“Biodiversity starts in the distant past and it points toward the future.”

Frans Lanting, Dutch photographer.

Left: Erica hispidula. Photo by Adam Harrower.
Centre: Orange-breasted Sunbird pollinating Erica verticillata. Photo by Adam Harrower.
Right: Helichrysum cochleariforme. Photo by Janet Naudé.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL, ANDREW BLACKMORE

In a world with constant change and new challenges, ‘business as usual’ is not an option for most organisations – including ours. To ensure a sustainable future, as the oldest voluntary membership organisation in South Africa, we need to iteratively assess what changes are needed to improve the quality, value and significance that the BotSoc can offer to the conservation and other communities and especially to our members. The Botanical Society (BotSoc) is responding comprehensively to the challenges by steadfastly implementing a range of initiatives and programmes.

The BotSoc collaborates with an array of stakeholders and partners to deliver the optimal outcomes of our shared conservation agendas. A member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1984, BotSoc serves on the IUCN South Africa Executive Committee, the Ford Wildlife Foundation Advisory Panel, the Botanical Education Trust, and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology Nature Conservation Advisory Committee to name but a few. These collaborations and inter-organisational networks all contribute to the greater long-term good for biodiversity conservation.

The changing legislative- and regulatory environments that govern the financial management of non-profit organisations – such as the BotSoc – are placing greater fiduciary accountability on this sector. Our members, our partners and the public rightfully expect that the BotSoc should follow best practice standards and must continue to be managed properly and governed transparently. During this past year, the Council and the Executive Director have emphasised the need to strengthen and promote sound governance. A key strategy has been to work with the Branches, applying the Society’s Code of Good Practice as well as the Branch Operational Manual in all areas of fiscal management. This will maintain and enhance the confidence of existing and also potential members.

Although the Council and the Executive Director ultimately take responsibility for the governance of the Society, governance is not their task alone. All staff and members must adhere to good governance practices. We must diligently ensure that the Society is run in accordance with the Code of Good Practice, adhering to all regulatory- and financial frameworks within which the BotSoc operates. As a result of these efforts, BotSoc continues to get clean audits and the past year is no exception. Once again, this allows the Society to continue to deliver a meaningful contribution towards the conservation of South Africa’s precious natural heritage.

It has been heart-warming to have observed and participated in the BotSoc activities around the country. We can be proud that all these activities – undertaken by our volunteers, Branch Committees, permanent staff and contract staff – speak to the BotSoc mission and pursue the BotSoc objectives. For me, awarding the Marloth Medal to Geoff Nichols for his contributions to flora conservation, and the secondment agreement – in partnership with the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) – which places a BotSoc-employed botanist at LEDET, were two of the many special highlights of the past year.

On behalf of the Council, I thank the SANBI Senior Management and the Board for our close working relationship and the many opportunities afforded to augment the mandates of both partners through our Memorandum of Agreement. We are proud of our close working relationship with the Department of Environmental Affairs and our collaboration with Government entities at a national level and in various regions.

The supportive role of the BotSoc was evident in the Stewardship support programme in Maputaland Pondoland Albany hotspot, KwaZulu-Natal, which was run in close collaboration with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. We extend our appreciation and thanks to the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) for their funding and support over the past four years.

Thank you to the volunteers in Branch Committees, at SANBI National Botanical Gardens, members of the Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) programme, and all other BotSoc volunteers. Your support, enthusiasm and effort make our Society a special organisation.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my fellow members of Council and members of the BotSoc Standing Committees. Without your involvement and expertise the task of guiding and steering the BotSoc – as we journey through an ever-changing environment – would be that much more difficult. During the reporting period, good team work, collective decision-making processes and the principle of majority consensus were clearly evident in the Council meetings and also in meetings of the ExCo-, Finance Audit and Risk-, Honours and Awards-, and Veld & Flora Working Committees. New inputs in the arenas of treasury, marketing and governance were also greatly appreciated. Last, but not least, a special word of thanks is given to all BotSoc staff members around the country.
In today’s ever-changing environment it is imperative to be aware of the various factors that play a role in the success of an organisation. Such factors, which are beyond the scope of financial statements alone, include organisational culture, management philosophy, social responsibility and business ethics. Each has a unique impact on how well a business performs in the longer term.

