

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

Newsletter: April 2013

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY
ROUND 600**

The next attack takes place on Sunday 7th April 2013, from 9am to noon

VENUE: As for the last two months, **East** of the gate to the property "Peter John" where the road which used to go through to Hangklip and Pringle Bay now ends.

TALKS

Saturday 16th March. "Slitheringfynbos – Snake awareness". Pringle Bay snake man, **Francois van Zyl** will tell us about these reptiles – often much misunderstood. He will bring live snakes with him. In the **Crassula Hall** at 6p.m.

Saturday 20th April **The Black Oystercatcher** by Richard and Sara Starke who are well known for their work with these birds, including rearing abandoned chicks, and caring for sick birds.

Saturday 18th May Dr Kenneth Oberlander who specialises in the genus *Oxalis* will lead a walk and give a talk centred on *Oxalis sp.* Meet at Harold Porter parking at 2.45pm for a walk 3 - 4.30pm either above Harold Porter or Oudebosch. The talk will be at the usual time **6p.m.** in the **Nivenia Hall.**

Saturday 15th June- To mark the 100th birthday of BotSoc and Kirstenbosch with a special celebration Kogelberg Branch has invited Dr Brian Huntley to talk about **Kirstenbosch**. Dr Huntley is the author of the book **Kirstenbosch, the most beautiful garden in Africa.**

Saturday 20th July we hold our **AGM** to be followed by a talk by Prof David Richardson Director of the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at University of Stellenbosch.

At all talks there will be liquid refreshments and a voluntary collection will be taken.
Contact Merrilee Berrisford 028 272 9314.

WALK ON THE 16th MARCH

Meet at the Harold Porter Gardens at 8.30 am on Saturday 16th March for a walk around the coastline to see March flowers. Further details please contact Betsey Joubert on 0282729761 or 0823379244.

Barbara Jenman.

PLANT SALE AT HAROLD POTER GARDENS

Harold Porter's annual Easter Plant Sale will be from Friday 29th March to Monday 1st April.
For further information contact 028 272 9311.

REPORT ON HACK NO 599

A good turnout for between alien extraction celebrations (the 50years and the 600th hack). A lot of rooikrans was removed on a fine though hottish morning moving up hills and down dales.

Emerging from the thick vegetation at tea time were Jill Attwell (90 years young), Allan & Helene Heydorn Tom Dreyer, Pieter de Waal, David Bossenger, John & Andrea Benn, Jan & Betsey Joubert, Barbara Jenman, Sue Fielden, Martin Bensch with sons Sean & Michael., John Whitehead, Maarten & Hilary Mauve, Peter & Merrilee Berrisford, Ursula Huysen, John McNaught Davis, Lewis Silberbauer with escapee from Gauteng Adrian Smuts, Ed Silberbauer. Louise Digby made the sandwiches and Merran Silberbauer made the tea.

The next hack on April 7th will take place at the same spot – but with a difference. This will be our 600th hack. Due to some confusion in the very early recordings of our endeavours it so happened that if a hack was cancelled due to a downpour that hack was not recorded. Now we record all hacks downpour or not; but we have ended up being able to enjoy two separate happenings to celebrate these two momentous occasions. This momentous occasion will take the form of an aftermath bring and braai or bring a picnic in the glade up Kloof road. Weather permitting a fire will be made if there is no wind, if the wind is too strong we will picnic, if it rains it will be recorded as hack number 600 – cancelled! It will be fine of course.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 82

On Sunday 24 February 2013 the Hack Group again attacked the Australian Myrtle growing on properties along Peak Road. The targeted property was cleared. The hackers present were Ed Silberbauer, Tom Dreyer, Frik Potgieter, Sue Fielden, Neil Behrens, Ian Cushny, Daniel and Natalie Swartling and John Whitehead. The mid-morning coffee and sandwiches were provided by Marion Cushny.

In recording the names of the hackers present at the hack on 27th January 2013 I inadvertently omitted the name of Sue Folb who is a very regular member of the group.

The next hack will be on **Sunday 24th March 2013**, which is the **fourth Sunday** of the month..

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.

