

# HOGSBACK NEWS

## Hogsback Open Gardens



The Gardens are open Thursdays to Sundays during the event

on all weekends there will be various activities. Open Garden Tickets are R120pp, children under 14 yrs free. These can be purchased either in person from the Edge Mountain Retreat Reception when you come to Hogsback for your visit or in advance online at: [www.quicket.co.za](http://www.quicket.co.za)



If buying tickets online please bring your printed quicket tickets to the Edge to get your wristbands and map. Open Garden Ticket allows unlimited access to all 10 gardens for the duration of your stay so you do not have to rush around all the gardens in 1 day! You need a vehicle to take yourself to each garden, and all gardens are "self tour". The max distance between gardens is 4km.



The gardens are open for free for Hogsback residents

- The gardens are:
- The Edge
  - woodside Gardens
  - Malingwe
  - Bramber
  - Mistlea
  - Back o' the Moon
  - Hurry
  - Maylodge
  - Moonshine
  - St Patrick's
  - Little Timbers
  - Mon's Garden

The dates are-  
5-15th October  
2-12th November





# OTHER EVENTS AND MARKETS

## Kings Lodge events

**Fun EXTRAVAGANZA evening** and **5pm**  
**6th October Night Food Market**

Come have some Fun, let your hair down; experience the thrill of horseracing and blackjack and a live auction.

Things happening:

1. Horse racing with a bookmaker for live betting
2. Blackjack with betting
3. Live Junkbusters Auction
4. Stand-up Comedy
5. Live Music

**R50 entrance fee** (maximum R100 per family)  
**045 962 1024**

Admission fee includes an entry into a Lucky Draw for lotsa great sponsored Prizes.

**JUNKBUSTERS AUCTION** **LIVE Music** **COMEDY BLACKJACK**

at the Kings Lodge

2023

"Fun Extravaganza" latest news...

Over an above the events advertised on our action filled poster, we take great pleasure in announcing that we will be hosting the "World Bokdrolspoeg Kompetiese." This age old pastime requires the competitor to stand behind a line and spoeg (spit) the bokdrol as far as they can. He/she who spoegs the bokdrol the furthest wins the Kompetiese. We will honour and maintain the integrity of the history of our ancestors by only allowing the competitors to spoeg genuine sun dried eastern cape bokdrol, as has been the tradition for centuries. (right now we have professional hunters and their Bushman trackers "spooring op die drolle" in Hogsback and surrounds, let's pray for their success).

Although we originally initiated this competition for our assiduous local farming community stretching from Hogsback to Cathcart and surrounds, whom I'm sure have deep roots in bokdrolspoeg in their family history. They might even have a few "springbokbokdrolspoegers" in their family tree. (which we didnt want to shake to vigorously in case any tar brushes dislodged).

We have decided so as not to be accused of type casting, stereotyping or racially profiling people by the "woke folk," to open this competition to all the people of Hogsback and surrounds, this includes previously advantaged people, previously disadvantaged and those few special Hogsbackians who appear to have no bloody advantage at all. I feel it only fair to all to make a full disclosure in the regard that certain physical characteristics will indubitably be an advantage in this challenge, this will however not disqualify wannabe heroes of lesser physical advantage...

## Under the Oaks Market

Hogsback Under the Oaks Market is an event that happens every Saturday @The Edge 10am - 1pm Meet up with the friendly local ecliptic mix of talented, creative crafters and traders.

For the love of great food, there is a spread of tantalizing savoury to sweet foods, such as the amazing smoked salmon and quality Venison meats. To accompany that, from Thrive you will find a table full of freshly baked oven bread and organic farm produce.

For the sweet tooth, is the selection of the local delicious blackberry, blueberry, strawberry and raspberry array of jams, the perfect gift for Mom or Grandma back home.

Being high up in the mountain, why not come and chat to our Hogsback CBD expert Jo, who can advise on products for both pets and humans.

Our Leatherman Wayne has the motto "if you can think it, I can make it" from designer handbags to unique custom pieces.

For a splash of colour, there are Colourful crochet scarves, beanies, hats, and gloves. Delightful hand knitted toys and cute finger puppets.

**BLING** - The Purple Hat Jewellery kiosk is a must with everything under R100. Fiona will fondly inform you that everything is pre-loved. There's a little sparkle for everyone.

Melanie's table offers the popular woman gym tights in an assortment of colours at very good prices with cool tops to mix and match. Assortments of books are available at bargain prices, as well as toys to keep the kiddies happy and amused.

Wonderful hand-crafted wooden bowls and spoons made from the trees of the majestic Hogsback gardens, giving you a piece of Hogsback that will last forever, a special memento indeed. The sweet, seasonal honey makes a buzz and pops up every now and then, bringing natural sweet delight to all.

