last century to create local farming communities. The order experienced a series of secular obstacles from the mid-1930s. In recent years the mission stood abandoned, but is now being restored.



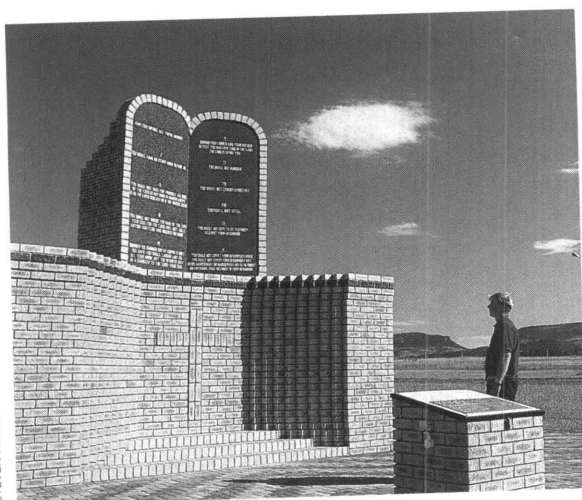
L. JOUBERT

• *The single carriage way Bukwer Bridge across the Tugela River at Colenso.*

COLENSO INFORMATION OFFICE
Municipal Offices,
36 Sir George Street, Colenso
Tel: 036-4222111
Fax: 036-4222227

DANNHAUSER

Named after an old farming family who lived in this area, Dannhauser is closely linked to its sister village Durnacol, where coal mining has been the chief economic activity since the turn of the century.



• *The Ten Commandments Memorial at the top end of Victoria Street in Dundee.*

Changes in South Africa since 1991 has led to a renewal of development at the mission, which is a remarkable cluster of 14 beautiful buildings in a dramatic setting at the base of the Hlatikulu mountain. The cathedral-like church has magnificent decorated walls.

- **The Mews.** This complex of small, intimate shops was the original Williams Hygienic Bakery. The original buildings and roof line have been preserved.

- **Moth Museum.** The MOTH (Memorable Order of Tin Hats) is an organisation of ex-servicemen started in South Africa shortly after the First World War. The small museum in the Indumeni/Isandlwana Shellhole has a unique collection of military memorabilia dating from the 1879 Anglo-Zulu war to the present. Acknowledged as one of the best private collections in the country. Open on request. Tel: 0341-21250.

- **Pro Nobis - Holy Rosary Convent.** This Roman Catholic convent was erected in 1917 on 18 acres of land. Today it is a school for physically and mentally handicapped children and a teaching centre.

- **St James Anglican Church.** Erected in 1898, the church houses plaques listing the names of the men who died in the Anglo-Boer War battles in northern Natal. In the churchyard are a number of graves, and it is here that General Penn Symons (commanding officer of the British forces at the Battle of Talana) and Lt Hannah, the first man to be killed by a Long Tom shell, are buried.

- **Talana Museum.** One of the most impressive museums in the country, it is situated on the site of the Battle of Talana. (See feature on page 21).

- **Thornley Farm.** On the reverse slopes of Talana Hill, it was used by the Boer forces as their headquarters, hospital and mortuary during the Battle of Talana. Although these restored buildings are on a private farm, visitors are welcome.

- **Trinity Presbyterian Church.** The Roll of Honour inside the church lists men who fell during the First World War.

Attractions nearby Dundee

- **Blood River Battlefield.**

On 16 December 1838 a party of Voortrekkers defeated the Zulu army here. Replica bronze wagons are set in a laager on the site of the battle.

(See feature page 31).

- **ELC Craft Centre.**

Discover how cloth is dyed, pots thrown and glazed,

and carpets woven. Situated at Rorkes Drift Battlefield.

- **Fort Pine.** On the farm Sheepmoor, it was built in 1878 by the Royal Engineers as a convenient place for the civilian population to gather. Contact the Talana Museum to arrange access. Tel: 0341-22654.

- **Fugitives Drift.** It is here, on this lonely hillside, that the two men responsible for saving the Queen's Colour from the Isandlwana camp, lie buried. Lieutenants Coghill and Melvill made their way to this spot high above the Buffalo River before they were killed by the Zulus. The site is 15km beyond Rorkes Drift. (See *Anglo-Zulu War* feature on page 30).

- **Rorkes Drift Battlefield.** Where 100 British troops repelled 4 000 Zulus, and despite overwhelming odds stood victorious after 12 hours of fighting. A record number of 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders. The site is 42 km from Dundee. (See *Anglo-Zulu War* feature on page 30).

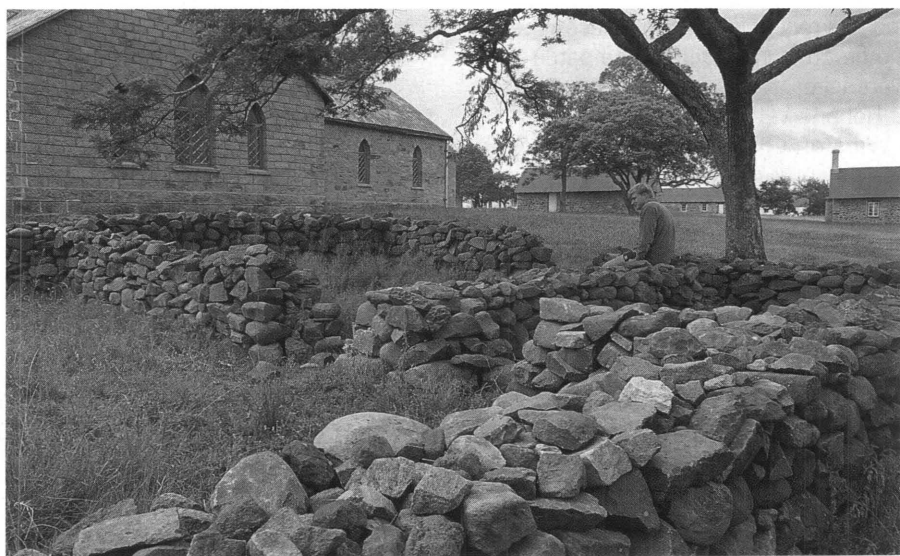
- **Prince Imperial Memorial.** The last hopes of the Napoleonic dynasty were shattered with the fatal stabbing of the Prince Imperial of France by Zulu warriors. A memorial has been erected on the site where he fell. One and a half hours drive from Dundee.

Trails / Outdoor Adventure / Tours

Talana Trail. This marked route follows the advance of the British troops up Talana Hill from the museum. It leads to the two British forts on the top of the hill. Allow two hours to climb the hill and return to the museum. Tel: 0341-22654

Mpati Hiking Trail. The trail commences at the Dundee Caravan Park, and is for a maximum of 12 persons. It can be divided into three sections, each of which is a circular route of either one or two days hiking. Two day trails overnight in a cottage on the top of Mpati Mountain. Tel: 0341-22121 ext 247.

Cannibal Hiking Trail. Picturesque scenery, historical sites, cannibal caves and hide-outs. Abundance of game and birdlife. Neat base camp sited in a shearing shed. 18 km trail. Tel: 0346421-925



• *The peace and tranquility of the former mission station at Rorkes Drift, where on the night of 22/23 January 1879, one hundred British soldiers fought for 12 hours to repel 4000 Zulus, earning 11 Victoria Crosses, the largest number ever awarded for a single engagement.*

- **Isandlwana Battlefield.** The British defeat by 25 000 Zulus at the Battle of Isandlwana will live forever in the annals of military history. Cairns mark the places where British soldiers fell and were later buried. An hour's drive from Dundee. (See *Anglo-Zulu War* feature on page 30).

Black Eagle Hiking Trail. Transverses two valleys through natural bush and descends into bushveld where kudu, impala and mountain reedbuck abound. The return is through rich grassland and vleis with abundant birdlife. Tel: 0346421-925.

Isibindi Eco Reserve. Situated 12km beyond Rorkes Drift, offers a traditional Zulu village, where visitors can gain an insight into local lifestyles and customs, white river rafting, abseiling, and team building and conference facilities.
Tel: 0346421-620.

Fort Mistake. White water rafting , abseiling, hikes and adventure tours.
Tel: 034621-2052

Tours and Self-guided Walk / Tours

KZN Battlefield Promotions.
Tel: 0341-22654.

Talana Museum. Tel: 0341-22654.

Dundee Publicity Association.
Tel: 0341-22121.

Pat Rundgren.
Tel: 0341-24560 Cell: 0824921584.

Neville Worthington. Tel: 0341-21347

Accommodation

BED & BREAKFAST

- **Bergview Lodge**Tel: 0341-81203
Cell: 082 445 9987
- **Brooklyn**Tel: 0341-23240
- **Corner Cottage**Tel: 0341-22814
- **Gunner's Rest** ..Tel: 0341-24560/0824921584
- **Holmes Haven**Tel: 0341-22655
- **House on the Park**Tel: 0341- 81893
Cell: 082 457 2563
- **Indumeni Lodge**Tel: 0341-3932808
- **Kammandi Guest House** Tel: 0341-21419(h)
0341-21423(b)
- **Paddock Wood Cottage (Also self-catering)**
Tel: 0341-82212 Cell: 083 627 8499
- **Pro-Nobis**Tel: 0341-24071/2

- **Steyns Lodge (Also self-catering)**
Tel: 0341- 21628
- **Swerversrus**Tel: 0341-81446
- **Thornley B&B**Tel: 0341-22738
- **Zwei Palmen**Tel: 0341-3932253

HOTELS

- **El Mpati Hotel**Tel: 0341-21155
- **Royal Hotel**Tel: 0341-22147

COUNTRY LODGES

- **Balbrogie Country House** ...Tel: 0346511-352
- **Battlefields Country Lodge**
Tel: 0341-81641 Cell: 082 446 9916
- **Charl-Mari Resort**Tel: 0341-21500
Cell: 082 892 8490
- **Cobblestones Guest House** Tel: 034621-2140/
Cell: 082 923 5581
- **Fugitives Drift Lodge**Tel: 0346421-843
- **Isibindi Lodge**Tel: 0346421-620
- **Kates Cottages (Also self-catering)**
Tel: 0341-23712, Cell: 082 925 3989
- **Lennox Cottage (Also self-catering)**
Tel: 0341-82201, Cell: 082 574 3032
- **Manor House (Self-catering)** Tel: 012-3463550
- **The Old School**Tel: 0341-81735/6
- **Penny Farthing**Tel: 0346421-925
- **Rorkes View Guest House** Tel: 0346421-741
- **Rusplaas Guest Farm**Tel: 0341-81697
Cell: 082 494 1117
- **Valhalla (Self-catering)**Tel: 0346421-790
- **Zulu Wings Lodge**Tel: 0341-23624/
Cell: 082 901 4304

CARAVAN PARKS

- **Charl-Mari** ...Tel: 0341-21500 / 082 892 8490
- **Battlefields Caravan Park** ..Tel: 0346321-723
- **Lloyds Baai**Tel: 0341-23046
- **Blood River Monument Park** Tel: 0346-321695

DUNDEE PUBLICITY ASSOCIATION **i**
Victoria Street, Dundee
Tel: 0341-22121 ext 262
Fax: 0341-23856

ESTCOURT

Originally known as Bushmans River, the town was renamed Estcourt after Mr T.H.S.S Estcourt, MP for North Wiltshire, and sponsor of the British settlers under the Byrne immigration scheme. This picturesque, historic town is the start of the Battlefields Route, and lies along the Bushmans River. It is situated some 7 kilometres from the N3 national route linking Durban with



• Site of the Armoured Train incident at Frere.

