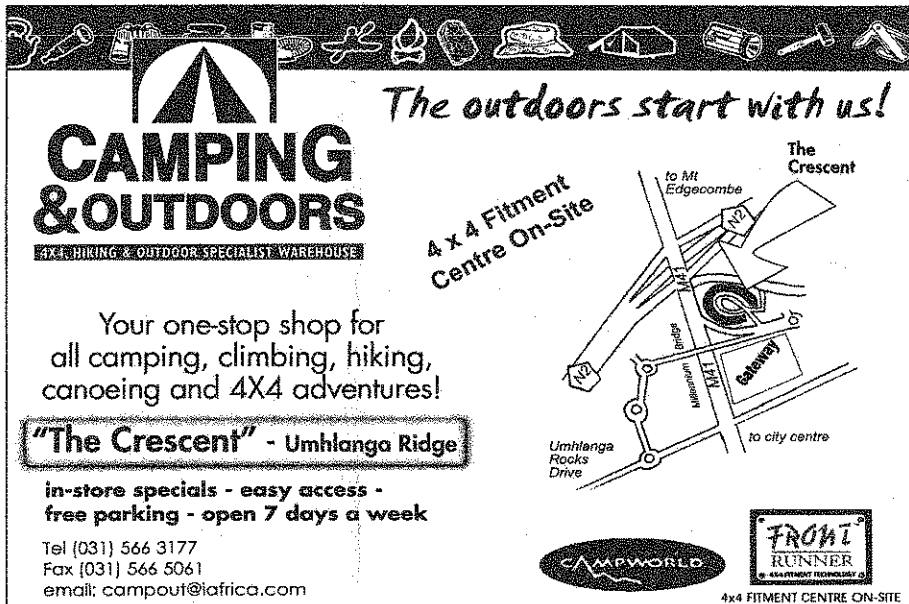


Happy Hiking Tip from Cedric Biggs

Ever been caught out in the cold, windy or wet conditions without a raincoat? How would you like to have one or more that cost almost nothing, weighs nothing and takes up no space? Can also be used for sitting or lying on if the ground is wet, sandy or infested with ticks or ants – even to put your food on. Can also be used to keep clothes sorted and dry when you go backpacking and use as a ground sheet and doormat for your tent, or on the ground in a cave. That is much better than an anorak, which either costs the earth or tears apart in no time? What is this wonderful, multi-purpose product? It's in your house right now.

Take two plastic rubbish bags and cut holes in each of them for your head and arms. Glue bits of cloth or plastic tape across the ends of the holes to prevent tearing, then carry them with you whenever you go hiking. And, bonus, you can even use them for your rubbish when you are finished!!

Thanks to authors for contributions. If you have any tales to tell, we would love to hear about them. If you do not see your article in the magazine following provision of copy, please do not despair or become despondent. It will be used in the next edition. Please send copy to the editor at PO Box 888 Mount Edgecombe or e mail to JFerguson@canegrowers.co.za (text only please)



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This is the official newsletter of the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club. Contributions are welcome, but the right to edit any contribution is reserved. The opinions expressed in any published article or insert do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Durban Ramblers Hiking Club.



PO Box 50563
MUSGRAVE ROAD 4062

Banking Details:
Standard Bank, Musgrave Road Branch Code: 04262610 Account No: 051257653

JANUARY – MARCH 2005

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e Mail
Chairman	Brian O'Connell	306 0743	072 995 6565 briange28@hotmail.com
Secretary	Ingrid D'eathe	262 3753	083 789 3753
Treasurer	Biff Maggs	312 1503	082 900 6965 biff@eastcoast.co.za
Sun Hike Organiser	Jon Stevens		082 459 1522 Jon.Stevens@bcx.co.za
Sat Hike Organiser	Ann Olds	767 1027	
Weekend Organiser	Merle Mackenzie	561 3038	082 454 0521 mcmacken@mweb.co.za
Publicity Organiser	Roger Arnold	266 7458	arnolds@sharksden.co.za
Magazine Editor	Jayne Ferguson	462 2732	083 381 3990 JFerguson@canegrowers.co.za
Ordinary Member	Steve Watson	312 7108	082 443 4155 swatson@metroweb.co.za