Last but not least, try out the Salt of the Earth Organic Herbal Salts to spice up your life.

Invitation to all and **FREE SMILES** for everyone.





# THE INSIDE SCOOP

## THRIVE

Another exciting addition to Thrive is the new wood-fired oven that Dianne is building. This means that loadshedding will no longer affect the baking process and also the breads and other tasties will be done in a far more natural way, which I am sure will add even more flavor to Dianne's tasty creations.

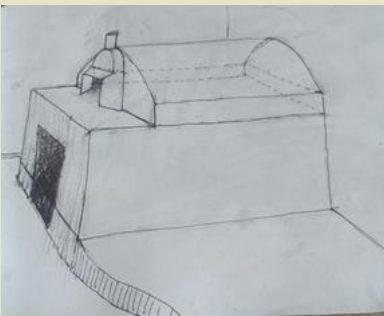
Here is how it is being done.

The bread oven will be made out of cob with a special fire brick floor. To shape the dome, I collected beach sand that I'll dampen and build the shape I want on top of the placed fire bricks. When the shaping is complete, we will begin the cob process over the sand. When the cob layer is dry, we will remove the sand and start a small fire in the oven that we will keep going for about one week to dry the oven from the inside better. Then we will make a large fire that will help the beach sand solidify in all the gaps top and bottom. The silica in the beach sand melts when very hot....acting like a sort of glue. After that the oven will be ready. It will take approximately 12 ciabatta, and 14 sourdough Breads at a time.

-Dianne

Thrive is growing and producing more and more, which is most exciting for Hogsback, as Thrive has long been a well known part of Hogsback and will become even more important as time passes.

Along with the open Gardens, Thrive will also be hosting a garden tour of its own. Please see on the open Gardens page on facebook for information.



## Farewells

We said goodbye to Devi & Raj who went back home to Durban. It was an honor to meet these two lovely people and to enjoy their amazing foodie creations at the markets. You guys are missed and we hope to see you again.

Devi wrote a small piece about their stay on the Mountain.

My husband Rajan Nair commenced his 2 year contract in Ford Beaufort & we were seeking accommodation for the duration. The tranquil beauty of Hogsback attracted us. The vibrant hues of this incredible gem of a town welcomed us with a promise to awaken our senses & rejuvenate our spirits. It did just that!! The lushness, amazing beauty and serenity of the nature present was like a garden of Eden. The warmth & love given so freely by the beautiful souls that lived here was breathtaking. We will forever miss Hogsback. Our season spent here was a celebration of life in full bloom.

Devi & Raj





# OUTSIDERS PERSPECTIVE OF HOGSBACK

Written by Sunshine Simplificities

Believe In Fairies? I don't think it matters if you do or don't, because once you have experienced Hogsback, you may well realise that you do not need to see or understand magic to believe in it. Instead it is that feeling of complete contentment, it's that place in your heart where dreams come true.

A place to soothe your spirit, a place where your soul is rejuvenated.

A place to dream. A place to heal. A place to celebrate.

Hogsback is a mystical little village high up in the Amatola Mountains.

Follow the winding road, under a canopy of overhanging trees, up up up, until you see the sign.... And feel the magic and then you know you have arrived.

Surrounded by indigenous forests, with hidden lanes on every bend, gateways to mystical gardens.

Pathways to crystal clear waterfalls and ancient trees. As you begin your days with spectacular sunrises and end them with serene sunsets.

There is ample information on line about the history of Hogsback, carefully researched and methodically documented.

But this article is an attempt to convey to you the reader, all that Hogsback is to the soul.

This is the Hogsback that I sought out on foot - exploring hidden pathways and winding lanes. This is the Hogsback that keeps me coming back again and again.



*“There is a secret garden where  
miracles and magic abound, and it's  
available to anyone who makes the  
choice to visit there”*

*~ Dr Wayne WDyer*

You can find me on  at Sunshine Simplificities for more exciting adventures.





## Stories of old

A look back on how things were in Hogsback in the 60's and 70's through the eyes of Lynn Wynn.

Lynn has been coming to Hogsback since she was a little girl and shared her fond memories of Hogsback with me.

Lynn can recall that as a family they would come up to Hogsback in the 60's and 70's for holiday. The pass was not quite where it is now, it was a very narrow dirt road starting down at the small bridge. As a family, they would stop at this little bridge to have a picnic to gather strength to travel up the difficult road.

The village was very small and rural. There was a small trading post where you could get basic supplies, like those in the old Western movies.

