

CHS NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 3 JULY 2023 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R30 per person

WHAT IS MAKHRO?

It is a local fertilizer company and can be found on the shelves at most nurseries. Wilmar will tell us more so come and learn about their range of products before buying.

NEXT OUTING

Thursday, 13 July at 14:00 to visit the gardens of Future Found Sanctuary in Hout Bay

Limited to 20 members. Please RSVP by no later than Tues, 11 July.

REPORT BACK

June Plant Table – read this in conjunction with the Plant Table video which gives more explanation.

Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi (below, left) – grows rampant so kept in a trough on a deck, high up, facing the sea.

Rhamnus prinoides “Blinkblaar” (below, right)– small tree; berries very popular with birds; needs water in summer; also called “African Dogwood”.

Sparmannia africana (next page, top row left) – lovely small tree; grows in some shade; doesn't like the wind.

Phylica gnidioides (next page, top row right)– small to medium shrub (90cm); Eastern Cape dunes, grassy slopes; needs full sun and very good drainage; not a thirsty plant.

Chasmanthe aethiopica – first of the Chasmanthes to flower; only 500mm high.

Euryops – grows into a round bush; can be cut back.

Lachenalia bulbifera – locally indigenous; dormant all summer; flowers early in winter.

Tulbaghia natalensis (next page, 2nd row left) – bulb grown in a pot; sun.

Clivia gardenii (next page, 2nd row right) – an early flowering Clivia; likes shade under shrubs; named after Lady Charlotte Clive who first flowered it, and Major Gordon, a soldier in Natal, 1848 – 1853.



JUNE 2023

President

Marianne Alexander

Chairlady

Jenny Scarr

Hon Treasurer

Vacant

Hon Secretary

Glenda Thorpe

Committee Members

Susan Armstrong Gerald Robertson

Cherise Viljoen Cherry Mann

Chris Wren-Sargent

Honorary Members

Marianne Alexander Mary Smith

Anne Bean Adam Harrower

Bill Elder Ernst van Jaarsveld

*“To plant a garden is to
believe in tomorrow.”*

Audrey Hepburn



120 YEARS

Tel: 021-531-5713

Fax: 086-514-0998

Post: 22 Rustenburg, Pinelands, 7405

info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za

<https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za>

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

Instagram – capehortsoc



October Plant Sale Demo

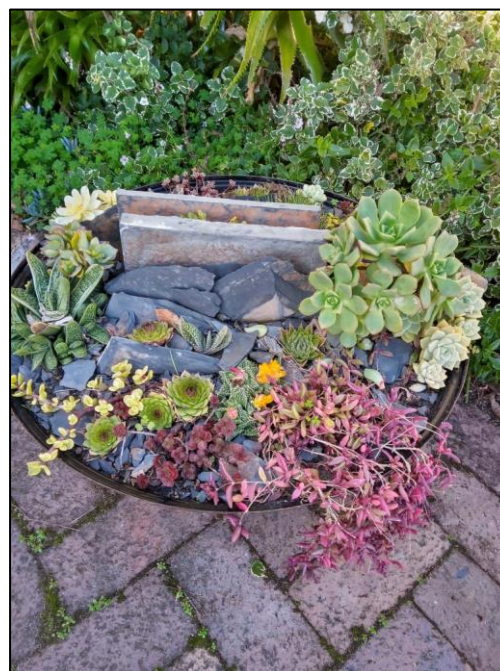
You may recall Jenny planting up a crevice garden, which was raffled.



The winner, Chris,
with his new garden,

...

... and the garden 7
months later!



IN MEMORIAM

Laurie Powis

7 January 1932 – 1 June 2023



I met John and Laurie soon after they moved into a little prefab-type house in Willow Road. It's still there and some of the trees they planted are thriving. Gradually, over the years, they created an unusual 'naturalistic' garden with earthy elements like the wooden gate with a pitched roof over it and winding paths between the beds.

Laurie loved her herbs and often interplanted these among other plants and scented roses. Of course, at that time Barbara Hey was also a member and introduced us all to many unusual herbs.

At show time Laurie was very strict with regards to 'what was permitted in which class' (the teacher in her showed here) and ensured that the correct number of flowers per vase, as set down in the schedule, was followed. If not, you faced being disqualified!

Before they retired from the CHS Laurie and John moved to 'Clé du Cap'. I don't know how this arrangement came into being, but I was always amused that one of them gardened in the sunny front of their flat and the other at the shady back.