25 December 2004 – Feel like spending a couple of hours with Rambling friends?

See you at the Bill Heslop BYO Xmas lunch at The Palmiet Nature Reserve. Optional short hike (stagger!!) afterwards. RSVP Philip 201 3592

31 January 2004 - New Year's Eve Party

Ramblers are invited to bring and braai and even pitch a tent for the night at Montclair Primary School. Plenty of Space, swimming pool, good facilities, excellent hosts – John and Denise. Phone John van Zyl or Denise for time and directions. 462 7952

**Durban Ramblers Hiking Club
Notice of the 2005 Annual General Meeting**

The 2005 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place as follows :

Date : Tuesday 8 February 2005
Time : 18:00
Venue : Westville North Library

A G E N D A

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies.
3. To confirm the Minutes of the 2004 AGM.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. To receive and approve the Chairman's report.
6. To receive and approve the Financial report.
7. To approve any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the Club.
8. To elect office bearers and the Executive Committee.
9. To elect the Honorary Auditor.
10. To present the floating trophy.
11. To receive any other business of which due notice has been given.

Nomination forms

A nomination form for Committee members is included in the magazine. Please ensure that it is returned to the Secretary by 31 January 2005.

Please note :

The Constitution of Durban Ramblers Hiking Club is available **ON REQUEST** either electronically from Jon Stevens (Jon.Stevens@bcx.co.za) or by post (Ingrid D'eathe. Tel 262 3753). Financial statements will be available mid January 2005 if required. Contact Biff Maggs.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Field Boucher has proposed amendments to the Constitution. For ease of reference, the current wording of the rule has been listed followed by the proposed amendment, Field's reasoning and finally, the Committee's view on the proposed amendment.

Ballot papers will be handed out at the AGM which will list the rule number and two columns marked 'agree to proposed amendment' and 'disagree to proposed amendment.' When you make your tick please **NOTE THAT YOUR TICK WILL BE EITHER AGREEING OR DISAGREEING WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND NOT WITH THE COMMITTEE RESPONSE.** No debate will be entered into at the AGM.

AND, TALES OF TRAILS

Weekend Review

Mahai : 23 - 26 September - Merle McKenzie

As so many were unable to make the weekend at Mahai earlier in the year, a second trip was arranged for the long weekend in September. 23 campers braved the wet weather, with some arriving on the Thursday evening and the rest on Friday. The early arrivals just managed to get their tents up before the rain put a damper on things, but thankfully we were able to shelter under Brian's gazebo.

Friday morning dawned somewhat cloudy, but we set off in Dennis' bakki for Tendele to do the gorge walk. Such spectacular scenery, and great fun rock-hopping up the end of the gorge where we relaxed on the rocks and had lunch. The rain caught us on the way back to the car-park, and continued for most of the night. Consequently, groups were sheltering under cover in various places, and we missed out on the planned communal braai.

We were greeted by another cloudy day on Saturday, but undaunted, set off in two groups, one taking an easy walk to Rugged Glen and stopping at the Mont-aux-Sources Hotel for tea, while the other group followed the path along the Mahai River, with a steep climb up to Gudu Falls. When the rain started again on return to camp, some people decided they'd had enough of the wet weather and headed for home. However, for those that stayed, the stars eventually came out on Saturday night, and Sunday turned out to be a glorious day. We had a short walk to Fairy Glen, and sat for a while alongside the dam, just enjoying the peace and tranquility, before making our way back to break camp.

A big thanks to Derek and Sandra Pretorius who always make their caravan available to keep beers and wine cold and for shelter for the sodden ones!!!

Blinkwater Trail : 12 - 15 November - Audrey Vickers

This is a delightful trail situated in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands and within easy reach of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. It's a pity that more use is not made of this trail by Natal hikers as it is ideal for families and those unaccustomed to back-packing. There are three overnight huts with short distances between them. The longest day hike is less than 10 kilometres and traverses varied scenery, from plantation to grassland to indigenous forest. The trail is well marked, provided one can follow blue markers.

