

## Year End Rally

The Nest Hotel – Drakensberg

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025

We had a fabulous year-end rally at The Nest Hotel in the beautiful Drakensberg! A total of 17 bikes, a few cars, and 32 members attended this much-loved annual getaway weekend — including our Howick members.

Unfortunately, a few of our regulars couldn't join us — we missed each and every one of you! Some of us braved heavy rain and a hailstorm on Thursday to arrive early, while the rest of the group travelled down on Friday. Roy and Barbara made the short hour-long trip from their KZN home to join in the fun.

Our gracious host, Colonel “Nest” Saunders, and his amazing staff treated us like royalty. We were spoiled with five-course meals served at our tables, high teas, and an affordable bar complete with a cosy, crackling fire.

Upon arrival, each room welcomed guests with a gift pack — champagne, fruit juice, sweets, Christmas decorations (including the elves' hats!), and luxurious hand creams and soap bars.

Friday evening kicked off with a quiz night hosted by Michelle and Lesley in the card room — a great brain teaser that had everyone thinking outside the box!

On Saturday, our UJN historian Mike led a group ride following the historic trail of General Buller's defeats along the Colenso railway line and Churchill's captive site. Deon B added fascinating historical twists along the way. Meanwhile, other members enjoyed a sunny, relaxed day by the hotel pool, or explored the local breweries, chocolate factory, and bakeries.

Our fines master Allen nearly earned himself a fine for catching a spelling mistake — poetic justice at its best!

Saturday night's dinner included a presentation by our president Willem, who shared some interesting club statistics — much to Tracy's delight, who insisted on getting all the details!

Sunday morning wrapped up the weekend perfectly with a scrumptious early breakfast before we split into several riding groups: the adventurers, the sightseeing cruisers, and those eager to head home.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined and made this weekend such a memorable and laughter-filled event. Here's to another fantastic year ahead with great rides, great friends, and great memories!