I appreciate the wise counsel and the strength of the collective skillset that the organisation enjoys within its current Council – all volunteer members of our Society. This management team sets the operational tone for the entire organisation. Based on a philosophy of ethical practices and behaviour, Council guides the employees and volunteer support base within the Branch Committee structures. This robust business philosophy of ethical practices and moral behaviour helps the BotSoc to build and maintain a positive reputation within the communities it serves while creating and maintaining adaptive stability in the organisation.

Through implementing the various focus areas of the BotSoc, namely, the operation and administration of the membership; environmental education outreach; and conservation action, the Society has been true to its mission and objectives during the 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 reporting period. We have many positive stories to tell, some are emphasised within this report.

Our focus on good administration and our attention to following ethical business principles have afforded us an increasingly positive public image, with great support forthcoming from our member base as well as from outside of the membership in the form of special donations and bequests made to the Society. These acts of kindness, which contribute towards building a strong and sustainable Society for the benefit of all, are greatly valued and appreciated.

A focus activity that actualised tremendous kudos for BotSoc was the Groen Sebenza programme. Funded by the National Treasury, with SANBI as the implementing partner, this two-and-a-half year programme afforded us the opportunity to employ previously-unemployed matriculants and graduates from rural areas. The BotSoc’s role included training and upskilling the interns to cultivate and enrich their skill sets and employability within the biodiversity conservation sector. BotSoc employed five individuals at the cessation of the programme, some before the termination of their contracts. More information about this investment in human capital development follows in the body of the Annual Report. BotSoc members can be proud of their accomplishments.

The BotSoc’s collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and SANBI in the drafting of South Africa’s Strategy for Plant Conservation is another proud moment of achievement and a cause for celebration. The publication strategically defines the conservation agenda and the focus on the monitoring until 2020 in terms of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This strategy, the result of two years of vigorous effort, now underpins ongoing activities for the BotSoc and many national stakeholders.

The BotSoc Council and I are acutely aware of the impacts of the global and local trends presently affecting our society, communities and the environment. Lower economic growth coupled with political and social challenges and changes coalesce to create a more challenging space for our Society as well as for the broader environment. For this reason the BotSoc is resolutely focusing on pursuing exemplary business ethics, not only in our conduct as a Society but also in all collaborations with like-minded organisations, whether private, non-government or government. We believe that people, passion and partnerships are needed for impactful, collaborative delivery of our biodiversity conservation agendas at all levels.

I would like to thank all our partners, donors, supporters, members and volunteers within and outside South Africa. All your donations, bequests and time, freely extended to the Society in pursuance of our common mission, are valued immensely.

To the SANBI management and Board, we thank you for this exceptional and dynamic partnership and for ongoing collaboration as strategic partners towards preservation of our rich floral diversity.

The Council is thanked for their service to the BotSoc, for their guidance at all levels, and for honing good governance processes and great business ethics.

I reserve a special mention of gratitude for all the BotSoc permanent and contract staff members from the Head Office and Branch Offices as well as those placed at other centres in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape.

“Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, treating people with respect.” Stephen Covey.
The BotSoc is a non-profit, non-government, voluntary, membership-based organisation operating within its own legalistic and governance policies and guidelines. The Society is a registered entity with the Department of Social Development with Public Benefit Organisation and Tax Exemption status under the Income Tax Act (Act 58 of 1962, as amended). The Society is managed by a member-elected Council in terms of the BotSoc constitution. The Council is responsible for the oversight, guidance and strategic direction of the Society in terms of its objectives and focus areas.

A strategic advantage of the Society is that it enjoys a more than 100-year relationship with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). With its head office based in Pretoria, SANBI is a public entity established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004 (No. 10 of 2004), which reports to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) – the government body vested with the mandates to ensure the protection of our biodiversity treasures.