The first overnight hut is Mountain Falls, which is the parking, beginning and ending. It is a granny cottage in the garden of a forestry house and overlooks a wetland and a dam with commercial plantation on both sides of the valley. Then, there are the Iphesiwe Huts, set in a hollow near a stream and on top of the escarpment. There are views all around and from here it is a short walk to the radio mast on the highest point of the Blinkwater, at 2.140m. The third overnight stop is the Douglas Smith Cottage at the bottom of the escarpment. It is built on the site of the old settler homestead of which the only things remaining are the imposing stone gateposts and a lovely avenue of Plane trees, other exotic and indigenous trees and many azalea plants.

What a wonderful four days! Thanks to Philip Gatenby for making the weekend possible and to Colleen, Faith and Ronel for their company.

Sat 12 March	Krantzkloof – Nkonka. Meet Krantzkloof picnic site. Up behind Interpretive Centre across Bridle Rd. Spectacular gorge and sea views. #R10. BYO	Ann	767 1027
Sun 13 March	<i>Nwabe. Medium hike with good views overlooking the Mlazi River. (Cost R15)</i>	Steve Watson	082 443 4155
Sat 19 March	Krantzkloof Longshadow 1. ** Meet Krantzkloof picnic site. Shady walk up stream. #R10. BYO	Linda	702 9138
Sun 20 March	<i>Peacevale. Hike through and back above Peaceful Valley along Key Ridge. Guest leader. (Cost R15)</i>	Adrian Rowe	764 4721
Sat 26 March	Stainbank Nature Reserve. Yellowwood Park. ** Shady walk #R10. BYO sundowners.	Clive	765 5051
Sun 27 March	No hike		

Weekend & Trails Programme : January – March 2005

Date	Description	Leader	Tel
Jan 29 - 30	Sani Lodge Backpackers. This weekend has been timed to coincide with the annual Sani Wild Flower Walk (see separate article). Camping @R40 pp per night. Accommodation available (R75 pp sharing; R60 in dormitory; R110 pp sharing in chalets) – contact Simone direct for all bookings on 033-7020330.	Brian O'Connell (for Saturday hike)	Merle 032-4394317 (B) 031-5613038 (H) 0824540521
February 25-27	Garden Castle. (Hermits Wood). Small shady campsite behind the Drakensberg Gardens Hotel. Rustic ablutions with hot showers. R40 pp per night. Early booking necessary as Parks Board require deposit up front. Contact Merle by end January	Steve Watson	Merle 032-4394317 (B) 031-5613038 (H) 0824540521
March 25-28	Easter at Loteni – Variety of hikes from camp. Camping @ R50 pp per night. Booking on first come basis thru Merle	Brian O'Connell	Merle 032-4394317 (B) 031-5613038 (H) 0824540521

07:30 on Sunday 30 January – Sani Wild Flower Walk

The Wildlife Society arrange 4x4 transport from the Border Post up the pass and then participants walk back (about 8km) and have the opportunity to admire the wild flowers, accompanied by botanists and guides. Passports are essential. Cost is R100 per person and bookings open on 1 January on first-come-first-served basis - Numbers are limited. Flower lovers wishing to participate in this popular annual outing should contact Bill Small direct on 033-7011269.

If anyone sees a potential for a club hiking weekend during one of their private weekends away, please contact Merle McKenzie on 082 454 0521. Likewise, any ideas for day hikes or half day hikes in and around Durban, please contact the Saturday/Sunday hike organiser or any committee member.

The proposed amendments are as follows :

RULE 5 - HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Current wording:

On the recommendation of the committee, any person who has been a member of the Club for thirty years or more or who has rendered special services to the Club for the furtherance of its objects, may be elected an honorary life member at any Executive Committee meeting of the Club, and to be confirmed by members at the following Annual General Meeting. They, thereafter, shall be entitled to all privileges of membership without paying the annual subscription. A two-thirds majority of the Club present and voting shall be necessary for such an election.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend the period from 30 to 15 years.

Reasons:

30 years is too long and that an Honorary Life Member can also make a donation.

Committee View:

Currently there are 32 honorary life members. If the term was decreased to 15 years it would add an extra 26. This would mean a loss to the Club of R1 300.

