



President: David Davidson, **Chairman:** Errol Scarr, **Hon Treasurer:** Henry Diesveld, **Secretary:** Glenda Thorpe
Honorary Members: Laurie Powis, Colin Cook, Marianne Alexander, Barbara Hey, Mary Smith, Anne Bean, Adam Harrower, Michael Tuffin

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 5 June 2017 at 20:00 at The Athenaeum, Newlands.

R10 for members; R20 for visitors.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FROM THE GARDEN TO THE KITCHEN

Born in Durban, Mikal Lambert intended becoming a child psychologist. He decided against this when faced with the harsh realities of life in low income communities and, with a new-found love for gardening, his life changed direction. He sensed that if people who experienced trouble connecting to each other had the opportunity to work closely with the earth and grow their own food, this ability to nurture and care for plants could be extended to others in their environment.

He began in Johannesburg, setting up food gardens at schools, orphanages, community centres and on roofs in low income communities. Working with national NGOs he discovered the changes that could be made in communities from the garden. This has remained his passion and has found a home at Goedgedacht.

For the past 3 years Mikal has worked with their "Care for the Planet" department, promoting food security – starting in the garden and moving out into the community. He says, "We [Goedgedacht] believe that many of the challenges facing low income communities can be addressed using the garden as a starting point."

CHS NURSERY

Apologies to those who bought "yellow Watsonia" bulbs last month. It seems these may be Chasmanthe bulbs.

Please bring plants for selling, but a reminder that you are to please take your plants home if they have not been sold, and nurture them until the next meeting. Further water restrictions will not allow Jane and Cherry to look after them between meetings.

A NEW VENTURE!

The Nursery Table at monthly meetings will have a Seed Basket, which will serve as a seed exchange, where members can swap their own packet of seeds for a packet of seeds in the basket. The idea is to bring and take seeds, or just bring surplus seeds to make them available to others.

There will be a list of available seeds on the Nursery Table, and in the Newsletter. Envelopes for seeds are available and may be collected at the meeting, beginning in June. If you already have seed envelopes measuring 12 by 7cms, or less, you can bring seeds to the June meeting. Otherwise seeds may be brought for exchange from July onwards. So if you think you might be able to bring seeds to swap, remember to collect your envelopes first!

Envelopes should be labelled with:

- the name of the seeds
- the number of seeds in the packet (if they are relatively large)
- the year of collection
- and any other details you think relevant (waterwise, indigenous, sowing time etc.).

The seeds presently available in the basket are:

- ✓ Chasmanthe floribunda
- ✓ Corn: multi-coloured "mielies"
- ✓ Lunaria annua "Honesty"
- ✓ Nasturtiums (trailing, cream flowers)
- ✓ Nigella "Love-in-the-mist" (white)
- ✓ Poppies (Pink, often called "opium poppies" but not identical to "somniferum")
- ✓ Queen Anne Lace
- ✓ Strelitzia reginae
- ✓ Sweet peas

Just a beginning, we hope. If you have any questions, please call me (021-794-0208).

Jane Robertson

IN MEMORIAM

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the sudden passing of **Deryck McCallum** on May the 3rd, a member of many years.

He joined the Committee in 2006 to take on the position of Treasurer, a task he performed with integrity. Deryck would always be the voice of reason when confronted with requests to spend money. He was also a master at the art of creating spreadsheets to keep a check on the Society's finances, especially at show times. In his practical, softly spoken way, he managed to keep a firm grip on the purse strings, until his resignation in 2012.

Our heartfelt sympathies to Lyn and family.

A message from the Botanical Society about the unexpected passing of one of our newer members on 17 May:

"**Ruth Smart**, one of our longstanding Volunteers, has passed away. Ruth has been a BotSoc member and Volunteer for many years. As the co-ordinator of the Succulents volunteer group, her knowledge of succulents was astounding, matched by her enthusiasm for growing and selling succulents for Plant Fair. She will be missed terribly."