BotSoc supports – through its Branches – all the national SANBI gardens. Membership to the BotSoc offers each member the right of free entry into all the National Botanical Gardens. BotSoc and SANBI share a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), which formally outlines the areas of cooperation, and the mutually beneficial activities and support areas. This relationship is believed to be the oldest public-private partnership between an NGO and a public entity. Joint centenary celebrations were held during 2013 with a special commemorative Veld & Flora issue that documented the 100-year story.

The BotSoc mission: “To win the hearts, minds and material support of individuals and organisations wherever they may be for the conservation, cultivation, wise use and study of the indigenous vegetation of southern Africa.”

The BotSoc primary activities are aligned under the following pillars:

- Membership, Branch support and Operations;
- Environmental Education and Outreach;
- Conservation.

The BotSoc works in partnership and collaborates with various other conservation bodies, agencies, government bodies and other organisations in the pursuance of its mission.

Governance is critically important. The constitution of the BotSoc endows the Council with the power to take full responsibility for the management of the operations of the Society. The Council employs and empowers the Executive Director to manage the day-to-day operations through a vicarious relationship with the mandates and delegated authorities firmly in place. All the Head Office staff, Branch Committee members, as well as the contract staff, are ultimately responsible to the Council. Branch committees are the on-the-ground ‘engines’ of the BotSoc, keeping the Society true to its objectives through the local-level activities and programmes. Branches receive financial support from membership income to sustain the member-nurturing activities within the different regions.
1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The period under review has been a busy, prolific and financially pleasing year for the BotSoc with all its activities, outreach and branch contributions across the country. The income against the budget was met, which is an achievement greatly appreciated within the immediate past economic environment. There are many factors influencing, and impacting hard, on the day-to-day management and operations of the non-government, non-profit environment within which the BotSoc operates. These challenges are not unique to our organisation. The resilience, relevance and the flexibility of the organisation’s strategies in pursuing its objectives and programmes, as well as nurturing the BotSoc members, have proved to be decisively important and relevant in this economic climate.

The BotSoc Council has spent an inordinate amount of time and effort on matters relating to governance, focusing on policy and input into the strategic direction of the Society as well as taking full responsibility for the fiduciary duties assumed upon taking office. Some highlights include:

- Progress on the draft Communications Policy document;
- A collective Council with a varied and relevant skill set strong enough to guide and inform the strategic direction;
- A successful Branch Convention and Annual General Meeting (AGM) held for the first time in the Eastern Cape region, thereby moving the BotSoc AGM to various regions within SA;
- Various meetings held by Council as well as the Standing Committees with specific outputs;
- Focus on compiling a membership survey, which will canvass inputs from members on matters of the Society;
- A series of discussions and decisions around ongoing investigation into processes and guidelines followed by branches in relation to the existing guidelines; and
- The publication of South Africa’s Strategy for Plant Conservation in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

THE SOCIETY’S FOCUS AREAS

i. Membership and operations

The membership is the main focus area of the operational side of the Society. Membership recruitment, nurturing and retention strategies are formulated and pursued by the Head Office staff with support from the various Branch Committees across the country. The main source of income remains the membership subscriptions. Our members generously support the BotSoc activities and make donations to support the focus areas.

Special donations were received from members as well as non-members during the reporting period. Various member functions, which were well received, were held with members in different membership categories to maintain the BotSoc family and to provide personal updates to members present on the BotSoc activities and highlights. This is an ongoing activity. New changes, relating to membership card replacement, were introduced to curtail the possible abuse of replacing membership cards.

Members are encouraged to continue to renew their subscriptions before the expiration of their membership cards.

ii. Environmental education and outreach

Various environmental education and outreach activities were undertaken by the BotSoc as well as in collaboration with partners. BotSoc believes in the ’3 Ps’ of passion, partnerships and people. One such partnership programme, which was a highlight of this reporting period, was the creation of a Sensory Garden at the Athlone School for the Blind, in the northern suburbs of Cape Town, in partnership with MySchoolMyVillageMyPlanet. This exciting venture, which received great media coverage, was in line with the outputs of Target 14 of the national Strategy for Plant Conservation, which speaks to the education and awareness of plant conservation through various media, activities and actions. Many other outreach activities were undertaken and supported, including: supporting special-needs schools; support to the Gold Fields Education Centre at Kirstenbosch; and, the support of interpretive signage in various SANBI gardens. Another highlight was an environmental outreach programme for a community wetland restoration project undertaken at the Colbyn Wetlands by the Pretoria Branch of BotSoc in collaboration with an array of other partners in the Pretoria region. This was just one example of local-level environmental education outreach in action.
iii. Conservation projects and programmes

There have been numerous conservation project and programme highlights for the BotSoc during this reporting period.