Gauteng, and gives access through the town to the imposing Giants Castle region (approximately 60 kilometres), and the Weenen Game Reserve (only 25 kilometres away on the R74 route). Other nearby tourist attractions include the Thukela Biosphere, a joint conservation and community initiative of 100 000 hectares of Valley Bushveld in the Weenen area.

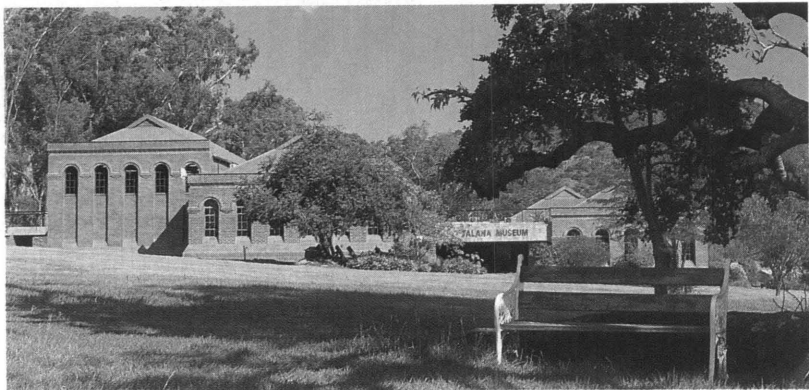
Estcourt offers a range of outdoor activities in the immediate area, including hiking, fishing, golfing, abseiling, fuffi-sliding, white water rafting and canoeing, mountain biking, horse riding, 4x4 trails and skills training, game viewing, wildlife drives, and bird watching.

For a less strenuous excursion, take time out to visit the several museums and battlesites, as well as explore the Estcourt Factory Shop Route.

Tourism in nearby Wembezi is in its infancy, but Township Tours can be arranged by contacting the Bushmans River Tourism Association in Estcourt on Tel/fax: 0363-336253.

Attractions

- **Augustinian Chapel.** Built in 1929. Estcourt became the cradle of the Augustinian Order in Natal in 1891.
- **Fort Durnford Museum.** Built in 1874 to protect the townspeople against possible Zulu attack, it now houses a museum where the main exhibit is the fort itself. The fort features many interesting defensive mechanisms, which made it an extremely effective stronghold. There is a reconstructed Amangwane Zulu Kraal in the grounds. Open Monday - Sunday from 09h00-12h00 and 13h00-16h00.



Talana Museum and Battlefield

The Talana Museum is situated in parklike surroundings on a portion of the battlefield of Talana, the first battle of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). The word Talana is Zulu for *little shelf*, and describes the flat topped hill on which the fighting took place. At this battle the British wore khaki for the first time.

The buildings from the time of the battle still exist and a cemetery is one of the exhibits. The original Scottish homestead of the founder of Dundee, Peter Smith, has been restored and furnished as it was in his lifetime. Talana House, the home built by his son in 1894, houses excellent displays of the earliest inhabitants of the area, the Voortrekkers, the Anglo-Zulu War and Anglo-Boer Wars; while the red-brick Henderson Hall contains the breathtaking Consol Glass Collection, the evocative Chamber of Mines and Iscor coal museums and the Brick Heritage display.

The Miners Rest is a typical coalminers' home of the 1920s, and was relocated to the museum from the nearby Ballengeich colliery. This houses the restaurant and curio shop where visitors can buy locally produced craft, curios and souvenirs.

Plan to spend a few hours to view the museum, stroll through the historic rose garden and take a cream tea or lunch in the Miners Rest tea room. Tel: 0341-21704.

There is a modern confrence facility in a recently completed wing of the museum. Talana Museum is open Monday - Friday: 08h00 - 16h30. Saturday: 10h00 - 16h30 and Sunday: 12h00 - 16h30. Arrangements can be made with the curator for guided tours of the museum and surrounding battlefields. Tel: 0341-22654 or Fax: 0341-22376. Walk and Talk tapes of major battlefields are available.



• **Fort Durnford**, which overlooks Estcourt, was built in 1874 to protect the townspeople against possible Zulu attack. The fort houses a museum.

• **Glamosa Glass.** A fascinating tour where visitors can see hand-crafted glass being made. Gift shop sells glass products from the factory. Groups of eight or more welcome, by prior arrangement. There is a quaint coffee shop on the premises, open from 08h00 - 15h00 daily, and on the first and last Saturday of every month from 08h00 - 15h00. Tel: 0363-23144.

• **Greystone.** The country residence of the last premier of Natal, Sir Frederick R Moor, it is now the Greystones Campsite. Offering camping and caravan sites, as well as accommodation in rondavels and dormitories, for bigger groups and leadership courses.

• **Old Civic Buildings.** Originally built as the agricultural hall, this is now the home of the Bushmans River Tourism Association. (Tel/fax: 0363-336253). The inauguration of these buildings had to be postponed for a week as Queen Victoria died on the day intended for its dedication.

• **Old Magistrates Residency.** The Old Court House and Magistrates Offices in MacFarlane Street were built in 1884/85, and the Powder Magazine built at the same time. Magistrates of the time had sole control over the traffic in gun powder.

• **Old Natal Government Railway Bridge.** Built in 1885, and is still in use.

• **The First Government School.** Built circa 1886. The first scholars were admitted on 2 August 1886. Located in Alexandra Street, it is today Estcourt Secondary School.

• **Traditional Healers and Herbal (Inyanga) Nursery.** Located at Zwelisha near Estcourt. Day tours by prior arrangement. Tel: 0363-336253

Attractions Nearby Estcourt

• **Bloukrans.** Many Voortrekker families were killed here following the murder of Piet Retief by the Zulus in February 1838. There is a memorial on the site.

• Brynbella - Willow Grange.

The site of the southernmost battle of the Anglo-Boer War, some 10 km from Estcourt on the old Estcourt/Mooi River road.

• Winston Churchill Capture Site.

Between the station at Frere and the Chieveley Military

Cemetery. (See Winston Churchill feature on page 23).

• **Rensburg Koppie.** Some 10 km east of Estcourt where, in 1838, Marthinus Oosthuizen saved a small

group of encamped Voortrekkers from an attack by the Zulus.

• **Saailaer.** The site of Gerrit Maritz's laager lies east of Estcourt, overlooking the horseshoe bend of the Bushmans River.

• **Veghtlaager (Veglaer).** Originally known as *Gatrand*, it was renamed Veghtlaager after an attack by Zulus had been withstood by Voortrekkers in 1838. The site has been under water since the building and commissioning of the Wagendrift Dam.

Nature and Game Reserves

New Formosa Conservancy. Variety of buck and game on a 250 ha reserve.

Moor Park Nature Reserve.

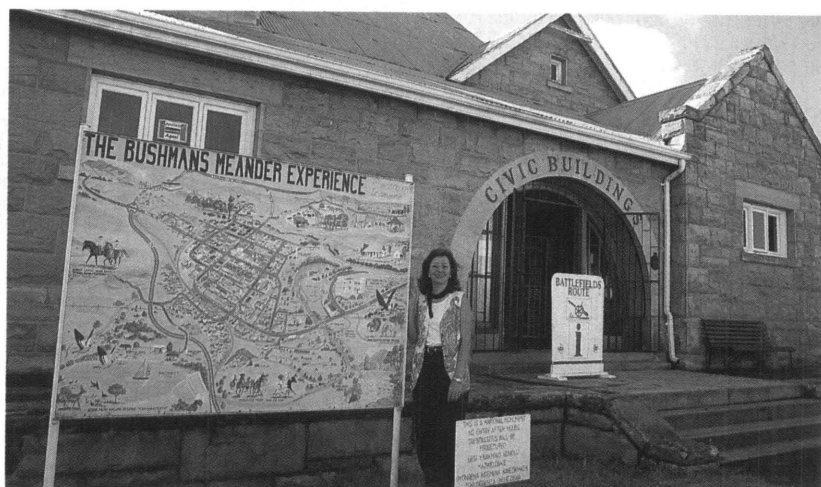
River angling.

Thukela Biosphere.

Wagendrift Dam. Water sports.

Weenen Game Reserve.

For further information on these nature and game reserves see page 33.



The Bushmans Experience

Enjoy a slice of Africa in one region. That is the promise from the Bushmans Experience, a tourism initiative that offers visitors the choice of outdoor adventure, battlefield excursions, factory shop tours, wildlife trails and safaris, and Zulu culture, in and around Estcourt. Full details and product brochures are available from the Bushmans River Tourism Association, situated in the historic Old Civic Building in Estcourt. (See photograph above).

• In the Giants Castle area of the Drakensberg mountains you can visit Bushman Caves and a museum housing original paintings and artefacts. Other mountain activities include hiking trails, horse trails, rock climbing, abseiling and puffi-sliding. For the fishing fraternity, there are numerous trout and bass waters.

• Following the course of the Bushmans River, you travel through Estcourt on your way to the famous Fort Durnford Museum and several battlefields in the immediate area, including the site of the capture of the armoured train by the Boers, when Winston Churchill was taken prisoner.

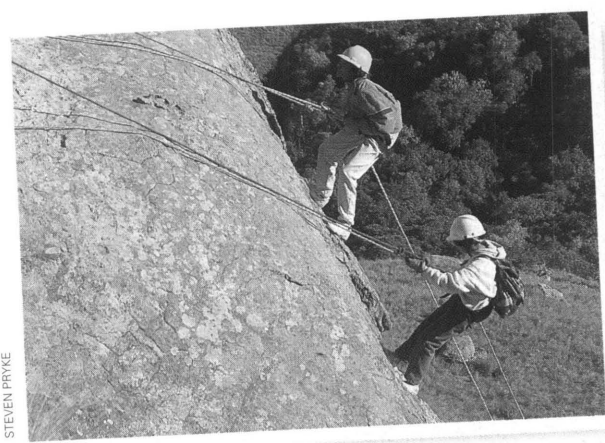
• For a change of pace, bargain hunt at one of the ten outlets on the Estcourt Factory Shop Route.

• Around Weenen you will discover a world of wildlife - safaris, hunting, fishing, bush camps, game drives, 4x4 trails, wing shooting, and mountain bike trails.

• To experience the true spirit of the region, arrange a visit to a Zulu cultural village.

• Take up the challenge of white water rafting or canoeing the mighty Tugela River.

For full details, accommodation, and Greyhound or Translux bus bookings, contact the Bushmans River Tourism Authority. Tel: 0363-336253.



• Abseiling is one of the outdoor pursuits in the Estcourt area.