Our condolences also go out to Ruth's family.

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Thurs, 15 June at 14:00: Take a Walking Talk with Anthony Hitchcock at the Tokai Park Restoration Area. Anthony will introduce us to the plants that have survived and thrived, as well as share the problems and challenges he has encountered with the restoration work. Limited to 25 members. Give your name to Glenda by no later than 12 June.

REPORT BACK

112th AGM:

This meeting was attended by 74 members and 27 visitors with apologies from 9 members.

In the absence of our Chairman, Michael Tuffin, who was not well enough to attend, Errol Scarr took on the role of Acting Chairman and dealt with the business of the evening.

The Acting Chair's Report:

The year under review has been a busy one with very good attendance at our monthly meetings and we have had to persuade the Athenaeum Trust to purchase more chairs as very often those attending have had to stand or sit on tables. Our attendance regularly exceeds 75 and with 104 at our July meeting when our President, David Davidson, enthralled us with the "Trials and Tribulations" of constructing the SANBI stand at Chelsea.

Topics ranged from Rosalind Spears telling us about the garden they had created at their home, Libertas in Devon, to Marianne Alexander's "Good Morning Vietnam, Hello Singapore" where the new Gardens on the Bay are quite mind blowing and demonstrate what can be achieved with virtually unlimited funding and the correct approach and foresight. Plants were sourced from throughout the world, purchased and transported to Singapore to find their niche in the enormous landscaped multi-climate zoned display house. (Only time will tell what percentage of the plants, particularly those from the arid zones of the world, like Namibia and Namaqualand will survive.) But what an educational experience for the millions who will visit the gardens each year.

Melanie Stewart took us on a quick tour of the gardens of New Plymouth in New Zealand. Closer to home Athol McLaggan gave us a glimpse behind the scenes at Stellenberg and produced a detailed breakdown of their work schedule for every month of the year which they have to adhere to in order to ensure the gardens are at their best when they are open to the public.

Adam Harrower was able to talk about The Remarkable Trees of the Arderne Gardens and gave us all an insight into the history of the gardens and the close liaison which exists between our society and FOTAG (Friends of the Arderne Gardens). He spoke after last year's AGM when Honorary Life Membership was conferred on him.

Megan Blatchford, winner of the CHS Book Prizes to the top student on 3 occasions while studying at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, came to tell us about 'Gardening Down Under' after she attended the Plant Propagators' Conference in Australia.

Paul Odendaal took us through the planning of the proposed Cape Town Flower Show in order to stimulate interest and participation.

Dr Marianna Smith, the Certification Officer and General Manager of Ecocert, explained the work undertaken by the organisation in Southern Africa in regard to certification of Organic Plant production practices prior to any crop being certified as Organic.

Christine Savage, President of the Mediterranean Gardening France, dispelled a number of myths as to how easy it is to garden in the northern hemisphere when she talked on 'Creating a garden in Mediterranean France'. The harsh climatic conditions experienced in rural Provence seemed very familiar to us, but by adjusting to the climate, limited availability of water and the fact that she was not there permanently, she achieved an attractive and successful garden. This aspect was also covered in April by Burford Hurry, President of the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal as he took us on a Stroll Through 3 Algarve Gardens.

The End of Year gathering was as pleasurable as always with lots to eat and Melanie Stewart ensured that everything ran like clockwork. Our thanks to her and all those who provided the food for the evening especially the Christmas cake baked traditionally by our Chairman, Michael Tuffin.

Your Society operates on the strictly Look, Listen and Act philosophy and having covered the listening aspect we turn to the looking.

During the year there have been 9 garden visits ranging from Saskia Schelling's Permaculture Garden in Tokai to the extensive gardens at Vergelegen.

Will's Fuchsia Nursery at Tokai where Jane Pegrum was full of information on their culture.

The Woodstock Peace Garden and Bruce Beyer's garden.

