

**2004/05 Annual Report**

## The 2004/2005 Committee

### Elected Committee

				
Pierre Joubert Chair Person	Gary Keyser Vice Chair Person	Marcel Witberg Secretary	Deon Van Zyl Treasurer	Chris De Koker Mem. Secretary

### Appointive Committee

				
Francois Lourens Librarian	G Montague-Fryer Newsletter Editor	Alan Levin Web Master	Zirk MacKay Legal Advisor	Tracy Dawson Marketing

## The Cape Reptile Club

The CRC was founded and started by the presently residing chairperson, Pierre Joubert on 2002/06/07 at the Gene Louw Primary School in Durbanville. At this meeting there were 22 people present and it has since grown to be one of the most successful herpetofauna clubs ever established in the Western Cape. For almost one year the club was run by an interim committee whose job was to get everything into place for the first official election on 2003/04/04, namely the club's name and logo, the club's constitution and the trend for the way forward.

Going back in time the club has not only achieved quite a bit regarding the broadening of the knowledge base wrt reptiles amongst its members but also educated the general public through its members by enriching their knowledge and thus spreading the news that reptiles are good and not bad.

The club has a variety of interest groups and expertise regarding herpetofauna, which is shared at social events and general meetings. The future of the club depends entirely on its members; if it weren't for them there would not be a club. It also relies on the committee that the members have selected, keeping in mind that as an interest group regarding herpetofauna we can achieve much more as a group than as individuals. Members join for different reasons some for learning, others to share and contribute, others for legislation issues, others for socialising. It must be remembered that committees in general can't keep everybody happy all the time, but they try their utmost best to accommodate all spheres and interest groups within the club. All in all the committee in the past year/s has done excellent work and kept the club interesting.

The club will be hosting its third official election at the Gene Louw Primary School in Durbanville at the AGM dated 2005/04/15. In the past feedback on the year gone by was given at the AGM by means of an overhead projector and/or verbal. This year the committee decided to publish an AGM report that will provide the members with feedback from all the committee members regarding his/her portfolio within the club before the election at the AGM. This allows the committee and members to spend more time socialising on the evening.

### **The Club's Aim**

The Club aims to be an educational and conservational group of amateurs and professional herpetologists who want to share their knowledge, enthusiasm and friendship with others interested in these fascinating creatures.

### **The Club's Objectives**

- To achieve closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional herpetologists so that they may work together in the common cause of furthering science.
- To assist any paid member of the club regarding permit matters, where applicable. Individuals must, however, apply for their own permits.
- To participate and be part of projects that may take place in the Province regarding herpetofauna.
- To publish gathered information in club's newsletters.
- To object to the illegal and uncontrolled actions taken by any club members.
- To further the conservation of herpetofauna in South Africa.
- To encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of herpetofauna in particular.
- To educate the general public about South Africa's herpetofauna.
- To educate those persons interested in keeping herpetofauna in captivity.
- To encourage education and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Club.

### **The Club's Goal**

- To secure our hobbies' / occupations' future

### **Chairperson's Report**



Die Kaapse Reptielklub lê my om verskeie redes baie na aan die hart. Nie alleen bied dit aan alle reptieliefhebbers 'n heenkome wat reptielverwante sake betref nie; dit dien ook as dié amptelike spreekbuis as daar met die Wes-Kaapse Natuurbewaring oor sake wat beide partye raak, onderhandel moet word.

Die opvoedkundige en inligtinggewende aard van die organisasie is een van die dinge wat my die meeste opgewonde maak. Hier voel ek moet ons streef om 'n beter balans te kry. Van die jong beginner tot die herpetoloog met sy akademiese agtergrond moet voel dat daar na hul belange omgesien word. Dit sal goed wees as ons sal besef dat sekere van die bestaande tegniese strydpunte nie op almal se agenda is nie.

Die kommunikatiewe forum wat ons met Wes-Kaap Natuurbewaring het, moet ons (so glo ek) soos 'n kleinood bewaar, aangesien die ander provinsies (die feit dat daar so 'n kanaal bestaan) ons definitief beny. Vir diegene wat meen dat die gesprekke op net mooi niks uitloop nie, net die volgende:

Die gesprekke kan nooit "ten koste van gesprekke" wees nie. Ek voel dat 'n mens nie oorhaastige besluite kan neem as dit die biodiversiteit in gedrang bring nie (dus as dit ten koste van die biodiversiteit kan wees nie.) En wat wen ons, as CRC, as ons in die proses so op die Wes-Kaapse Natuurbewaring se tone trap dat hul ons begin minag? (en so ten koste van goeie mensverhoudings optree...)