Accommodation

HOTELS / RESORTS

- *Plough Hotel*Tel: 0363-23040
- *Sunrise Hotel*Tel: 0363-23008
- *Willow Grange Hotel*Tel: 0363-24622

LODGES / GUEST HOUSES / GUEST FARMS

- *The Antbear*Tel: 0363-336136
- *Ardmore Guest Farm*Tel: 036-4681314
- *Blue Haze Country Lodge*Tel: 0363-335772
- *Butterfly Lodge*Tel: 0363-24720
- *Isambane Camp*Tel: 0363-41938/
0334-961777(a/h)
- *Kaisha Game Ranch*Tel: 0363-41123
- *Kusa Kusa Game Lodge*Cell: 082 801 6517
- *The Lookout*Tel: 0363-41938/
0334-961777(a/h)
- *Owl and Elephant*Tel: 0363-41933
- *Peach Palace*Tel: 0363-24706
- *Rietvlei Guest Farm*Tel: 0363-336109
- *Rockside Farm*Tel: 0363-335332
- *Slievre Game Farm*Tel: 0363-22866
- *Stoneyridge (Phumula Luxury Camp)*
Tel: 0363-41674 / 031-7640600
- *Tugela Game Ranch*Tel: 036-4222592
- *Umsuluzi Game Park*Tel: 031-2075733/
0332-302563

- *White Mountain Lodge*Tel: 0363-24437
- *Zingela Safaris*Tel: 0363-41938 / 41962

B&B / SELF CATERING COTTAGES

- *The Aloes S/C*Tel: 0364-222834
- *Beechwood Place S/C*Tel: 0363-335993
- *Beulaland Cottage*Tel: 0363-41225
- *Brandkraal B&B*Tel: 036-4881240
- *Giants Castle*Tel: 0363-24616 / 24718
- *Greenfields B&B*Tel: 0333-31238
- *Graystone Campsite*Tel: 0363-532005
- *Hidcote Hill B&B*Tel: 0333-31227
- *Hillside House B&B*Tel: 0363-24097
- *Hummingbird Hill B&B*Tel: 0363-335993
- *Mkhamba Cottage*Tel: 0363-22947
- *Riverside Camp*Tel: 031-2075733
- *Swallows Nest*Tel: 0363-22965
- *Wozane Field & Stream*Tel: 0333-32437

CARAVAN / CAMPING / OTHER

- *Challenge Tours (Backpacker)* Tel: 0363-23724
- *Colenso Caravan Park*Tel: 036-4222359
- *Estcourt Caravan Park*Tel: 0363-23000
- *Hillside Camp*Tel: 0363-336255
- *Inkonka Bush Camp*Tel: 0363-41837
- *River Tours & Safaris*Tel: 011-8039775
- *Thukela Biosphere*Tel: 0363-41938
- *Wagendrift Dam*Tel: 0363-335520
- *Weenen Game Reserve*Tel: 0363-41809

* Denotes conference facilities

BUSHMANS RIVER TOURISM ASSOCIATION
Old Civic Building,
Harding Street, Estcourt
Tel/fax: 0363-336253 / Tel: 0363-335140(ah)

GLENCOE

Named after a valley in Argyleshire, Scotland by early Scottish pioneers during the late 1800s, Glencoe has a proud railway history, the first train arriving on 4th September 1889.

General French was stationed here on occasions during the Anglo-Boer War, and President Kruger twice stayed overnight during the Siege of Ladysmith. The house of Carl Landman, second in command at the battle of Blood River, is situated on a farm close to the town. Glencoe offers unspoilt country living in peaceful surroundings.

Nearby Attractions

- **Elandslaagte Battlefield and Cemetery.** This tiny village and railway station was abandoned by the British after the retreat of the British forces from Dundee to Ladysmith during the early stages of the Anglo-Boer War.
- **Ghandi Memorial.** There is a Ghandi memorial stone outside the Civic Buildings in Glencoe's main street.
- **Carl Landman's House.** A typical example of houses built by the Voortrekkers. It was built by Carl Landman, a Voortrekker leader who fought at the Battle of Blood River. For access, Tel: 0341-3931692.
- **Fort Mistake.** Closely resembling an Indian fort, this is one of a series of British signalling posts built between Ladysmith and Newcastle during the First War of Independence (1880-1881). The remains of the once sturdy fortress can be reached after a brisk 45 minute climb, starting at Fort Mistake Motel on the Ladysmith / Newcastle Road. The motel, currently a sports school, has an interesting display of clippings relating to the history of the Fort.

Accommodation

- *Indumeni Lodge*Tel: 0341-3932808
- *Zwei Palmen B&B*Tel: 0341-3932253

GLENCOE INFORMATION CENTRE
Biggar Street, Glencoe
Tel: 0341-3931121 Fax: 0341-3931802

HATTINGSPRUIT

Resting on the banks of the Tom Worthington Dam, between its two tributary streams, lies the village of Hattingspruit. Established as a mining town in the 1800s, it was a hub of activity but with the closure of the mines it has been transformed into a peaceful village with a country atmosphere.



Winston Churchill

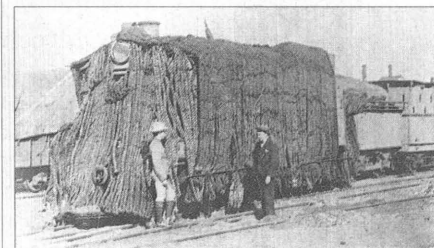
Twenty-five year old Winston Churchill, cavalryman and newspaper correspondent for the *London Morning Post* arrived in Estcourt in 1899 as the British troops were preparing to march on Ladysmith to relieve the beleaguered town.

As a graduate of the Military College, Sandhurst, and having seen action in Cuba, India and the Sudan, he was aware of the Boers' prowess in the field, commenting that "the individual Boer, mounted, in a suitable country, is worth four or five regular soldiers".

Churchill's exploits during the Anglo-Boer War were to make him a national hero and lay the foundation for the future British Prime Minister's reputation for dogged determination.

He didn't have to wait long for action.

On 15 November 1899 he joined an armoured train reconnaissance towards Colenso, where enemy patrols had been spotted. The train was ambushed by the Boers and derailed, Churchill captured and taken prisoner of war. He did not stay captive very long, however, for within two months he had made a daring escape from prison in Pretoria and was back in Natal, ready to embark on another attempt to relieve Ladysmith. At the time of his capture the Boer leader General Joubert, dismissed Churchill as 'n klein koerant-skywertjie (a bit of a newspaperman).



• The locomotive of the Armoured Train.

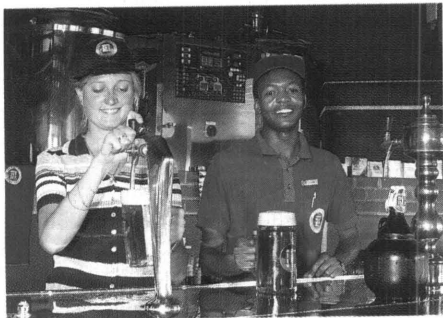
Bisected by the main road from Newcastle to Dundee, it boasts one of the most modern, computerised breweries in South Africa.

Attractions

- **Farmers Brewery and Restaurant.** Splendid location on the banks of the Tom Worthington Dam. Traditional Austrian and German ales brewed. Two copper kettles dominate the restaurant, where guests can enjoy excellent fare while savouring the local broth, brewed strictly according to *Rheinhardtsgesetz*. Restaurant, pub and conference facilities. Open Monday to Saturday. Tel: 0341-81735.
- **Tom Worthington Dam.** Sailing and fishing.

Accommodation

- *The Old School B&B*Tel: 0341-81735/6
- *Charl-Marie B&B*Tel: 0341-21500
Cell: 082 892 8490



STEVEN PRYKE

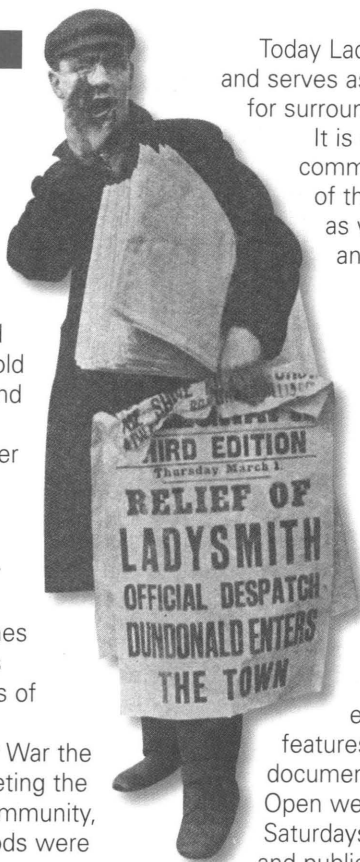
- *Traditional German ales at the Farmers Brewery.*

LADYSMITH

A well adapted village in 1849, Ladysmith was proclaimed a township in 1850. Named after the Spanish wife of Sir Harry Smith, it became an important stopover, and prospered after the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand and diamonds in Kimberley.

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the town was to be a key point in the struggle for Natal. Besieged by Boer forces for 118 days, Ladysmith made headlines around the world and its name entered the annals of military history.

After the Anglo-Boer War the town grew steadily, meeting the needs of the farming community, although the weather gods were not kind. Floods were not uncommon, and in 1924 the main street of Ladysmith was covered in half a metre of snow. In the mid-1950s it emerged as an important rail link.



Today Ladysmith is a friendly town, and serves as a commercial centre for surrounding communities.

It is currently preparing to commemorate the centenary of the Anglo-Boer War in 1999, as well as its own 150th anniversary in 2000.

Major Attractions

- **Siege Museum.** Next to the Town Hall, the museum is housed in a building erected in 1884. During the siege it was used as a ration post for civilians, thereafter as a market. A diorama depicts Ladysmith and the surrounding areas at the time of the siege. Acclaimed as an exceptional museum, it features photographs, artefacts, documents, uniforms and firearms. Open weekdays 09h00-16h00. Saturdays 09h00-13h00. Sundays and public holidays by appointment. Tel: 036-6372231 ext 318.

Mohandas Gandhi

This statue of Gandhi the Mahatma, which stands in the grounds of the Lord Vishu Temple in Ladysmith, was imported from Bombay and erected in 1970 as a memorial to his historical association with the town and its Hindu community.

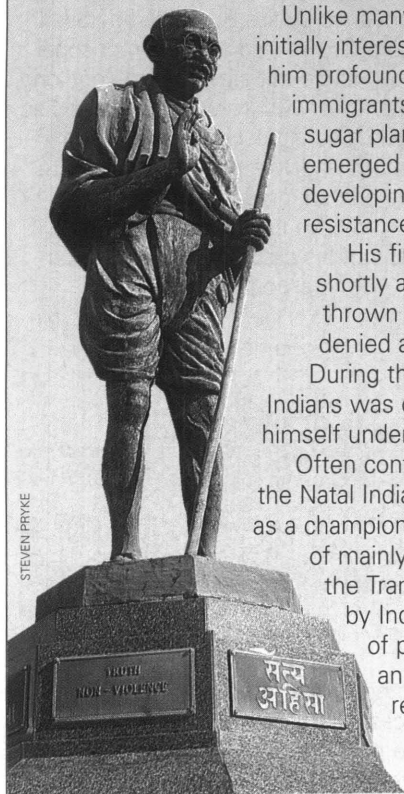
Trained as a lawyer in London, Mohandas Gandhi came to South Africa in 1893, intending to stay a year and act in a matter concerning two Indian merchants. He was, in fact, to stay for nearly two decades.