RULE 7 - ENTRANCE FEE AND SUBSCRIPTION

Current Wording:

An entrance fee shall be payable by ALL persons on admission to the Club. The annual subscription and entrance fee shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

An annual subscription shall be levied on members. Persons joining after 1 September of each year shall pay half subscription fee only for the remaining part of that particular year.

Proposed Amendment:

Entrance Fee : Amend the second sentence to read. The annual contribution and entrance fee shall be determined annually at the AGM by a vote of the members.

Annual subscription: Amend the second sentence to read. Persons joining after 1 July of each year shall pay half subscription fee only for the remaining part of that particular year.

Reasons:

Field feels that the subscriptions should be determined by a vote at the AGM for the year that we are going into.

Committee View:

This was argued long and hard a year ago and it was agreed that the Committee can decide. It is our experience that a committee is not going to make a rash decision. For example, this coming year we are not going to recommend an increase since the Club is in a healthy financial position.

RULE 8 - PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Current Wording:

All subscriptions shall be payable in advance on or before 2 January in each year. The subscriptions are non-refundable once paid.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend to read – All subscriptions shall be payable after the close of the AGM in February each year. The subscriptions are non-refundable once paid.

Reasons:

Fits into the suggestion above that we determine the subs at the AGM.

Committee View:

Same view as for Rule 7.

RULE 9 - DEFAULT IN PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Current Wording:

(a) If any member fails to pay his/her annual subscription within six calendar months of due date, he/she shall cease to be a member of the Club. Such persons may be re-instated as members at the discretion of the committee, provided payment of the outstanding subscription is made within one year of due date.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend to read - within two calendar months after the AGM.....

Reasons:

Feels that the Club needs to get subs in quickly and on time. Six months is too long to wait.

Committee View:

Agree.

RULE 15 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Current Wording:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on some day in the month of February, except in special circumstances when the meeting may be held later in the year, to be determined by the Committee.

The following business shall be transacted at such Annual General Meetings:

- (a) Presentation and adoption of the Chairman's report.
- (b) Presentation and passing of the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet.
- (c) Alterations (if any) to the Constitution and Rules of the Club.
- (d) Election of Officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing year, and such sub-committees as may be required.
- (e) General.

IMPORTANT : if you need a lift from the meeting place, contact the hike leader or one of the hike organisers to ensure that somebody will be there.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sun 2 Jan	No hike.		
Sat 8 Jan	Alverston Nature Reserve. Meet Assegai Hotel Game viewing #R10. Bring and braai.	Brian	072 995 6565
Sun 9 Jan	Tower Meander. Once more to the White Tower. (Cost R15)	Brian	072 995 6565
Sat 15 Jan	Krantzkloof – Mpiti Falls. ** Meet Krantzkloof picnic site. Up-stream and up to top of Falls. Good views. #R10. BYO	Ann	767 1027
Sun 16 Jan	Virginia. Start at Jon's house, through the cemetery, coastal forest and beach, followed by drinks at Jon's. BYO (Cost R10)	Jon Stevens	082 459 1522
Sat 22 Jan	Burman Bush. Park below Jameson Park (below Rose Garden). Walk through suburbs to Burman Bush. Return via Kings House to ice-cream at Mozarts. Bring and Braai and swim at Werner's House.	Werner	208 7532
Sun 23 Jan	Camelot. Medium hike in the upper valley of the Sterkspruit. (Cost R25)	Dieter Becker	462 7445
Sat 29 Jan	New Germany Nature Reserve. ** Off Otto Volek Rd. Grassland and bush. View the aviary.	Cedric	702 4905
Sun 30 Jan	No hike		
Sat 5 Feb	Umhlanga Lagoon and Beach. ** Meet on grass opp. Cabana Beach. Walk through bush to lagoon and return along beach.	Merle	082 454 0521
Sun 6 Feb	Kloof Meander. A different view of the Kloof Gorge. Bring R10 for Parks Board. (Cost R10)	Brian	072 995 6565
Sat 12 Feb	Paradise Valley, Sarnia. Follow sign from Eden Rd. ** Easy, shady walk of historic interest. R7.00 BYO sundowners.	Dennis	764 3692
Sun 13 Feb	Old Baldie. A perennial favourite. Walk the exposed granite surfaces and enjoy. (Cost R25)	Steve Watson	312 7108
Sat 19 Feb	Springside Nature Reserve. ** Meet at reserve. 2 nd traffic light right off Old Main Rd. Hillcrest. Right into Stonewall Rd. Right into Springside Rd. #R5.00. Bring and Braai.	Trevor	765 5133
Sun 20 Feb	Vernon Crookes Reserve. Easy hike in this lovely reserve. Leave Durban and Pinetown at 08:00, meet at exit 104 N2 (Umzinto/Park Rynie turn off) at 08:45. Entrance fee R10 (Cost 25)	Dieter Becker	462 7445
Sat 26 Feb	Winston Park. ** Meet St. Hilliers Dam. Along escarpment. Return Shady Avenue.	Colin	708 3517
Sun 27 Feb	No hike.		
Sat 5 March	Waterfall. Nqutu Gorge. From Bridle Rd right into King George, becomes Valley Rd. Nature Reserve on right. Strenuous climb out. #R10 bring and braai – own equipment.	Brian	072 995 6565
Sun 6 March	Newborough Grange, Byrne Valley. Hike through indigenous bush to Sao Joao trail. Circular route, along ridge returning via Minverva Nature Reserve. Hope to see game. Possible R15 entrance fee. Leave from Pinetown at 07:30 (Cost R40)	Neville Walmsley	705 2919

