



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

## NEXT MEETING

**Entrance fee: Members – R10; Visitors – R30**



## TRENDING INDOOR PLANTS

CHS member, Sue Kingma, regards herself as a Serial Entrepreneur and Designer and is a woman of many talents. She trades as Nuno Indoor Plants, crafting a range of indoor plants and kokedama for urban spaces. Come and see how a fascination with mossballs led to an explosion in indoor plants!

## NEXT OUTING

**Sat, 8 June at 10:30:** Visit the garden of Paul Green who spoke to us in March about his totally natural dry garden which he has created. All his plants are planted in the ground. Rocks play a significant role in his garden and all his ideas were brought about by doing nature walks. Nature taught him how to position the succulents in relation to rocks and nursery plants.

Limited to 20 members. Please let Glenda know, before 5 June, if you would like to attend.

## REPORTBACK

### 114<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

#### *The Chairman's Report*

"The year under review was a busy one for the Society. Members battled the elements, and the lack of rain was a major concern which discouraged a lot of people. In order to assist members we endeavoured to have guest speakers who could encourage them and show them new trends.

The first speaker of the year was Rosalind Spears who spoke on Dartington Hall in Devon and the developments which have taken place there and, in typical Rosalind fashion, she brought a lot of humour into her address. This was followed in March by Sarchen Bassingthwaite who spoke to us on the natural gardening principles which she had honed over the last four years in Namibia where she was able to get the inert sand into a viable medium for growing and sustaining plants. In April Ernst van Jaarsveld spoke on the recent developments that had taken place at Babylonstoren. Following the Annual General Meeting in May Jenny Scarr presented "Four days in Prince Albert" on the very successful long weekend away the Society organised in September 2017.

Marianne Alexander spoke in June on plants she saw in Bolivia, Chile, Peru and the Andes. Morné Faulhamer presented the award winning gardens in the South African Landscapers Institute's National Competition which he had just judged and that was followed by Peter Slingsby on "Ants in Southern Africa". This was an extremely interesting talk as most of us really want to get rid of ants and don't realise their "beauty" and the benefits of having them in the garden. Nazeer Sunday and his team spoke on "Protecting the Philippi Horticultural Area" and tried to engender support for their campaign and up-coming court case. In October Prof Charl Laubscher spoke on the work he has been doing with the Moscow Botanic Garden and this was followed in November by Yvonne Reynolds who gave us a whistle-stop tour around the Gardens of the USA which she visited on her 30-day Amtrak journey.

December was the end of year function and while there were fewer members, it was a very pleasant evening.

You possibly don't realise the implications of getting speakers and making sure that they are available when they are due to speak! Thank-you to Jenny Scarr for planning the programme and organising the speakers. Ensuring the computers communicate with the projector is a modern problem which we could live without and we would like to thank those who have sorted this out and the ongoing sound issues.

**Garden Visits:** One of the advantages of being a member of the society is that you are able to attend the monthly outings and visits to gardens which are arranged by Cherise Viljoen. We started off in February when Anthony Hitchcock took us through the Fynbos Restoration area in Tokai to show the progress being made in the re-establishment of the *Erica verticillata* plants. In April a visit was paid to Donovan Kirkwood's garden in Noordhoek and members were able to see the benefits of using purely local indigenous vegetation on his property. In May we went to Babylonstoren as a follow-up from the talk which Ernst gave in April and to see the developments which have taken place including the completion of the Spice House.

June saw us visiting the Helderberg Retirement Village and Cherise arranged for us to visit a number of the residents' Gardens to see what they had been able to achieve. For the August outing Clare Burgess had arranged to go to the Papenboom Meadow off Newlands Avenue and then onto a garden in Constantia. In September members went out to Barbara Knox- Shaw's home and garden at Freshwoods in Elgin. In October Jane Robertson, who has been responsible for replanting the Athenaeum garden, arranged to show members what she has been able to achieve and also to try to engender support for the project. Members set to and did some weeding and cleaning up for a couple of hours in the garden. The next visit was to Judi Thomas's garden in Sea Point. She provides a lot of plants for the plant table and it's one of the older gardens in that area. Also in October it was time for the Shuttleworth open garden at Avondale in Durbanville and Ronelle very kindly arranged for CHS to have a tour around the garden even though it was the busy Open Gardens day. It is an amazing garden and anyone who has not been to Avondale must make a point of visiting it. The new flower meadow was particularly eye-catching and we saw the alterations which have been done.

