

CHS NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 4 September 2023 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R30 per person

THE WOLLEMI PINE, A LIVING FOSSIL

John van der Linde will give an illustrated talk about the exciting botanical detective story behind the discovery of a small clump of Wollemi pine trees hidden in an isolated canyon in Australia. This has been described as 'the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur alive on Earth'. Think about that.

These trees have hardly evolved for millions and millions of years. They are still the way they were in the early days of dinosaurs.

NEXT OUTING

Sat, 30 Sept at 09:30 to visit the Silvermine Clovelly Wetland Restoration Project. Limited to 20 members. RSVP to Glenda by 27 September.

IN MEMORIAM

Anne Bean

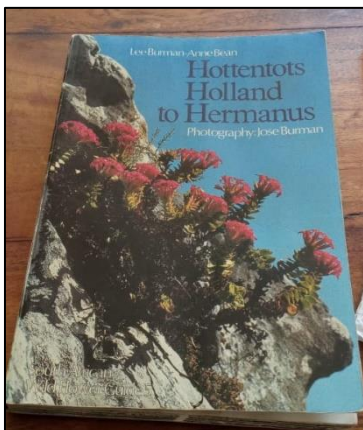
11 July 1930 – 4 August 2023



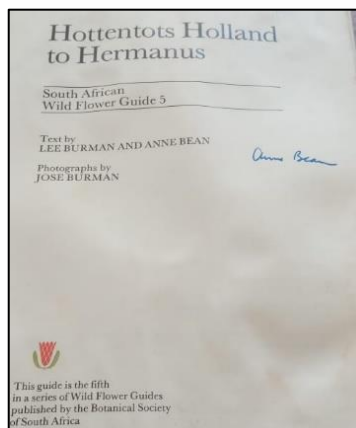
Chairman – 1997 to 2000
President – 2002 to 2016
Honorary Member since 2013

Nicola's recollection of Anne:
"I think she was born in the UK, taught for quite a time in Zimbabwe and worked at the Bolus Herbarium for years. There she curated half of the *Dicotyledon* collection and researched the genus *Agathosma*.

Anne also worked on the Hottentots Holland to Hermanus Wildflower Guide."



Nicola's copy of the Field Guide, signed by Anne



AUGUST 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

Adam Harrower Bill Elder

Ernst van Jaarsveld

*"Bloom where you
are planted."*

Anon



120 YEARS

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

Instagram – capehortsoc

Andrea recalls Anne at the monthly plant table sharing her great knowledge, explaining the backgrounds of exhibits. Anne was always willing to share plants from her garden and offer visits. Andrea was also part of garden outings with Anne, where her exceptional knowledge was evident.

Two former members also share their memories of Anne: Clare Gibbon and Lynn Cook (Colin Cook was a past Chairman).

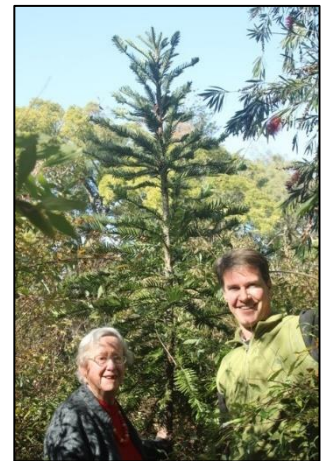
"I was sad to hear of the death of Anne Bean whilst I was exploring the amazing flowers in the Richtersveld last week. Ironically it was a totally appropriate place for me to hear this news.

As President of the Cape Horticultural Society when we first met, Anne was the person who, more than anyone else, inspired me about the wonders of South Africa's amazing floral heritage. As an eminent botanist she had a wonderful knowledge of it, but also a beautiful gift of talking about her subject that conveyed her deep love and continuing excitement. Her descriptions of the immense variety in the ingenious ways in which plants attracted their pollinators opened my eyes to this fascinating subject. Her constant sense of awe and delight was also a joy to experience. No flower could now be seen as 'mundane' or 'ordinary'. Every one became a miracle of creation.

She was thus enormously influential in shaping how I experience life in Cape Town. I remember how her description of the *Brunsvigia* flowering in Nieuwoudtville in March 2000 immediately sent Liam and me scurrying off to see them. It was the beginning of a great love affair of this area that exists to this day and made me aware of the magnificent spectacle of the Cape's spring flowers. An interest that took me to the Richtersveld earlier this month.

Anne was also the person who pulled me into my involvement with the Arderne Gardens. She invited me to join the initial discussions for the foundation of Friends of the Arderne Gardens (FOTAG) which came into being in 2004 and is now an important part of my life. Anne was heavily involved in the early days of FOTAG when we began the long journey of raising public awareness about the importance of the gardens and trying to find ways to work with the City Council to improve them. Sadly, her health declined before the arrival of the wonderfully energetic and imaginative Hank Lith on our committee in 2014 and she never enjoyed the days when we began to pull in donors and were able to launch our Renaissance Project which has led to the work that has been achieved in Arderne today.

In 2017 some members of the now thriving FOTAG committee took Anne around the gardens so that she could get an idea of how things were progressing. I hope she saw this as very much her achievement. Her vision of a Friends group for Arderne in 2004 was the foundation stone for the evolution of the safe public space we have today with its indigenous wetland, refurbished ponds, Ghandi and Hiroshima gardens and the increasing awareness of its internationally important collection of trees. Anne's initiative was the vehicle that drew in the people that have since achieved all this. I hope her contribution is never forgotten."



Left: Adam Harrower, Lisa Conradie and Rose Meny-Gibert with Anne
Right: Anne and Adam inspecting the *Araucaria cunninghamii*
planted by Sir Thomas Pakenham in Arderne

Clare

"My strongest memories of Anne are of her energy, enthusiasm, curiosity, and wide botanical knowledge. She and Colin met when she was curator of the Herbarium at UCT, and he was doing building work in the maths department. They hit it off immediately, and became good friends, both being passionate plantspeople – more

interested in the challenge of growing something new and unusual than in the aesthetic aspect of gardening. They both felt the wrench when we left Cape Town, and Colin said more than once that he never found anyone to equal her here in the UK.

She took us on two memorable excursions. The first was an overnight stay in Vogelgat, where she was a member. It was on this outing that Colin persuaded her to join the Horties.

The second was as a foursome, through the Klein Karoo. She had recently completed a qualification to be a tour guide, after she retired, which was typical her, wanting to keep growing and developing; the trip was by way of a practice run. (I don't think she ended up making much use of it). One fond memory of this trip was that, whereas the three of us were dressed for the bush, Angus wore a three-piece suit! It seems she had always been very down to earth – as a young woman she had been a land girl, during World War 2.

I remember her being very excited by, and involved with, the initial development of the Arderne Gardens, particularly when they acquired a specimen of the Wollemi pine.

I know it was hard for her to leave behind their life in Ripelby Road, revolving around the garden and her beloved border collies, but they made a good choice with their Kenilworth apartment, where they were very comfortable."



Lynn

Anne taught as she walked along so that one got a good idea of what she was looking for in an exhibit she was judging at the Flower Shows – not just a whim, but criteria. I remember her being good at giving exhibitors feedback.

She played a big part in updating the format of the Show Schedule allowing members to broaden their scope of horticultural knowledge – forever the teacher.

Former Show Committee

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Angus.

WELCOME TO ...

... Mary Gibbs. We hope her time with the CHS will be beneficial.

REPORT BACK

August Plant Table – read this in conjunction with the Plant Table video (<https://youtu.be/heop9ERO6rk>) which gives more explanation.

Indigenous:

Chasmanthe bicolor: extinct in the wild; nicest of the *Chasmanthes* for the garden; grows easily from seed.

Pelargonium exstipulatum and *P. fragrans*

Coleonema ?pulchellum: must like all the rain as it has flowered so well this winter; starts out pale pink, turning darker.

Ixia scillaris

Cotyledon (right)

Greyia flanaganii – from Kei River: slow growing with minimum TLC; on outside verge in rocky soil and semi-shade.

Salvia dolomitica: throws up suckers.

Sparaxis grandiflora acutiloba – Clanwilliam area; seed from Ramskop Garden.

Lachenalia

Nutmeg *Pelargonium*

Clivia





L to R: Greyia flanagani; Salvia dolomitica; Clivia gardenii x; Sparaxis grandiflora acutiloba

Exotic:

Thryptomene saxicola – W Australia: makes a lovely small shrub 1m x 1m; very tough plant.

Allium triquetrum : has 3 angles to the stem; a pretty Allium but can be invasive.

Corydalis lutea – self-seeds prolifically but easy to pull out when not wanted.

Hebe speciosa (family Plantaginaceae) – “Veronica”: flowers over a long period from spring into summer and late summer. Very easy and does not need special feeding – just a general feed of Atlantic Bio Organic and horse manure or compost; has medicinal uses.

Calandrinia – sun-loving.

Azalea (Rhododendron) – grows at the back of the garden under trees; gets dappled sun; gets acid compost and fed with Atlantic Bio Organic.