Unlike many British educated Indians, Gandhi wasn't initially interested in politics, but South Africa was to change him profoundly. The human rights struggle of the Indian immigrants, imported to Natal as indentured labour for the sugar plantations, proved to be long and hard. Gandhi emerged as a highly influential lobbyist and leader, developing the principle of *Satyagraha* (peaceful but firm resistance), which he later perfected in India.

His first experience of racial discrimination occurred shortly after his arrival in South Africa, when he was thrown off a train at Pietermaritzburg after being denied admittance to a first-class carriage.

During the Anglo-Boer War, the role of South African Indians was confined to stretcher bearing, a duty Gandhi himself undertook after the Battle of Spioenkop.

Often controversial and unpopular amongst his rivals in the Natal Indian Congress, Gandhi was nevertheless seen as a champion of the masses when he led a protest march of mainly working class Indians from Newcastle over the Transvaal border in 1913. This sparked off a strike by Indian workers in the south and ensuing reports of police brutality and the arrest of Gandhi led to an uproar in India, leading to his subsequent release. On his return to India in 1913, Gandhi was already being hailed as a Mahatma (a great soul).



STEVEN PRYKE



- *A national monument, the Soofi Mosque was completed in 1969. It is one of the most beautiful mosques in the southern hemisphere.*

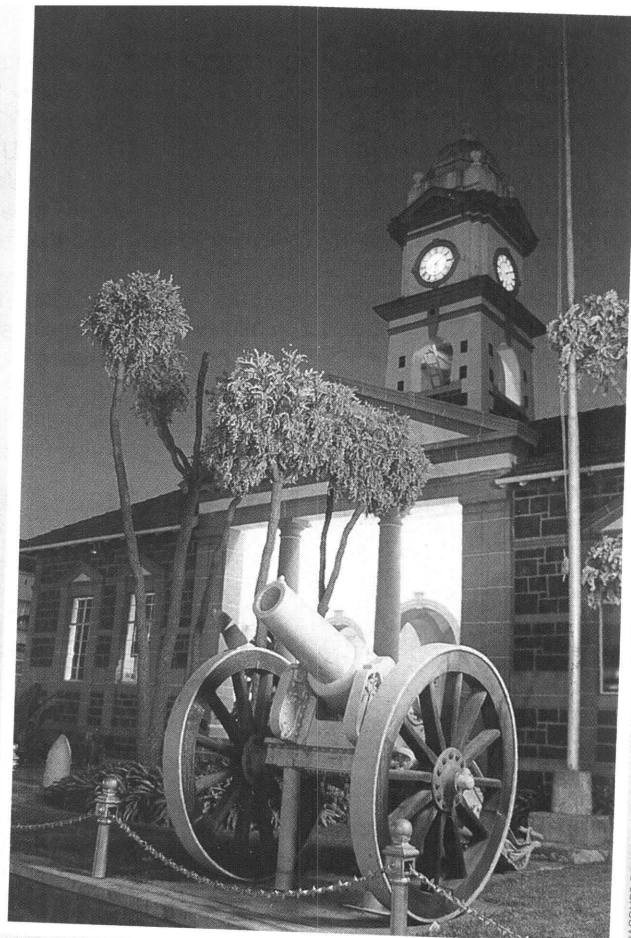
- **Ladysmith/Emnambithi Cultural Centre/Museum.** 25 Keate Street. The museum houses the Ladysmith Black Mambazo Hall, with a stunning display of this world renowned musical group. Also includes exhibitions on Ladysmith achievers such as artist Lallitha Jawahirilall and athlete Veronica Abrahamse. Open weekdays 09h00-16h00. Saturdays 09h00-13h00. Tel: 036-6372231 ext 271.

- **Registered Tour Guides.** Liz Spiret, Tel: 036-6377702. John Snyman, Tel: 036-6310660. Brian Kaighin, Tel: 036-6310594.

- **Siege Town Walk-about / Drive-about.** A comprehensive guide available from the Information Office or Siege Museum will lead you to 80 historically significant sites in and around Ladysmith. Tel: 036-6372992.

- **Town Hall/Museum.** Elegant, romantic, grand - these are the words most commonly used to describe this architectural treasure. Built in 1883, its history is depicted in what used to be the Town Clerk's office, now the Town Hall Museum. Open weekdays 09h00-16h00. Tel: 036-6372231.
- **The Battlefields.** Ladysmith is surrounded by numerous major battle sites, including Colenso and Spioenkop, as well as the sites of significant engagements. Registered tour guides will accompany you to the sites and bring history alive. As the site of the famous siege during the Anglo-Boer War, it is the perfect place to begin your exploration of the *Battlefields* region.
- **Ladysmith 99/2000.** The following events have been planned for 1999/2000. Tel: 036-6372992. Siege Festival: 23/10/99 - 2/11/99 Centenary Commemorations: 30/12/99 - 09/01/2000 Relief Festival: 2/7/2000 - 4/3/2000 Ladysmith 150th Anniversary: 16/06/2000 - 20/06/2000.
- **Small Wonders of Power.** Through the ingenuity of a creative engineer, Ladysmith boasts a unique collection of electrical sub-stations. Fourteen styles, from Cape Dutch to Art Deco. A self-guide brochure is available from the Information Office or Museums. Tel: 036-6372992.
- **Architectural Route.** Ladysmith reflects different architectural periods, from Gothic and Edwardian to Indian and Renaissance. A self-guide brochure is available from the Information Office or Museums. Tel: 036-6372992.

- **Home and Garden Meander.** Share the pride of the owners of gardens and homes on this self-guide trail. Some are luscious, some immaculate, others intriguing - all are beautiful. Visits by prior arrangement through the Information Office. Tel: 036-6372992.
- **All Saints Church.** Built in 1902 from cut flagstones quarried in the area, it is renowned for the beautiful tablets in the transept, which bear the names of more than 3000 British soldiers who gave their lives in the Siege or the Relief of Ladysmith. Many priceless stained glass windows, including two depicting War and Peace. Open 08h30 - 12h00. Afternoons by prior arrangement. Tel: 036-6374960.
- **Castor and Pollux.** These twin 6.3 Howitzers, sent hastily from Port Elizabeth just prior to the investment of Ladysmith, served the town with distinction, to the extent that they engaged and damaged one of the Boer Long Toms on the Middle Hill. Not used again after the relief of the town, today they stand proudly in front of the Town Hall. Tel: 036-6372992.
- **Soofi Mosque.** A national monument, the present Mosque obeys the decrees of Muslim canon law as it stands on the site of the original Mosque, built by the renowned saint Hazrah Soofi Saheb.



• One of the two Howitzers that served Ladysmith with distinction during the 118 day siege, stands proudly in front of the Town Hall.

General Buller's relief forces after the Siege of Ladysmith and trained some of the 1100 Indians in this dangerous task. It is said that he left on the last train out of Ladysmith before the siege. Ghandi and his stretcher bearers are reported to have performed sterling work during the bloody Battle of Spioenkop. In 1993 the Hindu community in Ladysmith paid tribute to the Mahatma by celebrating the centenary of his coming to Natal. Arrange with the caretaker, who will open the gates. Tel: 036-6377777.

- **MOTH Museum.** Relics and memorabilia, uniforms, medals, flags and weaponry from various conflicts, including both World Wars and the Border War, are on display in this intriguing museum. Open 09h00-16h00. Tel: 036-6373762.

Outdoor Attractions

Platrand/Wagon Hill. The site of the Battle of Platrand/Wagon Hill. A self-guide brochure available from the Information Office will assist you to discover the historical sites in the area, including a sculpted memorial to fallen Boers, various monuments to the British forces, gun emplacements and a military cemetery. Splendid view of the entire Siege area. Open daily 06h00-18h00. Tel: 036-6372231 ext 318 or 036-6372992.



• Experience vibrant township life around Ladysmith.

Completed in 1969, it is acknowledged as one of the most beautiful Mosques in the southern hemisphere. Open 13h00-14h00 and 17h00-21h00. Tel: 036-6377837.

- **Statue of Ghandi.** Mohandas Ghandi was a stretcher bearer with

• The sculpted memorial on Platrand/Wagon Hill.

Spioenkop Dam and Nature Reserve. A scenic drive takes you to this delightful recreational spot. Picnic under the trees beside the dam before driving through the nature reserve to spot wildlife such as giraffe, rhino and antelope. Open daily 06h00-18h00. Tel: 036-4881578.

Spioenkop Battlesite. The site of the most futile and bloodiest of the four battles fought in an attempt to relieve beleaguered Ladysmith. Some 500 men died in this desperate engagement. The site offers a self-guided trail (with brochure) which winds past graves,

monuments and trenches. Open daily 06h00-18h00. Tel: 036-6372231 ext 318.

Discover Umbulwane Tour. A visit to Umbulwane (Zulu for *the small mountain*) on the outskirts of Ladysmith is a must. Tour guides reveal the hidden treasures of the mountain, as well as its historical significance during the Anglo-Boer War. The mountain also holds secrets of the San (Bushmen).



• Remains of a Boer fortification on Umbulwane Mountain.



Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)

With the discovery of gold in the Transvaal (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek) in 1886, the Boers, fearing a massive influx of *uitlanders* (foreigners), amended the voting act. The foreigners on the goldfields protested, and war between Britain and the ZAR, supported by the Orange Free State, broke out on 11 October 1899.

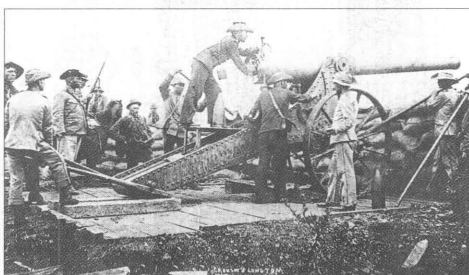
The northern triangle of Natal, which bordered on both Boer Republics, was an especially vulnerable region. The Boers occupied Newcastle on 15 October 1899, and five days later the first major battle of the Anglo-Boer War took place at Talana, 2 kilometres from Dundee.

Britain entered the Anglo-Boer War believing it would all be over by Christmas. But, as Kipling was to write, the comparatively small band of volunteers from the Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were to give Queen Victoria's proud British army *no end of a lesson*. The three year conflict proved to be the longest, costliest, bloodiest and most humiliating war Britain had fought since 1815.

During the Anglo-Boer War :

- The Boers besieged the British forces in Ladysmith for 118 days, an event which dominated world headlines.
- The biggest battle ever fought in the southern hemisphere, before the Falklands War, took place at Tugela Heights.
- The Boers demonstrated that by discarding conventional warfare for guerilla tactics, relatively small but highly mobile mounted commando units were able to confound British strategists.
- Tactics learned by the British on the Natal battlefields were adopted and honed by armies in the Great War (1914-1918).