In July members went to Noordhoek, to Pooh Corner and to Alison James unique garden above Simonstown. The first a traditional shady streamside garden while Alison's exposed hillside showed us how attractive this could become in a short time by thinking local and succulent.

Other gardens visited included Dirk Muller's 'Greystones' with its extensive collection of Camellias. Susie Leblond-Harris's garden in Constantia and, in complete contrast, Japie Esterhuysen's in Plattekleof Glen with its amazing collection of Bromeliads and many other rare plants giving a very tropical feel to the immaculate garden.

Athenaeum Gardens

The Trust approached our secretary in regard to what assistance the society could offer in redesigning the garden to have minimal water needs as their borehole does not work now. Many meetings and discussions have been held and two of our members provided the Trust with proposals but due to financial constraints no progress has been made to date.

Donations/Sponsorships

Money collected at the Year End function is donated to a 'Worthy Cause' and this year a load of compost, chicken manure and fertilizer was donated to Seawinds Informal Settlement and Melanie handed it over at the Village Heights Community Centre, showing the excited children and community members how to make the best use of it. Tokai Super Plants kindly donated the transport and delivery for us.

Shain Butt, who won the CHS Book Prize in 2016, very kindly donated the equivalent cash to the Alpha School for Autistic Learners in Woodstock.

The proposal made at last year's AGM to sponsor a bus trip to Kirstenbosch for one of the disadvantaged schools has been arranged and will happen later this month.

Flower and Garden Show

Despite all the efforts of Rod and Melanie Stewart the show was once again poorly supported and incurred a loss. Our sincere thanks to all who exhibited and assisted at the show and also to Wilma Tindall for convening the outdoor commercial stands. Rod and Melanie have also resigned as Show Manager and Secretary respectively.

Plant Sale

This was well supported and once again showed a healthy profit, more than compensating for the loss on the Show. Well done to Rod and Melanie who organised it, thanks to those who supplied plants and to those who helped setup and sell on the day of the sale.

Thanks

Special thanks to our President, David Davidson, who was elected after our 2016 AGM, and to our long serving Chairman Michael. He would have been here this evening but, as you know he is not well and we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him soon.

There are so many whom we have to thank for keeping the society going: Jenny Scarr holds the Speakers portfolio and we thank her for all the arrangements that ensure our varied talks, also thanks for handling the Plant Table and imparting the information with no prior warning! Cherise Viljoen organises the Outings which are so popular and we thank her for this work. Our treasurer, Henry Diesveld keeps a beady eye on financial matters and with sage advice ensures the committee does not get carried away with grandiose plans!

Jane Robertson, with the help of Cherry Mann, handles the CHS Nursery sales table. Thanks to all those who bring plants in regularly as this ensures that unusual plants can remain in cultivation. Jane also sources the Raffle plants each month. Bill Elder with Rod Stewart and Henry Diesveld look after our technical matters. As noted earlier Rod and Melanie, have been involved with the Show, Plant Sale and Year End function and they are thanked for their dedication. Susan Armstrong and Vicki Hitzeroth are thanked for their participation in all our meetings. A very important group of ladies who must be thanked are those who provide the refreshments at meetings – thank-you so much.

Finally to our secretary, Glenda Thorpe, who holds the Society together by making sure that all the Agendas, Minutes and correspondence are up to date and then tackles the mammoth task of putting the monthly Newsletter together. Glenda is also spearheading the CHS drive on the international stage through greater contacts with Mediterranean Gardening International and the various affiliated groups therein.

Now may we proceed with the balance of the formal matters still to be dealt with tonight as I know you are all anxious to hear Ernst speak.”

Our Treasurer’s Report:

“The Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 28 February 2017 have already been circulated, so there’s not much to say.

INCOME STATEMENT: The deficit of R 3 365 is lower than the R 5 000 forecast this time last year.

BALANCE SHEET: The financial position of the Society remains healthy with Accumulated Funds of R 93 158. The market value of our investments was R 122 853. It went down a fair amount because of the donation to Harold Porter Botanical Garden. Our losses are basically covered by the capital growth in our investments.