Ek glo baie van die lede het sekere epos boodskappe gelees wat die CRC komitee as teiken het. Wil u hê so 'n persoon of persone moet na u CRC belange omsien? Indien wel, moet u dan net seker maak dat die persoon of persone hul vir die komitee verkiesbaar stel. Dis maklik van die kant wolf te skree, dis moeiliker 'n baie meer tydwendend om op 'n konstruktiewe wyse betrokke te raak. Gelukkig is die komplimente baie meer as die kritiek, veral diegene wat die talle ure wat die komiteede en veral die sekretaris insit, opreg waardeer. Dankie ook vir die epos ontvang wat die konkrete waarde wat die organisasie vir sy lede het, so mooi uitlig.

Ek glo dat die CRC en sy nuwe bestuur wat op 15 April verkies sal word, van krag tot krag sal gaan, mits hul besef dat hul 'n baie diverse ledetal met uiteenlopende behoeftes het wat aangespreek moet word; as hul besef dat "quick fix"oplossings nie noodwendig op die lang duur die regte oplossing is as dit "ten koste van" besluitneming insluit nie.

### **Vice Chairperson's Report**



I joined the CRC approximately 3 years ago as I had a keen interest in reptile keeping. I needed to learn about all aspects of the hobby. I gained an enormous amount of knowledge and made some amazing friends.

My duty mainly entails attending committee meetings in which all aspects of the club are covered. Arrange outings, general

meeting planning, getting discounts from various outlets, meeting with CN and normal running of the CRC. I have also built up a nice group of youngsters who visit often and we share ideas on breeding, keeping and looking after our reptiles in general. I also build cages and breed rats and mice. I enjoy my hobby and when I get home from a hard day at the office find it totally relaxing and enjoyable. I also enjoy sharing the knowledge I have gained and find nothing more rewarding when selling a hatchling explaining to the new owner what to do and how to look after their new pet.

### Secretary's report



The 2004/05 was challenging in its own way. It was interesting and the feeling of achievement comes to mind. I feel honoured to work with such professional people in the committee and in the club. We have had some great and interesting meetings. All in all I felt that the committee has achieved quite a bit in this past year, remembering that the club is only three years old. There are still a few grey areas that need to be addressed and in time these will be actioned. What was nice was that all the committee members opened their homes to the committee for meetings and provided refreshments. A special thanks obviously goes to the committee's wives and/or girl friends for accommodating these meetings and also the support given, which made the 2004/05-year a great success.

2004/05 wasn't without its down side. Sometimes I wished I wasn't working on the committee. Members, who haven't contributed anything constructive to the club, caused this, yet they have the audacity to make life for my fellow committee members and me an absolute drag to serve. I must then add that once I sat back and thought about it, the other 99.9% of the members were an absolute pleasure to work with and to help. I suppose in any club or organisation there is always that 0.1% of the members that are just impossible to work with or to please or to achieve anything with. You can't please them no matter what you do.

There is plenty of knowledge and a diversity of interest within the club and I would like to invite or challenge all the members to become more involved. If the members become more involved with sub-committee's or groups organising or projects or helping with what ever, then I feel that the club can really reach new heights. What will be nice is to set the trend for other herp clubs to follow in South Africa.

Another challenge that I would like to lay down to the members is to attend the AGM and to ensure that each member brings a new member to join for the 2005/06-year, or at least introduce one new member for the year coming. We also need to expand to the amphibian side of herpetofauna. The existence of the CRC is important to ensure that the herp community in the Western Cape grows, not only in numbers but also in knowledge, not to mention educating the general public. The existence of the CRC will also ensure that information regarding herp issues is distributed timeously and that we are kept up to date and involved with the latest legislation issue.

In closing I would like to thank the members and the committee for the great 2004/05 year. I felt that it was a great success and it's been an absolute pleasure working with you all, as I have learnt a lot, not only from the herp point of view, but also from a people's point of view. The bottom line is, you treat others the way you want to be treated, and to quote one of the members "there are many that moan, but very few that volunteer."

