

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

**Newsletter:**  
**January 2015**

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY**  
**ROUND 622**

The next attack takes place on Sunday 1st February 2014, from 9am to noon  
**VENUE:** Agapanthus road area, as for the December hack, follow the hack signs.

**TALKS**

**SPECIAL DATE Saturday 31st January (not the usual third Saturday)** Ethnobotanist and member of this branch, Dr Tony Cunningham, will speak on “**Ebony and Ivory: the East African trade for musical instruments and Ming furniture.**” Make a note of the date: Tony is not often in this country.

**Saturday February 21st Speaker to be confirmed:** Riaan Manser and Vasti Geldenhuys on rowing across the Atlantic. Riaan's commitments may make this date impossible in which case that popular speaker, Michael Orren will be our guest.

**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'.

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. Liquid refreshments are also offered at the evening talks..

Contact Merrilee: 028 272 9314.

**WALK**

No walk has been planned. For this month.

**REPORT ON HACK NO 621**

A breezy northwester and sunny conditions heralded in the first hack of the year “C a hack with a difference “C cleaning up a section of Rod's trail. True to the dictates of the die hard conservationists there was a reluctance to cut back the bushy fynbos overhanging the path: but it had to be done and it was, a worthwhile job. Not only is it easier to spot the odd snake in the

grass if there be such; but it also makes it easier to walk in wet weather. Above all, this exercise reminded us all of the late Rod Smitheman who was our very special and respected hack Convenor for the three years from 1979 to 1982, after whom the trail is named. Naturally we also recall the late Angela Smitheman, Rod's wife, who did so much for Betty's Bay, having served on our BotSoc branch committee for many years as chairman.

The hack was attended by two of Rod Smitheman's children James Smitheman and Julia Young Pugh and five of his grandsons "C Jonty and Christopher Young Pugh and Matthew, Ben and Sam Smitheman. The sandwiches were made by the daughter of another hack convenor, Malcolm Pollard, namely Leigh Bensch, whose husband Martin and their sons Sean and Michael were hacking. Accompanying Leigh at tea time was her brother Trevor and friend Martelna. Bo and Jill Attwell of Betty's Bay hacking fame, were also represented by their daughter, Shen Liknaitzky. Also on the trail were Barbara Jenman, John & Andrea Benn, Tom Dreyer, Peter Rondi, John Whitehead, Frik Potgieter, Jane Fearnhead, Jan Joubert, Peter Berrisford, Sandi Todd, Lewis and Ed Silberbauer. Merran Silberbauer made the tea. Merrilee Berrisford and Betsey Joubert joined us for tea and Malcolm Pollard for the Aftermath.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

### **PRINGLE BAY HACK**

There was no hack in Pringle Bay in December. The next hack will be on Sunday 24 January 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 John at (028) 273 8807, 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](mailto:anuta@omail.co.za) or tel 083 388 8239 or Evette tel 028 273 8483

### **LIVING WITH SHARKS IN CAPE TOWN**

Allison Kock has been studying Great White Sharks in False Bay for 10 years. She obtained her PhD in this field, the only PhD in this subject awarded in Africa, and only one of four in the world. We were extremely fortunate to have such an erudite speaker giving us so much knowledge in a short space of time. She is supported in her research by a huge team, including the Navy in Simonstown where the research boat is moored, Government organisations which provide sponsorship, local fishermen in boats, and many volunteers on the research boat. The project Shark Spotters primarily is funded by the City of Cape Town, while Save Our Seas fund

the research. In all there are 44 shark spotters "C the face of the programme.

From 1900 shark incidents in the bay were rare, but a cluster of incidents between 2003 and 2006 caused major public outcries about rogue, man-eating sharks and calls for culling, drop lines and nets. As a young masters student Allison was thrown into the deep end with many questions as to why and what were the sharks up to. What people only knew up to the 1980's were that sharks came around Seal Island in False Bay to eat seals but what were they now doing inshore?