- One such focus was the finalisation of South Africa’s *Strategy for Plant Conservation* in collaboration with SANBI and DEA. BotSoc is proud of its role in the coordination of this special project and publication. The strategy will inform monitoring of various targets until 2020 under the guidance of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which are outputs under the Convention of Biological Diversity.

- Another highlight for the Society is the four-year close out of the exceptional stewardship support work undertaken by BotSoc with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife as the partner and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) as the main funder. During this project six botanically-rich plant conservation sites in a Global Biodiversity Hotspot were placed under protection in terms of the Protected Areas Expansion Programme through work facilitated by the BotSoc and the project coordinator, CREW Programme Manager, Isabel Johnson.

- The Society is also proud of the CREW Programme’s footprint expansion. CREW undertakes excellent work, monitoring and surveying SA’s most threatened plants. A partnership between the BotSoc and SANBI, under the Threatened Species Programme, the CREW presence extends from Pondoland and KwaZulu-Natal to the Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Cape regions. We are proud of the BotSoc members and volunteers who are significant contributors to data collections undertaken for this programme. These data feed into the South African Red List, which provides invaluable information to various authorities, bodies and government departments, towards decision-making in land use planning and environmental management.

- At the end of 2015, the BotSoc Head Office proudly partnered with the Rotary Club of Kirstenbosch and the Zeiss Microscopy Foundation, presenting a state-of-the-art Zeiss stereo microscope to the SANBI’s Compton Herbarium.

- The support for the Nature Conservation students enrolled at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) is another focal point for the BotSoc. Through this collaboration BotSoc supports the First, Second and Third Year Nature Conservation students, helping them to become more holistic nature conservators within different regions. By supplementing the coursework with practical work experience and real, on-the-ground fieldwork during their course, the students are exposed to real-time issues facing nature conservators within the day-to-day working environment. The curriculum offered by the CPUT does not include the ‘fieldwork’ or ‘out-of-classroom’ exposure which this programme offers. BotSoc is proud to invest in the development of our precious youth, developing human capital for the additional longer-term benefits of biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability.

iv. Marketing and impacts

The Society actively marketed and showcased the Society’s activities at a national level. Various activities were undertaken, radio interviews were conducted and articles appeared in a number of print and online media. These included reporting on a range of activities from support for local hospitals and schools, support for community outreach activities, but also simply as ‘BotSoc in the news’, talking and following through on its objectives. BotSoc’s national and local online social media presence has increased with ongoing tweets on Twitter and continually growing communities of Head Office and BotSoc Branch Facebook followers, drawn by interesting and enticing postings.
2. REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES: FROM SAVING OUR THREATENED PLANTS TO MORE BOOTS IN THE FIELD

The CREW Programme, a collaboration between the BotSoc and SANBI under the Threatened Plant Species programme, has been running for the past 10 years. The BotSoc continues to support the programme with financial as well as human resources.

Anri Marais: from unemployed matriculant to the Cape Floristic Region CREW Assistant and the ‘strongest Protea in the field…”

Anri has had an exciting and botanically significant year of growth within the CREW programme and sees herself as a ‘custodian’: a person who has responsibility for taking care of or protecting something of our most threatened plants with the focus on the Cape Floristic Region. Anri is really excited about being out in the field looking for hidden plant gems in the various Cape regions.

Mahlatse Mogale: from unemployed graduate to botanist in the Limpopo Province.

