

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

**Newsletter:
February 2014**

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY
ROUND 611**

The next attack takes place on Sunday 2nd March 2014, from 9am to noon
VENUE: As for last month, Lakeside Drive off Porter Drive.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

All participants in Botanical Society talks, walks, hacks and other outings do so at their own risk. Whereas the Botanical Society of South Africa, its staff and appointed walk and hack leaders will do everything possible to ensure the safety of all participants in these activities, they cannot be held responsible in the event of unforeseen mishaps.

TALKS

Friday 21st February **Arboretum de la Sedelle a garden in the woods** with Nell Wanty, who will be visiting from France where she (horticulturalist) and her husband Philippe (botanist) have created an arboretum near Limoge which is home to a collection of over 400 species of trees and shrubs from all over the world including a world class collection of maples and which is open to the public in summer. It is classed *jardin remarquable* (Remarkable garden) by the French Ministry of Culture and the committee for parks and gardens of France. Nell is the daughter of Lyn & Hanie Hanekom of Betty's Bay. In the Nivenia Hall, 6pm on a week night-a Friday.

Saturday 15th March To be advised.

Saturday 19th April Tessa Oliver, whose talk scheduled for November was cancelled due to the flood will speak of the GEF Fynbos Fire project, on “**Reducing the risk of future fire disasters in the face of climate change in the fynbos biome**”. Also in Nivenia Hall at 6p.m. Very pertinent as it is the fire season.

Looking ahead on the **17th of May** Prof. Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, a palaeobiologist at U.C.T. will speak on “The Evolution of Birds”

At all talks a voluntary collection will be taken and there will be liquid refreshments. Please check the posters for possible changes of venue. Contact Merrilee 028 272 9314.

WALK

Saturday 22nd February; Amida Johns will lead a walk into Buffelstal, which is in the Kogelberg Reserve between Rooiels and Pringle Bay. Meet at 8.30a.m at the HPG parking area or at 8.45am at the gate into Buffelstal. For more details as to length, strenuousness, suitable clothing and whether water should be carried contact Barbara 0823384109.

TWO RECENT TALKS BENEFIT HPG

The voluntary collection at the December talk (Cape Leopard Trust) was for the Flood Relief fund at the Harold Porter Gardens and the over 100 attendees donated R3105! This has been deposited in the special account held by Sanbi for that purpose. At the request of the January speaker, Hilary Guise, the money collected (R2097.40) is to be put towards the Children's Educational Fun Garden planned for the HPG and has been deposited with HPG for that purpose. Again over 100 people attended. The Kogelberg branch thanks all those who so generously supported these causes.

REPORT ON HACK NO 610

A reasonable day, not too hot. Tough going though for the troops as the rooikrans were many and large and not all that easy to get at. With six chain saws rattling away the carnage was spectacular. As always the small arms brigade did invaluable work in removing the seedlings and saplings which helps to keep the area clear for that much longer, giving the fynbos a chance to recover. Sadly, what is causing the fynbos to stop dead in its tracks is the large quantity of rubbish that is being indiscriminately, illegally and irresponsibly dumped into the bush in that area. Awful.

Next hack March 2nd. Same place. Lakeside drive off Porter Drive

A fine turn out of the Berrisford platoon – Peter, Merrilee, son Stephen his wife Zarina and their children Xavier & Zara, John Benn, David Bossenger, Tom Dreyer, Ursula Huysen, Barbara Jenman, Jan & Betsey Joubert, Frik Potgieter, John Whitehead, Sue Fielden and Ed Silberbauer. Louise Digby made the sandwiches and Merran Silberbauer made the tea and Andrea Benn, with arm in a sling, directed operations.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 91

On Sunday 24th January 2014 the Hack Group cleared the remainder of the Australian Myrtle on the property in Edward Road.

The hackers present were Frik Potgieter, Jane Fearnhead, Edward Silberbauer, Sue Fielden, Jan Joubert, Penny and Neil Berens, Tom Dreyer, Carol Wilson, Andy James, Ivan and Ria Staegmann, Sue Folb and John Whitehead. The very welcome mid-morning coffee and sandwiches were provided by Ian and Marion and Gary Cushny, all of whom joined us at the aftermath.

