

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

**Newsletter:
August 2013**

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY
ROUND 605**

The next attack takes place on Sunday 1st September 2013, from 9am to noon
VENUE: Agapanthus Road, as for last month.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH
Saturday 17th August **Time: 5.30p.m.(17h30)** **Venue: Crassula Hall, BB**
AGENDA

Welcome and Apologies
Confirmation of the minutes of the 2012 meeting.
Presentation of the Treasurer's and Chairman's Reports
Election of Committee members
Any other business, with permission from the Chair.

After the AGM, **Lucia Rodrigues** will present a talk entitled "**Black Eagles of the Western Cape**" (**The Verreaux Eagles**). Lucia is a member of the research team for the W.C. Raptor Research project and has studied them in our area with the assistance of local volunteers.

The minutes of the AGM of 2012 can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Saturday 21st September IN THE PRINGLE BAY COMMUNITY HALL "The Tanzanian Igamba Falls Controversy: snails versus hydro power". Speaker **Prof. Richard Fuggle**, previously of the Environmental Studies at U.C.T. and later a consultant to a World Bank inspection panel which examined projects where investment led to negative effects, where what had originally been designed to improve a situation had in fact proved detrimental.

At all talks there will be liquid refreshments and a voluntary collection will be taken.

**ANTARCTICA A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY ON BOARD AGULHAS II
Kogelberg Branch's Fundraiser for 2013.**

Andrew Schofield (a professional photographer DvD producer and conservationist), spent almost three months down south as the ornithologist, although his duties were not confined only to birds. The ship visited SANAI IV, the South Sandwich Islands and Georgia. .

Date: Saturday 31st August **Time: 6p.m** **Venue: Crassula Hall, B.B.**
Tickets: R70p.p. include a light supper with wine from Ayama Estate Tickets are now on sale at Penguin Place, B.B., Pringle Books, P.B. Tourism office, Kleinmond.

The ticket price has not been increased, and there will be a donation box on the evening so give generously as all funds will go towards equipment for the **BB Hack Group**, whose volunteer

members have for **fifty years** protected the area from invasive vegetation.

For further information contact Judy New 028 272 9006.

WALK 17TH AUGUST.

Merrilee Berrisford will lead the walk, please meet in the car park of Harold Porter Gardens at 9a.m. For further information, please contact Merrilee - 028 272 9314.

REPORT ON HACK NO 604

At last, after the previous two campaigns had to be cancelled due to strong winds and foul weather, 13 stalwart hackers reported for duty knowing that the going would not be easy. Dense indigenous bush protected the enemy which enemy had to be winkled out blow by blow. The hack may not have been easy or spectacular but it reduced the seed load which makes regular "follow ups" so essential.

We celebrated the tea break close by a newly built house with landscaped garden. Like many landscaped gardens in Betty's Bay this was planted to alien invasives and other inappropriate trees and shrubs, all irrigated with a sophisticated irrigation system. Irrigation!? In a wetland !!However, let us be really grateful that there are plot owners who dedicate their gardens to indigenous plants and help eradicate invasive aliens.

Battling through thick bush were: David Bossenger, Tom Dreyer, John Whitehead, Maarten & Hilary Mauve, Frik Potgieter, Tim Attwell, Jan Joubert, Lewis & Caroline, James and Ed Silberbauer. Louise Digby made the sandwiches and Merran Silberbauer made the tea.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 87

The Hack scheduled for 28th July 2013 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next hack will be on Sunday 25th August 2013. As usual we will meet on the pavement opposite Drostersgat, in Central Avenue, Pringle Bay, at 08:30 and will then proceed to the hack site. Everyone who would like to help rid Pringle Bay of alien vegetation will be welcome. The hack stops at 11:30. 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.

HERMANUS' ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL 26-29TH SEPTEMBER 2013.

The focus will be on Wetlands so the plants associated with this environment will take centre stage in the Fernkloof Hall, surrounded by our familiar but always spectacular fynbos flowers. A Marquee provides a sheltered opportunity for discovering more about the Hermanus environment in addition to plenty of Market stalls. Many local nurseries are constructing small Show-Gardens around the Amphitheatre and their stock will be on sale from 4pm on Sunday 29. Jack's Nursery, behind the Hall, of course offers indigenous plants all the year round and will be open throughout the Festival.

We are thrilled that our international Award Winning artist, Margaret de Villiers, has agreed to give the HBS a print of one of her Erica paintings as a major Raffle prize. There is a tea garden for tea and light lunches, a puppet show and other activities for children. **The Flower Festival will be open from 9 to 5 daily AT Fernkloof Nature Reserve. Entry is R15, children under 12, FREE.** botsochermanus@telkomsa.net tel.028 313 8100

Deidre Richards.

