

# CHS NEWS

## NEXT PRESENTATION

**Monday, 6 December 2021 at 20:00**

### ***CELEBRATING THE SHIELING'S BOUNTY***

Our final presentation for 2020 will be a visit to The Shieling, the home of Gerald and the late Jane Robertson. For many years Jane's baskets and bowls, filled with flowers from her garden, were worthy winners at our flower shows. Cherise Viljoen, together with Gerald, will take us on a tour of the garden, stopping to chat, enjoy the flowers and pass on some good gardening tips. You will also be asked to identify plants whose names escaped Cherise on the day of filming.



This in-house presentation will show how it is Jane managed to produce floral arrangements from more than 60 varieties of plants.

**Plant Show and Tell:** To end the year, this will be slightly different from the norm. There are plenty of plants blooming at present, so everyone should be able to submit up to three photos (1 per category) under the titles:

- The Most Spectacular Plant in my garden (this could be a vase arrangement if *all* your plants are spectacular);
- The Most Unusual Plant in my garden (*your* idea of unusual);
- The Plant that has been the Most Difficult to Grow.

If you haven't participated up to now, here's your chance to show us what you have in your garden. Don't be shy!

Please send in your photos (either the flower or the whole plant), taken this month, with the name of the plant and the reason you've entered it into a particular category.

Photos are needed by **Friday morning, 3 December**, please. If you have difficulty with the technical side of this, please call Glenda.

## **WELCOME TO ...**

... Kate Schrire, who has received CHS membership as a birthday gift. We wish her a long and beneficial stay with the CHS.

**NOVEMBER 2021**

## **LOCKDOWN EDITION 21-11**

### **President**

Marianne Alexander

### **Chairman**

### **Hon Treasurer**

Henry Diesveld

### **Secretary**

Glenda Thorpe

### **Committee Members**

Melanie Stewart Jenny Scarr  
Susan Armstrong Isabella Hayden

### **Honorary Members**

Laurie Powis Marianne Alexander  
Mary Smith Anne Bean Adam Harrower  
Michael Tuffin Bill Elder Ernst van Jaarsveld

*"A garden is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks."*

*Francis Bacon*



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<https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cape-Horticultural-Society/779615695489381>

Instagram – capehortsoc

## TO MEET OR NOT TO MEET ...

... that is the question!

Your Committee needs to make a decision about returning to meetings at the Athenaeum or continuing as we are with, on average, 25 members per month linking into the Zoom presentations (calculated over 16 months). So, the question is, what are *your* thoughts about meeting again, in person?

On page 6 is a questionnaire which we are asking all members to complete and return by no later than 5 December 2021. Please let us hear what you have to say.

## REPORTBACK

### Members' November Plants:



Far left: Cherry's *Leucospermum* "High Gold" – One of the most successful and floriferous of the hybrids. Long flowering period. Grows on the slope outside the property. Grows on nothing but rain.  
Left: Euryops – cannot identify more closely, despite searches through fynbos guides and the internet. Very fine leaves and flat clusters of small flowers. Grows in a rockery on the property. Watered once weekly if no rain. Any suggestions re ID?



Far left: Jean Fillis's Clivia

Left: This Pelargonium 'tree' was spotted in Pinelands by Jean Sleigh.

### November outing:

A wonderful afternoon was spent in Adrienne Rust's garden, which was a delightful spectacle.



Far left: The back garden was jam-packed, filled with many different varieties of plants and trees.

Left: Two 10-year-old *Leucadendron argenteums* – male and female – towered above everything else and both were 'flowering'.

The female 'flower', a cone, can be seen on the left.



A selection of succulent plantings:



## PLANT SALE

The final total raised was R10 522.00, including the sale of donated mowers and croquet set and less expenses. Once again, a big thank you to everyone who gave of their time and energy, their plants and, for some, their money.

Your Committee has decided that to generate a bit more income a smaller Autumn sale should be held in May 2022, when it is a good time for planting. All members are asked to continue slipping cuttings, as now is a good time for plants to grow. Any plants that are too small come Autumn can be kept for growing on and sold at the Spring sale.

As mentioned last month, we are looking for a member who has a secure space – it doesn't have to be too large – to convene this sale. Please think about it and speak to a Committee member if you have any questions – or have a space to offer.

## VELD AND FLORA DONATIONS

For some years now I have been collecting back copies of BotSoc's (Botanical Society) magazine, Veld and Flora, from whatever source I could find and have spent many happy hours reading, rereading and often just enjoying the wonderful photographs which others have taken of plants, places and areas that I will probably never get to see, and to read about the efforts people have made to conserve the critical biodiversity and processes of an area.

I am passionate about our indigenous flora and believe that we need to find as many ways as possible of raising awareness amongst others about the richness, and yet precarious state, our floral heritage. Particularly we need to excite young people to join the race to conserve as much of it as possible

In March this year it suddenly struck me that one way to do this could be to get copies of Veld and Flora (which are sent out 4 times per year to BotSoc members) into as many hands and heads as possible, particularly in areas where people may not be able to access the wealth of information contained in them.

I asked Glenda to put out a request for our members (and their friends) to donate their copies of Veld and Flora to me, once they had finished reading them, so that I could find suitable venues to redistribute them. This would become a continuing awareness-raising conservation project I would be happy to co-ordinate.

There has been quite a good response so far. I have received 128 journals to add to my own collection, bringing the total number of journals for donation to 198. Sometimes several copies of the same magazine have been sent, which is fine. From these I have been able to put together missing editions from my own copies to form what I call a research or reference collection dating from 1994 to September this year – there are still 7 journals missing from this set. I have been able to start a second research/reference collection, dating from September 1994 to June 2018 – from which several journals are still missing – and still have several duplicate copies left, which can be used in workshop sessions or loaned out or given away in certain circumstances.