## Treasurer's Report



As tesourier van die klub is my rol maar beperk. Ek hou wag oor die beursie en ek is verantwoordelik om die klub se verpligtinge te betaal en om betalings te ontvang.

Die werk is egter nie so eenvoudig nie. Formele diensverskaffers word elektronies betaal of deur middel van tjeks. Die meeste betalings egter word gedoen deur individue aangestel deur die komitee. Dit is my werk om hierdie individue dan later te vergoed uit die beursie van die klub. In hierdie gevalle kan ek ook net uitgawes uitbetaal wat gemagtig is deur die klub.

Die klub se grootste bron van inkomste is natuurlik ledegeld en die wins op 'n skou. Ons het hierdie finansiële jaar egter nie 'n skou gehad nie.

Alhoewel ons probeer om uitgawes te beperk, is dit nie in belang van die klub om uitgawes soos advertensie, die huur van sale vir ons vergaderings en skryfbehoeftes te beperk nie. Een van die doelstellings van hierdie klub is mos om sy lede se belangstelling aan die buitewêreld te bemark.

Die "bumper stickers" was 'n relatiewe groot uitgawe. Dit was nie koste-effektief om 'n kleiner oplaag te druk nie weens die verhoogde koste per item. Hierdie "bumper stickers" is 'n goeie bemarkingstrategie. Die klub is ten spyte daarvan steeds besig om dit te verkoop teen 'n klein wins. Hierdie uitgawe behoort dus vir homself te betaal.

Die spitbraai verlede jaar hierdie tyd was ook 'n groot uitgawe maar dit was tot voordeel van die klublede. In hierdie geval het ons ook 'n wesenlike gedeelte van die uitgawe ingevorder.

Die CRC is 'n klein klub met 'n beperkte potensiaal om geld in te vorder. Finansiël staan ons egter sterk genoeg om byvoorbeeld 'n ete tydens die algemene jaarvergadering te finansier en noodsaaklike korrespondensie en inligting aan ons lede te stuur.

Solank die CRC sy lede behou en in staat is om byeenkomste te organiseer voorsien ek nie dat die finansiële aspek van hierdie klub ooit 'n uitdaging hoef te word nie.

## **Income Statement – Year End February 2005**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2002/03</b>
Carried Forward	R 10,615.63	R 6,612.13	
Schmidt info Booklet	R 194.00	-R 390.00	
Show Net Profit			R 3,862.13
CRC Membership	R 3,912.50	R 4,393.50	R 2,750.00
Beauty Pageant	R 50.00		
Carried Over	R 14,772.13	R 10,615.63	R 6,612.13

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2002/03</b>
Carried Forward	R 4,878.53	R 1,860.00	
Advertisement	R 177.61	R 597.53	
Library		R 66.00	R 150.00
Membership Dues		R 335.00	
Entertainment	R 1,278.02	R 303.50	
Venue Rentals	R 590.00	R 320.00	R 1,000.00
Prize Money			R 500.00
Stationery	R 420.73	R 598.79	R 110.00
Snake Show – M Jonsson		R 150.00	
Petty Cash	- R 510.55	R 647.71	R 100.00
Bumper Stickers	R 2,500.00		
Permit : Show / Educational	R 100.00		
Carried Over	R 9,434.34	R 4,878.53	R 1,860.00

<b>Balance</b>	<b>R 5,337.79</b>	<b>R 5,737.10</b>	<b>R 4,752.13</b>
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## **Membership Secretary's Report**



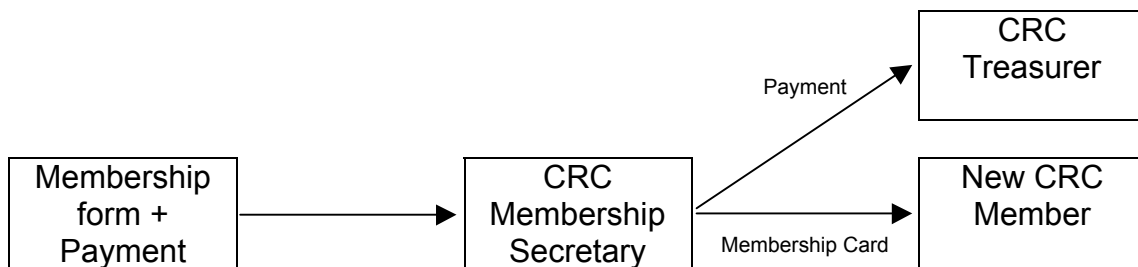
It has been quite a successful year wrt membership. A small decline from 68 to 56 occurred in 2004/05. This was mainly due to the CRC withdrawing from the affiliations that didn't yield any mutual return of information, newsletters etc.