Remember to mark the deposit slip with your name and item for which you are paying and post copy of slip to the Treasurer. See front cover for banking details.

Monthly Get Togethers



Monthly get togethers are proving popular. Meet at 18:30 at the following venues:

21 January	Meet at entrance to Suncoast Casino
18 February	Thatchers
18 March	Meet at entrance to ship Ushaka

For further information contact Mike on 082 822 3106 or office 563 5871. In addition, Scrabble evenings are arranged for the 1st and 3rd Friday evening of the month. Contact Coleen Seath on 202 2279 for further details.

HIKING PROGRAMME : JANUARY - MARCH 2005

Saturday Hikes

Hikers may meet at Musgrave Park Medical Centre before 13:30, to travel in convoy or to share transport to the start of the hike. Please get to starting point by 13:45 in order for hike to begin on time. A cost of R8.00 for transport is payable to the relevant driver. Hikes marked ** are suitable for beginners. Hikes marked # involve an entrance fee into the nature reserve. Visitors are to pay R4.00 to the Club. Bring the correct amount of money as change is not always available. For directions to the starting point, please phone one of the organisers between 12:00 and 12:45 on the day. Children are welcome but check suitability of hike with leader. Please bring at least 1 litre of water, a snack for half time and a hat.

Organisers : Ann 767 1027 Brian 072 995 6565 Rodger 2667458.

Sunday Hikes (Note new summer daylight saving times)

Please try to get to the meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier so that fees can be collected and lifts arranged timeously. Bring the correct amount of money as change may not be available. Please bring at least 2 litres of water, lunch and a hat. Add R5 for visitors. Sunday hikers are welcome to join Saturday hikes and the following social.

Meeting Places	Durban	Leave 07:30	Musgrave Park, Cnr Berea & Musgrave Roads
	Pinetown	Leave 08:00	Union Main Centre, Old Main Road
	Bluff	Leave 08:00	BP Garage, Edwin Swales Drive

If there is a change to the meeting time this will be noted in the hiking schedule below.

Proposed Amendment:

Restructure as follows :

- (a) Welcome.
- (b) Apologies.
- (c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous AGM.
- (d) Matters Arising.
- (e) Presentation and adoption of the Chairman's report.
- (f) Presentation and passing of the Financial Statements and Balance Sheet.
- (g) Election of officers and the Executive Committee for the ensuing year and such sub-committee as may be required.

New Committee to handle:

- (h) Proposed alterations/additions/deletions to the Constitution and Rules of the Club.
- (i) Other business.
- (j) General.

Reasons:

The new Committee should handle matters that are going to affect the way forward.

Committee View:

Committee believe it is unfair to expect the incoming committee to take over a meeting without adequate preparation.

