



November 2005

## 1. EDITORIAL

It was getting late, and things were getting tense, as the debates raged on. What do we need to do to protect ourselves from the political, social, and legal challenges that may affect our future access to the pristine mountain areas of South Africa? Then Hos brought another round of drinks, and laughter returned. We are after all, a club, a group of people dedicated to having fun in the mountains. We are also fortunate to have had a 75 year succession of committee members who have had the foresight to set up policies that have resulted in us securing a significant land portfolio. An asset that has served us well, and guaranteed us real rights to access mountain areas around our country. Long may this tradition of dedication and foresight exist in the MCSA.

This quarter is again, a full edition, and not only features a new look front page, but has some great member contributions. As editor this is rather comforting, as after two years on the job, I was starting to run out of pseudonyms. Featured in this issue, are reports of pap slinging at the recent Rock Rally held at Waterval Boven, Big Foot's rendition of the four peaks challenge, and news and opportunities from places near and far. From the Editor, I wish you all some great mountaineering this holiday season. Bag a few peaks, find a new line, flash up a crack (preferably while nobody is watching), or convalesce. Whatever you choose, have fun and travel safely.

Peter Adrian

## 2. ROC RALLY 2005

### Waterval Boven 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005

The dust is still settling in Waterval Boven, 166 climbers took part, climbing 3380 pitches in the twelve hours of competition. Local policeman Alwyn Venter and his son Peet managed to do what no other team has achieved in the three year history of the event. They beat Team Eating Pap, consisting of Mark Seuring and Alard Hüfner by a mere 390 points. Dirk Uys and Alex Harris from team Pap Is Not Enough proved that their strong showing at last year's event was no fluke by again claiming third place.

In the difficulty section, Justin Hawkins came all the way from Cape Town to show up the locals. Justin managed to climb at an incredible average grade of 29.17 for the six hardest routes he climbed over the two days (2 grades are added if it is an onsight flash). Willem le Roux was second, averaging 28, and Jason Temple-Forbes, another Capetonian came third with 26.17. Kirsten Meyer gave the strongmen a run for their money by averaging 25.25, enough to earn her a victory in the ladies sections.

As in previous years, each climber was given a handicap, and points were scored by each climb, as compared with that handicap, the number of climbs, and the number of crags visited. The climbing times allowed were two 6 hour periods, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Penalty points were deducted from each team's totals if they came in later than the cut off time.

The Boven Roc Rally is now in its third year, with the organisers continuously raising the benchmark of superb organisation of this event. This year, the number of entries was up by a third on last year, from 57 teams of 2 to 82 teams. There were contestants from the Cape and Natal, and even a visiting team from Germany (who just happened to be in Boven at the time). When Gustav announced the start time, the crags at Boven were swarming with climbers: you more than often had to queue and wait for your chosen climb. The road up to the Hallucinogenic Crag provided some entertainment, negotiating the road in thick clouds of red dust.

Prizes were bigger and better than in previous events and sponsorships really came to the party. Even the 13<sup>th</sup> team got something. Again, like last year, there were many spot prizes, with our esteemed past chairman, Greg Devine, receiving a much needed new rucksack.

The rescue teams were kept busy this year, as the 2005 Roc Rally saw the first serious accidents in the event's history. One competitor broke his leg, and another took a bad fall while hiking from Hallucinogenic. Medical and rescue crews were quickly on hand to help, and both climbers are recovering well.

We really feel that the organisers should again be congratulated for an exceptional event. Gustav and Alex van Rensburg, together with the Nelspruit locals have organised an outstanding competition. It is great to see the competition taking a permanent place in the years climbing calendar.

