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Rochelle Hibbers, Wendy Hibbers, Jakkie Laite and Martie Wardley



Sean and Virginia Paterson enjoying the trail



Mike Steenkamp pushes through the last bit with ease

A race with a fantastic view in Amatikulu

EARLY on Sunday morning, 151 trail runners gathered in Amatikulu to collect their race numbers for this year's Amatikulu Trail Run, hosted by KZN Trail Running.

The race consisted of a 5km, 15km and 25km course. The longer-distance runners were the first to be ferried across the vibrant Amatikulu Estuary by honorary rangers from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to reach the sandy peninsula that runs parallel to the mainland.

From there, the athletes embarked on their journey through the Amatikulu Nature Reserve where they navigated coastal dunes, forests and grasslands.

Some runners spotted giraffe and zebra, adding an extra thrill to the challenging course.

On the other side of the estuary, the short course runners began their race from Dokodweni Beach Camp and were treated to

stunning views of the estuary, peninsula and the ocean beyond.

Remarkably, the weather held up until just before the last runners were ferried back, setting the stage for a cosy prize-giving ceremony inside the halls of The Hatchery Lodge.

New records were set for the 5km race, where Heinrich Grobler took an incredible lead. New records were also set for both the

15km and 25km courses.

The Grobler family dominated the event, securing podium finishes in all three races, with strong competition from the likes of Dean Percival, youngster Bourne Rabey and Thulani Makhaye.

The ladies also impressed – Lara Kemlo, Lucy Steenkamp and Amy Mathew all set new records, each delivering powerful finishes.



Jessica Corlett gets her hands dirty

Mandy Loggenberg and Gonzalo Campero exhilarated on the beach



Happy campers Bobby Esterhuyse and Manie Kotze

Bourne Rabey took an incredible lead in the 15km course

Runners were ferried across the estuary to start their race