



SOUTHERN OVERBERG

Branch of the Botanical Society Of S.A./

Tak van die Botaniese Vereniging Van S.A.



NEWSLETTER/NUUSBRIEF

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BRANCH NEWS

If you were wondering where the August newsletter had got to, firstly we will be flattered that you noticed, but also time seems to have compressed since our May edition so apologies that we are well into September.

We hope you enjoyed the very special centenary edition of Veld and Flora. This was a real labour of love by the editorial team who already started working on it last year.

Our year has also been very busy having arranged lots of events, the highlight having been our very successful Centenary Lunch at the Black Oystercatcher Restaurant. Our participation at the Napier Patatfees went off well as did our participation at the Cape Floral Expo in the last week of August.

Now we have our trip to Kirstenbosch and other outings to look forward to so making the BotSoc's centenary year very special.

CONTACT NUMBERS

PO Box 278, Napier, 7270

southernoverberg.botsoc@gmail.com

Chairman:

Stephen Smuts: 028 42 33 049

Vice-Chairman:

Sarah Foyle: 028 42 33 358

Secretary:

Dorothy Buggs 028 42 33 128

Treasurer:

Vacant

Additional members:

Lyn Hawkins: 028 42 33 672

Louise Hislop : 028 42 33 512

Kathy Hardy : 028 42 33 761



DENEL OVERBERG TEST RANGE

ISO 14001

OTR OUR PARTNER IN CONSERVATION

Newsletter/Nuusbrief 1



Snippits

“**Anthropogenic**” – now there’s a word to introduce into a dinner conversation if you are talking about the weather that we have been having recently. Somebody will definitely say that this proves climate change. Use of this word will guarantee that you will immediately be regarded as the expert on the subject. Just as you may personally feel that climate change is not ‘*caused or produced by humans*’ – (the definition of the word anthropogenic), the truth is a definite maybe. One argument you may mention in the discussion is that climate change is a fact but rather than it being human induced, changes in earth’s climate actually correlate closely with sun cycles. That will really get the conversation going.

Well done to Floraland for their exhibit at the Expo. It is amazing how they transform what they have harvest from the veld – both indigenous and invasive. It is awe inspiring what they do to dried proteas, hakeas and spider gums to name a few. Their stand took visitors on a conducted tour of the journey from the picking, processing, painting and finally packaging of creations of every hue of shape and colour. Well done Floraland on a really fascinating exhibit!

CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to make this newsletter interesting as well as informative and would appreciate hearing from you. Possibly you have an interesting story to share with the other members? Remember that it does not have to be very long or strictly botanical. We also require articles in Afrikaans.

Please send your contributions to:

Correspondent, Box 278, Napier, 7270
or email them to: southernoverberg.botsoc@gmail.com



Poem at the Show



At the Expo, there was an excellent display of wildflowers with a backdrop of Table Mountain. There were waterfalls, streams, wetlands and vleis. Sitting in front was a sculpture of an old man reading a book. Open on the page that he was reading was a poem which reads:-

*It's 3.23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do when the planet was plundered?
What did you do when the earth was unraveling?
Surely you did something
when the seasons started failing*

Perhaps many BotSoc members will ponder this and consider that they could have done more but most can sleep soundly and will not be woken by their great great children because they did something when the earth was



unraveling. In a world where humans have become so dominant and the natural world is so exploited, there are those who care. Hopefully when a great great grandchild of yours asks about lions and elephants and beautiful plants and beautiful sunsets and birds and butterflies, these will still be around because you were one of those who cared enough to conserve them – not just for the pleasure we have in seeing them but because they also deserve their place on the planet.

Camera Club

While chatting with a few members at the Cape Floral Expo at Bredasdorp, it transpired that several of us are proud owners of various Canon EOS cameras. It seems that there is varying degrees of competence so it was suggested that a small interest group be started so we all become a little more expert with our hardware (camera and lenses) and the software that helps to crop, sharpen, adjust colour etc. after going 'click' so we produce photographs that we can really be proud of. If you wish to learn more about your camera's features or can teach or share your knowledge, please contact Stephen or Dorothy so we can see how many people are interested. These cameras have many, many features, so unless you really study the manual or have a mentor, it will take you a very long time to learn all there is to know about these great cameras and how to get the best out of them. Once you have clicked, learn what you can do to make your great photo even better using the software.

I certainly have been reading about shooting in RAW, f-stops, depth of field and various techniques for really taking great photos so I confidently went out today with my new camera with its macro lens to get those great shots that so far seem to allude me. How frustrating. Just about everything in the viewfinder was out of focus except a single point so, what did I do? I went back to my



old tried and tested Sony knowing that I have many hours of learning ahead of me and this Canon is not going to be another mik and druk.

If you have another make or just want to get more out of the camera you have, you will also be welcome to join the group. Perhaps this can lead to the branch holding a photo competition in due course.

Events Report Back

There must be something very special about the Napier Patatfees as it again enjoyed good weather despite it being held in mid June. We again manned a stand.



The Centenary Lunch at the Black Oystercatcher

On 25th June we held a most successful centenary lunch at the Black Oystercatcher. We were delighted to welcome our Society President, Dr. Ted Oliver, our Executive Director, Zaitoon Rabaney and Don Pinnock and his wife Patricia, both accomplished speakers. This event was fully booked by members and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We took a stand at the first Cape Floral Expo held at the Bredasdorp Showgrounds. The organisers did a superb job considering that it was a first for them and the weather did not always play along. At our stand we were



able to promote our branch and the BotSoc as a whole and to encourage visitors to join.



The Agulhas National Park outing organised by Angela Altendorfer on Friday 23rd August was marvellous and the weather was perfect for it. Emmerentia de Kock of Sanparks was an excellent guide and it was a most relaxed and cheerful outing with lunch taken at the restored Rietfontein werf. The visit ended with a drive down to the coast at Rietfonteinsebaai: a beautiful isolated stretch of coastline. It is such a shame that only 9 were able to enjoy the outing.

Forthcoming Events

This **Saturday, 14th September**, we have an outing to De Hoop Nature Reserve. We are particularly excited as we have branch members from the Malgas area joining us. Meet at Napier Engen at 08h00 or BP in Bredasdorp at 08h15 so we can meet up with the other members at the reserve at 09h30. We hope to see lots of whales, wildflowers and wildlife.

Kirstenbosch visit on Thursday, 3 October. All members welcome. Please liaise with Lyn Hawkins a.s.a.p. as we are hiring a bus to get there. We will then go on a conducted tour of the gardens and then have lunch at the restaurant. Support this as this year is Kirsten-bosch's centenary as well as BotSoc's. (Members only – remember to bring your current membership card)



Please remember that attendance at any of our functions/outings are at your own risk and neither the Botanical Society nor this Branch can be held responsible for any injury or loss that may occur.