Willem le Roux & Chris Ziranek

### Detailed results of the Handicap Event:

	Team Name	Climber 1	Climber 2	Routes	Crags	Grade	Score
1	Local A-Team	Alwyn Venter	Peet Venter	82	19	17.43	9820
2	Team Eating Pap	Alard Hüfner	Mark Seuring	105	10	19.23	9430
3	Pap Is Not Enough	Alex Harris	Dirk Uys	115	6	14.64	8735
4	Team Bikini Bottoms	Paul Bruyere	Werner Knoll	76	4	15.83	7065
5	Cerro Winger Team	Douard Le Roux	Peter Janschek	59	13	18.66	6605
6	Team Steve & Dirk	Dirk Smith	Steve Bretherick	96	7	17.39	6465
7	Not Your Average...	Louis Smit	Sarel Smit	66	20	17.97	6315
8	Benoni Rednecks	Ken Thrash	Ian McMaster	87	9	18.93	6220
9	Track Edge Team	Guy Pitman	Neil Margetts	73	5	16.71	6175
10	Team Roti Ringers	Marianne Pretorius	James Pitman	81	6	16.14	6135

Gustav van Rensburg

## 3. MOUNTAIN RACE

A mountain race is not what it used to be. It used to be the Sherpas, Incas or even the Swiss. Now a mountain race is a speed trial through the mountains.

There has always been competition in the mountains. Traditionally it was never mentioned, but hidden under a veneer of gentility. You actually raced your team-mates (read rivals) to the top of whatever it was you were climbing. If you saw you were losing, you started taking photos or spotting birds. If you won, you were magnanimous in victory with a quiet air of concern over your rival's well-being and a casual, "No, I haven't been waiting long".

It's all out in the open now. Events like the Sky Run, Mont-aux-Sources Challenge and the Mwneni Marathon allow one to get out the knife and sharpen it. So it was that about 110 people, including 10 from the MCSA Jhb section, and a posse of 6 from Wits Mountain Club, lined up for the recent Four Peaks Challenge in the Free State. Organised by Derek Odendaal and members of the Free State Section of the MCSA, it is run over 24 kilometres and about 1300 metres of up and down.

The race was won in 3 hours 3 minutes (new record) by new member and Skyrunner of note, Bruce Arnett. He was followed a few minutes later by Martin Kleynhans and Mark Millar. A surprise top 5 finisher in 3h25mins was Slovenian Debevec Tedej who was conned by Brad and Roland into doing the race and hence was without any training! Our worthy President, Roland

Magg, pulled off a not-too-shabby time of 5 hours 13 minutes. I managed to cut 20 minutes off last year's time to arrive in 5 hours 42 minutes while Cheryl came in ahead of most of her fellow youth-challenged women.

It's a great event. It takes place at the Moolmanshoek Nature Reserve near Ficksburg. There is a briefing and pasta-rich meal the night before with the race starting with the cry of the hadeda at six am. The course is not too rough but very hilly. Navigation definitely plays a part, with some directionless females having to be fetched from somewhere near Lesotho. There is a braai and prize-giving on the Saturday night and a range of accommodation for those staying the weekend.

So, for those of you wishing to be seen to be slaying your rivals, watch out for the event next year. In the meantime keep up that gentlemanly façade.

*Greg Devine*

#### 4. TRIDENT RE-DISCOVERED

Early spring my climbing buddy Peter and I decided to explore some of the climbing that Trident Kloof has to offer. We had heard of "Swiss Army Knife" and "Bats Overhang" as being noteworthy climbs but what we soon realized was that Trident has much more to offer than good climbing.

After parking behind Oom Piet's house, surrounded by an assortment of different animals, (some of which are being re-habilitated). Proceed along the road. Don't be put off by first appearances, negotiating your way past the scrap metal piles while constantly being hounded by lion sized Boerbull's behind scantily wired electric fences only makes entering the kloof all the more rewarding. If you are lucky, you won't have to scale the last two meter high farm gate to get out of reach from three rabid looking Boerbull's, intent on making you breakfast because their owner left the gate open. All the more fun, as I discovered when you are carrying a full pack with climbing gear.

Unfortunately the mushrooming informal settlement in the region has made the local community security conscious. So remember to send your fax before you visit, to let them know, or else you just might have a jittery land owners chasing after you.

Trident is special for two main reasons, the solitude and the birding. On four different visits to the kloof at weekends we encountered dozens of new birds. As each visit coincided with the approach of summer we were always greeted by new species arriving for the summer months.