BUDGET 2017 – 2018: A budget has been drawn up based on the expected income and expenditure, and shows an expected loss of R 4 400 for the next financial year, being almost entirely due to proposed donations for Kirstenbosch school visits.”

Honorary Life Membership:

On 26 March 2017 L and D McCallum proposed that M Tuffin be awarded Honorary Life Member as “he has run meetings with a delightful mix of seriousness and humour and has been supportive in many ways of the CHS, its members and activities for many years.

His friendliness, horticultural knowledge and wicked sense of humour has served the Society well over a long period and we think bestowing an Honorary Life Membership on him is more than appropriate.”

This had been approved by the committee.

On 9 May, the Officers of the CHS travelled to Muizenberg where Errol presented Michael with his new badge at the Evergreen Lifestyle Village. Michael’s health has improved tremendously and he hopes to be residing here permanently as soon as a cottage becomes available.

Michael says thank you for all the good wishes, which have boosted his self-confidence, and especially for the surprise and honour of making him an Honorary Life Member.



Your Committee for 2017/18

As the newsletter is late and an earlier than usual committee meeting was held, we can advise who the Office Bearers of the CHS are for the ensuing year and who holds what portfolio:

Chairman
Errol Scarr

Vice-Chairman/Outings Arranger
Cherise Viljoen

Treasurer
Henry Diesveld

Secretary
Glenda Thorpe

Speaker Co-ordinator/Plant Table Presenter
Jenny Scarr

Nursery Convenor
Jane Robertson

Plant Sale Manager/Year-End Party Planner
Melanie Stewart

Tea Duty Organiser
Susan Armstrong

Committee: Michael Tuffin and Bill Elder

May Plant Table:

The plant slips (the paper ones) are working well and providing lots of information:

Grown in **Bergvliet** with borehole water

- *Rhododendron* – growing in shade
- *Murraya koenigii* – Curry Bush: leaves used in cooking; berries poisonous. (pic no. 1)
- *Hebenstretia dura* (IND) – grows well in pots or open ground in sun or part shade; cut back after flowering

Grown in **Rondebosch** (wellpoint water)

- *Billbergia nutans* – very good groundcover; as a plant flowers and dies, 3 or 4 pups/babies are made. (pic no. 2)

Grown in **Breërivier near Wolseley** with water from a farm dam and water furrow

- *Mespilus germanica* – Medlar: old 17th C fruit tree, rarely seen today. Small tree; white flowers; leaves colour in autumn. Use fruit for jelly or chutney; needs to ferment and become soft before eating. (pic no. 6)
- *Feijoa sellowiana* “Pineapple guava” – small tree; attractive leaves and red flowers

Grown in **Harfield Village** – grey water

- *Streptocarpus saxorum* from Madagascar – best grown in a shade house or on a patio.
- *Plectranthus ernstii* (IND)

Grown in **Kenilworth** – pre-shower municipal water

- Brinjal /aubergine/egg plant grown against a south facing wall in a block of flats.
- *Leucadendron* (IND)
- *Plectranthus saccatus* (IND)

Grown in **Pinelands** – minimal spray of municipal water

- *Ruellia portellae* – from Brazil: growing in shade house.
- *Strumeria tenella* (IND) – found on Rondebosch Common (pic no. 3)
- *Hypoestes aristata* (IND) – copes with small amount of wellpoint water; not full sun; comes in 3 colour forms

Grown in **Diep River** – grey water twice a week

- *Plectranthus grandidentata* (IND) – very tough; in sun all summer; long straggly stems; needs shade and water.