Marianne Alexander

I met Laurie Powis at the first CHS Show that Glenda ran in the then new venue – the Alphen Hall in Constantia. As a new competitor and also a new steward, Laurie taught me a lot about staging an exhibit correctly. Listening to her comments about the exhibits she was judging instilled in me an understanding of what the judges were looking for.

She was an excellent, knowledgeable judge and always fair – if she awarded you a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize, you knew it was deserved. Comments she wrote and placed next to your exhibit were always helpful and encouraging.

Lyn McCallum

Andrew and I joined the CHS in May 1997 and by August found ourselves on the Committee. The person behind this was Laurie Powis!

Having known her since my teenage years as a Girl Guide, she spotted me from across the hall and summoned me to her side. Knowing that I was capable of getting a job done, she 'gently' persuaded me to take on the task of Show Manager as she was ready to step down. I shadowed Laurie for one year of Flower Shows, working closely with her, and was then left to organise the Shows for 1999, with her always available in the background. By 2000 I was on my own.

I learnt a lot from her – how to do things correctly and to follow the rules. Laurie then became one of our Show Judges, which she did faithfully for many years. One thing she never forgot was her thanks and appreciation. After every Flower Show a card would arrive by post giving approval of our efforts and thanking me and my Show Committee for a job well done. Of course, there were the odd occasions when a small criticism or suggestion was made, but it was all meant well. I hope we did her proud over the 15 years we ran the Shows.

Glenda Thorpe

Our condolences go out to her family, both here and abroad.

RAINFALL

We have been experiencing an exceptional amount of rain these past few weeks, but it appears that the rainfall for the first 5 months of this year has far exceeded the rainfall figures for this time last year. Members in these suburbs have kept meticulous records of the rain they have had in their rain gauges. Included are comparisons with the rainfall of 20 years ago!

	2022 May	2023 May	2002 Jan – May	2022 Jan – May	2003 Jan – May	2023 Jan – May
Constantia	84.0	123.0	248.0	162.0	138.0	390.0
Mowbray	74.4	145.3	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Pinelands	59.75	128.75	201.5	102.5	152.0	304.0
Sea Point	44.34	140.85	Not available	94.22	Not available	279.61

PLANT SALE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

Are you busy taking cuttings and potting them up for the Sale? Don't forget to label them.

Cherise will have more well-rooted plants at the July meeting for members to take a few home, grow on and return them in September for the Sale. By that time they should be beautifully established, healthy and looking good enough to sell to the public.

Please think about offering a helping hand either on the Thursday and Friday before the Sale, to help with pricing and placing the plants, or on the Saturday, providing eats and/or serving teas at the Tea Garden, being on hand to give advice to novice gardeners or even totting up the loads of purchases made by the buyers.

GARDENING IN OUR BLOOD

When autumn time arrived last year,
I said, "I've really had it, dear!
I've raked and hoed and picked and canned;
Just see the callus on my hand!
You know what I've been thinking, dear?
Let's let our garden go next year.
We'll buy all those things in the store –
they wouldn't cost us too much more.
When summer comes I'll sleep till ten,
get up and clean the house, and then
I'll make a glass of lemonade
and go and sit beneath the shade.
When you come home at night from work,
I'll put the coffee on to perk,
then we'll sit down and talk or read
and never think of garden seed."
Remember how you smiled and said,
"I think you've really used your head
to save us all this work next year.
I'm sick of gardening, too, my dear."

But then one day, the sky was blue,
the sun was warm, the tulips grew.
The April days grew long and free,
The ground lay waiting patiently.
The sleeping grass awoke to green,
and then in every magazine
were ads for bulbs and plants and seeds –
in fact, for all your gardening needs.
One day you picked me up downtown.
With bundles I was loaded down.
No need to try and hide the facts
with "Burpee Seeds" stamped on the sacks.
Remember how your face got red
and how you turned away and said,
"When we've unloaded all that junk,
I have a few things in the trunk.
I'll need some help, for it is hot
and seed potatoes weigh a lot."

So now we stand here, hand in hand
and gaze at our productive land.
The berry beds are weeded clean,
the vegetables are tall and green.
We love our land in drought or mud,
for we have gardening in our blood.

Jean Little

from *The Joy of Gardening* section in
'Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul'

FOR YOUR HORTICULTURAL DIARY

- **CHS Plant Sale:** Sat, 9 Sept from 09:30 – 13:30 (TBC) at 2 Dressage Close, Constantia.
- **Calitzdorp Succulent Society's Vetplantfees:** Fri/Sat/Sun, 15 – 17 Sept from 09:00 – 17:00 (15:00 on Sun).