FYNBOS GARDENING WET OR BOGGY PARTS OF THE GARDEN

In a wet garden the main point to remember, is to keep the water moving. If you have a stagnant seep in your garden, try to drain this area as it could breed mosquitoes. This situation (smelly water with a shiny surface) often occurs where there is a rocky underlay on the erf, dig drainage channels leading to the edge of your property. Stagnant water contains no oxygen whereas moving water is oxygenated and the plant roots should not rot. If rainwater runoff comes through your property, particularly on a steep slope, prevent erosion by slowing down the velocity of the water. This can be achieved by diverting the water into shallow channels to meander sideways to the downslope. Here and there create a pond to add interest to the landscape while at the same time controlling the flow of the water. The overflow water could be channeled into further drainage furrows.

Where the ground is “boggy” but not stagnant one can raise the hollows with topsoil and rockeries could be built to allow the roots of any plants you establish to “breathe”. Alternatively you could excavate ponds and use the excess soil to create mounds above the water level. Sometimes the underlying rock is close to the surface, so adding to the depth of the soil would reduce the possibility of the ground drying out and baking in the summer sun.

PLANTS THAT WILL TOLERATE WET SOILS: * can also handle dryer conditions

Ground cover: *Monopsis lutea* with small yellow pea like flowers

Shrubs: *Indigofera cytisoides* (pinkish flowers) and *filifolia*, *Berzelia lanuginosa* (kol kol), *Brunii albiflora* (coffee bush), *Osmitopsis asteriscoides* (aromatic white daisy), *Wachendorfia thyrsiflora* (tall yellow spike), *Melianthus major* (kruidtjie roer my nie – purple spike), *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (Arum lillies), *Kniphofia uvaria* (red hot poker), *Lobostemon fruticosus* (lilac pink flowers)

Ericas: *E. patersonii* (yellow mielie heath), *E. perspicua* (pink/white Prince of Wales heath)

Proteas tolerant of moving surface water only):- *P. cynaroides* (King), *P. compacta* (Bot River), *Mimetes hirtus*.

Restios: *Elegia capensis* (horsetail..tall fluffy appearance), *Condrotalum tectorum* (dakriet), *Elegia fenestrata*

Ferns: good *Todea Barbara* (med size), *Cyathea capensis* (tree fern), *Blechnum capensis* (smaller needs shade) **BAD common sword fern which is very invasive in your garden**

Trees: Small *Halleria lucida* (tree fuschia..orange flowers birds love it) *Psoralea pinnata* (blou fonteinbos, *Brachylaena nerifolia* (water wit els), *Metrosideros angustifolius* (smallblaar), *Podalyria calyptrate* (water blossom). **Large:-** *Ilex mitis* (cape holly), *Cunonia*

capensis (rooiels) **BAD *Meterosideros exelsus*** (New Zealand Christmas tree), ***Sysigium cordatum*** (waterberry) ***Pittosporum undulata*** (*lemon wood*) **becoming a problem in Betty's Bay**

Waterlilies: *Aponogeton distachyos* (waterblommetjie) edible but must be kept under control), *Nymphoides indica* (geel water uintjie small yellow flowers) *Nymphaea capensis* (blue water lily)

Water always adds another dimension to your garden...work with it and enjoy it ...it will bring in all sorts of living creatures into your space.

Questions can be e-mailed to barnacle@maxitec.co.za

Jenny Berrisford.

NEWS FROM HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

1. **The Bioblitz:** Ismail Ebrahim and some of his staff from CREW will be leading the Bioblitz on **23 Sept.** He will demonstrate how "iSpot" works and help people to register on the site. A bioblitz targets a particular area (in this case the Harold Porter NBG, both cultivated garden and natural estate) to record with a smartphone or camera any biodiversity - plants, animals, insects, snakes, crustaceans, birds. These photos are then uploaded onto a special part of "iSpot" for the record and further identifications if you are unable to identify the creature/plant yourself. This is done in the course of one day and therefore gives a list for the particular day and eventually after a number of bioblitzes at different seasons a good picture of the biodiversity for the area should emerge together with images.

2. **The Centenary of Kirstenbosch and BotSoc Exhibition in the Nivenia Hall from 20 - 29 September.** This will feature various images from Veld and Flora and possibly other photographic/painted images of Kirstenbosch and the Botanical Society for the past 100 years. **It is likely that BotSoc members will be asked to assist in the set up (18th & 19th and break down on 30th) and manning the exhibition for its duration.**

3. **Developments within the Garden** The new area in the garden, north of the top ponds, already has some Limestone Fynbos which will be expanded to incorporate more species for that vegetation type. There will be a section incorporating Renosterveld with plants to be collected from the Overberg regions. Another section displaying plants from Shale Band Fynbos, mostly collected in the Elgin Basin and lastly a section of our local Sandstone Fynbos. A small bed will display the rocks from which the different soil types are derived. More limestone soil will be needed for that section and clayey soils appropriate to the Renosterveld and Shaleband must be brought in for those sections.