The presently standing committee has proposed that the 2005/06 subscription fees should remain the same i.e. 0% Growth. This could change as the newly elected committee might turn down the proposal. If the newly elected committee turns down the proposal then a request will be lodged to request no additional money's from the members already paid for their 2005/06 subscription fees.

<b>Membership Fees</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>Growth</b>
Senior Membership	R 125.00	R 125.00	R 125.00	0%
Junior Membership (Under 18)	R 50.00	R 50.00	R 50.00	0%
Family Membership	R 200.00	R 200.00	R 200.00	0%
Institution Membership	R 100.00	R 100.00	R 100.00	0%
Correspondence Membership	R 50.00	R 50.00	R 50.00	0%

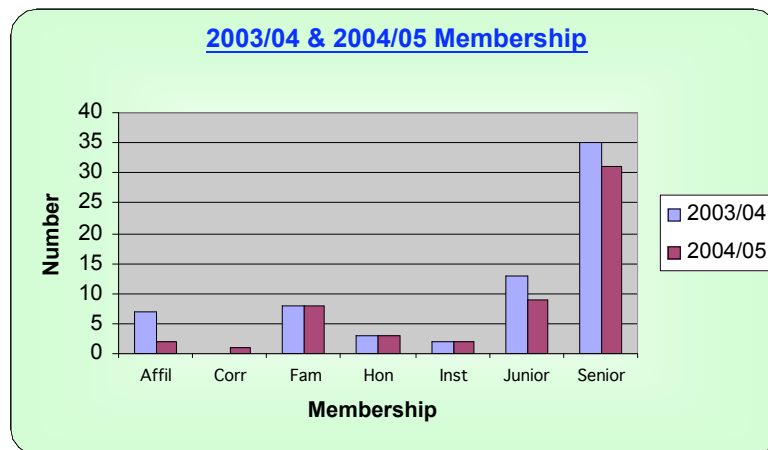
Members are requested to do a bit of marketing for the club. They need to harvest new members, thus ensuring new thoughts, new knowledge and new skill for the club.

The procedure to be remembered wrt new membership is important, as the Membership Secretary needs to keep his/her records updated and membership cards needs to be sent out. The procedure is as follows:



**Membership Totals – 2003/04 and 2004/05**

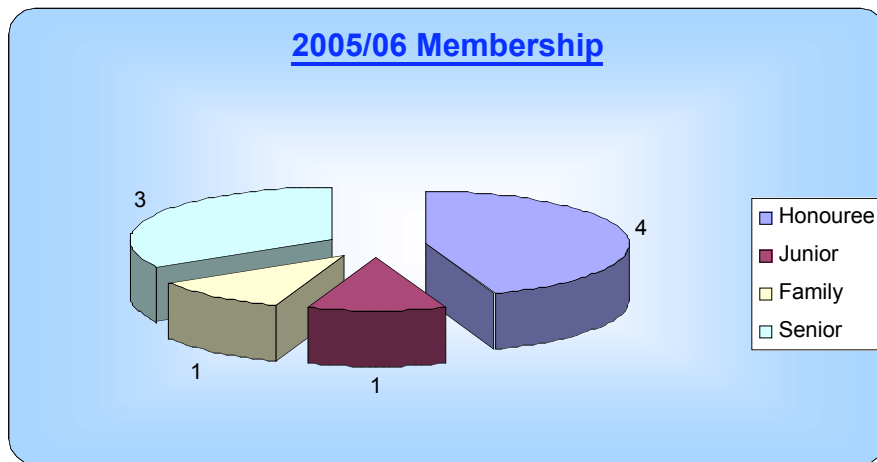
Year	Affil	Corr	Fam	Hon	Inst	Junior	Senior	Total
2003/04	7	0	8	3	2	13	35	68
2004/05	2	1	8	3	2	9	31	56



**New Membership – 2005/06 (As at 2005/03/03)**

Year	Honouree	Junior	Family	Senior	Total
2005/06	4	1	1	3	9





Members need to ensure that their contact details, especially email addresses are correct. The club can't be held responsible if the information distributed doesn't get to you if your details are incorrect or if your mailboxes are full. It is thus imperative that if you are not getting mail from the club that you make the necessary enquiries.