Wendy Ackerman invited members to go to her garden at the end of October and we thank her for sharing her garden with us once again. The last outing was to Henk Scholtz's garden in Franschoek where members were able to wander around the garden and look at the changes he had made over the last few years particularly because of the drought.

We thank Cherise for all her work sourcing these gardens for us to see.

**Athenaeum Garden:** The revamping of this garden has taken a major step forward this year thanks to the hard work of Jane and Gerald Robertson. Jane and her gardener have laboured away throughout the year and have battled many problems. Gerald has been her right hand person in transporting the irrigation water all the way from Constantia. Jane is seeking assistance from members who may live in the area who are prepared to assist her in overseeing the watering. Please talk to Jane if you are able to help.

**Plant Table:** The plant table at meetings has become a major draw-card and thanks must go to Jenny and her helpers Gillian Knight, Susan Armstrong and Cherise Viljoen as they endeavour to cover as many of the plants on the table as possible. For the second year running Nicola Anthony had the highest number of points.

I would like to thank all members for the plants they bring in each month, both for the Plant Table and also the Nursery Table.

There are a number of other teams working behind the scenes and here we must thank the tea makers under Susan Armstrong's direction.

**Nursery Table:** Jane Robertson and Cherry Mann have overseen both the plant sales and the Seed Box over the past year and we thank them for this. Members are encouraged to donate and swop seeds of plants especially those not currently available elsewhere.

**Library:** The next person we would like to thank is Peter Henshall and his assistant in times of need, Shelley Brown, who have kept the library operating. Many books have been added to the collection this year, particularly from our President Michael Tuffin's library, and we now have an excellent selection of books on a range of horticultural topics. It's up to you as members to make use of the library and to take books out. Unfortunately Peter has now moved away from the Claremont area and we would like to thank him for his efforts in getting the library up and running.

**Plant Sale:** The Annual Plant Sale which was held on 8 September, is the main fundraiser for the society, and this last year a profit of R9,020 was made. Our thanks go to Melanie and her team of volunteers who work tirelessly to put the sale together. Please make sure that you support Melanie and the society by propagating as many plants as you can and then having them available for the plant sale

**Athenaeum Board:** Gerald Robertson was joined by Henry Diesveld to be the CHS representatives on the Board of the Athenaeum. Because of its age the building has required a lot of maintenance which is ongoing, including the harvesting of rainwater from the roof in order to irrigate the garden.

**Sponsorships:** We again awarded prizes to the top students of Horticulture at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Felco part sponsored a top of the range pair of secateurs, holster and peak to the BTech winner who had been a prize winner for four successive years.

Bus Trips for learners to Goldfields Education Centre at Kirstenbosch. Three busses were sponsored for learners from the Samora Machel Primary School in Philippi.

**The Committee:** The society relies on this committed group for the efficient running of all aspects of the society. Glenda Thorpe is responsible for the majority of the work namely the newsletter, website, membership, keeper of the records and correspondence with the members and general public, mainly electronic these days. Without her input we would really be lost. Glenda thank you for all you do and for your contact with so many people around the globe. Hopefully we will all reap the benefits thereof next year if the plans to hold an "Event" for MGI materialise.

Those standing down this year are Georgina Charlesworth, Jane Robertson and Bill Elder, who has probably set a record of service to the society. He has been a member of the committee for a little short of thirty years.

Our long standing auditor, Guy Carter, has again given his services to us, keeping an eye on our finances and our Treasurer and we thank him sincerely for his time and expertise. While thanking our Auditor we must also thank our Treasurer "Dutch" for his wise counsel and advice in the best manner to handle our finances.

The Society exists to serve you. In terms of its Objects it was established to encourage and improve the knowledge of all things pertaining to horticulture. I believe we have lived up to that Objective and I hope that you are in agreement.