Grown in **Pinelands** – very salty wellpoint water once a week and infrequent grey water

- *Pavonia praemorsa* (IND)

Grown in **Lakeside** – rain water

- *Protea susarah* (IND hybrid) – planted 8 years ago and is flowering prolifically. (pic no. 5)

Grown in **Kirstenhof** – borehole water

- Giant *Gaura* – a branch off a 3,5m diameter plant growing in paving. (pic no. 4)

Grown in **University Estate** with grey water (not on display but submitted electronically before meeting)

- *Meuhlenbeckia platyclada* – hardy, but slow growing. (pic no. 7)

Selected photos can be found at the top of page 6. Other plants brought to the meeting can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cape-Horticultural-Society/779615695489381>

JENNY'S CHOICE FOR MAY

Exotic

Arpad's Cattleya

Grown in a **Rugby** shadehouse:
Orchid – *Brassolaelia Cattleya*
Village Chief North 'Green Genius'
“Splash Petal” – a peloric flower.
There are 3 sepals and 3 petals,
usually two petals are similar and
the bottom one is the lip on which
the pollinators land. In peloric
flowers, the petals are mimicking
the lip. Easy to grow.

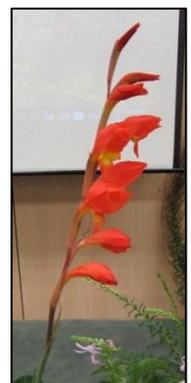


Indigenous

Gillian's Glad

“These are not seen around
enough and there is really no
excuse for not growing more of
them. They are so colourful at a
time when the garden really
doesn't have anything as vibrant
as this.”

Grown in **Lower Rondebosch**
with rain water from roof:
Gladiolus dalenii (IND) –
neglected all year; can grow from
seed.





Top row: Pics 1 to 3
Bottom row: Pics 4 to 7



JOURNAL OF A HAPHAZARD GARDENER – MAY/JUNE 2017

Last month I promised that I would tell you about the succulents that I planned to introduce to our garden. Unfortunately I have had an operation on my arm and so have been unable to carry out all the changes that I had planned. An area of pathetic looking lawn is to be the new garden. The grass has been pulled up. Fortuitously at the same time I was able to get rid of the hundreds of obnoxious onion weeds. The sparrows have been enjoying themselves having sand baths in the open space.

Over the last month the Horticultural Society has been on some first-class excursions. The first was to the Philippi Horticultural Area. South Africa is supposed to have one of the largest gaps between rich and poor in the world. This was brought home to me in the contrast between the vegetable growers and the large acreage of land gobbled up by developers wanting to become even richer by turning perfect farmland into housing. Philippi is the perfect place to grow vegetables: close to the city with a plentiful water supply. The water that is stored in the aquifer was being used to irrigate during the heat of the day. This prevents the vegetables from shriveling up. There was one section of farmland where vegetables were being grown under shade cloth. Guess at which supermarket these veggies were going to be sold?

Another visit was to an eco-friendly house in the appropriately named Garden Street in Newlands. It belongs to Bruce Kerswill and his wife. He is the founding Chairman of the Green Building Council. The face brick house was built to preserve energy and other resources. 80% of the house that was demolished was used in building the new one. Bricks and mortar were crushed for the foundations. A labourer was employed to chop off the cement from the bricks and they were used to build a dividing wall with the next door property.

As Bruce pointed out there are drawbacks to green houses: there is no legislation in South Africa which enables the owner to sell the excess solar energy to CoCT. It has to be stored in batteries. The 10 800 kilolitre water tanks are now empty. When filled after last winter they only had 2 months supply for the house's water needs. There is one installation in the house that I crave; all the human waste, including the dog poo, is transformed into methane gas. Bruce turned on the gas stove and a very healthy flame burst forth.

I confess that I do not find face brick houses attractive. They don't blend with the environment. There are attempts to cover them with greenery. Above the garage has a roof garden where plants hang over the side to help soften the surface to an extent. In certain spots creepers have been trained up the walls but they are struggling. The green bits of the creepers are small and spindly; still too much brick.