DONATION TO HPG FROM THE BRANCH

Bernie Carolus, our Curator at Harold Porter says the staff members are very excited to now be

able to print their own labels for the nursery. Jane Forrester says, "They look a lot better " while the operator, Rose October says, "It's very easy if you know how, I feel very comfortable with it, we create our own labels" This is because, you, members of the Kogelberg Branch, have given Harold Porter equipment; previously the printing had been done at Kirstenbosch. In the past we have paid for labels only but now, thanks to Judy New raising close to R5 000 with her Central Kalahari talk, we have been able to provide the sophisticated printer. This is an Argox CP 2140 thermal transfer label/barcode printer costing R4,260.00, with two rolls of black premiere wax ribbons @ R89.00p/roll. We also bought 10 000 Plastag TL002 labels @ R310/1,000 which was an excellent price thanks to Janette Yeats of Kirstenbosch Branch, including our purchase with that of the Kirstenbosch Plant Fair and the Karoo Desert NBG labels. Janette also did all the work in ordering the printer and arranging that the company send someone to train the users. The labels will last for at least two years. Thank you very much, Judy and Janette!

Merrilee Berrisford.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Erica viscaria (= *Erica longifolia*) is a very variable species that occurs from the Cape Peninsula to Franschhoek and Bredasdorp. The variations are most pronounced in the colour, size, shape and relative stickiness of the flowers. All have an ovary covered with erect white hairs. Five subspecies have been recognised. *E. viscaria subsp. viscaria* has a short tubed flower and is from the Cape Peninsula; *subsp. gallorum* is also smaller flowered but occurs in an area of the Hottentots Holland; *subsp. longifolia* has the classic long tubular flower and is a re-seeder i.e. has a single stem arising from the ground; *subsp. macrosepala*, also long tubed occurs from Betty's Bay to Elim and is a resprouter i.e. has multiple stems arising from the base of the plant; *subsp. pustulata* is markedly pustulate and *subsp. pendula* has hanging (not spreading) white flowers and is local to the Bot River area. Ref: various BotSoc Guides; p246 in Guide No5.

Amida Johns.

BOTANISING IN NAMAQUALAND AND SOUTH NAMIBIA

Rachel Saunders opened up another side of plant collecting in an area that should have been devoid of all life, given the high day temperatures, very cold nights and an almost complete lack of moisture for long periods. Many of the species shown also flourish in kinder areas where moisture is assured and natural enemies are few. The Saunders work closely with Graham Duncan and John Manning and collect seed for Kirstenbosch.

One of the areas explored was the Terrasberg. Here it only rains sporadically, usually when the Western Cape has a very strong cold front passing over it. One such year was 2011 when in certain areas, good rains fell. Other areas visited were van Rynsdorp and Niewoudville. All these areas have certain plants that are endemic to the area as well as certain species that have a wider distribution. In one area, the *Brunsvigia* are represented by an extremely small species called *radula*. It produces a tiny head of flowers similar to the larger species, which also breaks off and rolls in the wind distributing its seeds. Several other species notably the *Moraea*, are very small

compared with the same species found in higher rainfall areas.

One of the remarkable finds was the many places where a variety of plants were growing at the side of the roads, gravel or tar. Perhaps there was a bit more run off there?

Other remarkable finds were the plants such as a pelargonium that grew as a succulent.

Shortly after crossing the Orange river on a pont they found a huge area where *Pachypodium namaquanum* – halfmens, were growing in profusion and apparently protected, unlike in other areas where these plants have been damaged and or dug out. The tragedy being that unless planted in desert-like conditions, these plants will die.

It is sad to know that certain areas of a so-called reserve is over run by domestic goats, One wonders why and how this is permitted.

Penny Palmer

SUPPORT FOR THE BOTANICAL EDUCATION TRUST.

The Botanical Education Trust, a BotSoc Partnership, appealed for donations to be matched rand for rand by a major donor if made before the end of February. Your committee agreed to transfer R1 000 and a letter of thanks has been received. Read about this Trust on page 7 of the March 2013 Veld and Flora.

Merrilee Berrisford, Chairman.

ARTISTS SUPPORT HAROLD PORTER GARDENS.

Hangklip Art Week (HAWK) begins with the opening of an art exhibition in Nivenia Hall, Harold Porter, at 11am Saturday March 16. Two thirds of the exhibitors are local, one is Harold Porter's Ebraime Hull ; a percentage of sales will go to Harold Porter. During the week artists' studios can be visited and there will be five pop-up restaurants.

Merrilee Berrisford.

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Month February	2012	2013
Rainfall mm	35	67,5
Temp, °C		
Max	35	33
Min	21	15

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, 10th April 2013.

Please address all mail to : Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA, P.O. Box 93,

Betty's Bay 7141. E-mail : merran@telkomsa.net no graphics please.