Thank you for your attendance and attention."

#### Treasurer's Report:

The Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 28 February 2019 were circulated prior to the meeting.

#### Income Statement:

2017/18		2018/19	Change from budget
	<b>Income</b>		
21080	Subscriptions	20 323	323
10100	Admissions - monthly meetings	7 850	-2 150
1912	Plant sales at monthly meetings	781	-720
12357	Fund raising - annual plant sale	9 020	-1 980
1828	Donations	1 369	-631
5760	Interest & dividends re-invested	6 804	1 804
<b>53 037</b>		<b>46 147</b>	<b>-3 353</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
1495	Printing, stationery & postage	1 213	-787
5225	Speaker fees & Outing gifts	5 226	-274
2210	Refreshments, raffle plants at monthly meetings	1 863	-437
9852	Rentals	10 083	-517
21000	Secretary - honorarium	21 000	0
1834	Bank charges	2 009	9
7609	Asset Purchases	349	-651
6220	Donations	6 436	-1 464
1807	Sundries (Computer, website, badges, Xmas party)	1 486	-1 014
<b>57 252</b>		<b>49 665</b>	<b>-5 135</b>
<b>-4 215</b>	<b>DEFICIT (-ve) /SURPLUS (+ve)</b>	<b>-3 518</b>	<b>1 782</b>

A loss of R3500 was made versus a budgeted R5300 loss.

Major changes to the budget were:

- reduced income of about R2000 on admissions at monthly meetings
- reduced income of almost R2000 from the yearly plant sale;
- an increase of about R2000 up on investment income; and
- various decreases in expenses.

#### Budget 2019 – 2020:

2018/19		2019/20 Budget
	<b>Income</b>	
20 323	Subscriptions	22000
7 850	Admissions - monthly meetings	9000
781	Plant sales at monthly meetings	1200
9 020	Fund raising - annual plant sale	10000
1 369	Donations	1200
6 804	Interest & dividends re-invested	6800
<b>46 147</b>		<b>50 200</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
1 213	Printing, stationery & postage	2000
5 226	Speaker fees & Outing gifts	5900
1 863	Refreshments, raffle plants at monthly meetings	1800
10 083	Rentals	10700
21 000	Secretary - honorarium	23500
2 009	Bank charges	2160
349	Asset Purchases	500
6 436	Donations	4000
1 486	Sundries (Computer, website, badges, Xmas party)	2040
<b>49 665</b>		<b>52 600</b>
<b>-3 518</b>	<b>DEFICIT (-ve) /SURPLUS (+ve)</b>	<b>-2 400</b>

*Election of Committee:*

With the majority of members present voting in favour, the following members were re-elected to the committee for the ensuing year:

Susan Armstrong, Henry Diesveld, Isabella Hayden, Errol Scarr, Jenny Scarr, Melanie Stewart, Glenda Thorpe and Cherise Viljoen.

*Honorary Life Member:*

Our Chairman surprised Bill Elder (right) by bestowing Life Membership on him. Bill was elected to the committee in 1990 and is probably the longest serving member, ever, on the CHS committee. What an achievement.

**May Plant Table:****EXOTIC**

*Achimenes* (Gesneriaceae) from tropical America: has small rhizomes when dormant in winter; many different colours; this one is grown in a shade house.

*Salvia leucantha* "Midnight" from E Mexico: full sun; not too much water! Over 150spp of *Salvia*. "Sage" is *Salvia officinalis* from Mediterranean area.

*Myrtus communis variegata*: has grown to approx. 2.3m without too much care and only weekly watering; flowers are hardly noticeable, but the berries are more of a show and loved by the birds.

*Bougainvillea* – a double pink: vigorous grower

*Pentas* – white – from tropical and southern Africa

*Tradescantia pallida* "purpurea" (formerly *Setcreasea*)

*Impatiens niamniemensis* "Parrot Flower": watered with spring water; semi-shade; does not transplant well; propagate by cuttings.

Cane Begonia: grows tall and is in indirect light

*Maurandya scandens* from Mexico: a climber

Collection of veggies: spinach, kale, capsicum, brinjal and turnip

**INDIGENOUS:**

*Hibiscus diversifolius* "Black-Eyed Susan Hibiscus": 3-4 m shrub, often scrambling and prefers damp conditions; seen in the Wilderness area

*Hypoestes forskalii*: very hardy

*Polygala virgata* "Purple Broom": needs small amount of water if in sandy soil

*Tecomaria* "Cape Honeysuckle": attracts birds and bees; hardy; autumn flowering; suitable for hedging; full sun.

*Protea* "Susarah": good for a rockery; flowers well; only watered when it rains.

*Setaria megaphylla* "Broad-leaved bristle grass": grows to 2m



Left to right: variegated *Myrtus*; double pink *Bougainvillea*; white *Pentas*, *Setaria megaphylla*

Left to right: selection of vegetables, *Hibiscus diversifolius*, *Protea* "Susarah"



**JENNY'S CHOICES FOR THE MONTH**

**INDIGENOUS:**

*Serruria florida* "Blushing Bride": this is growing in a pot, in "protea mix" on a patio in full sun; watered lightly with stored rain water in a tank several times a week.

[www.plantinfo.co.za](http://www.plantinfo.co.za) tell us that it is "A small, woody shrub with lovely light- to dark-silvery pink flowers in spring. It is indigenous to the southwestern Cape, and needs acid soil and mulch to thrive. Fast growing, but short-lived. It makes a good cut flower. Full sun; moderate watering."



**EXOTIC:**

*Justicia aurea* or *Jacobina aurea*

Family: Acanthaceae

Yellow Jacobinia, Golden Plume

Origin: Mexico, Central America

An evergreen shrub in warmer areas, with striking, plume shaped yellow flowers. *Justicia aurea* prefers a partly shaded corner of the garden. After flowering, *Justicia* can be pruned hard to encourage bushy growth. It grows to about 1.5m tall and will grow in sun or semi-shade, tolerating dry conditions when established. However, best flowering seems to occur if it is grown in a sunny spot and watered during the drier spells.

Mulch well as it helps to protect the root system.



**TEST YOUR BOTANICAL/HORTICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. What is a "Caledon Bluebell"?? | 2. What are the three primary nutrients needed for plant growth? |
|-----------------------------------|--|

(Answers on page 7)

**RECENT OUTINGS**

Time and space has not allowed for reporting on the outings that have taken place over the past few months. Here is a selection of the gardens we have visited.

Right: New-look Franschoek garden



Below: Pinelands gardens



The winning team!



The quiz teams



Enjoying a cuppa while contemplating the answers



Waiting their turn



Members looking baffled by the questions

**Tokai and Kirstenhof gardens**



**Constantia garden on the border of the Groot Constantia vineyards**



- 1. *Gladiolus spathecus*
- 2. Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium

**THE ROAD TO MALVERN 2019 cont.**

Last month we left Stacey Bright frantically completing her entry, *Ikhaya*, in order to be judged before the RHS Malvern Spring Festival was opened to the public.

She has reported that the Festival went off with a bang and she was awarded a Silver Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society. Well done, Stacey!



From this



to this!

Below left: Planter with veggies and other edible plants; Right: our silver medallist!!



*“A garden should be in a constant state of fluid change, expansion, experiment, adventure; above all it should be an inquisitive, loving but self-critical journey on the part of its owner.” HE Bates*

*“If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere.” Vincent van Gogh*

*“I’m still devoted to the garden ... Although an old man, I am but a young gardener.” Thomas Jefferson*

From Henry Beard and Roy McKie’s “Gardening: A Gardener’s Dictionary”:

**Bulb:** potential flower buried in autumn, never to be seen again.

**Carrot:** a special food grown for carrot flies

**Drought:** weather immediately following planting

**Hoeing:** manual method of severing roots from stems of newly planted flowers and vegetables.

**DATES TO DIARISE**

🌱 Annual Plant Sale: 31 August 2019: keep potting up those slips.

🌱 Weekend Away: 12/13 October 2019 to *Barrydale in Bloom*. More details will be available soon.

Photos: A Thorpe, S Bright, G Thorpe