Jane Forrester.

INVASION BIOLOGY, SCIENCE AND PRACTICE.

Prof. Dave Richardson, who introduced himself as an Invasive Ecologist, opened our eyes (and ears) on the subject of invasives world wide. Although he spoke on South African conditions he touched on problems experienced globally. A millennium commitment is to find the status of our biodiversity and threats- hence South Africa's new legislation: the Biodiversity Act of 2004.*Prof Richardson is the Director of the Centre for Invasion Biology (CIB) at Stellenbosch.

His Centre covers alien plants, animals, fishes, algae, insects and marine life. Of the last little is known. Most aliens are not invasive, a large number contribute greatly to the country, in agriculture, and industry: for example, all the plants, and some of the animals, used in agriculture and pines and gums in the forestry industry, planted in suitable and restricted areas. He raised the question of the purpose and value of the eradication of invasive aliens. This he said is important in an area such as ours – a World Heritage site – but possibly not in areas where a particular invasive contributes to the economy; here he spoke of the Forestry's pine plantations in our eastern areas. Where the spread of an invasive is limited in extent it is possible to attempt a total eradication. Research has been done on some of these plants such as *Acacia stricta* in the Knysna area where the total eradication is now underway of 20,000 identified in an area of 100ha. Biological control of certain species takes time but is succeeding in many instances.

CIB is also occupied in the study of the eradication of aliens in the Kruger-Park. In 1936 only 1 invasive was known. That has increased to 400 today. Most of these entered the park as a result of being washed in via rivers from inhabited areas; but also because some invasives were planted to “decorate” the camps and are now escaping into the natural veld. The question is whether eradication is worthwhile doing in the Park. In Prof Richardson's view it is because of the importance of the Park as a tourist destination. (This raised the question with the author if the Fynbos biome is not of the same importance if the irreplaceable value is added to the agricultural and tourist income). The public can help by being aware of the problem, making others aware and by conforming to the laws of government and municipal bylaws.

Jan Joubert and Barbara Jenman.

*SAPIA NEWS No 29

Pertinent to the above is this extract from SAPIA's latest newsletter which is dedicated to celebrating the centenary of biological control of invasive alien plants in South Africa. The extract refers to the act of 2004 mentioned above).“for the first time there are national regulations concerning alien and invasive invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. Another 93 plant species have been declared as invasives, in South Africa, requiring compulsory control or management. The bad news is that the list of invasive plant species falls short of the proposed list in 2009 The **list of species is already out of date.....**”

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Month July	2012	2013
Rainfall mm	156,5	118
Temp, °C		
Max	26	34
Min	7	6

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 Wednesday, 4th September 2013. Please address all mail to : Kogelberg Branch of BotSoc Society of SA, P.O. Box 93, Betty's Bay 7141. E-mail : merran@telkomsa.net no graphics

KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 14 JULY 2012 IN
THE NIVENIA HALL, HAROLD PORTER GARDENS, BETTY'S BAY

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Merrilee Berrisford welcomed Dr. Ernst van Jaarsveld, horticulturist at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens and all those in attendance.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Merran and Ed Silberbauer, Chris and Judy New, Allan and Helene Heydorn, Peter Folb, Ted Oliver, Bernice Carolus, Cecile Strauss, Betsey Joubert and Penny Palmer.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2011 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on the 16 July 2011 were taken as read and adopted.

Proposed: Jenny Berrisford. Seconded : John Benn.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2012

This was published in the Kogelberg Branch newsletter of July 2012. The Treasurer confirmed that Terry Simon has agreed to continue as auditor.

Approved: Pieter Joubert Seconded: Andrea Benn

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This would be published in the next Branch newsletter, August 2012 and an abbreviated report was read by the Chairman.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2012-2013

The two members retiring as required by the constitution were available for re-election as were the sitting members. All were re-elected being Merrilee Berrisford, Betsey Joubert, Barbara Jenman, Peter Berrisford, Sue Folb and Andrea Benn. Tim Attwell had been proposed by Ed Silberbauer , seconded by Barbara Jenman and was duly elected to the committee. Portfolios will be assigned at the next committee meeting.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Merrilee Berrisford for her hard work during the year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

The talk which followed was by Dr. Ernst van Jaarsveld, horticulturist at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens on "Aloes and Gasterias, cliff dwelling plants."

Barbara Jenman, Secretary.