Winston Churchill, General Sir Redvers Buller, Mohandas Ghandi, General Penn Symons, President Paul Kruger and General Louis Botha are part of the rich tapestry of a war which reflected triumph and tragedy at engagements such as Talana, Spioenkop (see photograph above), the Armoured Train Incident, Colenso, Elandslaagte, Tugela Heights, Vaalkrans and the Siege of Ladysmith.



Mural Art Walk / Drive-About.

Creativity in the local community has been immortalised on the walls of buildings. Previously bland spaces have been transformed into beautiful works of art through the combined efforts of organisations and schools. Brochures available from the Information Office. Tel: 036-6372992.

Sunday Township Concerts.

Experience the vibrant atmosphere of a township. Local groups entertain with dance, choir performances and narration. Young and old alike can indulge in the richness of township culture. Contact the Information Office for bookings Tel: 036-6372992.

Maladeni Bird Sanctuary. Some 236 species of birds have been recorded at the maturation ponds and surrounding flooded areas of the Ladysmith waste works. After hours access available. Tel: 036-6376819 / 6311854.

Black Rock. Perfect spot for a picnic on the banks of the Klip River. Braai facilities, sweeping lawns and big, shady trees. Tel: 036-6372992.

Qedusizi Dam. The dam lives up to its Zulu name, which means *end of suffering*, for Ladysmith has experienced perennial flooding for more than 150 years. Situated 4 km outside the town's central business district, it is an engineering masterpiece, with a 760m long wall and a water area covering 2 513 hectares. Tel: 036-6372992.

**LADYSMITH/EMNAMBITHI
COMMUNITY TOURISM ORGANISATION**
Siege Museum,
Murchison Street, Ladysmith
Tel/fax: 036-6372992

Accommodation

BED & BREAKFAST

- BattlefieldsTel: 036-6312585
Cell: 083 628 0769
- Boer & BritTel: 036-6312184
- Bonnie HighlandsTel: 036-6378390
Cell: 083 627 1095
- Buller's RestTel: 036-6372847(b)
036-6376154(a/h)
- BrooklynTel: 0341-23240
- Durnford's LodgeTel: 036-6372828
- Easby HouseTel: 036-4481128
- Fil's FollyTel: 036-6378429

L. JOUBERT

- **Forty Winks**Tel: 036-6372735
- **Happy Hours Guest House** Tel: 036-6372607/
036-6310404
- **Hunter's Lodge**Tel: 036-6372359
Cell: 083 627 8480
- **Hydeswood Game Lodge** ..Tel: 036-6375656
Cell: 082 455 2506
- **Hydeswood Farm**Tel: 036-6374706
- **Longfields Country Guest House**
Tel: 036-6319022 Cell: 0824558523
- **Mac's Nest**Tel: 036-6354093
- **Naunton** Tel: 036-6313307/Cell: 083 4485 635
- **Peaches and Cream**Tel: 036-6310954/
036-6313903
- **Reeh's House**Tel: 036-6374907
- **Rest Awhile**Tel: 036-6312569
- **Rietkuil Country Cottages** ..Tel: 036-6319021/
036-6378405
- **The Oaks & Acorn Cottages** Tel 036-468167
Cell: 082 490 5202(a/h)
- **The Mousehole**Tel: 036-6310594
- **The Homestead**Tel: 036-4481328
- **The Water Hole**Tel: 03622-2206
Cell: 083627 1052/3
- **Uitzicht Holiday Farm**Tel: 036-4881047
- **Vaalkrans Lodge**Cell: 082 5730 225
- **Wildeperevlei Guest House** Tel: 036-4881242
- **Woodlands Lodge**Tel: 036-6319026
- **Wyford Farm**Tel: 058-6710025

HOTELS & MOTELS

- **Cathedral Peak Hotel**Tel: 036-4881888
- **Crown Protea Hotel**Tel: 036-6372266
- **Ladysmith Motel**Tel: 036-6376908
- **Royal Hotel**Tel: 036-6372176
- **The Cavern Berg Resort** ..Tel: 036-4386270

SELF-CATERING CHALETS, COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS

- **Aller Park**Tel: 036-6374162/7
- **Boer & Brit**Tel: 036-6312184
- **Happy Hours Guest House** Tel: 036-6372607/
036-6310338
- **Lera's Place**Cell: 082 801 6524
- **Longfields Country Guest House**
Tel: 036-6319022 Cell: 082 4558 523
- **The Mousehole**Tel: 036-6310594
- **The Homestead**Tel: 036-4481328
- **The Mocking Chat**Tel: 036-6353031
Cell: 082 808 2188
- **Uitzicht Holiday Farm**Tel: 036-4881047
- **Wildeperevlei Guest House** Tel: 036-4881242
- **Wyford Farm**Tel: 058-6710025

CARAVANNING & CAMPING

- **Ladysmith Caravan Park**
Tel: 036-6376804

NEWCASTLE

Not only is Newcastle named after the mother of all Newcastles, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in England, but it has links with 27 sister Newcastles in countries such as Australia, the United Kingdom, and the USA. The cosmopolitan character of Newcastle is celebrated over the first week of September each year when the International Village Festival is held.

The town was briefly known as Viljoensdorp during the Boer occupation in 1889, but reverted back to its original name some months later.

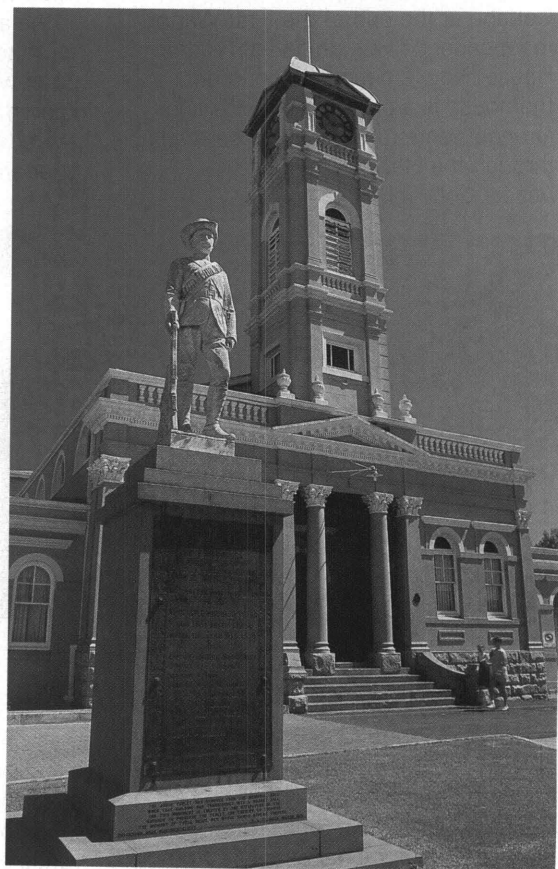
Situated a few kilometres south of the borders of the Free State and Mpumalanga (formerly Transvaal), Newcastle has always formed a natural junction for travellers; and it was from this corner of Natal that General Colley lead the British forces to their final defeat at the Battle of Majuba Hill in 1881. (See feature on page 29).

The largest town in northern KwaZulu-Natal, Newcastle has cinemas, a thriving commercial centre, an art gallery and township tours, as well as a wide range of accommodation. Yet an easy ten minute drive out of the town in any direction takes the visitor into scenic mountain countryside.

Attractions in and around Newcastle

- **Buller's Headquarters.** 43 Ayliff Street, Newcastle. Once used by General Buller as his headquarters and now the business premises of the grandson of James Bruce, who built this quaint Victorian home in 1891. The Bruce home was commandeered for the use of Boer offices during the Anglo-Boer War in 1899. The letters Z.A.R. (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek) are carved deeply into one of the window sills.
- **Carnegie Art Gallery.** A national monument built in 1915 on the old town gallows site. The Carnegie collecting theme is landscapes by South African artists.
- **Draaiwater Country Farm Stall.** 26kms out of town on the Memel Road (R34), it is well worth a visit. Fresh produce, ice-cold ginger beer, ethnic handwork, crafts and works of art, all produced locally, are on sale. Look out for the colourful tractor marking the entrance. Tel: 03431-54204.

- **Factory Tours.** Tours of a chemical rubber plant, as well as pottery and textile manufacturers, can be arranged through the Newcastle Publicity Association. Tel: 03431-53318.

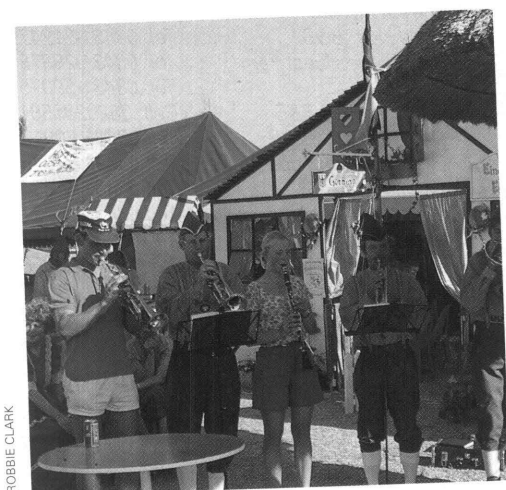


• *The Newcastle Town Hall, a national monument, built in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.*

- **Fort Amiel.** This attractive historical complex overlooking the town houses a cultural/history museum. When the British expected trouble from the Zulus in 1876, Major Charles Frederik Amiel was sent with 2 000 men from the 8th Regiment to build this fort at Newcastle (one of a series throughout Natal). Fort Amiel served as a transit camp hospital during the Anglo-Boer War. You can proceed from the Fort across the veld to the cemetery, which dates back to the First War of Independence. This is the burial place of the British Colonial soldiers who died while stationed at Fort Amiel. There is also a monument to the officers and men of the Welsh 41st Regiment.

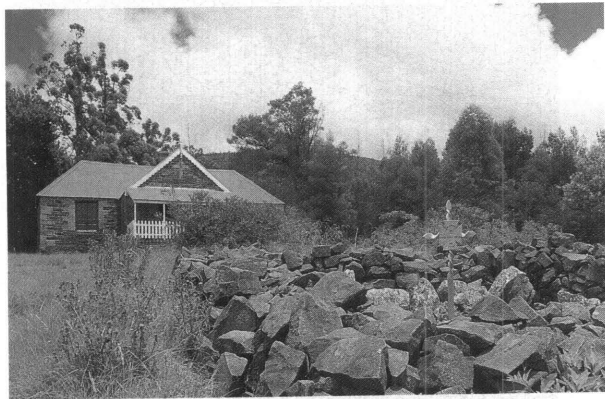
- **Fort Terror.** The remains of this old signalling post can be seen at Blue Ridge Guest Farm just outside Newcastle on the Ladysmith Road. Tel: 03431-29878
- **Hindu Temple.** Kirkland Street. It has a beautifully shaped shell, with the dome reputed to be the largest on a Hindu temple in the southern hemisphere.

- **Kestrels and Quaffers.** Victoria Street. Housed in an historic turn of the century Manor House, the Adams fireplaces, original sash windows, and oregon pine floors have been retained.