### Marketing Chair Person's Report



My time as Marketing Chair has allowed me to expand my network of contacts in stimulating and useful ways. I have a list of numbers and email addresses for editors, reporters, journalists and DJs that has opened my eyes to the ease with which we can expose ourselves to the wider public! It really is remarkably easy to publicise a club like the CRC,

and while I don't feel that I have made the most of it (my apologies to you all), the potential still excites me tremendously. I will not be standing for re-election this year because my company demands tremendous time and commitment, but I can't wait to hand over a wealth of contacts to the new Marketing Sub-committee and promise them my support wherever possible.

Why should we be supporting and growing the club? Our lives can so easily become limited and stifled by our work or school environment. Membership in a Club is an opportunity for us to meet, socialise with, learn and experience from people we might never otherwise meet – people with vastly different ideologies, lifestyles and cultures who share only our fascination with snakes (and if that doesn't set us aside from just about everybody else, what does?) We argue, we disagree and we complain – and we do it with truly remarkable, mad, wonderful, knowledgeable, opinionated, passionate people that we might never otherwise have met! **GET INVOLVED!** Life is too short to sit on the sidelines, and whether you shout the odds or wash the dishes you can only be the richer for it.

Love 'em, hate 'em, respect or diss 'em, the club members are the sorts of people you're glad to know. Life is just so much more interesting!

**Beauty Pageant 2004/09/24**



**Golden Oldie**



**General Meeting 2005/01/28**



**De Vonds 2005/02/26 (Information Session on Venomous Snakes)**



## Newsletter Editor's Report



The six newsletters of the past year have all, on the most part, been well received. The aim of the editor is to try to present as broad a spectrum of reptile-related news and information as possible, as well as serving the needs of the club members, which appear to be chiefly commercial in nature.

Despite repeated calls for input into what the members would like to see in their newsletter, or to see changed in the newsletter, the editor has received very little comment or suggestion. Thus, the format has remained relatively unchanged.

However, there are a few changes in the pipeline: a monthly interview with a prominent member of the South African herp community, a guest column, a column written by the chairperson of the proposed new Youth Portfolio, a page 3 snake.

Thank you to all who have offered feedback, both positive and negative, and I hope you have enjoyed the contents of the past year's newsletters.

## Librarian's Report



I have had quite a quiet time with regards to this portfolio. Not many people are interested in making use of the CRC's library, which is a pity. For this reason the committee has not been concentrating much on the library and opted to concentrate more on the other aspects of the club. This is not to say that nothing went into the library. Marcel has submitted quite a few documents to be archived, thus

keeping the influx of info into the library alive.

Donations and/or documentation are always welcome for inclusion into the CRC's library. This will help grow the knowledge in the club and ensuring a source of information for all those interested.

## Legal Advisor's Report



2005 has been an exciting year for all in the CRC, for the members and the committee alike. The committee within this portfolio has achieved quite a substantial amount of work and if it weren't for a team effort then nothing would have been accomplished. In controversy, the minority membership are interested in this portfolio and the committee has spent half of it's time trying to satisfy them.

Apart from the hard work done there have been quite some developments lately due to the feedback or lack thereof from CN wrt the second questions document tabled by the CRC. This is in the process of being actioned.

The members must remember that the present committee believes that the CRC and CN need to work together to achieve various goals. Mutual trust and transfer of information between both parties should ensure collective progress. The CRC wants inclusion in processes and information about processes at all times, thus positive communication between the CRC and CN is important.

Summary of what has happened in 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

- CN gave blanks transport permits with good faith at show
- Inclusion in processes and information about processes
- Positive communication between CRC / CN
- National Strategy Document - Comments / Concerns tabled – P1
- WC Strategy Document - information about processes
- Process in place for the Black/Grey/White lists
- Tariff increases – Feedback from members tabled
- Meetings with CN
- Amnesty and show permits for CRC

Summary of what has happened in 2004 is as follows:

- Feedback received from CN on tariff increases
- Crime report contact details distributed
- Catch and Release name lists distributed
- National Strategy Document - Comments / Concerns tabled – P2
- Biodiversity act – Informed of it becoming an act by CN
- Provisional list – Conclusion of Phase 1 and 2, awaiting phase 3
- EIA – Template tabled
- How can one become legal – Input from CN
- DEAT – Press release distributed by CN
- DEAT – Post registration forms for inclusion in process
- DEAT – Species listings - Public comment (Protected / Threatened)
- Questions document 1 tabled with CN and feedback from CN
- Questions document 2 tabled with CN and feedback from CN
- Keeping of animals and poultry in the CoCT – Distributed by CN
- HAA information distributed by CN
- Tariff increases for 2005 distributed by CN
- Application for a slug eater programme
- Amnesty and show permits for CRC

To end off this report I just want to remind the members that the CRC promotes and encourages a legal and responsible hobby. Happy herping to all the members.

## Web Master's Report



Since the last AGM the website has received dozens of updates including selected newsletter content and ads.

From January 2003 to January 2004 the website received a total of 600 visits.

Between March 2004 and March 2005 the website received an average of 600 visits per month with a record of over 900 in October 2004.

The following pages can be found on the web site:

- [Home Page](#)

What's New and up and coming events are depicted on this page.

- [About Page](#)

This page defines the CRC's aim and objectives. A list of the committee members and links to photo pages can also be found on this About-page.

- [Law Page](#)

This page covers anything and everything to do with legislation. Permits required, conservation, public policy processes etc.

- [Adverts Page](#)

If you have anything reptile-related that you want to buy or sell, this is the place to do it. If you're a member your ad will be placed in the newsletter and online free of charge. The sub sections are discounts, wanted and for sale.

- [Info Page](#)

This is the start of a collation of links to articles that we use in our newsletters and ones that we feel are relevant in our environment. Also please see our FAQs (frequently asked questions page).

- [Partners Page](#)

We collaborate and work with the following organisations:

- Cape Nature Conservation
- Transvaal Herpetological Association
- South Cape Herpetological Association
- Herpetological Association of Africa
- Free State Herpetology Association
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa - Western Cape Region

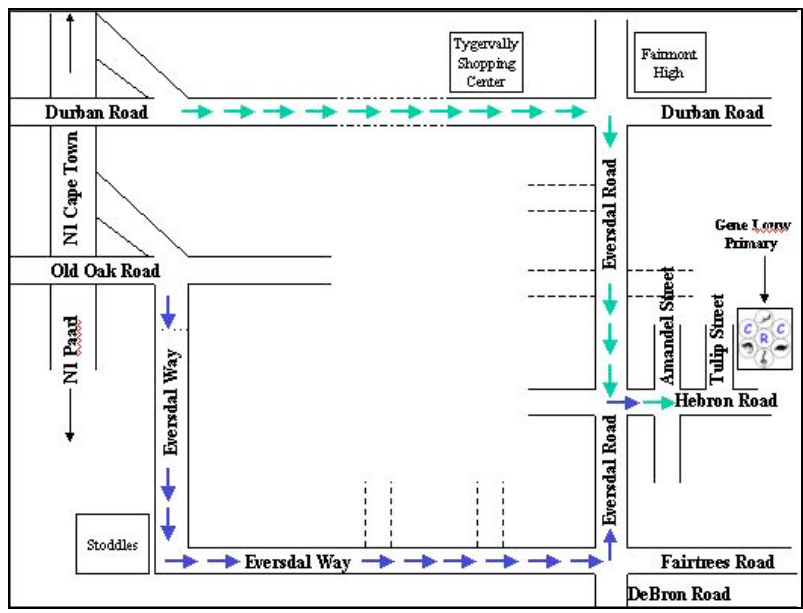
**CRC Web Site – [www.crc.za.org](http://www.crc.za.org)**  
 (Visit our site and be proud – Distribute the CRC’s web address to all)