There were sacks of grain and flour that they would scoop out your desired amounts for you. The shop also had tin baths hanging, as well as spades and gumboots. Books were also available,

Lynn still owns two of those books about mushrooms.

The shop was located where the petrol station is now.

Most of Hogsback was grasslands, the baboons and the monkeys were not yet a feature of the area and were very seldom seen. Roaming livestock was also non-existent. Wildlife such as bucks were very common back then.

As children they would spend their days exploring and looking for mushrooms as well as enjoying the fruit trees of Thomas Summerton which had been in Hogsback since the beginning, dating back to the ox wagon times.

Where they camped, there was a waterwheel by a waterfall on the grounds that generated electricity, as back then there was not yet any electricity.

The water they needed came straight from the stream as it was still very clean and pure.

Hogsback was still very free and quiet. As children it was completely safe to explore and play, without any concern for safety.

Lynn moved to the mountain permanently in 2008 and has no intention of leaving. Her artworks are well known and enjoyed by many locals and tourists alike.

So much has changed in Hogsback, and it is always nice to look back on what it was like in the olden days.

However much change there has been, the Mountain is still a special and unique place.

-L.W

## Origin stories

On 20 September 1799 exactly 224 years ago, the Dutch missionary Johannes van der Kemp arrived at the young chief Ngqika's (Gaika) Great Place in the Tyume Valley, at the confluence of the Tyume and Kwezana Rivers, most likely where Binfield Dam is now. (Water was vital to the amaXhosa with the Supreme Being uThixo / uQamata being responsible for maintaining harmony and having a special relationship to water.)

Gaika had inherited the chieftainship of the amaRharhabe nation following the death of his father, although he was clashing with his uncle Ndlambe for it. His children would include Sandile (the current chieftainship line), Maqoma (the great warrior enshrined in statue at Ntaba kaNdoda and now also the Fort Beaufort Museum) and Tyhali (whose Great Place is at Woburn near the Schenk's mill).

Gaika's mother was Yese, who had recently taken in another Dutchman, Coenraad de Buys (a great uncle on my mother's side), a renegade outlaw from the Dutch occupation of the Cape up to the Fish River. Coenraad, or "Khula" as Gaika called him on account of his height, became something of a father-in-law to Gaika and helped guide him in his early dealings with the British "iJohnnies".

For in 1795 the British had taken the Cape with the Scottish Vice-Admiral Elphinstone (a great uncle on my father's side) winning over the Dutch at the Battle of Muizenberg. British power was starting to peak as the British East India Company (chaired by Elphinstone's elder brother) now controlled the Cape. Dutch power was waning and by 1799 the Dutch East India Company was liquidated.

Van der Kemp was already 50 years old by the time he arrived in the Tyume Valley, having lived as a soldier and doctor previously in the Netherlands. Coenraad was 38 and as the Trekboers started to encroach into amaXhosa territory, moving north and east and away from the advancing British, the two Dutchmen also decided to venture east together.

Doing much of the current Amatola trail in reverse, van der Kemp almost drowned trying to cross the Gqubushe River just south of Keiskammahoek, with de Buys saving his life. The two would soon part ways with van der Kemp receiving the name "uNyenghana", meaning bald man, from the Xhosa.

By 1803, with increasing tensions between the British, Dutch and Xhosa, van der Kemp decided to head back to the safety of Bethelsdorp in what is now Nelson Mandela Bay, where he established a mission for dispossessed Khoi and San, who had lost land to both the advancing amaXhosa and abaThembu (moving south and west) and the British and Dutch (moving north and east). The great Khoi chieftainess Hoho had held the Amatola's before the arrival of the amaRharhabe in the 1770's.

-Bevan Jones



# ENVIRONMENTAL & WEATHER

## The Buzzing of the Bees

Bug season is back and it began with the buzzing of the bees. They started to swarm by August already, which is much earlier than usual. Honey bee swarming is a natural part of a developing their colony. Honey bees swarm as a result of overcrowding within a hive. To create a swarm, an old honey bee queen leaves the hive with about half of the hive's worker bees, while a new queen remains in the old hive with the rest of the workers. In the wild, honey bees swarm most in late spring and early summer, at humid times of the day.

A honey bee swarm may contain hundreds or thousands of worker bees and a single queen. Swarming honey bees fly temporarily, and then cluster on shrubs and tree branches. The clusters rest there for several hours to a few days, depending on weather conditions and the amount of time needed to search for a new nesting site. When a scout honey bee locates a good location for the new colony, the cluster immediately flies to the new site.

Generally, honey bee swarms do not harm people. Swarming honey bees do not have young or a nest to defend during the swarm, and as such, their incentive to sting is reduced.