For the foreseeable future the Group will probably concentrate on alien vegetation growing on both sides of the Hangklip Road to improve the look of the entrance to the village

The next hack will be on 23 February 2014.

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 Ian at (028) 273 8589, or just turn up at the meeting

point.

The cleaning up of the main entrance road to Pringle Bay should be welcomed by all of the residents of Pringle Bay and the participation of anyone interested in helping with this project will be most welcome.

John Whitehead, Convenor.

FYNBOS GARDENING

There is no column this month from Jenny B.

FLOWERS IN THE ART OF THE GREAT MASTERS

Writing up the talk by Hilary Hope Guise has reminded me so much of the song from the Sound of Music – ‘How do you hold a rainbow in your hand?’ You can’t, and trying to portray a visual experience on paper is just as difficult.

The first painting was a mural 2000 years old. At the time the Empress Olivia, wife of Emperor Augustus, was a most powerful woman. She wanted her dining room to appear as a mystical garden. There are no windows, just a simple entrance door. There is a low wall with shrubs spilling over, trees leading the eye into a misty distance and one can almost smell the flowers and the fruit.

1800 years later a young English poet John Keats, far from home and dying of TB in Rome, wrote a poem almost describing the murals he had seen. Hilary would bring poetry into her talk to express in words what we were seeing on the screen. We were transported into a vase of flowers, down a garden path, or into a bunch of freshly picked blooms.

Why had the artist included a particular flower? The language of flowers tells us the story behind each painting. The olive is the most symbolic of plants. The meaning behind it is peace.

A mural in Avignon by Simon Martigny, a 14th century master, depicts Adam and Eve being expelled from the garden for disobedience. Eve weeps tears of repentance and as her tears fall to the ground white lilies spring up. They symbolise purity and here represent the Virgin Mary, the second Eve. Mary was often depicted wearing blue, representing God’s divine wisdom and spiritual healing. Pink roses, inspired by Mary, symbolised the unfolding of the soul towards God, as do the many rose windows of European Cathedrals. Red carnations were a symbol of marriage, but red poppies were symbols of sleep and the murkiness around evil.

We journeyed through the centuries learning and being enthralled by the interesting allegories behind the paintings of the great masters and also of their passion for painting. The last of the old masters and the first of the new, Edward Manet (19th century), even painted during his last hours of life as flowers were brought to his bedside in vases.

Claude Oscar Monet of Giverny, France, got permission to divert a river to create form in his garden and his paintings of the lily pond are meditations on the flow of time. In later years his paintings depicted not so much the world of beauty but of nature growing. You can almost hear

the bees and the frogs in his lily pond reflections.

Having travelled through the centuries hearing the stories and the explanations behind each painting, we viewed a very different kind of painting – a vibrant work of our own Irma Stern.

In spite of it being a week night, the subject and lecturer attracted a large audience of people from Cape Town through to Hermanus including three botanical artists of note and two past presidents of the society.

Our thanks to Hilary Hope Guise for taking us on a memorable journey before moving on to UCT Summer School to deliver a series of lectures there.

Andrea Benn.

JANUARY'S WALK

Targets of Amida's walk up Hangklip Peak were four Kogelberg endemic *Erica's* and a very special daisy. All were in flower: *Erica stokoei* - little pink bells; *E thomae* - big white sticky flowers, also named for Thomas Stokoe; *E banksii ssp comptonii* - longcream corolla, reflexed green lobes with brown anthers hanging out; *E gysbertii* - the pink urn-shaped flower is similar to *E retorta* but with lots of hairs on sepals (*E retorta* has only one hair). Yellow daisy, *Euryops indecorus* is found only on Hangklip peak and the adjacent hill.

Merrilee Berrisford.

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Month	January	2013	2014
Rainfall mm		44	169
Temp, °C	Max	33	36
	Min	16	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 merran@telkomsa.net

REMEMBER YOUR ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

The editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, 5th March 2014.

Please address all mail to : Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA, P.O. Box 85, Betty's Bay 7141. E-mail : merran@telkomsa.net no graphics please.