The area of indigenous bush at the base of the kloof is the best place to spot your francolins including the Coqui, Crested and Swainson's.

After witnessing three Grey-headed Bush Shrikes display a mating dance I'm sure that if you keep your eyes and ears open you will soon hear their characteristic haunting drawn out "hoooooop" from a nest in the area.

Others to listen out for are the regularly heard Greater Honey guide with his "vic-terr, vic-terr" and the chittering "kekekekekek" of the Cardinal Woodpecker.

The kloof itself is a jewel, but if you want to avoid the smell of Chackma Baboon manure then walk a little further up, past the baboon roosting site under "Bats Overhang" (the RD's suggestion for a meet point) and find the next best rock under a tree.

As you pull through the crux move on your climb and take a breathing rest on a small ledge, listen out for the soft "prrrp" in the kloof below you. That's the little African Scops Owl reminding you that this is usually his kloof when you aren't making a noise there.

The belayer in Trident has tons to look out for other than his buddy's progression up the face. If you're lucky you will see Black Eagles soar past you at eye level through the kloof, but more often you will have flocks of Alpine and African Black Swifts whistling noisily past you.

The Mocking Chat, Southern Bobou Shrike and Bar-throated Apalis will ensure that when you're back down from your climb and nodding off on your afternoon siesta, you'll be reminded to stay awake to fully appreciate each moment in this beautiful kloof.

P.S. The climbing is also great, with lots of classic trad lines in the grade 10-20 region. The best climbing areas tend to be towards the top of the Kloof on the wall between Midnight Crawl and George, with a good descent gully at the top of the gorge. An up to date RD is available online at <http://www.climbing.co.za/>

*Peter Holdt*

**Access notes:** The servitude to the kloof is in the name of the Transvaal Section of the MCSA and hence, **access is restricted**. The kloof passes through the farm of Dr Luyt. For security reasons, Dr Luyt has requested that you send him a fax during office hours to 012-362-1313 (ask secretary for a fax line) forewarning him of your intended visit. A confirmation will be faxed to you. For further info contact Greg or Uschi.

#### 5. SEVEN LITTLE BIG PEAKS

##### *or the Seven Island Summits*

Everest, Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua, Denali, Elbrus, Carstensz Pyramid, Vinson, we've all heard of the seven summits, been enthralled by stories of teams climbing them and getting their names on the 'list' of summiteers. But did you know there is another list of seven summits which in some ways are much harder to summit, and which have become some mountaineer's lifelong dreams to achieve.

These are the seven highest summits on the seven largest islands. Most people will have never heard of them, and they are not necessarily the highest island peaks, but these mountains have drawn quite a large following and achieving the seven summits is no mean feat.

Being islands, the logistical complications are the first problem encountered, as the islands often have little or no established transport infrastructure to get climbers to where they want to be. The absolute remoteness of many of the peaks also tests team members to the limits in sometimes arctic or more often then not, tropical temperatures with all the other irritations that come with tropical travel.

So where are these Seven Little Big Peaks?

Before looking at the actual heights of the peaks, remember that the primary requirement to meet is that it must be on one of the worlds seven biggest island landmasses. This is to correlate with the seven continental summits. One peak is in fact on both lists. This means we have the following islands to look for high peaks on. In size order they are:

Greenland, New Guinea, Borneo, Madagascar, Baffin Island, Sumatra and Honshu/Japan.

The actual peaks in question according to island size are:

- 1) Greenland – **Gunnbjørn Fjeld** – 3694 meters
- 2) New Guinea – **Puncak Jaya** (Carstensz) – 4884 meters
- 3) Borneo – **Kinabalu** – 4095 meters
- 4) Madagascar – **Maromokotro** – 2876 meters
- 5) Baffin Island – **Mount Odin** – 2147 meters
- 6) Sumatra – **Gunung Kerinci** – 3805 meters
- 7) Honshu – **Fuji-san** – 3776 meters

##### **In order of height**

- 1) Puncak Jaya
- 2) Kinabalu
- 3) Gunung Kerinci
- 4) Fuji-san
- 5) Gunnbjørn Fjeld
- 6) Maromokotro
- 7) Mount Odin

The Seven Little Big Peaks are all less than 5000 meters, so what drives mountaineers to attempt what to a lot of people does not come close to the seven continent summits?