We have several beekeepers on the mountain and also several people who can assist when bees become a problem on your property. Dianne from Thrive assists with bees as well as Vincent Shaw, among many others.

Bees are one of the world's most important pollinators for food crops – each day we rely on bees and other pollinators. At least one-third of the human food supply from crops and plants depends on insect pollination, most of which is done by bees. Put simply, we cannot live without bees.

Thus it is important to preserve these buzzing creatures.

If you encounter them in or around your home and need them removed, do it the right way by contacting the numbers provided, so that they can be moved safely and relocated where they can continue to do their crucial work for us.

There are many other pollinators such as Bumble bees and Butterflies, and each has their specific plants that they pollinate and are just as important to look after.



Vincent Shaw:  
0825768246

Dianne:  
0828200260



## Weather as it is, as it may be.

The coming of Spring brought with it masses of rain and strong winds. The land was thirsty and took well to the rain down pour. Some trees went down and the mountain also lost signal for a while, which most of us have become used to. Now many of us that rely on rain water have full tanks again and the streams are flowing strong. A good way to start spring indeed. Now all of Hogsback has had a good drink and can begin to grow strong for summer. One can see now how the whole world is becoming green and lush with a plethora of color already spreading over the mountain.

The weather to come, according to my trusty weather app, looks to be on the sunnier warmer side with temps rising into the high 20's, of course this is subject to change at any moment, as is the norm for the mountain. We enjoy the rains, mist, and hotter days, I am sure most will agree that the wind and cold is not pleasant, but is part of life here in magical Hogsback.

The splendor of the Thunder storm season is also about to kick off, which promises a loud beautiful spectacle of lightning and roaring thunder through the mountains, best time of the year in my opinion.



# LOCAL ADS & INFO

## LOCAL OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES OF MAIN SHOPS

### SPAR:

MON TO FRI. 07:30 AM – 6 PM  
SAT: 07:30 AM – 5 PM  
SUN: 8 AM – 2 PM

### BUTCHERY:

MON: 11 AM-3 PM  
TUES TO FRI: 9 AM-5 PM  
SAT: 9 AM-3 PM  
SUN: CLOSED

### PETROL STATION:

MON- FRI: 7:00 AM - 6 PM  
SAT & SUN- 7 AM - 6 PM  
LOADSHEDDING MAY AFFECT TIMES

### HARDWARE STORE:

MON-FRI: 7:30 AM - 5 PM  
SAT: 7:30 AM - 1 PM  
SUN: CLOSED

### LIQUOR STORE:

MON-FRI: 9 AM - 6 PM  
SAT: 9 AM - 2 PM  
SUN: CLOSED



071 873 4500

Hogsback Adventures



0718688749

Main road, opposite spar.