**Proposed Meeting Dates for 2005/06**

Type of Meeting	Date	Suburb
Annual General Meeting	2005/04/15	Northern
General Meeting	2005/05/27	Southern
General Meeting	2005/07/29	Northern
General Meeting	2005/09/30	Southern
General Meeting	2005/11/25	Northern
General Meeting	2006/01/27	Southern
Annual General Meeting	To be announced	Northern

**AGM – 2005/04/15**

Date : 2005/04/15  
 Time : 19h00 Sharp  
 Venue : Gene Louw Primary School (Sonstraal, Durbanville)



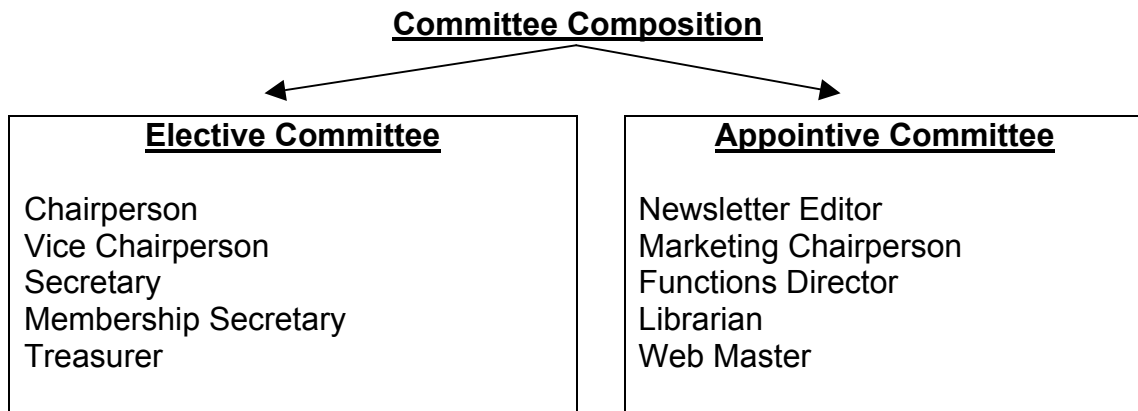
CRC Members Function (After AGM)

Function : Braai (Salads, Rolls and meat will be provided)  
Drinks (Members to provide their own drinks)

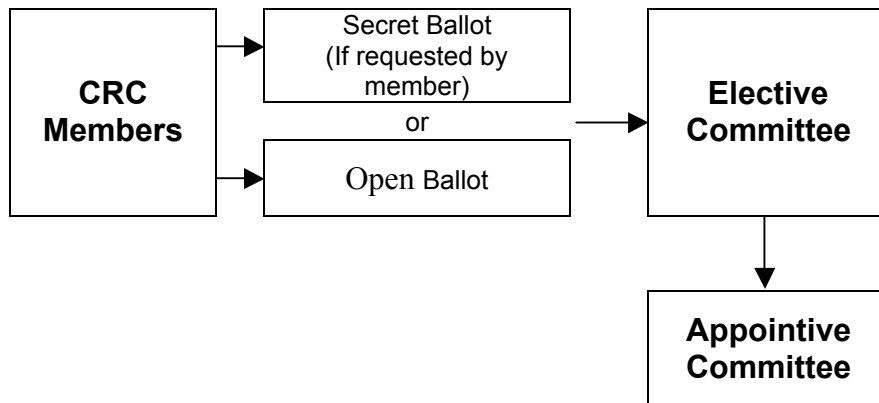
Costs : Members R 0  
Non Members Adults R 20  
Children R 10 (Under 10yr of age)

NB - RSVP BY 2005/03/20  
Pierre Joubert 084 5562 007

**Election Process – 2005/04/15**



**Process**



**Conclusion**

In short an email from one of the members contained the following, which sums up basically all that needs to be said to conclude this report, namely:

The majority of the members find the CRC useful for the following reasons:

1. Market for our breeding.
2. Network of collectors to try and obtain what we want.

3. Interaction with a group of people sharing a similar interest.
4. Knowledge sharing, especially to the younger members
5. Better understanding of the legal implications
6. Try and improve relationships with CN
7. Grow the reptile fraternity
8. Etc.

The 2004/2005 committee wished the newly elected committee all the best for 2005/2006.