My idea is that the reference collections should be permanently available to students or community members doing research work or to school children doing school projects, or so that nature conservation officers could design workshop sessions for small groups (nature clubs, community training sessions etc.) and possibly utilising the multiple copies of one edition per group.

At first, I thought that local libraries or High Schools in the Atlantis, Darling, Malmesbury area where I now live (my envisaged target area) would be ideal places for the reference collections while the extra copies could be placed in a box on a reading table. Visitors to the library or school library could just spend an hour or so paging through the photographs or articles. For various reasons neither of these options has worked out. I continued to search for the “ideal” place for the reference sets and have at last, I believe, found a good “home” for the collection of magazines.

The Spatial Planning and Environment Directorate of the City of Cape Town and its Biodiversity Management section have just completed and moved into a wonderful Education Centre at the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve which is just off the R27 Coastal Road and about 8 – 10 kms from Atlantis.

Here I met with Jacques van der Merwe (an enthusiastic and knowledgeable young man) who is based at this centre and has been appointed Biodiversity Network Co-Ordinator for the City of Cape Town’s Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership (DCCP) in collaboration with Cape Nature and SANPARKS. The DCCP is one of two priority climate change adaptation and migration corridors in the Western Cape.

This is the ideal place for the reference collections and extra copies, I believe, because, amongst other responsibilities, conservation officers from all 3 partners run environmental education and awareness-raising workshops for the communities of Mamre, Pella, Atlantis, Chatsworth, Riverlands and other conservation communities.

So, thanks to Andrea, Judi, Linda, Dutch and Jackie, Hannie and Nicola – and Glenda, of course, who collects and passes the Journals on to me – the project is on its way, and I hope to receive more and more copies for distribution so we can get information to those who might join the drive to help conserve our unique flora and fauna.

Perhaps you might be able to complete the main reference set by locating these 7 missing journals:  
Sept 1996; Dec 1999; Sept 2002; Dec 2002; Sept 2004; June 2006; Sept 2007

Please contact me if you would like more information on any of the above, or want to meet Jacques, or visit the nature reserve.

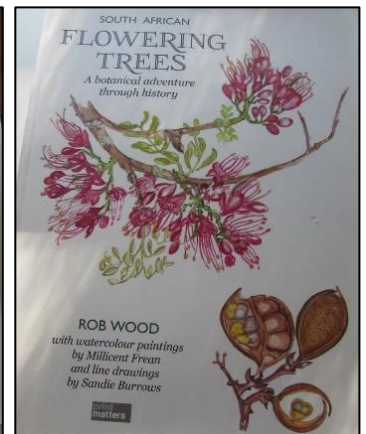
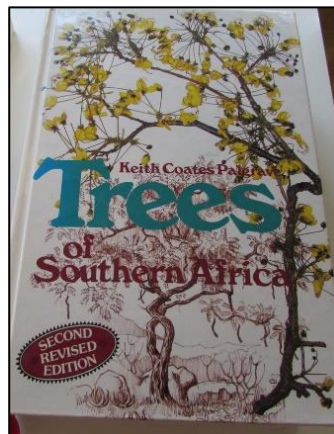
Wilma

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## NOTICES

- 🌳 **Books for sale:** Keith Coates Palgrave’s “Trees of Southern Africa, 2nd Revised Edition” – R250.00; Rob Wood’s “South African Flowering Trees” – R100.00.
- 🌳 **Arderne’s *Quercus suber* “Cork Oak”** is showing signs of life with tiny buds popping up on the branches. (Reported in People’s Post, 16 November 2021)



[Ed: With the sound of chainsaws ringing in my ears, I thought this rather appropriate. Submitted by Jenny Scarr.]

### PRAYER OF THE TREE

*You who pass  
And would raise a hand against us  
Heed well our prayer  
Before you harm us.  
We are the fuel  
For your fires on cold nights,  
The friendly shade protecting you  
From the fierce sun.  
And our fruits are refreshments  
To quench your thirst  
And cheer you as you journey on.  
We are the rafters of your roofs,  
The bodies of your boats,  
The seats of your stools  
And the boards of your beds.  
We are the handles of your hoes,  
The gates of your homes,  
The wood of your cradles  
And the shells of your coffins.  
We are the saviours of your soil  
From loss by rain and wind.  
And to your soil  
We give richness and life  
For the benefit of all men.  
We are the bread of kindness  
And the flowers of beauty.  
Ye who pass by,  
Listen to our prayer  
And harm us not.*

*Anon*

Dear Member(s)

The Committee would like to get an idea of members' preferences regarding resuming our monthly meetings at the Athenaeum next year, assuming that COVID level 1 restrictions still apply.

To get the correct idea, we require every member to submit a reply, preferably before 5 December.

*CHS Committee*

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Please reply to each question. If you have any other comments, please add them at the bottom of the form.

1. Would you return to meetings at the Athenaeum, adhering to the prevailing COVID protocols?

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2. If you answered YES to 1, would you

- prefer to be part of a 'lift club' if you are unable to drive at night?

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- be prepared to offer a lift to someone in your vicinity?

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3. Why did you answer NO to no. 1?

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4. Do you attend (link into) the monthly Zoom presentations?

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5. Do you only watch the CHS presentations when you receive the You Tube links?

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- If you answered YES, is there a reason for this?

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6. Would your answers above be different if we went back to Level 3 restrictions?

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COMMENTS: