

KOGELBERG
Branch of the Botanical Society of SA

Newsletter:
July 2014

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY
ROUND 616

The next attack takes place on Sunday 3rd August 2014, from 9am to noon
VENUE: Lower area of Kloof Road.

TALKS

Saturday 19th July AGM at 5.30p.m. Nivenia Hall after which Alan & Jenny Mountain will speak on **Madagascar**. Jenny's part is titled **Ecological Intervention** and Alan's is **The Human Factor**. Liquid refreshment will be served after the AGM and before the talk.

Saturday 16th August. Life on Earth -- The First and the Latest. Presented by Peter Joubert, a Medical Doctor, retired for 20 years at Betty's Bay. Peter is enthusiastic about Conservation, History and all branches of Science. He says that he also tries to write.

At all talks a voluntary collection will be taken and the attendance register will be circulated. Please note that the purpose of the register is twofold, firstly to advise the HPG for their records of the number of people attending and secondly so that regular attendees can be contacted should any alterations to the programme be made or, as has happened, a visitor offers a talk at short notice.

Contact Merrilee: 028 272 9314.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH

Saturday 19th July Time: 5.30p.m.(17h30) Venue: Nivenia Hall.

AGENDA

Welcome and Apologies

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2013 meeting.

Presentation of the Treasurer's and Chairman's Reports

Election of Committee members

Any other business, with permission from the Chair.

Merrilee Berrisford, Chairman 028 272 9314.

WALK

There will NOT be a walk on Saturday 19th July 2014.

•DISCLAIMER

All participants in BotSoc events do so at their own risk. Whereas those in charge will do everything possible to ensure the safety of all participants, they cannot be held responsible in the event of unforeseen mishaps.

REPORT ON HACK NO 615

We have had one or two days this winter of perfect weather. Today was not one of those days; not only the due to the continuous rain but the access to the enemy is now about a metre under water (not so much Lakeside Drive as In the Lake!)

July is usually pretty wet too so a change of venue seems appropriate. Next hack: Lower end of Kloof Road. There is open ground for parking and a whole lot of pittosporum, acacia elata, black wattle and various gums, NZ xmas trees etc to be taken out. One of the private properties nearby is a 'no go' area 'C so do NOT trespass.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 95

On Sunday 29th June 2014 the Hack Group attacked all kinds of alien vegetation in Caesar Road from erf 1377 to the intersection with Carla Road. The area is now considerably cleaner than it was.

The hackers present were Frik Potgieter, Edward Silberbauer, Tom Dreyer, Sue Folb, Carol Wilson, Ivan Staegmann, Jan Joubert and grandson, Karin Smith, and John Whitehead.

The very welcome mid-morning coffee and sandwiches were provided by Marion and Ian Cushny.

The next hack will be on Sunday 27th July 2014.

As usual we will meet on the pavement opposite Drosters Centre, in Central Avenue, Pringle Bay, at 08:30 and will then proceed to the hack site. The hack stops at 11:30.

Everyone who would like to help rid Pringle Bay of alien vegetation will be welcome. Hacking

tools are provided. Contact John at (028) 273 8807 or Ian at (028) 273 8589, or just turn up at the meeting point.

John Whitehead, Convenor.

ROOIELS HACK

First Saturday of the month **8.30-10.30**. Tools & refreshments provided. Contact: Anuta Scholtz anuta@omail.co.za or tel 083 388 8239 or Evette tel 028 273 8483

NANCY VAN SCHAIK

Nancy van Schaik, emeritus professor of genetics at Wits and wife of the artist Louis van Heerden, died in June at their home in Sunny Seas, Betty's Bay. Nancy was a staunch member of this branch, served on the committee, including a term as Chairman and was on the sub committee 'Talks and Outings'. Together with John Whitehead she revised our constitution. Nancy will be missed by all who knew her. To Louis and to her family the Branch extends its sympathy.

The Eds.

DATES TO DIARISE

Cape Floral Kingdom expo. 28Th to 31st August 2014 in Mega Park, Bredasdorp. Entrance is R100 for adults, pensioners R70 and children under 12 R20 . See p53 in Veld & Flora's June issue.

www.capefloralkingdom.co.za or 082 556 8778

Hermanus Botanical Society's annual flower festival will be held in the Fernkloof Reserve from 25th to 28th September 2014. Entrance R20 for adults, children under 12 free. The theme is Plant Explorers then and now.

www.fernkloof.com botsochermanus@telkomsa.net Tel. 028 313 8100

FIRE IN THE HELDERBERG AND OBSERVATIONS OF A YEARS REGROWTH.

Words alone don't do justice to the pictorial story of the fire that devastated the Helderberg Mountain above the Reserve. In autumn 2012 a fire began in the upper slopes of the mountain. Dick Stroh, a regular hiker with Helderberg Village colleagues, watched the fury of the flames and the courageous helicopter pilots as they gathered water from the dam. Close up photographs showed the buckets of water being dumped on to the flames, so keeping the houses on the slopes below safe.

At last the flames were quenched and the blackened, burnt earth remained. However, during the course of the year, through Dick's excellent photos we watched the fynbos slowly recover. Weekly progress for the first two months, and then monthly, we saw the first green shoots appear. Where the protea seeds had burst from the seed heads and lay thickly on sheltered rocks a carpet appeared. In dead and hollowed tree stumps seed had collected and sprouted. The ants had a feast carrying seed into their secret passageways and eating the protein rich waxy growth (eliasome). With a thick corky trunk to protect them *Protea Nitida* sprouted new fresh green shoots from the blackened branches.

The little low growing oxalis were amongst the first flowers to appear from bulblets hidden deep underground. Fortunately early rains over the burnt area helped to revive the fynbos. The northern and western slopes were first to be transformed, while the southern slope was slower in recovery. Patches of bright yellow *Moraea colina*, red *Cyrtanthus ventricus* (fire lily) and the strange looking red root parasite, *Hyobanche sanguiana*, and lovely gladioli species were highlights on the ashes. Some little animal had also enjoyed the fresh new growth of the parasite.

We "walked" the mountain with Dick and his band of hikers marvelling at the miracle of the fynbos recovery. We know it needs fire to regenerate but how many of us have the opportunity to watch with such regularity what we saw through these beautiful photos. Accompanied by the piano music, gentle in the background, but becoming quite dramatic as the helicopters roared overhead, we all felt we had been there too. Thanks Dick for "A Year in the Helderberg" experience.

Andrea Benn.

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Month	June	2013	2014
Rainfall mm		268,9	332
Temp, °C	Max	36	30
	Min	8	8

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ AND/ OR STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP

If you change your address, wish to resign or change your status, please notify the Botanical Society Head Office on 021- 797 2090, as they print the labels and keep the records.

We do only the newsletter, e-mails and posting. To receive this newsletter via e-mail (and save the Branch the costs of printing, packaging and postage) send your address to merran@telkomsa.net

REMEMBER YOUR ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

The editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, 5th August 2014.

Please address all mail to : Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA, P.O. Box 85, Betty's Bay 7141. E-mail : merran@telkomsa.net no graphics please.