This month I was given a copy of another home and garden magazine. *South African Garden and Home* had a much more practical approach to gardening. The 10 water tanks at the 'green' house took up a considerable space. In the magazine the article *Water wise* advertised a collapsible 500l water tank which can be stored away in the dry summer months. It costs R670 from Faithful to Nature in Capricorn Park. Other articles are about attractive house plants that help to freshen up the home by absorbing the carbon dioxide; the Goemans' country garden in Elgin; growing aloes (a hybridized Aloe – right – from my garden has flowered well for a long period); and a Highveld garden which uses little or no water. Best of all for me, is an article about using groundcovers as an alternative to a lawn. The plants mentioned that grow in my garden and have survived the drought (so far) are: *Plectanthus neochilus*, *Carpobrotus deliciosus* (Sour fig), *Gazanias*, *Crassula multicava* (Fairy Crassula) and *Carissa Grandiflora* (Natal plum).



The *Garden Notes* for May suggest that one harvest fallen leaves by tipping them into refuse bags with a handful of nitrogen fertilizer and leave until they turn to leaf mould, which I have done.

I have also visited the *Wild Flowers and Pollinators* botanical art exhibition at the Irma Stern Museum in Cecil Rd, Rosebank. There are two sections to the show; one of recent pictures painted by local artists and the main exhibition upstairs in the museum. I was struck by the bright depth of colouring used by the modern painters compared to the artists in the main exhibition who painted in the early twentieth century. There is useful information about the pollinators. I was particularly interested by the butterfly *Garden acraea* whose caterpillar feasts off the tree, *Kiggelaria africana*. They managed to kill the tree in my garden. Another pollinator shown was the Carpenter bee which pollinates Keurbooms. This bee has disappeared from my garden. Is there some evil predator that has arrived to kill them off?

One artist, Edith Struben drew all her botanical pictures of Highveld plants while still in her teens. A butterfly she depicted is named Garden Inspector and it looked suitably bureaucratic. As part of the exhibition Kirstenbosch have set up a display of South African plants. A plant that looked very attractive was *Plectranthus saccatus* (Porch jacaranda) which was covered in lovely purple flowers.

The exhibition closes on the 3rd of June and is open from Tuesday – Friday 10am – 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am – 2pm. The entrance fee was R10.00.



I also mentioned in last month's journal about improving the look of the garage driveway with plants. I have planted a Canary creeper as a first step in this process (far left). The south facing wall garden in the driveway (centre) has also survived the drought well. The wall garden



at the back (above, right) has also thrived with the *Crassula capitella* looking particularly pleased with itself (right).

I would like to conclude with a heartening picture of very pretty Hibiscus (left) surviving next to the pavement in an industrial area near Kenilworth Centre.



I used the following source when writing this journal: *South African Home and Garden May 2017*



Top row:
PHA crops being watered to keep them from scorching.
A truckload of spinach on their way to the packing shed.
Nazeer Sunday showing us one of the areas earmarked for development.

Left: The Kerswill's front garden with natural pool on the right.
Right: The row of water tanks.



2017 PLANT SALE: Saturday, September 9

Hi Everybody!

Setting a date for the plant sale has been difficult this year – there are many other gardening events occupying the weekends at that time, and that Saturday is the only one free. We now have the opportunity of filling the large gap left by the Kirstenbosch Plant Sale, so we really do need to get cracking on our own plants.

In order to plant successfully now, it would be a good idea to buy seedlings from a nursery – indigenous ones wherever possible – as these will then have enough time to become established. It's also important that we try to concentrate on as many waterwise plants as possible.

That doesn't mean that we have to exclude other plants – we should have sufficient variety and choice to attract as wide a range of gardeners as we can.

We need as many bulbs as possible, please, and do pot them up if you can – some people are put off by having to plant them!

Please phone if you have any queries or need pots, bags or potting soil.

Many thanks and good growing!

Melanie – 082 550 2618 / 021 788 2840 / rsp@telkomsa.net

PLANT HUNTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

Have you ever heard of the Lobb brothers? William (1809-1864) and Thomas (1820-1894) Lobb were the first of 23 plant collectors who searched the globe for desirable plants to boost the catalogues of Veitch's Nursery, one of the most significant commercial growers of the time.