RULE 17 - EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Current Wording:

The Committee may at any time, and shall on the requisition in writing of at least ten paid-up members, which requisition shall be set out in the form of resolutions, of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for any specified purpose or purposes, which shall be held not more than twenty-eight days after the date of the receipt of the requisition by the Secretary, and if the Committee does not do so within that period, the members making the requisition may themselves convene a meeting.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend to read – The committee may at any time, or shall on the
(This amendment will entitle the Committee to act immediately, in its own right, to call an Extraordinary meeting if the matter is serious, i.e splinter groups, etc).

Reasons:

Field's words. "It is not fair, or expected of the Committee, without the help of its members, that they should try and resolve a problem that needs urgent addressing. All members should be present to hear both sides of any proposal affecting its members.

Committee View:

Agree.

RULE 20 - BALANCE SHEET

Current Wording:

A statement of Income and Expenditure shall be prepared and audited, and a copy shall be handed to each member of the Club at the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed Amendment:

(See 12). Amend second half of sentence – and a copy shall be handed to each member of the Club at least 6 days before the day appointed for the meeting.

Committee View:

Current Treasurer does not now how she would be able to do this. It will require an additional mailing and more printing. To what end? She is happy to e mail a copy to anyone who feels strongly enough to want to see them earlier than the meeting.

RULE 25 - BORROWING POWERS

Current Wording:

The Committee shall have power to borrow such amounts and on such terms as it thinks fit, and to give as security for the payment of sums borrowed and interest thereon, such security as the Committee deems expedient.

Proposed Amendment:

Limit borrowing to a maximum of R1 000-00

Committee View:

Agree.

RULE 30 - ALTERATION TO RULES

Current Wording:

Any of the provisions contained in this Constitution may be repealed, altered or added to by a resolution at a General Meeting, the notice whereof having specified the proposed repeal, alteration or addition which, except in the case of alterations recommended by the Committee, shall be in writing in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the said General Meeting, but nothing in this rule shall prohibit the amendment by the General Meeting of any proposal which as been specified in the notice.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend to read –shall be typed and in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen days ...

Committee View:

Agree

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Members & Resignations

There were no new members or resignations during the past quarter.

Christmas Party

The Christmas party was held at the Hillcrest Scout Hall on Saturday 27 November 2004. Despite inclement weather, 62 Ramblers attended and all had an excessively grand time dancing away to music supplied by Brian Rosentrow. Derek, Trevor and Dennis really got into the swing of things and provided a spontaneous floor show – half a full Monty!!!!!! Spoil sports!!

To all those who assisted with the table decorations, catering, hiring of cutlery, food preparation - a big thank you from your fellow Ramblers.

Those who missed the party missed a good time. Never mind, there is always next year.

MEMBERS' NOTICES

Subscriptions

Good news. Due to the healthy financial position of the Club, subscriptions will not be increased for the 2005 year. Subs are due on 1 January 2005 and are as follows:

Single R50 Family/Couple R60 Country Single R35 Country Family/couple R40.

Parks Board Entrance Fee

The entrance fee has gone up from R7 to R10.

For Sale and Hire

Sale of 35mm slide projector – R100. Magazines to hold 320 slides – R20.

Hire of backpacks at R5/day and R50 deposit. Contact Philip Gatenby on 031 201 3592.

Nike Air Hiking Shoes. Brand new. Size 9½ UK size. What offers? Contact Ken Dell on 767 0638 or Arthur on 765 4720.

First Aid

A recent injury during a hike has raised the issue of the lack of available first aid expertise on hikes. In considering the matter, the Committee agreed to sponsor hike leaders on a first aid course. Individual members are welcome to attend the course, at their own expense. Information has been obtained on first aid courses and a suitable service provider identified. The course will run for five weeks on Saturday mornings and will cost approximately R200. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ingrid D'eathe by the end of February 2005. Thanks to Sharyn Prowse for gathering information.

General

- Each member should keep medical aid and emergency contact details in their backpacks.
- Hikers may only hike on official paths in Palmiet Reserve and not in Wilderness area.
- Change of contact details to be advised to Derek Pretorius who is maintaining the Club's membership data base. Telephone 765 5029.
- If possible, please pay monies due to the Club either by cheque, bank transfer or internet banking. This will keep bank charges to the minimum. Cash deposits are expensive.