• *The International Village Festival is a popular annual event in Newcastle.*

• **Hilldrop House.** Once the home of author Rider Haggard, whose novel *Jess*, published in 1887, was based on his experiences at Hilldrop. His best known novel was *King Solomon's Mines*. The peace treaty signed at O'Neill's Cottage at the end of the First War of Independence was ratified at Hilldrop House. Now a national monument, the house is a private residence and arrangements to visit should be made through the Newcastle Publicity Association. Tel: 03431-53318.



• O'Neill's Cottage at the foot of Majuba Mountain.

• **Majuba, Laing's Nek Battlefields, O'Neill's Cottage.** The northern triangle of Natal, bordering on the Republics of the Free State and Transvaal, was an especially vulnerable region during the Boer struggle for independence from Britain in the 1880's. Decisive battles were fought in the vicinity of Newcastle and Volksrust at Laing's Nek and Schuinshoogte (*Ingogo*), followed by the Boer victory at the Battle of Majuba, where the British commander, General Colley, was fatally wounded. Take the N11 between Newcastle and Volksrust. (See feature page 29).

• **Gansvlei.** A bird sanctuary with horse-riding, canoeing and bird watching on the marsh. Tel: 083 2728 605/017442-2204.

• **Schuinshoogte Battlefield and the Valley Inn.** Take the N11 to Volksrust and turn left at Ingogo Station. The British suffered severe casualties during

this penultimate battle of the First War of Independence. The rough stone fortification was built by the British in 1881, but the fortification near the Boer cemetery dates back to about May 1880 when the British had a large camp in the area. You pass the Valley Inn en-route to the Battlefield. This historic hotel was built in the 1880s and was known to the British soldiers who stayed there as *Fermistones*; named after an officer of the Scots Greys.

Ghandi passed the hotel on his peaceful protest to the Transvaal.

(See feature page 24).

• **St Dominic's Pavilion.**

A national monument, this elegant building dating from 1916 was designed as a skating rink and used for social events. Situated at St Dominic's Academy, previously a Catholic Convent.

Tel: 03431-29265.

• **Town Hall Scott Street.**

A national monument

built in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The beautifully restored sandstone hall with its stained glass windows and attractive clock tower is still in use as a concert venue and houses the offices of the Newcastle Publicity Association. Tel: 03431-53318.

• **The Armoury Scott Street.** It is believed that the Newcastle Mounted Rifles built this arsenal in the 1870s. The architectural design and gable are unusual. The Armoury is used as a Moth Shellhole.

Hiking Trails and Outdoor Adventure

Newcastle boasts scenic, well developed hiking trails with a variety of bird life, small game, waterfalls, indigenous forests, streams and rivers. Short day hikes and two day hikes are offered. Secure overnight accommodation is

generally in mountain huts, rustic barns, thatched cottages or in sheltered caves.

Contact the Newcastle Publicity Association. Tel: 03431-53318.

Bushmanskrans Trail
Tel: 03431-54300.

Eikenhof

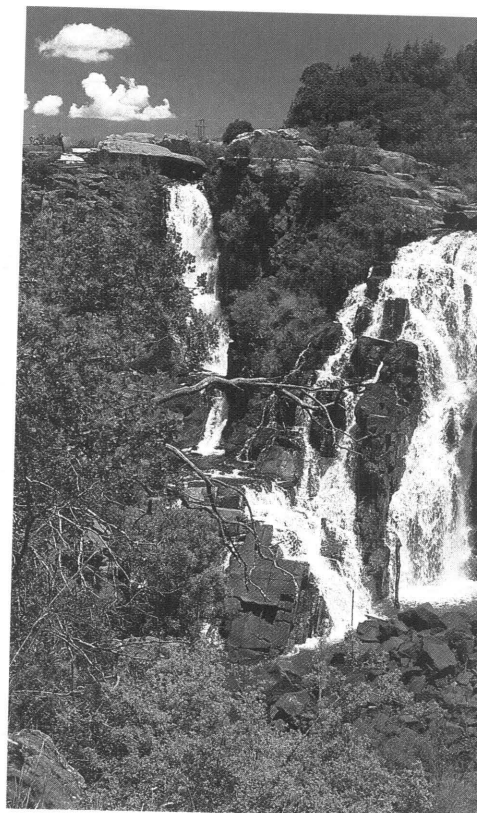
Tel: 03435-71346.

Fort Mistake Trail
Half day hike.

Tel: 034-6212052.

Geelhout Trail
Tel: 03431-86560.

Holkrans Trail
Tel: 03435-11600.



• The cascading Ncandu Falls near Newcastle is a popular tourism attraction.

Hunter's Valley Game Ranch

Tel: 03434-789

Majuba Mountain Battlefield Trail

Half day hike. Tel: 01773-3401 /

03431-51962

Moorfield Mountain Resort Day Hikes

Tel: 017442-1111 or 03431-52647

Ncandu Trail Natal Parks Board

Tel: 0331-471981

NEWCASTLE PUBLICITY ASSOCIATION

Town Hall, Scott Street, Newcastle

Tel: 03431-53318 • Fax: 03431-29815

Accommodation

BED & BREAKFAST / GUEST LODGES

- Ang'lin HouseTel: 03431-59816
- Arlene's B&BTel: 03431-53481
- Bokmakierie Guest FarmTel: 03434-786
- The BarleycornTel: 03431-54390
- Birds Nest B&BTel: 03431-21247
- Blue Ridge Guest FarmTel: 03431-29878
- Mrs B'sTel: 03431-59075
- Cobblestones B&BCell: 0829235581
- Dehlila's Place B&BTel: 03431-50913
- Drakensberg LodgeTel: 03431-83045
- FarmhouseTel: 03431-51854
- The Grey GooseTel: 03431-53221
- Gypsey's RestTel: 03431-29678
- The Haven B&BTel: 03431-52056
- Heritage House B&BTel: 03431-51767
- Hilldrop B&BTel: 03431-24263
- Hilldrop HouseTel: 03431-52098
- Horseshoe Guest FarmTel: 03435-645
- Majuba Mountain Youth Lodge
Tel: 01773-3401 / 51962
- MontroseTel: 03431-59007
- Mount Prospect Battlefield Lodge
Tel: 03431-25688
- Mount View Guest Farm B&B
Tel: 03431-51409
- Northward InnTel: 03431-50984



• The Carnegie Art Museum is housed in a national monument, built in 1915 by the Carnegie Foundation to serve as a library.

- Q InnTel: 03431-51274
ask for Mrs Gardner 50274(ah)
 - San Re Cos B&BTel: 03431-29275
 - Victoria B&BTel: 03431-22657
 - 58 York B&BTel: 03431-22626
- CHALETS & CAMPSITES**
- Amcor DamTel: 03431-81273
 - Chelmsford Dam & Resort
Tel: 0331-471981/03431-77205
 - Eikenhof FarmTel: 03431-71346
 - Heimat ChaletTel: 03431-54107
 - Little House on the Prairie ..Tel: 03431-55820
 - Moorfield Mountain Resort Tel: 03431-52647
- HOTELS**
- Bally-Hi Hotel, Ballengeich .. Tel: 03431-77242
 - Fort Mistake Motel Tel: 034621-2052
 - Holiday Inn Garden Court... Tel: 03431-28151
 - Inkwelo Motel Tel: 03434-737
 - Majuba Lodge Tel: 03431-55011
 - Valley Inn Hotel Tel: 03434-721
- GUEST FARMS**
- DirksburgTel: 03431-52354
 - FarmhouseTel: 03431-51854
 - FranzhoekTel: 03431-55011
 - Gransvlei AdventuresCell: 083 2728 605
 - King Fisher Guest FarmTel: 03431-71343
 - Oak TreeTel: 03431-27083



• Zulu warriors at a re-enactment of the Battle of Isandlwana.



First Anglo-Boer War (1880-1881)

Also known as First War of Independence

To the Boers watching from the heights it must have been an astonishing sight. Five companies of Redcoats advancing parallel to one another, each in its column of fours, their white helmets and scarlet coats brilliant against the green of the plateau, and in their midst, as had always been the custom of British infantry going into action, the Colours unfurled - two large, heavy standards nearly six feet square, the Union flag for the Queen's Colour and the regimental flag, each carried by its ensign. (The Anglo-Boer Wars - Michael Barthorp)

When the peaceful attempts by the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal) failed to gain independence following annexation of their territory by the British in 1877, First War of Independence (*First Anglo-Boer War*) was declared.

British forces were marched from Durban to Newcastle, close to the Transvaal border, where they clashed at Laing's Nek, Schuinshoogte and Majuba (see photograph above). In this last engagement the British commander, General Colley, was fatally wounded.

The armistice was signed in March 1881 at O'Neills Cottage at the base of Majuba, (the mountain of doves) and the peace treaty at Hildrop House in Newcastle. The subsequent Pretoria Convention, signed in October the same year, was never wholly acceptable to the Boers and contained the seeds of discontent, that led to the Anglo-Boer War in 1899.

NQUTU

The village of Nqutu, some 50 km from Dundee is a busy, westernised trading centre, but the surrounding area offers a rare look at a traditional way of life largely undisturbed by western ways. Worth a visit is the historic sand-stone St Augustines mission station and hospital, established by Welshman, Charles Johnson. The turn off is on the main Dundee and Nqutu road.

This area is known as *Amasotsheni* by the Zulus - a reference to the British soldiers who fought at the Battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorkes Drift nearby.

For information, contact the tourism department of the Umzinyathi Regional Council in Dundee. Tel: 0341-81945/6.

Attractions

- Isandlwana Battlefield. (See Anglo-Zulu War feature on page 30).
- Site of the Death of the Prince Imperial. (See Anglo-Zulu War feature on page 30).
- Fort Hampton, St Augustines, St Vincents. For more information contact the Dundee Publicity Association. Tel: 0341-22121 or the KwaZulu Monuments Council.

UMSINGA

Situated some 80 kilometres from Dundee, Umsinga was named after the mountain that dominates the landscape in the area. The area is an unspoilt piece of Africa, and is rich in Zulu culture, arts and craft.

For information, contact the tourism department of the Umzinyathi Regional Council in Dundee. Tel: 0341-81945/6.

UTRECHT

Taking its name from the well known city in Holland, this small town in the Balele Mountains still exudes an *olde worlde* charm. There are lovely scenic drives in the vicinity - along Knights Hill and Burgers Mountain Pass and through the Groenvlei wetlands leading to the Zaaiohoek Dam. Rand Mines allows visits to the coal mine by prior arrangement.