William was Veitch's first collector because James Veitch wanted someone who knew "what to collect for a nurseryman, rather than one who only appraised plants with a botanist's ego". He collected in South America in the 1840s, sending back plants from Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and Chile and was responsible for the widespread cultivation of *Araucaria araucana* (monkey puzzle) by harvesting 3000 seeds. Other finds were *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, *Berberis darwinii*, *Escallonia rubra* var. *macrantha*, *Tropaeolum speciosum*, *Crinodendron hookerianum*, *Desfontainia spinosa*, *Luma apiculata* and *Lapageria rosea*. However, all of these glories are (arguably) crowned by *Embothrium coccineum* (Chilean fire bush), confirming that William Lobb did indeed know exactly what to collect for his nurserymen employers.

Thomas made four trips to southeast Asia between 1843 and 1860 and focused on Orchids, conservatory plants and Rhododendrons. He collected, amongst others, *Rhododendron jasminiflorum*, *Medinilla magnifica*, *Hoya lanceolata* subsp. *Bella*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, *Nepenthes* and *Deutzia*. His collection of an orange-flowered *Rhododendron javanicum* contributed to the Victorian craze for growing tender (Vireya) rhododendrons.

(Extracted from *The Garden* – June 2014)

It seems we owe a great debt to the Lobb brothers.

CHS LIBRARY

It has taken a while, but we finally have our library in place. Our thanks to those members who have helped to fill our library shelves, which are now full to overflowing.

Peter Henshall will be in charge of the library at our monthly meetings.

His rules for borrowing books and DVDs are:

1. Open to paid up members of the CHS.
2. The maximum of three books may be borrowed for a month.
3. Books may be renewed for a second month. This can be done in person at a meeting or by email to info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za
4. Lost books must be paid for at the repurchase price. Replacement books are not acceptable.
5. The library will be open for half an hour both before and after the monthly CHS meetings.

Donations are welcome but at the discretion of the librarian.

There is an excellent cross-section of books available from:

The Gardens of California to Know Your Garden Flowers: A Southern Hemisphere Garden Book

One of the DVDS is Monty Don's 'incredible journey' *Around the World in 80 Gardens*.

Peter says, "The internet is a wonderful resource and I use it regularly but I still find a book very useful with all the information required in one compact place."

There's sure to be something of interest for you. Come and browse on the 5th.

GARDENING TIPS

Short and appropriate excerpts from <https://gosouth.co.za/may-in-your-garden/> by Life is a Garden

Coastal gardening

- Doll up large patio containers with Calamondin (miniature orange) trees under planted with oriental veggies like Mizuna, Pakchoi and Tatsoi and a herb like thyme, (all available in trays or pots at your nursery). Add splashes of edible winter colour in the form of calendula.
- **Lawn tip:** To improve drainage in lawns before the heavy winter rains in the Cape, spike deep holes with a sharp garden fork all over the lawn. Fill in the holes by brushing in sharp river sand or old potting soil. Supply a dressing of bonemeal or superphosphate to improve root growth (don't use bonemeal if you have dogs). Now is also a good time to lay instant lawn sods or to overseed damaged areas.
- If your plants are not doing well it is probably due to poor soil. Invest in a bulk load of compost to add to all planting areas. Do not dig it in, just spread it out on the surface to be gently worked in by micro-organisms. Keep thick layers of compost away from the main stems of plants, as it can cause rotting. Bulk composting should be done twice a year – in autumn and spring, to have ideal soil.

Pest watch

- Snails will be looking for places to overwinter. Clean up under containers and clumps of perennials where they will huddle together, and put out fresh bait amongst young veggie seedlings

WEEKEND AWAY

After a very long hiatus, your Committee has decided it is time to organize another horticultural weekend away.

