

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

**Newsletter:
July 2013**

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY
ROUND 604**

The next attack takes place on Sunday 4th August 2013, from 9am to noon
VENUE: Agapanthus Road, off Porter Drive. As for the last two months.

TALKS

Saturday 20th July "Invasive species - science and practice" A talk by Prof David Richardson Director of the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at University of Stellenbosch. In the Nivenia Hall, HPG at 6p.m.

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.

Nominations for election to the committee and motions that members wish to raise under AOB should be in the hands of the Vice-Chairman (Betsey Joubert 028 2729761) before the end of July. After the AGM, **Lucia Rodrigues** will present a talk entitled **The Verreaux Eagle' (Black Eagle)**

Merrliee Berrisford, Chairman

At all talks there will be liquid refreshments and a voluntary collection will be taken. Please see the notice boards in all villages for any possible change of venue.

**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 will be on sale from 1st August 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.

REPORT ON HACK NO 603

For the second month running, the hack was cancelled, due once again to inclement weather. This is a record! Next month, the venue will be as advertised for the last two months.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 86

On Sunday 30th June 2013 the Hack Group continued its attack on the Rooikrans growing on the embankment on the western side of Buffels Road. Good progress was made. The hackers present were Ed Silberbauer, Frik Potgieter, Jane Fearnhead, Tom Dreyer, Andre Maritz, Sue Folb, Willie Kotzee Ian Cushny, and John Whitehead. The mid-morning coffee and sandwiches were provided by Marion Cushny.

The next hack will be on Sunday 28th July 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.

FYNBOS GARDENING

For serious Fynbos gardeners a highly recommended and very necessary reference book is: **STELLENBOSCH TO HERMANUS** by Anne Bean and our own Amida Johns. Available at the Gardens Gift Shop @ 10% discount to members.

This month I thought I would tackle the difficult aspect of the ***SOUTH FACING PART OF THE GARDEN***. In winter there is little or no sun near the house, and in summer it faces directly into the South East Gales. One needs to select plants which can withstand the cold and little sun of winter, and the sand-blasting which comes with the wind in summer.

Some suitable plants which can withstand deep shade and howling winds are: asparagus ferns, clivias, arum lilies, *knowltonia vesicatoria*, *crassula multicava*, and shade loving plectranthus species. Restios and the ribbon bush *hypoestes aristata* need a few hours of sunlight but will grow well in semishade. One could also plant arum lilies at the base of the downpipes from your gutters. I have found that the indigenous *Berea* grass grows well in shade (better than buffalo) and is relatively drought resistant. This grass is available through the bigger nurseries in pallets containing 200 rooted plugs, I am sure they would order for you, if not in stock.

SHADED AREAS UNDER TREES: Much of what I have written above applies to this problem area too.

If the home owner wants to keep the area near the house clear of vegetation for fire protection then a gravel path could be laid, on this path one could place groupings of plant pots. Another option would be to obtain sourfig (*carpobrotus edulis*) cuttings and plant them near the building. However there is a more attractive and aesthetically pleasing option to the ones above.

One could obtain some differently sized rocks and create a number of random groups placed fairly far apart. (Japanese garden style). Next to these one could plant say a selection of three

plants with different textures and growth habits from the above list. For example a restio, an arum and a few crassula multicava. Move on to the next group of rocks and make another selection. Try to keep the number of rocks and plants uneven (ie: 1 3 or 5). One could repeat the groupings from time to time. Plant holes should be prepared with acid compost and a handful of organic fertiliser; Once the planting has been done; spread a layer of chipstone between the groupings. This layout will look interesting and creative and at the same time the stone chip will be a mulch and also stop the soil from blowing away. The garden will look attractive and the fire hazard will be reduced. Careful selection of plants means that there should be some colour right through the year. **WARNING:** If you have the joy of porcupines wandering in your garden do not use arum lilies as they just love to dig them up and eat them.

Winter is a good time to plant as the rainfall will minimize the need to water the plants as they get established.

SUGGESTION MADE: At the moment we are enjoying the bright orange *chasmanthe aethiopica* flowers growing through the fynbos. These seed prolifically so if you want to bring colour into your winter garden ask your neighbour if you can pick the seed. Plant them where you would like them to grow. The bulbs look rather like those of the watsonias and can be dug up and divided after the leaves have died back,

QUESTION: Can you tell me about *Mimetes*? There are several varieties. (refer to book above) These stunning plants which belong to the protea family are difficult to establish in the domestic garden so if you have one growing naturally, cherish it. Jane Forrester maintains that even when there is a beautiful bush growing in what appears to be ideal conditions in the H.P.G. and she plants others nearby, it does not mean that these will thrive. By all means plant one but do not be too disappointed if the plant does not survive.

GOOD PLANT: *Aulax umbellata* which has male & female yellow tufted flowers in summer

BAD PLANT: Spanish broom *Spartium junceum*, with its stick like stems & leaves and sprays of yellow pea-like flowers in spring it spreads far and wide and is a declared alien invasive.
Jenny B.

POST OFFICE MARKS THE CENTENARY OF KIRSTENBOSCH

On sale now at Post Offices for R28 is a beautiful card. The background is the area of Kirstenbosch on which are imposed the ten new standard postage stamps depicting our flora. Apart from appealing to stamp collectors this is a wonderful gift for visitors to our country.

RAFFLE

The President of BotSoc, Ted Oliver, drew the lucky number at the June talk. The lucky winner is Karin Smith, who was present as was Louise du Toit, the jeweller who created the necklace.

THE KEW OF SOUTH AFRICA

This year marks the centenary of the Botanical Society as well as that of Kirstenbosch, described as “a very special place” by Professor Brian Huntley in his recently published book, “Kirstenbosch, the most beautiful garden in Africa”. The choice of title for this talk; The Kew of South Africa, refers to a speech by Jan Smuts, who used the term in 1923 when he opened the new National Herbarium in Pretoria. This remark caused quite a fuss and a temporary rift between the North and South as far as South African botanic gardens were concerned.

Prof. Huntley, addressing an audience of over ninety, spoke of the vitally important 240 year relationship between South African botany and Kew Gardens in London.

In 1672 the first professional botanist to visit South Africa was Paul Hermann (genus *Malvaceae* – *Hermannia alnifolia* {dolls roses} and other species in the genus). Hermann had collected in Ceylon before coming to the Cape; all his local specimens he sent to Linnaeus, who considered him to be a very important contributor to botanical science. The Kogelberg has been recognised since 1772 as the world wide epicentre of floral diversity. The list of people who visited this area and who discovered many of the amazing flora, is long and the stories written by these intrepid people read like exciting adventure tales, which is what many of them are. There followed a long list of botanists and gardeners, Thunberg and Masson being but two names.

A special mention was made of William Burchell, who came to the Cape in 1810 and in four years travelled 7000 kilometres around southern Africa collecting 60,000 specimens of scientific importance, 50,000 of them were plants. Despite the fact that most of the plant specimens ended up at Kew, Burchell was never rewarded for his amazing efforts. Prof. Huntley considers Burchell to be one of the best writers on the ecology, the flora and the indigenous people in South Africa of his time.

Another fascinating aspect that involves our flora is the never ending list of botanical artists whose work was so important before the availability of the camera. Fortunately despite the availability of the cameras, we are still blessed with a unique group of botanical artists, many of whom are local residents.

The evening ended on a convivial note over a supper of soup, cheese and home made cake prepared by a number of volunteers. Thank you to all those involved.
Penny Palmer.

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Month	June	2012	2013
Rainfall	mm	110	268,9
Temp, °C	Max	27	36
	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 Wednesday, 7th August 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.