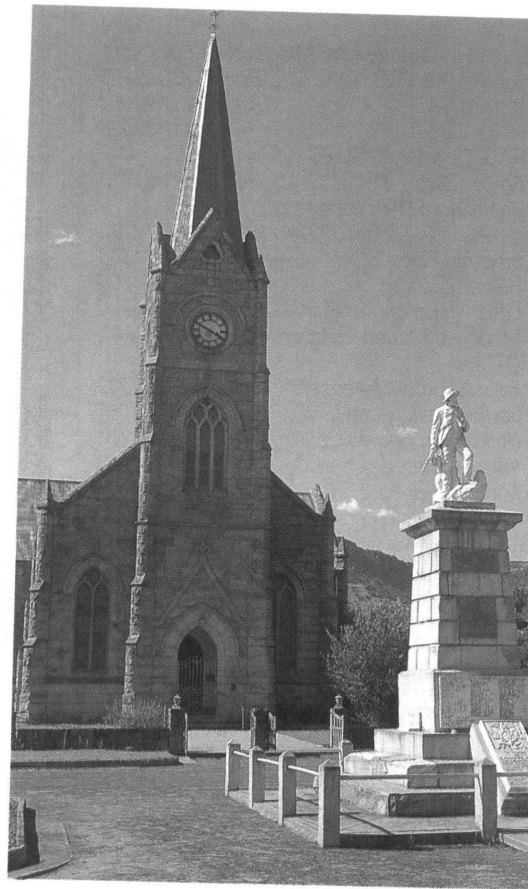
In spite of its size, Utrecht is an historical gem. It boasts 10 national monuments and 10 historic sites.

This one-time *Old Republic* was established by Voortrekkers in 1847 on the banks of the Buffalo River and it was one of five original Voortrekker settlements prior to 1850. Utrecht not only played a prominent role in the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, but the disputed territory of Utrecht was an important factor leading to war.

For a short time the town served as the headquarters of the British Army under the command of Lord Chelmsford, and Colonel Evelyn Wood and his famous flying column were based here. Still standing in Church Street is the quaint Uys House in which Prince Louis Napoleon, the Prince Imperial, visited Sannie, the beautiful daughter of Dirk Uys (see *Anglo-Zulu War* on this page).

Attractions

- **Anglican Church** erected in 1899.
- **Commemorative Tablet.** One of the most colourful foreigners who fought with the Boer forces during the Anglo-Boer War was the Pole, Captain Leo Pokrowsky, an officer in the Russian army.



STEVEN PRYKE

• A nation monument, the Dutch Reformed Church in Utrecht is fronted by a memorial to Captain Leo Pokrowsky, a Pole who fought with the burghers in the Anglo-Boer War.



Anglo-Zulu War (1879)

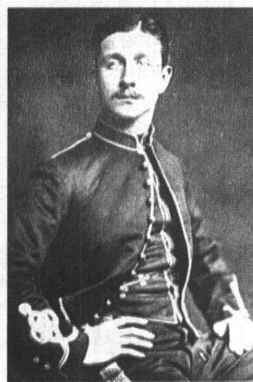
The build up of the Zulu nation by King Cetshwayo posed a threat to the colonists of Natal, and in December 1878 an ultimatum was presented to the Zulus. When the demands of the ultimatum were not met, British troops invaded Zululand.

The first battle of the war was fought at Isandlwana (see photograph above) on 22 January 1879, where in a two hour engagement some 25 000 Zulus overran the British camp and killed 1 300 of the 1 500 strong invading force. Survivors of the battle were forced to flee across the Buffalo River, at a place which has entered the annals of military history as Fugitive's Drift. Among those to leave the battlefield were Lieutenants Coghill and Melville, in a valiant attempt to save the Queen's Colour.

On the same day the Zulus attacked Rorkes Drift, a Swedish mission station used by the British as a magazine and hospital. Here the "heroic hundred" repelled a force of 4 000 Zulu warriors for twelve hours. The British lost 17 men and won 11 Victoria Crosses, the most ever awarded for a single engagement.

Several battles and skirmishes followed, with King Cetshwayo finally being defeated at the Battle of Ulundi on 4 July 1879.

During the Anglo-Zulu War the last hopes of a Napoleonic dynasty died when Prince Louis Napoleon, (see photograph), the great nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, an observer with the British forces in Zululand, was killed while on patrol.



He was killed in a skirmish on Christmas Day 1900, when he and his man attacked the British garrison in Utrecht.

• Dutch Reformed Church.

A national monument, this magnificent old building was erected during the ministry of Rev.H.L. Neethling, the first moderator of the Nederduitse Hervormde of Gereformeerde Kerk of the Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek (Transvaal).

• **Historical Walk Experience.** Indulge in the rich architectural heritage of Utrecht. The route is set out in the historical brochure which is obtainable from the Information Office.

Tel: 034-3313249.

• **Irrigation System.** Started in 1860, the system was considerably extended until 1865.

• **Landdrost, Pos en Telegraafkantoor.** This building, erected in 1892, is a national monument.

• **Old Cemetery Graves.** The last resting place of well-known Voortrekkers and British soldiers.

• **Old Parsonage Museum.** This charming sandstone building on the corner of Kerk and Loop Streets, now a national monument, houses the Utrecht Museum. Besides the period rooms, the museum portrays the border dispute between the Transvaal and Zululand.

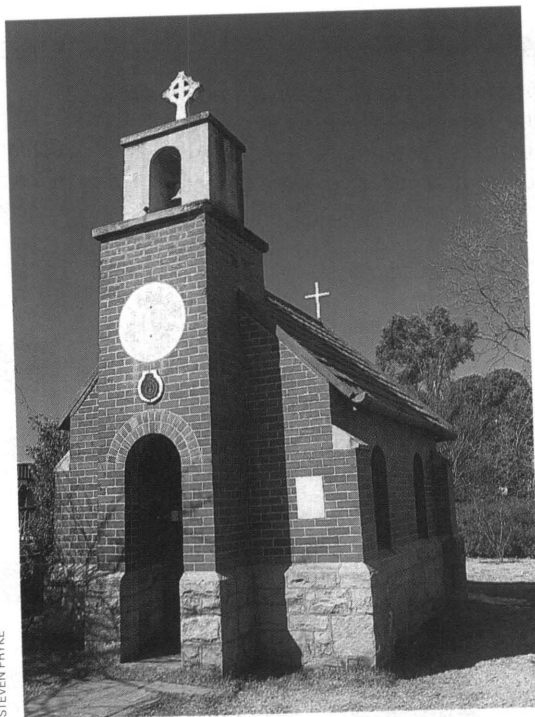
- **Old Residency.** Erected in 1892, this building is now a national monument.
- **Old Republican Powder Magazine.** Erected in 1893, it is one of three similar structures built by the Transvaal Republic.
- **Petrus Lafras Uys Monument.** A well known hero of the Zulu wars, Petrus Lafras Uys was one of the original settlers in this area in 1847. He was the first *Landros* (magistrate) appointed by the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) after the town of Utrecht was officially incorporated into the Transvaal.
- **Rothman House & Shaw House.** Both national monuments, these houses are considered to be among the finest examples of colonial residential architecture in rural KwaZulu-Natal. Both are now private residences.

- **Sandstone Section of the Old Gaol.** One of the two remaining sections of gaols of the ZAR (before 1900), still in existence.
- **Site of the Battle of Blood River and Baltes Spruit.** The Blood River battlesite is situated in the district of Utrecht and the site was for many years the property of the Utrecht Dutch Reformed Church. It was later transferred to the Nederduitsche Hervormde Kerk / Gereformeerde of the Transvaal. (See Voortrekker-Zulu War on this page).
- **Baltes Spruit** was the site of Colonel Wood's fort and stores depot approximately 25km on the road to Blood River.
- **The Buffalo Bridge.** 30km from Utrecht on the road to Newcastle.
- **The Bloedrivierpoort Battlefield.** on the road to Vryheid is the site of the battle fought to prevent General Louis Botha's second attempt to invade Natal in 1901.
- **Town Hall (1913).** National monument.
- **Waaiohoek Farm.** About 14km out of town, on the way to Blood River.

Accommodation and Outdoor Adventure

- **Balele Recreation Resort**
Tel: 034-3313041(b) 034-3313044(a/h)
- **Balele Hiking Trail**Tel: 034-3313963
- **Balele Mountain Lodge (Groenvlei)**
Tel: 017730-677
- **Betty's Bed & Breakfast** Tel: 034-3313458
- **Grand Hotel**Tel: 034-3313028
- **Klipplaatdrift Guest Farm** Tel: 034-3313718
- **Waterloo Farm**Tel: 034-3314440
- **Utrecht Gastätte**Tel: 034-3314295
Cell: 082 970 3521

UTRECHT PUBLICITY ASSOCIATION
Voor Street, Utrecht
Tel: 034-3313249 • Fax: 034-3314312



STEVEN PRYKE

- *Accommodating a congregation of no more than eight people, the smallest church in the world is at Van Reenen.*

VAN REENEN

Situated on the 1 680 metre high summit of the Van Reenen Pass, the village forms the major gateway into KwaZulu-Natal.

The N3 from the Free State closely follows the old pass route as it descends down the escarpment into KwaZulu-Natal. The view site at Windy Corner, (turn-off 2,5km from Van Reenen) offers sweeping views of the Drakensberg.

Van Reenen is famous for having the smallest church in the world. The Llandaff Oratory, which seats eight people, was built as a father's memorial to a son who died in a mining accident.

The church is open for visitors and there is a small curio shop. To book the church, contact Mrs West-Thomas.
Tel: 058-6710021.

Accommodation

- **Andrew Motel**Tel: 058-6710044
- **Green Lantern Inn**Tel: 058-6710027
- **Wyford Guest Farm**Tel: 058-6710025



STEVEN PRYKE

Great Trek and Voortrekker-Zulu Wars (1836-1852)

The introduction of British rule in the Cape Colony after 1806 resulted in wide spread dissatisfaction among the fiercely independent Afrikaners and led to the exodus of six main groups of Voortrekkers to the hinterland, from where they aspired to govern themselves and maintain their cultural identity.

A group under the leadership of Piet Retief arrived in Natal, land of the Zulu nation, in 1838. Following negotiations with the Zulu king, Dingaan, for land, Retief and his group of 101 Voortrekkers were murdered at Umgungundlovu. Other groups of Voortrekkers were virtually annihilated. A Voortrekker commando sent from Port Natal (now Durban) to avenge Retief's death was ambushed at Italeni.

The Voortrekkers mobilised to avenge the attacks. At Wasbank in December 1838 they made a vow that if God would grant them victory over the Zulus, they would build a church in thanksgiving and commemorate the event annually.

Some 15 000 Zulus attacked the 460 Voortrekkers at Blood River on 16 December 1838, but were defeated. The Voortrekkers did not forget their vow, and the Church of the Vow was built in Pietermaritzburg in 1841. Today, at the site of the Battle of Blood River, there is a stone memorial and a striking replica of the Voortrekker *laager* (circle of wagons) cast in bronze (see photograph above). A stone cairn marks the centre point of the laager.

WASBANK

A small village on the banks of the Wasbank River, close to the spot where the Voortrekkers, en-route to the Battle of Blood River, took the vow on 9 December 1838. (See feature on *Great Trek and Vortrekker-Zulu Wars* on page 31). A plaque on the side of the road as you leave the village and approach the river, briefly tells the story.

