

KOGELBERG
Branch of the Botanical Society of SA

Newsletter:
May 2013

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY
ROUND 602

The next attack takes place on Sunday 2nd June 2013, from 9am to noon
VENUE: As for last month, Agapanthus road, off Porter Drive.

TALKS

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**. 6pm in the **Nivenia Hall**. In addition to the liquid refreshments, after the talk all attendees are invited to stay for a light supper.

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. Please note that this will not be the AGM as previously advised.

Saturday 17th August our AGM will be held in the **Crassula Hall**

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.

Contact Merrilee Berrisford 028 272 9314.

REPORT ON HACK NO 601

A perfect May Day. We needed all the perfect May Day we could get because Agapanthus road is far from the perfect hack venue. You have to fight your way in towards the hated enemy and then fight your way out again. Only this hack group can cope under such circumstances a fact that can be vouchsafed for by the multitude of dead and rotting rooikrans carcasses seen lying around. This is a large area enclosed by four roads namely Aulax, Adenandra, and Agapanthus. (four roads – three names! Dont ask me, I dont do roads, only aliens.)

I have been involved in that place since I was a toddler of some 35 Summers and can assure you that it looks a lot better now than it did in those far off days. And all that sweat has been well worth while. You had better believe it because we will be there again for the June hack.

Enjoying the tea break were Jill Attwell, John & Andrea Benn, Tom Dreyer, Barbara Jenman, Jan & Betsey Joubert, Frik Potgieter, Karin Smith, John Whitehead, Lewis, Caroline and Ed Silberbauer. Gavin Knott accompanied Di who had made the sandwiches and Merran Silberbauer was the tea lady.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 50 YEAR HACK.

Anyone who wishes to can download a copy from

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4794209/HackGroupBettysBay50Years.JPG>

Please note the file size is 5.1Mb.

PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 84

On Sunday 28th April 2013 the Hack Group attacked the Rooikrans growing on the embankment on the western side of Buffels Road. Although good progress was made there is still work to be done in this area.

The hackers present were Ed Silberbauer, Frik Potgieter, Tom Dreyer, Anton van der Watt, Sue Folb, Carol Wilson, Andre Maritz, Neil and Penny Berens, Ian Cushny, and John Whitehead. The mid-morning coffee and sandwiches were provided by Marion Cushny.

The next hack will be on Sunday 26th May 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.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

We regret the omissin but no copy had been received by the deadline. Ed

A VISIT TO GIFBERG

Your committee felt it's time Kogelberg Branch had a trip away - the last was to De Hoop long ago. We have decided to arrange a four-night stay at Gifberg Holiday Farm, in the mountains above Van Rhynsdorp from Monday October 7th to Friday October 11th. Three Kogelberg members were there last October and there were still enough flowers open to be of interest. The scenery is amazing, hikes go to bushman painting sites, natural pools, spectacular rock formations. Or one can be peaceful around the houses where there is a pool with shaded lawns

and wildflowers and birds.

Accommodation is in comfortable houses where bed-linen and towels are provided. This will cost R170ppn. It is suggested that members take care of their own breakfasts and lunches which can be self-catered or enjoyed at the "Oppi Dek" coffee shop overlooking a dam with water-lilies and birds. Then, if we have a minimum of ten, we can have dinner provided at a cost of about R120 each; this will be on the deck, in a dining room or the braai lapa. Your three members can vouch for the good quality of these meals.

We need to make a formal booking by the 24th May to secure enough houses. If you are interested please contact Betsey Joubert, 028 272 9761/082 337 9244 fivebells@telkomsa.net, Barbara Jenman 082 338 4109 bjenman@iafrica.com, or Merrilee Berrisford 028 272 9324/082 571 3923 mberrisford@xsinet.co.za before that date. All people on the list will be contacted after 24th May to be given details of the payment of deposit. This has to be done a week after the booking is made. In the event of anyone cancelling, 90% of the deposit will be refunded if 4 weeks notice is given and 50% with 2 - 4 weeks notice). 19 have booked thus far and there are still places open. Late bookings, will be accepted if there are places available and should be made to either Betsey or Barbara not Merrilee.

Merrilee Berrisford.

RAFFLE

We know Kogelberg Branch has talented members; now a 'secret' member with a generous spirit has created an item of beauty to be raffled for branch funds. Louise du Toit of Rooi Els is a jeweller who, when she learnt BotSoc. was celebrating its 100th birthday, decided to use silver and garnet to make a winged insect which could be used as a pendant or brooch; a faceted garnet is the body, wings are leaf-like silver, it hangs on a stainless steel cable and a silver pin makes it a brooch. This is a great opportunity to raise a goodly sum. Thank you, Louise.

Tickets are R20 each and are available from committee members, at hacks and talks and the Pringle Bay Bookshop. Distant members can take tickets paying by EFT (details below). The draw will take place at the June 15th celebration of BotSoc's 100th.

Payment by EFT must be done before May 15. Please add your name and phone number to your beneficiary reference. KOGELBERG BRANCH OF BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA. Bank FNB Branch Hermanus, code 200412 Account no 62106618608.

Merrilee Berrisford

SAVING THE OYSTERCATCHERS

An illustrated talk by the Starkes drew a record crowd to the Nevinea Hall. Sara Starke's skill in raising orphaned Oystercatcher chicks is legendary. Her patience and fortitude when dealing with a small ball of feathers with attitude, is fascinating. Sara also rescued a young Kelp gull which appeared to have been abandoned on the beach, and a Cape weaver that needed succour.

Richard Starke's skill with a technology which baffles and frustrates many is remarkable. The video clips of these large birds gently guiding and encouraging their small chicks to brave the surf and to paddle madly with one web per small foot, to get to safety, choked up many of us. If there are people or dogs anywhere near the chicks when they attempt this difficult journey, they

often drown when the tide comes in.

Richard's photos of the rocks at low tide at Dawidskraal were amazing as were the video clips of the parent birds teaching a chick how to pick limpets and other molluscs off the rocks and remove them from their shells.

About thirty years ago, the African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* (Red foot) was considered to be facing a conservation crisis. There were many threats. The fact that the breeding period coincided with the Christmas holidays which meant off-road vehicles, masses of trampling feet and uncontrolled dogs. Then what appears to be almost a miracle happened. In many places along our coastline, groups took up the cudgels on these bird's behalf and the danger is over for the present. For example, the Mossel Bay Municipality closed a large part of the coast line to all, despite the fact that it was a regular and well used fishing area. The result was that Oyster Catchers, for the first time in years managed to rear their chicks and watch them fly away. At several other places along our coast, great efforts were made to protect the birds and in most instances there was a positive reaction by the public. The late Dr Phil Hockey considered that if each pair of Oyster Catchers successfully raises one chick in three years, the population numbers would remain stable.

It is due to the persistence and knowledge of people like the Starkes and their many helpers, that the beach- going public has been made aware of the various shore birds and their needs. This has resulted in the Silver Sands flock of Oyster Catchers scoring four successful breeding efforts out of four this past season. This appears to be a record.

Many thanks are due to not only the resident helpers, but also the visitors who joined us locals in the protection of our birds. Long may this last.

Penny Palmer

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Month April	2012	2013
Rainfall mm	91,7	118,5
Temp, °C		
Max	32	32
Min	11	9

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, 5th June 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.