

**KOGELBERG**  
**Branch of the Botanical Society of SA**

**Newsletter:**  
**February 2015**

News Editor: Charlotte Rademeyer  
email: cradem@mweb.co.za

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY**  
**ROUND 623**

**REPORT ON ROUND 622**

The Agapanthus Road area is not a popular spot for the troops due to a thick and almost impenetrable jungle of fynbos amongst which the enemy takes refuge. How does a tough battlefield become popular? Well almost by cutting a rough path through the bush, but more important, by joining a group of willing people who will do anything to get rid of the hated invasives. That sort of sweat will never be popular, but working with a crowd of hardened, determined and cheerful hackers makes the effort worthwhile and the thought of the mid-morning break with ever life-sustaining tea and sandwiches helps morale. The bodycount of dead rooikrans was impressive, which is what counts.

Hot and thirsty were the hackers: John and Andrea Benn with friend Jane Werge, Tony Cunningham, Peter Norton, Ursula Huyssen, Barbara Jenman, Karin Smith, John Whitehead, Sue Fielden, Jan & Betsey Joubert, Ed & Lewis Silberbauer. Di Knott made the sandwiches and Merran Silberbauer made the tea.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor

The next attack takes place at the same place, Agapanthus Road area, on **Sunday, 1 March 2015**, from 9 am to noon. Follow the hack signs FROM Porter Drive.

**PRINGLE BAY HACK N0 100**

On Sunday 25th January 2015 the Hack Group continued with the eradication of alien vegetation (mainly Rooikrans) on the road reserves along Bobby Road (between its intersections with Buffels Road and Ann Road) near the beach area of Pringle Bay. See the result of the hack in the photos attached.

The hackers present were Ivan Staegemann, Frik Potgieter, Edward Silberbauer, Sue Fielden, Tom Dreyer, Daniel, Natalie and Sven Swartling, Andy James, Sue Folb, Marita Grobbelaar, Charles Hector, Mike Begley, Charlotte Rademeyer and Chris Geldenhuys. This was the first hack of 2015 without John Whitehead, who retired as the convenor in November 2014, a role he fulfilled over the past ten years. His leadership and enthusiasm ensured the success of the Pringle Hack. We thank him for his loyal service over the years. Everyone will miss his leadership, but he indicated that he will still join us at the future hacks.

A special word of thanks for the contribution and support provided to the Pringle Bay Hack by the members of the Bettys Bay Hack. Their efforts and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

The absence of Marion Cushny was sorely missed at the mid-morning coffee and sandwiches. We are looking for a member of the Pringle Bay area to volunteer for the provision of this important task,

because it helps to keep the morale of the hack high.

The next hack will be on **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**. 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 Chris at (028) 273 8588, or just turn up at the meeting point.

Chris Geldenhuys, Convenor.

## ROOIELS HACK

**First Saturday** of the month, from **8.30-C10.30**. Tools & refreshments provided. Contact: Anuta Scholtz on [anuta@omail.co.za](mailto:anuta@omail.co.za) or tel 083 388 8239, or Evette tel 028 273 8483.

## WALK UP LEOPARDS KLOOF, Saturday 21 February.

This is a moderate walk (of about 3 km) where we cross the river a number of times, wander through a forest, up a few short ladders to the final pool and waterfall. The disas could still be visible on the cliffs. Meet at 9am at the Harold Porter Gardens' ticket office. Back by 11am. Bring your membership cards.

See you there. Barbara Jenman 082 338 4109

## TALKS

### EBONY AND IVORY

Tony Cunningham's talk began with a three minute musical video. A classical violinist explained how the bow brings out the music of the violin. Tony explained how Ebony, *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, is used in the manufacture of musical instruments and classical Ming furniture.

It is the best wood for wind instruments, oboes and clarinets. A second choice would be Mopane wood.

The *Dalbergia* is a remarkable tree, one of the densest and hardest of woods, yielding several tons of wood. The wood would sink in water. It is very dark in colour with a unique fluted trunk, and is very slow growing. One record states that a 133-year old tree had reached 24cm in diameter.

Ebony forests occur in Brazil, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and China. The sadness is that these natural forests are declining for various reasons. Up to the 1930's in northern Mozambique, ebony was the wood used for smelting iron. The illegal felling of young trees is a big threat. There are 60 000 wood carvers in Kenya. Most offcuts are used to make charcoal instead of being salvaged for turning into useful articles. So there is a high wastage rate.

In Tanzania 96% of the logging is illegal. As population increases, so does the loss of habitat. In 1900 Mozambique had 2.6 million people, today 24 million. 90% of African ebony is exported to China where most is processed in the eastern sector.

In 1998 China introduced a logging ban within their natural forests. Millions of Hong Mu (red ebony) seedlings are being cultivated now for future growing and ultimately logging.

What is the future of *Dalbergia melanoxylon* and other species? Is this unsustainable logging a much larger problem than we realise? Mozambique is busy stockpiling large amounts of timber. Will this become another 'sadness in Africa'? "C like the rhino!

Tony's slides told a lot more of the story than mere words can ever do. Read Daleen Matthee's book 'Circles in the Forest' to learn of sustainable forestry in the Knysna area.

Andrea Benn.

## UPCOMING TALKS

**Saturday, February 21st:** We are hoping that **Riaan Manser** will be present, but his partner **Vasti Geldenhuys** will speak on their rowing across the Atlantic, with their talk entitled: **Don't do your best ;K get the job done!** In the Nivenia Hall at 6 p.m.

**Saturday, March 21st.** An illustrated interaction between two horticulturalists, **Jane Forrester** and **Jenny Berrisford**, entitled **Gardening with Indigenous Plants**. Jane is horticulturalist at Harold Porter Gardens and Jenny recently retired from her business 'Jenny B Landscapes'. In the Nivenia Hall at 6 p.m. but check the posters in case of a change of venue.

At all talks a voluntary collection will be taken and the attendance register will be circulated. The purpose of the register is twofold, firstly to advise 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. Liquid refreshments are also offered at the evening talks.

Contact Merrilee: 028 272 9314.

### RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

January		2014	2015
Rainfall mm		169 mm	34 mm
Temp C	Max	36	34
	Min	11	13

### 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 [pberrisford@xsinet.co.za](mailto:pberrisford@xsinet.co.za)

### REMEMBER YOUR ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

**The editor reserves the right to edit contributions.**

**Deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, 3 March 2015.**

Please address all mail to:

Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA, P O Box 85, Betty's Bay 7141

e-mail: [cradem@mweb.co.za](mailto:cradem@mweb.co.za) `C no graphics please.