In some peoples minds the Seven Continental Summits have become 'sausage factories' pushing all and everyone who can afford it up the peaks. We have all seen the results of the degradation of the environments near these peaks, and how the summit is more important than the means of attaining it.

Many of the climbers attempting the Seven Island Summits are looking for something different, off the beaten track and something with true exploring feel to it. A peak in question in this regard is Mt Maromokotra in Madagascar. At 2876 meters it is only number six on the list and comes in at number twenty seven on the total list of highest island peaks regardless of landmass size. However Maromokotro has everything a true explorer could be looking for.

At only two degrees below the equator and in an island that has some of the most diverse and unique fauna and flora in the world, Maromokotra, sometimes also known as Tsaratanana by the locals, is a peak that your travel agent would not have ever heard of. Ask any travel agent for the highest peak on Madagascar and you will be told it is Mt Amber. Amber is in the middle of a national park with well established infrastructure and good walking paths to the summit. Maromokotra on the other hand is literally in the middle of nowhere. Research for this article found that it was last climbed in 2000 and that a number of scientific expeditions have a rough time and been turned back without reaching the summit. Dense tropical jungles, croc and eel infested rivers, tribal villages that could be likened to stone age living and in the final days before the summit, barren rock covered waterless terrain, are all to be expected for those who desire this summit. The Bradt guide to Madagascar describes the peak as, "...largely deforested, waterless, trail-less and hot". However local guides describe it as having, "Spectacular views".

Part of the pleasure of the peak is being able to climb a peak where you will be able to interact with the locals on the first part of the trip and then not see another human being for over a week near the summit except for those in your group. From the summit, one can see Mliso and Nosy Be islands and the northern Amber Cape on clear days and on the walk out it is quite possible you will see Lemurs in their natural environment.

The round trip to Maromokotra is 14 days with 11 of these actually on the trek. Wildways Adventures has a trip to Maromokotra in September 2006 which is the only time of year that the weather is stable enough. Teaming up with a local guiding company who have successfully guided the peak in the past, Wildways Adventures has an American client who will be summiting the peak to achieve his lifelong goal of summiting not only the Seven Peaks on Islands, but has already summited the seven continental peaks. Maromokotra is the final peak to reach his goal. They can accommodate a maximum of another 10 people on this once in a lifetime trip and further details are available from them on 031 767 2160, [info@wildways.za.net](mailto:info@wildways.za.net) or from their website at [www.wildways.za.net](http://www.wildways.za.net)

As a point of interest the seven highest peaks on islands regardless of landmass size are:

- 1)Puncak Jaya – New Guinea – 4884m
- 2)Mauna Kea – Hawaii – 4205m
- 3)Kinabalu – Borneo – 4095m
- 4)Yu Shan – Taiwan – 3997m
- 5)Gunung Kerinci – Sumatra – 3805
- 6)Mt Erebus – Ross Island – 3795m
- 7)Fuji-San – Honshu – 3776m

## 6. Mt KENYA MEET JULY 2006

Next year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Johannesburg Section of the MCSA and as a celebration we have decided to have a meet to Mount Kenya. This will be for approximately 2 weeks during July 2006. The meet is open to all members as well as non-members either in the process of joining or going with a member. There is no qualification although it would help to have camped out in cold conditions before. Both climbers and walkers are welcome.

We will fly to Nairobi and travel by minibus to Naro Moru River Lodge, where we will stay one night in the back-packers facility. The next day we go by Landie to the Park gate, complete formalities there and walk up to the Met station at about 3450 m. The next day sees us take a slow but quite hard schlep up the Vertical Bog to camp at the river near Picnic Rocks (3950m). Day 3 is a short walk up to Mackinders Hut where we will camp. That afternoon we will go up to the American camp and the black hole bivy to see the Darwin Glacier. Day 4 we will climb Point Lenana (4900m), the highest point to which one can walk.

