



“YIPPEEE!!!” Pam Hackney and Eileen Hall celebrated the finalisation of the entries for the **2011 Weekend Witness Maritzburg Marathon**, which is powered by **Honeydew** and the **Durban University of Technology**. Nearly 4000 runners and walkers entered the Marathon and Half Marathon which take place on the streets of Pietermaritzburg on the last Sunday in February. Along with the fun runners who will be covering distances ranging from 4.2km down to a 21 metre “nappy crawl” on Saturday afternoon 26th February, the organisers are catering for a total field in excess of 5000.

From where do they all hail?

The Marathon and Half Marathon field draws 85% of its participants from beyond a 50km radius of Pietermaritzburg, 5% coming from ten of the 16 other athletic “provinces”. Who travelled further? Limpopo or Western Province? Who cares? We welcome them all with open arms and the hospitality that you will only find in the Capital City of the Kingdom of the Zulu.

What is even more exciting for the future of the race is that, once again, there is a large foreign contingent with at least 53 entrants representing 10 foreign lands. This is an almost 100% increase on the 2010 statistic. When one considers that Pietermaritzburg is not a “destination city” in terms of airline travel, it is obvious that the Maritzburg Marathon has an allure that is irresistible. A **“City Marathon”** in the making.