Attractions

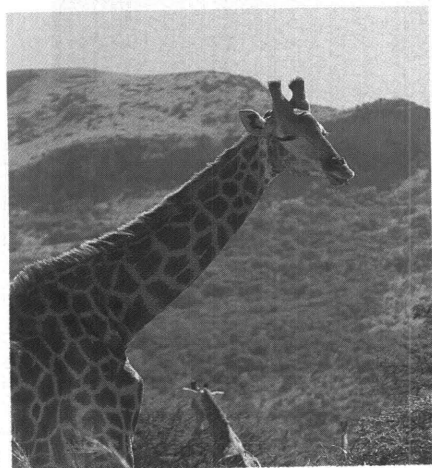
- **Maria Ratschitz Mission.** (See *Dundee* page 19).
- **Tactile Carpets.** Situated 40kms from Ladysmith on the N11. Handwoven artistic designs are created on the farm *Mielietuinshoek*. Wonderful carpets are hand-knotted by local Zulu women. Tel: 034-6511678.

Accommodation

- *Balbrogie Country House* Tel: 0345-352
- *The Manor House* Tel: 012-3463550

Hiking Trails

Oribi Trail.
Hiking trail in the Biggarsberg mountains. Starting from Balbrogie Country House 20 kilometres from Dundee. Tel: 034-6511352.



ROBBIE CLARK

- *There is a wide variety of wildlife to be seen in the Weenen Game Reserve.*

WEENEN

In 1838, a town was laid out on the banks of the Bushmans River and named Weenen (*the place of weeping*), in memory of the massacre of the Voortrekkers by Zulus. Tourism in the Weenen area is burgeoning with an interesting mix of wildlife experiences, traditional Zulu arts and crafts and old fashioned hospitality. The information office of the Thukela Biosphere - a joint eco-tourism venture by the locally based communities - will provide details and information on the area. Tel: 0363-41938.

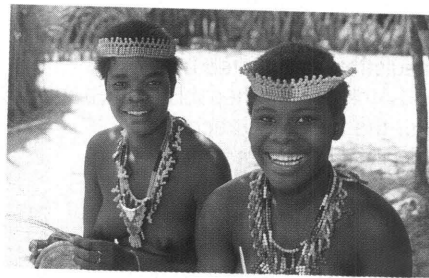
Accommodation

Accommodation in the Weenen area and the Thukela Biosphere ranges from rustic self-catering tented camps to luxury fully inclusive game lodges.

- *The Owl and Elephant & Restaurant*
Tel: 0363-41933
- *Isambane Camp* Tel: 0363-41938/
033-4961777
- *Beulaland Cottage* Tel: 0363-41225
- *Umsuluzi Game Park* Tel: 031-727585/
0332-302563
- *Phumula Bush Camp (Stonyridge 4x4 Trails)*
Tel: 031-7640600
- *Thornton Bush Lodge* Tel: 0363-24518
- *Kaisha Game Ranch* Tel: 031-3054009/
0363-41123
- *Kusa Kusa Game Lodge* . . Tel 0322-63380/
Cell: 082 801 6517

- *The Zingela Safari and River Company*
Tel: 0363-41961 / 4196
 - *Weenen Game Reserve* . . . Tel: 0363-4180
- Conference facilities are offered at :**
- *Phumula Bush Camp* Tel: 031-764060
 - *The Zingela Safari and River Company*
Tel: 0363-41961 / 4196

For further information on accommodation in the Thukela Biosphere telephone 0363-41938



ROB FAURE

Thukela Biosphere

Situated in the greater Weenen district, the Thukela Biosphere consists of some 100 000 hectares of valley bushveld. It is a unique concept that promotes conservation and community upliftment through the sustainable utilisation of the area's natural resources. Malaria and bilharzia free, the biosphere offers visitors an outdoor experience and 15 different overnight facilities less than two hours drive from Durban and only four hours easy travelling from Johannesburg.

The diverse topography of the Thukela Biosphere means that the veld ranges from large trees with dense canopies along the many rivers and streams, to thick acacia scrub and open grasslands. This supports a wide and fascinating range of wildlife. There are elephant and white rhino, wildebeest and buffalo, warthog, hyena, jackal and numerous species of buck.

Bird watchers may revel in the prolific birdlife - ostrich, ground hornbills, blue and crowned crane, bald ibis, vultures, a wide variety of smaller birds of prey, as well as riverine and grassland species. The mild climate of the biosphere also favours reptiles, and visitors will frequently encounter crocodiles, leguaans and a variety of tortoises, terrapins, snakes, lizards and geckoes.

There is an excellent network of dirt roads on the game farms, and the Thukela Biosphere ensures visitors a grandstand view of the flora and fauna, while open vehicle drives are encouraged in the more remote sectors, where local guides bring new insight to the many facets of the Tugela Basin's rich historical and cultural heritage. Tel: 0363-41938.



WILDLIFE

Whether its watching the giant predators at a vulture restaurant in the Berg, or game spotting elephant and white rhino in the Thukela Biosphere, there is a wildlife experience to capture your imagination.

Wildlife opportunities in the region ranges from small privately-owned parks to the scenic grandeur of the 8 000 ha Royal Natal National Park.

Accommodation is varied - from rustic mountain cottages and trail huts to bush camps, bungalows, chalets and lodges.

KWAZULU NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Reservations for Huttet Camps
KZN Nature Conservation Service
P O Box 1750

Pietermaritzburg 3000

Tel: 0331-471981

Fax: 0331-471980

• **Chelmsford Nature Reserve.** Chelmsford Dam is renowned for carp and bass fishing. 1 000 ha game park, with rhino, wildebeest, zebra, blesbok, springbok. Bird species include Egyptian and spur winged goose, spoonbill. Sailing, power boating, water-skiing. Chalets, camp and caravan sites. Tel: 0331-471981.

• **Giant's Castle.** 34 638 ha reserve is part of Natal Drakensberg Park. San (*Bushmen*) art at Main Caves and Site Museum (see page 7). Vulture Restaurant (see page 6). Black-backed jackal, baboon and antelope. Hillside and Injasuti Camps, chalets, caravan sites and caves. Tel: 0331-471981.

• **Royal Natal.** Some of the most spectacular scenery in Africa (see page 4). Over 180 bird species, including Bearded Vulture (*lammergeyer*) and black eagle. 30 established walks and climbs, trout fishing. Bungalows, cottages and campsites. Tel: 0331-471981.

• **Mahai and Rugged Glen.** Part of Royal Natal. Horse riding, hiking, 83 km of self-guided walks. Campsites. Tel: 036-4386303.

• **Spioenkop Nature Reserve.** 6 000 ha reserve, 35 km from Ladysmith. Adjacent to Anglo-Boer War battlesite of Spioenkop (see page 26). Angling, yachting, water-skiing, power boating. Camp and caravan sites. Tel: 036-4881578.

• **Wagendrift Nature Reserve.** 980 ha resort near Estcourt. Includes Moor Park Nature Reserve. Angling, sailing, power boating, water-skiing. 3 km self-guide trail. Youth centre for educational and environmental activities. Camp and caravan sites. Tel: 0363-335520.

• **Weenen Nature Reserve.** Its 6 500 ha is the core area for the Thukela Biosphere. Game includes, amongst others, black rhino and white rhino, buffalo and the rare roan antelope. The reserve boasts a bird list of 279 species. One of few remaining formally protected areas of valley bushveld. A wide variety of activities, including

night drives, guided/self-guided walks, a 47 km network of game viewing roads. 4x4 trails. There is a game viewing hide on a water-hole, and three scenic picnic sites.

Rustic tented camp, cottage, camping and caravan sites. Tel: 0363-41809.

THUKELA BIOSPHERE

100 000 ha of valley bushveld, the Thukela Biosphere is a unique concept established to promote conservation and community upliftment through sustainable utilisation of natural resources (see page 32).

For further information contact:

The Thukela Biosphere

P O Box 202

Weenen 3325.

Tel: 0363-41938.

• **Beulaland Cottage.** B&B. 6 km from Weenen Game Reserve. Wilderness walks in elephant country, night drives, birding. Hiking, horseriding. Tel: 0363-41225.

• **Isambane Camp.** Tented self-catered camp or catered thatched stone cottages. Hike to nearby iron ore mining caves. Game drives. Tel: 0363-41938 or 033-4961777(a/h).

• **Kaisha Game Ranch.** 2 000 ha on the Tugela River. Thatched cottages. Game viewing, night drives, fishing, birding, mountain biking, river rafting. Zulu village. Limited hunting. Tel: 031-3054009(bus) 0363-41123 (a/h). Fax: 031-3054155.

• **Kusa Kusa Game Lodge.** Bamboo and thatched camp overlooking Tugela Valley. Wilderness trails, guided walks, night drives. Zulu dancing. Hunting packages. Tel: 0322-63380. Cell: 082 801 16517.

• **Stoneyridge / Phumula Bush Camp.** Luxury tented camp and cottages overlooking Bloukranz River. 4x4 training and adventure trails. Birding, walking trails, game viewing, night drives, tubing, fishing, abseiling, mountain biking. Conferences. Tel: 031-7640600. Fax: 031-7644660.

• **Thornton Bush Lodge.** Game ranch adjacent to Weenen Game Reserve. Self-catering bush lodges. Tel: 0363-24518.

• **Umsuluzi Game Park.** 3 200 ha on Bloukranz River. Wilderness walks, guided day/night drives. 20

species of game and abundant bird life. Fishing. Luxury safari tents or thatch-on-stone cottages.

Tel: 031-2075733 or 0332-302563.

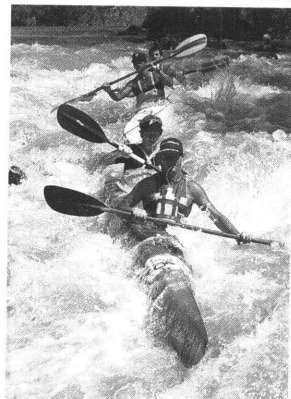
• **Zingela Safari and River Company.** On Tugela River. 3-day water rafting adventure, abseiling, 4x4 trails. Conferences and team building activities. Hunting safaris arranged. Tel/fax: 0363-41962 or 0363-41961.



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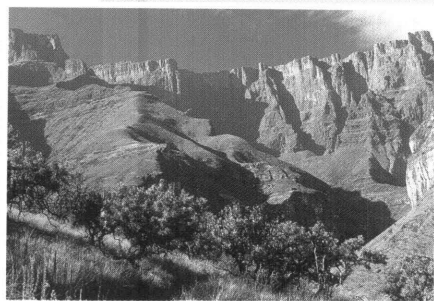
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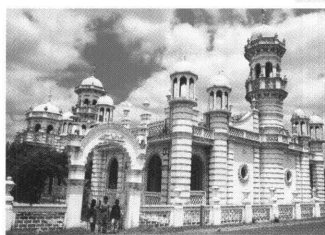
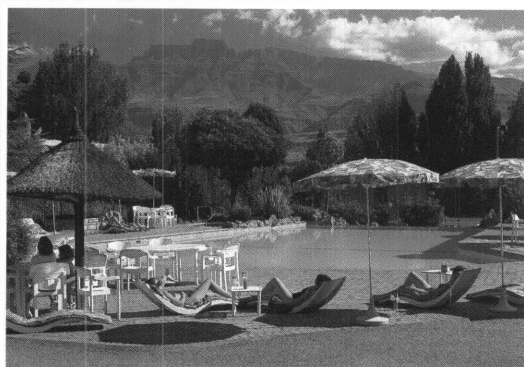
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