Mahlatse is placed on secondment at the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET). He will provide professional scientific services with respect to botanical issues in the Species Assessment and Planning Sub-Directorate within the LEDET Directorate of Biodiversity Management. Mahlatse’s key responsibilities include threatened species-, threatened ecosystem-, and protected area programme management, biodiversity assessment, and also general management and administration.

Mbali Mkize: from NRF intern in the Summer Rainfall regions (KZN) to BotSoc administrator to SANBI herbarium.

Mbali was employed by the BotSoc to support the CREW KZN node as well as BotSoc membership support outreach to family members and school outreach programmes. Mbali responded successfully to a SANBI advert for employment within the Rapid Response for Invasive Aliens team. “The CREW programme has exposed me to a substantial amount of fieldwork and environmental knowledge of KwaZulu-Natal’s indigenous plants, and I have had the opportunity to network with people from different cultures. I could never say I did it all alone – it took people who believed in me and my potential to allow me the opportunities to gain experience that I didn’t have before, and for that I will always be grateful and cherish their kindness”.

Someleze Mgcuwa: from being an unemployed matriculant from a rural village to Herbarium assistant and CREW support administrator in the Eastern Cape.

Words from Someleze: “I was given a contract with BotSoc to continue to work at the Selmar Schonland Herbarium as a herbarium assistant and a CREW project assistant. This is a unique opportunity and I’m so grateful to BotSoc for giving it to me. There is a Xhosa proverb: ‘ntinga ntaka ndini isibhakabhaka sesakho’, which simply means ‘fly bird, the sky is yours’, or ‘the sky is the limit’. Thanks to BotSoc for giving me wings to fly!”

Dewidine van der Colff: from unemployed graduate to Red List Scientist at SANBI.

Dewidine’s journey is an interesting one which included the CREW programme work to undertaking Red List training and making the most of the opportunities afforded to her during her term with the BotSoc. A keen collaborator, Dewidine believes that collaboration is a part of the bigger strategy in climbing mountains in the search, monitoring and surveying of SA’s most threatened plants. Dewidine was offered the position of Junior Red List Scientist at SANBI earlier this year after a rigorous application and assessment process. It is good to know that the BotSoc is a growing pad for future timber for the benefit of our plant conservation efforts.

From left to right: Anri Marais, Someleze Mgcuwa, Mbali Mkize, Mahlatse Mogale, Hlengiwe Mtshali and Dewidine van der Colff.
3. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2015 TO 31 MARCH 2016

The overall performance for the reporting period was satisfactory. Membership stability was maintained against an extraordinary previous reporting period. Challenges, such as economic factors beyond the BotSoc’s control, are actively being dealt with, managed and mitigated as far as possible. The members of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee (FARC) have been invaluably active during this period, constructively investigating fiduciary- and other matters of governance. A decision was also made to have external assessment and input with respect to some of the existing BotSoc Branch operations. This has resulted in an array of possible recommendations for Council’s consideration, towards an improved strategy for the BotSoc for the ensuing period.

Another recent key decision resulted from the scoping exercise that investigated the technology of the BotSoc’s database management, looking at enhancements for the benefit of our organisation and also our partner, SANBI. This will affect the garden entry points in particular.

Below you will see graphs speaking to the use of some of the main funds under the Council and the use of such funds during the reporting period.

Full sets of accounts may be requested from the Head Office.
# BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SA – CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

## FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

### CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL EMPLOYED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
<td>10,318,807</td>
<td>9,940,218</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch Reserves</td>
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<td>3,510,427</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,105,116</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,450,645</strong></td>
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<td>Life Members Fund</td>
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<td>1,093,630</td>
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<td>Memorial Funds</td>
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<td>51,479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership Fund (SANBI)</td>
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<td>2,806,481</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation &amp; Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch Project Funds</td>
<td>86,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildflower Guides</td>
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<td>Heritage</td>
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<td>National Programmes</td>
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<td>Strategic Planning Fund</td>
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<td>Branch Outreach</td>
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<td>100,000</td>
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<td><strong>Designated Reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,755,681</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,151,915</strong></td>
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### FUND AND RESERVES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidated Income For The Year Ended 31 March 2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidated Costs For The Year Ended 31 March 2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Memorial Funds</strong></td>
<td>54,224</td>
<td>51,479</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership Services Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,900,223</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,213,557</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4,318,738</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,594,010</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,532,295</strong></td>
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The financial information contained in the Annual Report has been prepared on the basis of the best knowledge and information available at the date of its preparation and at the time of Veld & Flora going to print. The Society undertakes to update the full financial report, as required, before the Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2016. A full set of financial accounts may be requested from the Head Office.
The above graph illustrates the monthly distribution of BotSoc’s subscription-derived income, over the past three years.