This time it will be in Prince Albert from 22 – 25 September 2017 (the nights of 22 – 24 Sept). Garden visits and other activities will be arranged for this weekend, the details of which will be announced in the months to come. We usually have a good time getting to know one another better and joining in with the programme that is arranged. There will also be free time to spend shopping or relaxing.

In order to gauge the interest of members, please let Glenda know (by 15 June, if possible) if you want to be included on the list for notifications.

You may wish to get there earlier and leave later, but as this will be the Heritage Day long weekend, it might be an idea to book your accommodation now.

Visit <http://www.princealbert.org.za> and click on Stay where you will find a list of all the guest houses and B&Bs.

A website on mountain passes has just posted this update on the Swartberg Pass:

"This week we have the first authenticated update on progress on the flood damage to the Swartberg Pass. Anyone who was hoping to include a drive over the pass in 2017 can now definitely cancel those plans, as the provisional time frame to complete the repairs is set at 15 months, which will take us to August, 2018. Due to the historical nature of the pass and its status as a national monument, the process of getting the paperwork signed off for construction work to commence is more complicated than normal."

This was followed by:

Prince Albert tourism declines

Reports coming in already show a string of cancelled bookings at the various accommodation establishments in Prince Albert, where the main attraction is to drive the [Swartberg Pass](#). Predictably the closure of the pass will have a negative impact on the town's tourism. What many people don't know is that this lovely Karoo village has a host of other attractions to enjoy and the [Swartberg Pass](#) can still be driven from the Oudtshoorn side. This involves a longer, but very scenic route which includes the [Kredouw Pass](#) on the R407 to [Klaarstroom](#), then a turn southwards through the majestic [Meiringspoort](#).

Alternatives

This can be followed by a stop in the attractive arty village of [De Rust](#). From [De Rust](#) there is a wonderful gravel road running all along the foothills of the Swartberg range which includes the [Rust en Vrede Pass](#). For those who prefer the tar, you can head through Oudtshoorn via [Schoemanspoort](#) and approach the Swartberg Pass from the south. Access to [Die Hel](#), [Elands Pass](#) and the [Gamkaskloof](#) is still open. So if your plans were to include these destinations, make use of the lovely alternative route options and live your dream.

Figs and wrap around stoeps

Prince Albert is a pucker Great Karoo town with warm, friendly people. The streets are wide and 'leiwater' canals irrigate the surprisingly lush gardens amongst neat and gracious colonial style homes with wrap around stoeps, trimmed off with 'broekie-lace'. It has a beautiful church, a museum and a theatre. To keep the taste buds tingling the area provides the finest figs in South Africa and a range of wonderful and affordable eateries, where the food is great and the service appropriately Karoo style slow. Here you can rock climb or take your MTB over a range of great tracks. And at night, the sky simply sparkles with starlight in the clean mountain air. This town needs your support!

DATES TO DIARISE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **Tokai Super Plants** holds regular fortnightly talks on Wednesdays on various subjects:

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| 14 June: Winter Pruning | 28 June: Water features and how to install them |
| 12 July: Plant nutrition | 26 July: Citrus tree care – all you need to know! |
| 23 August: Vegetable gardening | |
| 6 September: Spring gardening tips | 20 September: New plants available for the season |
| 4 October: Plant pests and diseases | 18 October: Proteas, Pincushions and Cone Bushes |
| 1 Nov: Succulents and how to look after them | 15 Nov: Colour your garden for the Christmas season |
| 29 November: Coastal gardening | 13 December: Planting in shady areas |
- **Botanical exhibition:** *Wild flowers and pollinators*, at UCT Irma Stern Museum from 13 May until 3 June. See website for details: www.irmasternmuseum.org.za
- **Fish Hoek Flower Show:** If you're interested in exhibiting, this takes place on 7 October 2017.
- **Rare Plant Fair:** This has been moved to 14 October 2017 at Tokara.
- **Cape Town Flower Show:** This will take place at Grandwest from 19 – 22 October 2017.
- A project you may wish to support: **How sustainable are South Africa's groundwater resources?** Read more at <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=4675>