The weather should be reasonably dry then, with days being pleasant and nights being cold higher up. You will need a stove, tent, a decent sleeping bag, sturdy boots, rain gear and warm clothing plus food for 8 to 10 days. Climbers will require ropes and gear. We will sort all this closer to the time.

When in the region of Pt Lenana, we will judge which would be the best side of the mountain, and best route to climb. The south-east standard route is sometimes out of condition at that time, but we will have to see. Anyway, we will then plan accordingly. Parties of stronger climbers can go off on their own, as can walkers. There is a lot of both hiking and climbing to be done.

We will aim to exit by the very scenic Chogoria route and head back to Nairobi for a bit of a jol at Buffalo Bill's Saloon.

It is hard to give an estimate of costs at this stage with currency fluctuations and airfares going up. The current airfare is somewhere around R3500, transport will be about \$50, Park fees \$100, accommodation about \$50. Food and living expenses say another \$100 makes a total of less than R6000. Porters are available if required. People can stay on afterwards and go to the game parks or the coast. Here is a great opportunity to visit a very beautiful mountain.

Contact: Greg Devine on 083 378 2587 or [devine@mega.co.za](mailto:devine@mega.co.za).

## 7. FIRE AT HAMERKOP

10 October 2005

During the night of 26/27 September, a veld fire burnt through most of the Hamerkop Trust property as well as some of the neighbouring Mountain Club area. Just my youngest son Stefan and I were staying in the house at that time.

During the weekend before, news broadcasts warned about fires raging out of control over large areas of the country. A hot dry wind has been blowing for a few days and the landscape was tinder dry. On Monday evening, just after our arrival at the house, we contemplated the implications of several red glows beyond the horizon and against the clouds. There was a lot of lightning and thunder, and the wind was picking up.

Early on Tuesday morning the wind was buffeting the roof and roaring through the trees. On emerging out on the front stoep, it was a shock to find out that most of the area west of Hamerkopkloof was already burnt out. The fire was now approaching the house from the lower kloof to the north, flames visible above the trees about 100m downhill from the house. Fortunately, Theresa and Jan had noticed this at the same time and were scurrying around to find the keys to open up the top store room to get the rubber fire beaters and the backpack spray.

In the short grass the beaters extinguished the fire where the flames were small enough, but proved to be ineffective in the long grass. The strong wind would simply swirl and in no time you would find yourself surrounded by flame way over your head. In desperation we started using the hosepipe to wet the vegetation around the house, but its short reach only allowed limited coverage. We were wondering about our next strategy when Jacques Cilliers arrived with their Unimog firetruck and some workers. This vehicle could just reach the area below the parking area to extinguish the fire about 50m from the buildings. In the mean time Jacques, Jan and I, killed the fire with the sprayer between the house and the lower kloof, through the thick scrub and steep slopes where the truck could not reach. If left unattended, this fire could have made its way past the house to burn alongside Rotsboomkloof and then from there up to the Cilliers' property. Just after 8 in the morning it was all over except for smoldering trees everywhere.

The following day a fire had flared up in a fallen tree across the lower kloof, again threatening the area between the house and the stream. Fortunately shallow pools next to it allowed Stefan and I to douse it with water. In the thick undergrowth under the tree however it took more than an hour to kill the flames with copious amounts of water.

**Veld Damage:** The burnt area covered most of the Hamerkop property except between the two kloofs south of the house. West of Hamerkopkloof the fire reached Woodpecker Gully and further north down the slopes. The only place where the fire crossed the stream was about 400m below the confluence where the valley bottom was flat enough. It also did not jump the firebreak onto the Cilliers' property in spite of the wind. The fire did reach the tar road east of the hotel on the neighbours' farms.

Later in the day I walked through the burnt area, and unfortunately a hot fire like this did considerable damage. Hundreds of trees were completely destroyed and others so badly damaged that they would die later. Future fires would presumably then finish them off. The saddest were that some of the tree ferns along the stream in the lower kloof were either burnt to short stumps or badly damaged.

During the following few days we could establish that this fire had its origin somewhere nearby, as the burnt area at no point linked up with the burnt areas elsewhere on the mountain or the neighbouring farms. The entire top of the Magaliesberg was not burnt, proof that this fire could not have originated south of the mountain as everyone had surmised. It was most likely started by the lightning during the night before.