The BotSoc’s total income has risen steadily over the past three years. Total income has consistently covered total membership costs and expenses.
The BotSoc-held Partnership Fund for SANBI supports projects and programmes as well as infrastructural developments in the various SANBI gardens. A percentage of membership subscriptions support the income to this fund. This is a national fund and members make donations to garden support through this BotSoc-held fund.

BotSoc members and donors make contributions towards the National Programs Fund. The fund supports the BotSoc’s strategic directives and facilitates the employment of individuals in support of the human capital development support strategy. The fund has shown far-reaching gains in terms of the biodiversity conservation agenda at a national and international level.

The Conservation Fund – which includes the transfer from other held funds such as the Heritage Circle – and National Programmes Funds – was used to support an array of conservation initiatives. The fund provided, *inter alia*, financial support for the ongoing employment of the CREW project support staff; as well as the employment of the post-Groen Sebenza programme pioneers in the BotSoc. These funds allowed these pioneers to continue their conservation work on the ground, fulfilling herbarium- and red listing support work, and also secured the continued expansion and outreach of the CREW national footprint.

The Heritage Circle Fund consists of bequests made and received; donations and contributions from supporters and donors; and also private trust allocations in favour of the Society and supporting its objectives and activities. Some activities supported by this fund include fellowship activities for the BotSoc membership as well as an array of national conservation initiatives.
Here is a call to action for all members and readers of this Annual Report. Many of you have already taken most, or all, of these actions to heart to further the mission of the BotSoc.

- Recruit a non-member to join the BotSoc;
- Sign up for a volunteer activity in your local garden (education/garden/herbaria/administration/guiding);
- Join the Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) programme and monitor and survey SA’s most threatened plants;
- Join a Branch committee – where all the action is;
- Become a member of the Heritage Circle by making a bequest or donation, which will enjoy donation tax benefits;
- Become a member and enjoy psychological wellbeing and enjoyment connecting with nature in the botanical treasures on offer within the SANBI National Botanical Gardens;
- Sign up with the MySchoolMyVillageMyPlanet card and make the BotSoc your beneficiary – www.myschool.co.za or at any Woolworths store.

Join online: www.botanicalsociety.org.za
or call +27 21 797 2090

Above: CREW exploring the Rondebosch Common during October 2015, hunting for threatened plants. Photo by Catherine Clulow.

Below: Attendees at the Annual Branch Convention, which was held in Port Elizabeth during September, 2015. Photo supplied by Catherine Clulow.
THANKS

Our heartfelt and sincere thanks are expressed to all our members, supporters, donors, partners as well as the Branch Committee members. Without your ongoing support the Society would not be as effective as it has been during the reporting period.

To all of the BotSoc volunteers within the CREW-, the Garden-, and the Education Programmes, your acts of kindness are much appreciated and your effects are highly noteworthy, particularly when taking into account the collective volunteer outputs registered around the country.

To all the members of the Council and to the various standing committees, your guidance, commitment and sacrifices in favour of the BotSoc are much appreciated and valued. Your noble giving is noted and continues to making the BotSoc more effective in the pursuance of its mission and objectives.

Last but not least, we acknowledge the BotSoc Head Office staff and Branch support staff for your contributions to making the seamless running of the Society’s operations such a success. Your efforts, diligence and commitment are appreciated. Council thanks you.

CPUT first-year Nature Conservation students visit Kirstenbosch during September 2015, using the gardens as outdoor classrooms. Photo by Catherine Clulow.