



Paarl / Wellington Section of the Mountain Club of South Africa

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ANNUAL REPORT 2012

1. Committee

Chairman: Avril Powrie

Vice – chairman: Wouter Jordaan

Secretary: Elna Engelbrecht

Treasurer: Bruce Powrie

Additional members: Erica Purves, Iain Smuts, Irene Vermeulen, Freddie Steytler, Nadia Retief

2. Members

At the end of October there were 131 members. This includes 9 honoured and 13 student members. Sadly we lost 4 members during the year – Fred Bosman, Bosman van Zyl, Theuns van Zyl and Jock Ritchie.

3. Finances

The club's finances are still in a healthy state. Income for the financial year from end June 2011 to end June 2012 increased from R34251 to R38284. Increased hut fees from R11590 to R13530, and increased members' fees from R17807 to R20110. Interest decreased by R200 from R4814 to R4614. Total investments and cash reserves have increased from R94872 to R97156. Cash on hand increased from R3542 to R3897. Krom River Hut expenses increased dramatically from R6778 to R13557 but this was covered by the hut fees. Costs included moving the bridge, painting of the roof, mattresses, etc.

4. Excursions

31 Day hikes was organised, 13 was cancelled due to rain and 2 is was cancelled due to lack of interest. The hikes that did take place, had good attendance, however the hikes recently had poor attendance. There was approximately 2 – 20 people per hike, with an average of 9. 4 away weekends was organised, 2 was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The other 2 had poor attendance but was pleasant. Average of 6 people per weekend. 2 local weekends was organised. The youth meet was well attended by 21 members en guests and the Easter weekend at the hut was cancelled due to rain, even though 6 people went there and enjoyed the day there on Monday. The annual fun run was supported by 41 members and guests. P/W members were victors in both the short and long distance events.

5. Youth/young members

Expanding on the above, our club hosted a third annual youth meet in March. 21 people participated in zip lining and the mini trail run on the Saturday afternoon. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a braai and camped over at the club house. On the Sunday, 24 attended the rock climbing and abseiling on Paarl Rock. At the end of September the club hosted a successful trail running event on a farm in Klein Drakenstein. The weather played along and all enjoyed the fairly tough course. There is scope to expand this event for next year.

6. Meetings & Social functions

The 2011 AGM was well attended by members including a few guests. 4 committee meetings were held during the year, the first which was a short one after the AGM. There were a few impromptu braais on four Sunday afternoons at the club house during the year. Members are reminded to make use of this opportunity as the club house is available on Sunday afternoons and evenings for social purposes.

7. Communications

During the year we switched from Google Groups to Graphic Mail for the Monday morning weekly reminders and news. I produced three newsletters during the year, February, May and October. Our Facebook page is active with news and picture updates. Our new website is in operation, however it still must be linked to the central site.

9. Krom River Hut

The hut continues to be well managed by the hut subcom. Irene organised monthly maintenance meets which were well attended. CapeNature obtained a permit allowing us to keep the remaining Monterey pines for the immediate future. We will have to continue with our efforts of planting suitable shade trees, only a few survived last year's plantings. Members continue to hack aliens in the vicinity of the hut. The roof was repainted and presently the outside walls are being scoured and sealed. After a fire protection meeting with CapeNature, we are currently busy with painting fire retardant paint on the outside. The bridge across the first stream was moved and strengthened. The hut continues to be very popular with all MCSA members, necessitating a strict booking system. Next year on 25 May we plan to celebrate the hut's 60th anniversary.

Avril Powrie
2012 Chairperson Paarl/Wellington Section