**Discussions with neighbours:** I had a short discussion with Jacques and he was concerned about the fires which came through the area almost annually. This tended to kill small game and had a deleterious affect on the veld. He was also unhappy that they as neighbours came to help us with our fires without perceived reciprocation. I explained most of us live far away and that the house is empty for long periods.

I also saw one of the Hotel managers, Rei Engels, and they are already active on the several local committees. Later I ran into Kobus Swanepoel, who explained that it was he who phoned the Cilliers to go to the Hamerkop house with their R300 000 fire truck.

From these conversations it emerged that the Hamerkop "Trust" is viewed with some mis-trust, as people have been rudely treated in the past. I assured them with our best intentions in the area, and they all agreed that there would be considerable advantage to all with improved relationships and collaboration in future.

**Preliminary conclusions:** This area suffers from almost annual accidental fires causing veld degeneration and damage to the soil structure and fertility. The correct interval should be closer to every 5 to 6 years. Controlled fires should take place on a rotational basis after rain and on windless days to ensure a relative cool burn without damaging older or younger trees.

It would appear that numerous accidental fires are started continuously throughout the year - it just depends on a combination of conditions to flare these up into uncontrollable blazes.

The deep kloofs all acted as effective fire breaks, except lower down where the fire managed to cross Hamerkop stream.

Ideally, a system of strategically placed fire breaks should be prepared cutting across roughly at right angles to the kloof, roads and encompassing several properties. Burning this is a laborious task and naturally not without risks in themselves. Hopefully in future enough cooperation can be built between the neighbours to achieve such a fire protection system. This would then result in a matrix of large blocs which can be burnt on a planned rotational schedule after rain.

All the neighbours I spoke to were in favour of the comprehensive management of the mountain to achieve better nature conservation and a return of the game that was more abundant in the distant past. There appears to be some committees already created for this and other purposes. Everyone realises that relationships have been brittle at times, and there appears to be problems between some of the other neighbours as well.

On RSG radio yesterday there was an interview with a Magaliesberg farmer from Hekpoort reporting on fire damage everywhere in the district. They have already created Fire Committees and instituted regular training for land owners and staff, but he acknowledged that this year they faced exceptional circumstances and large areas were burnt, but that they also managed to kill many fires to protect vulnerable areas. According to him there were a few people who are known to start fires deliberately, but lightning and injudicious burning also causes runaway fires. They do however, get much improved cooperation between farmers, staff and the local municipalities, and in their opinion it is this broad collaboration that will eventually be effective in restoring their area.

It would appear that gradually the district is getting organized and that we should take note and participate in their endeavors.

Charles Louw

#### 8. MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Welcome to new members:** Silvana Adrian, Karla Luyt, Marlo Jooste, Michael Brink, Clisti Chipps, Raoul de Villers, Gordon Borlase, Angelo de Nicola, Monika Brits, John Orrock, Dieter Röhrs, Tahnee Varga, Dorothy Cadle, Christie Stiff, Chris and Cheryl de Beer, Eric Riemann Michael Potgieter (Junior membership), and family members Matthew and Robert Dalais and Zoe and Aimee Lawrence,

**Transferred from KZN section:** Paul Snook

**Resigned:** Bernard Sutton, David Gur.

**Transferred to:** Hottentots Holland: Hazel, Jeremy and Michael Woodward; Cape Town: Kerry-Ayn and Adam Feldman; KZN section: John Rust and Beulah Robinson

**Kerry-Ayn Feldman:** We bid farewell to committee member Kerry-Ayn Feldman who has worked extremely hard in the search and rescue portfolio of the committee. She has defected with her husband Adam to the Cape Town section. We wish her all the best, and trust that the foul Cape weather will drive her home. Her portfolio has been replaced by the equally enthusiastic Michael Grant.

**Liz Cuthbert:** Honorary Life member of our section, passed away in Cape Town at the end of September. Liz joined our section in 1940 and was an active member for many years.