7 Waterfall drive weekly special food creations.

0828200260



071 873 4500

Woltree Coffee Shop and Farm Stall



072 492 6868

Hogsback Brewing Company

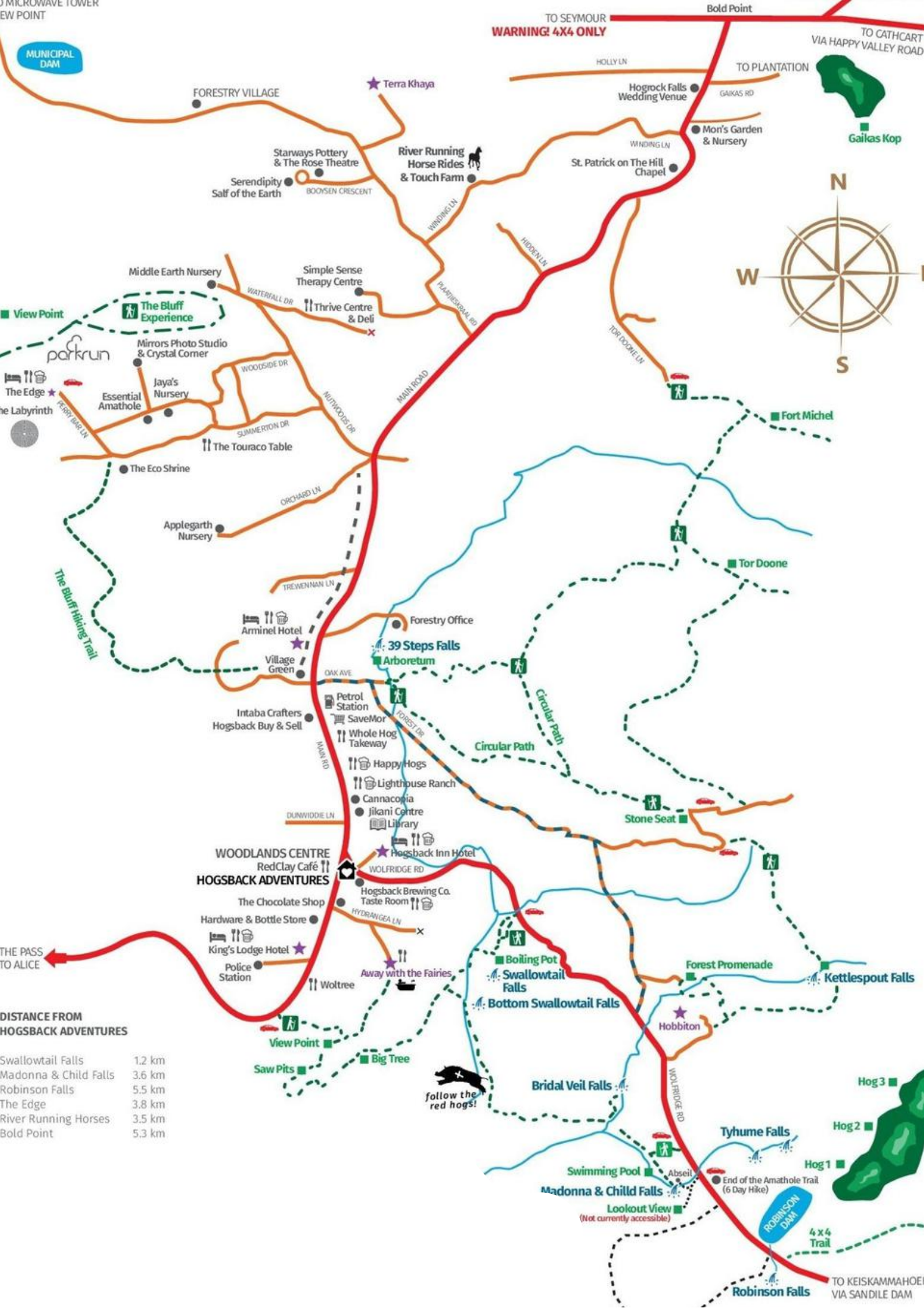


Holiday Accommodation

Luna at Hogsback

0795202205-Whatsapp





TO SEYMOUR  
**WARNING! 4X4 ONLY**

Bold Point

TO CATHCART  
VIA HAPPY VALLEY ROAD

MUNICIPAL DAM

FORESTRY VILLAGE

★ Terra Khaya

HOLLY LN

TO PLANTATION

Gailas Kop

Starways Pottery & The Rose Theatre  
Serendipity  
Salf of the Earth

River Running  
Horse Rides & Touch Farm

Hogrock Falls  
Wedding Venue

MOR'S GARDEN & NURSERY



Middle Earth Nursery  
The Bluff Experience

Simple Sense  
Therapy Centre

View Point

parkrun

Mirrors Photo Studio & Crystal Corner

The Edge

The Labyrinth

Essential Amathole

Jaya's Nursery

The Touraco Table

The Eco Shrine

Applegarth Nursery

Arminel Hotel  
Village Green

Forestry Office  
39 Steps Falls  
Arboretum

Fort Michel

Tor Doone

Intaba Crafters  
Hogsback Buy & Sell

Petrol Station  
SaveMor  
Whole Hog Takeaway

Circular Path

Stone Seat

DUNWIDDIE LN

WOODLANDS CENTRE  
RedClay Café

Hogsback Inn Hotel  
Hogsback Brewing Co.  
Taste Room

Circular Path

Boiling Pot

Forest Promenade

Kettlespout Falls

THE PASS TO ALICE

The Chocolate Shop  
Hardware & Bottle Store  
King's Lodge Hotel

WOLFDRIDGE RD  
WOLFRIDGE RD

Swallowtail Falls  
Bottom Swallowtail Falls

Hobbiton

View Point

Big Tree

follow the red hogs!

Bridal Veil Falls

Tyhume Falls

Hog 3

Hog 2

Hog 1

**DISTANCE FROM HOGSBACK ADVENTURES**

Swallowtail Falls	1.2 km
Madonna & Child Falls	3.6 km
Robinson Falls	5.5 km
The Edge	3.8 km
River Running Horses	3.5 km
Bold Point	5.3 km

Swimming Pool  
Madonna & Child Falls

Abseil  
End of the Amathole Trail (6 Day Hike)

Lookout View (Not currently accessible)

ROBINSON DAM

4 x 4 Trail

Robinson Falls

TO KEISKAMMAHOE  
VIA SANDILE DAM