In 2006 two incidents in Fish Hoek and Muizenberg hit the headlines worldwide. Even a single incident has a huge impact on those who have witnessed it, on life-saving schools, and on the local economy. Allison was invited to a workshop to discuss the options. Some car guards fish spotters in Muizenberg were asked to take a place on the mountainside and report to the beaches if a shark was spotted.

In 2008 the project Shark Spotters began and Allison now manages the program. She needed to make her research apply not just to studying the sharks but to public concerns as well. The aim now is a non lethal approach to this charismatic apex predator that lives in our beautiful bay, to find solutions to benefit people, and not have impact on our natural world.

Surveys indicate there are about 700 great whites in False Bay. Several have been tagged with an acoustic flag on the dorsal fin. There are 8 acoustic receivers around the coast. Details are noted as the shark passes them.

Sharks are naturally curious and will investigate anything in the water be it seaweed, a bird, otter or human being. A mature female can reach 5m and a male 3.8m. During Spring/Summer when the water is warmer there is a greater possibility of sightings of mostly females coming inshore. Other prey such as yellowtail can be found in the warmer water. However 80% of their food source are juvenile seals coming into the sea for the first time off Seal Island.

The exclusion net at Fish Hoek has proved most successful. It is put out and taken in daily and because the apertures are only 4.5cm no large fish/birds can be trapped. Since its trial period only a single cormorant has been caught.

As we continue to enjoy our seas we need to be aware of the other creatures out there. An improved understanding of shark behaviour can help us to live together. The Shark Spotters office can be found on Muizenberg Beach where an information centre will be set up soon. Visit them and learn more.

Andrea Benn.

## **YOU, THE LAW, AND INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS**

There are four Acts governing our botanical world:-

Act 43 of 1983 Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA)

Act 10 of 2004 National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) (Promulgated on 1 Aug 2014)

Act 84 of 1988 National Forest Act

### **Common Law**

In terms of Act 43 of 1983 Conservation of Agricultural Resources (CARA) which controls Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs), the owner (who may be an absentee landlord) of a property, or the user (lessee, or a person gaining an income from the property) is responsible for the eradication and control of invader alien plants as set out in the Act. The law is applicable to local authorities for land under its control. Invasive plants are divided into three categories. The categories change for various areas of the country. If an IAP has different categories for different areas, the one applicable to the Overstrand will be given in future sermons. The categories also includes the plants whose eradication is necessary for safety reasons, as it also includes toxic or dangerous plants, e.g. Oleander

### **Category 1**

plants may not grow on any land, or inland water. The land owner must eradicate these plants. Plants in Category 1 may not be cultivated, planted, multiplied, maintained, or sold.

**Category 2** applies to commercial operations, such as forestry or farming where a permit was obtained to grow these plants. It is not applicable to the owner of a property in a town, city or a small holding. These commercial owners must view plants of this category as category 1 plants and must take reasonable steps to prevent them from spreading, they category may not be cultivated within 30m of the 1:50m flood line of a river, stream, natural water course flowing normally or only sometimes (e.g. a storm water channel/furrow alongside a road or street), a lake, dam, or a wetland.

### **Category 3**

plants may not grow on land or inland water surfaces, unless such plants were already established before the commencement of these Regulations (6 December 1983). This concession is based on the following: -

No land user may allow category 3 plants within 30m of the 1:50m flood line of a river, stream, and natural water course flowing normally or intermittently (e.g. a storm water channel alongside a road or street), a lake, dam, or a wetland.

A land user must take all reasonable steps to curtail the spread (onto neighbouring properties) of category 3 plants. No person shall, except for purposes of a biological control plant, establish, maintain, multiply, propagate, import or sell propagating material, or acquire

propagating material of category 3 plants

If we consider the inhabited areas of our coastal strip, most of it is a wetland (inland water surface).

The NEMBA act also categorises IAPs very similarly, with even stricter restrictions on the property owner. Last month a list of the worst IAPs was included.

Jan Joubert.

#### **RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES**

<b>Month December</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Rainfall mm	11,5	24
Temp, °C    Max	34	34,5
Min	14	11

#### **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 editors reserve the right to edit contributions.**

**Deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, 4th February 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) no graphics please.