#### 9. CLUB NEWS

### NOTICE OF AGM

**Notice** is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Mountain Club of South Africa, Johannesburg Section will be held on **Wednesday 15 March, 2006** at the Waverley Girl Guide Hall, cnr Scott & Stirling Streets, at 20h15.

**2006 Committee:** If any member/s are available/ would like to serve on the general committee or on one of the sub committees or a member would like to nominate a member for the committee, please speak to Barbara or Uschi.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006:** The General Committee advises that subscriptions for 2006 will be increased by between 3.33% and 5.17%. This was decided at the committee meeting held on 31 October 2005.

Single: R310

Married: R465

Single (country) R235

Married (country) R290

Students (fulltime) R155

Family (children) R15 (unchanged)

Seniors: R155

Senior married R228.

Entrance Fee R240 pp

**Club evenings :** The last club evening will be on the 14th December. Club re-opens on 11 January 2006.

**First Meet:** 8 January 2006 will be at Grootkloof. If you want to attend, contact the meetleader, Peter Adrian directly on 082-776-5399.

**Grants from expedition fund:** The following grants were made during 2005:

Expedition to Fitzroy and Cerro de Torre R8000 (Seuring, Hüfner, Pretorius and le Roux); Grant to Garreth Frost, R3000 to attend an ice climbing course in Switzerland; Trango Tower expedition R5000 (Lazarus, Pitman, Pretorius and Kiefer); A portaledge was also acquired by our section.

**Veterans Meet:** Another enjoyable Veterans meet was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September at Easterkloof with a turn out of 25 over 60s (and a few younger ones) – the oldest being 98 years young. Next year we plan to have another 'awards' evening for members with 50 years and longer membership of our section.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our section:** If you are able to help with the various projects planned for next year please contact Barbara 083 702 0530 or Uschi 011 807 1310.

**Rory Lowther Memorial Challenge:** Discounted rates for early entrants.

**Bolting:** If you know of any sport-routes that need to be re-bolting or repaired, please pass the details of the route, and the extent of the repair that is required, so that the repairs can be made. Contact Niel Margetts

**For Sale:** MCSA 2006 calendars. Single page calendars are available for R30 at Club evenings, or contact Uschi.

**Boots for sale:** Scarpa Snow/ice boots Size 8 new R1800.00. Contact Uschi 011 807 1310.

#### 10. MCSA NEWS

**2005 MCSA journal** – The MCSA journal committee is looking for volunteers to help with editing and proof reading the MCSA journal.

## **11.LAND AND ACCESS**

**Castle Gorge access:** Members please use the correct access footpath (i.e. from the new parking area , go through stile and walk along the sand road to the old parking area and then follow the track to the top). DO NOT use the

path/road past Gavin Amos house. Gate Code obtainable from Uschi.

**Waterval Boven:** An armed robbery occurred at night on Sat5<sup>th</sup> Nov at Elandskrantz resort. Nobody was hurt. It may be better to stay at the back packers in town until security at the campsite is improved.

**Patrolling:** members who are available to patrol at Cedarberg and Tonquani over the Christmas and New Year period please let Uschi know.It is always difficult to get patrolers for holidays and your help would be appreciated.

## **THANK YOU**

We wish to thank members for their help being meetleaders, patrolling, doing tea/bar duty, giving slide shows, pulling out weeds and generally assisting with making our section work.

Ambrosia Restaurant&

Backpackers Lodge

*in Magaliesburg 2km from town on R24 Rustenburg Road situated next to the Magalies River.*

*We offer Breakfast, Lunch, Light meals, Supper, a cosy Pub, good food and even better prices !*

*Our Backpackers lodge has 2 dormitories, a double room, an upstairs wooden deck and a separate cottage for accommodation.For Restaurant diners or overnights the swimming pool is available situated in a beautiful garden with serene atmosphere or enjoy a peaceful time next to the river.*

*A Thatch lapa is available for small conferences*

Rodney082 338 9198

Baranatha072 567 1986

Tel:(014) 577-4437

Email:[slumberlea@telkomsa.net](mailto:slumberlea@telkomsa.net)