Macadamia nut tree (family *Proteaceae*)

Jasminoides

Kalanchoe ‘Tessa’

Asparagus fern



L to R: Thryptomene saxicola; Allium triquetrum; Macadamia

NB!! PLANT SALE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2023 from 09:30 – 14:30

Arrangements for the sale are well underway. We still need more hands to help on the Thursday and Friday (pre-sale labelling, sorting and packing out of plants) as well as on the Saturday. The appeal for help was sent out on 12 August (see e-mail). If you have not already done so, please let us know if you can give an hour or two to help with various tasks. A plate of eats for the tea garden would also be most welcome.

We ask that you please advertise the sale far and wide – to friends, neighbours, family and everyone in your WhatsApp contacts and e-mail address book.

If you can give an idea the types of plants you have been growing, as well as an approximate number, it would be appreciated. This will assist in demarcating space at the venue.

AN UPDATE ON OUR COLLECTION AND REDISTRIBUTION OF VELD AND FLORA JOURNALS PROJECT

What project? some may ask. Others will remember my appeal to our members (and their friends) who are/were members of BotSoc to donate their old/back copies of the magazines that BotSoc has been sending to their members on a quarterly basis since about the 1970s I think, so that I can redistribute them to places/people out **Atlantis and Malmesbury way** to raise awareness of our rich floral heritage and excite them – especially younger people – to preserve our fast disappearing treasures. To date I have probably been sent close to 500 or more magazines and, thanks to all those members who sent them, I have been able to assemble, over the last 2 to 3 years, 5 or 6 master reference sets i.e. sets of magazines (some from 1984 to December 2022) that remain in the possession of a person or organisation that promotes conservation with groups of interested people or young adults. The magazines are always appreciatively accepted and incorporated into training workshops.

Where are these sets currently? There are sets with:

- the Co-ordinator for the West Coast area (municipal boundary) of the City of Cape Town's Conservation Unit who is based at Witsand Aquifer Reserve;
- and Cape Nature's People and Conservation Manager for this region who trains from Witsand Reserve;
- Nieuwoudtville Botanic Gardens conservation officers;
- Sanparks' conservation officers at the Richtersveld/Ai-Ais Transfrontier Park;
- conservation officers at the Provincial Department of Nature Conservation at Springbok;
- Conservation Manager at Harold Porter National Gardens at Betty's Bay;
- and several copies of magazines distributed at various talks and events.

Lately there have been requests for **Bird Life Africa** (or any other bird magazines), the old WESSA magazines **Environment**, and for **Wild** (the magazine sent to members who purchase the green WILD CARD), as well as for **gardening magazines** – in fact almost any magazine can find a home out here.

So, there is more to do. Please keep those magazines coming! Glenda will store them till I visit Cape Town. Contact her re times when you can get them to her.

Wilma

REMINDER: ATTENDING MEETINGS

Attendance at monthly meetings has not returned to the pre-COVID numbers we used to enjoy. The Committee understands that this is partly due to some members having become complacent about staying at home while others would like to attend but do not want to drive at night.

If you are interested in attending meetings, please let me know as we are aware that there are members who would be willing to offer lifts, Therefore, would everyone who requires a lift, or can offer a lift, please let me know so you can be put in touch with someone in your vicinity? It's also more enjoyable, and safer, to travel with a companion.

Glenda

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is to give you a 'heads-up' when attending a meeting at the Athenaeum. The security guards at the entrance to the office complex have been instructed to ask for your driver's licence, your cell number, and will photograph your registration plate. Some guards follow the rules, others are more lenient, but be ready for either. Rather be safe than sorry. Whatever information they have will be deleted.

FOR YOUR INTEREST

- **CHS Plant Sale:** Sat, 9 Sept from 09:30 – 14:30
- **Fynbos Life:** Sun, 10 Sep from 10:00 – 16:00
- **Calitzdorp Succulent Society's Vetplantfees:** Fri/Sat/Sun, 15 – 17 Sept from 09:00 – 17:00 (15:00 on Sun).
- **Prince Albert Open Gardens:** Sat, 30 Sept and Sun, 1 Oct.
- **Fish Hoek Garden Fair:** Sat, 14 Oct from 09:30 – 14:30

The MOST important one!

Saturday 9 September 2023: 9.30 am – 2.30 pm



2 Dressage Close (off Spaanschemat River Road), Constantia

The Cape Horticultural Society annual
PLANT SALE

Saturday, 9 September
9.30 am – 2.30 pm
2 Dressage Close, Constantia



Enquiries: Glenda 021 531 5713,
Belinda 0718726923

The wild wet winter is over, and Spring power is bringing life back into our gardens. Find a wide variety of indigenous and exotic plants **at 1999 prices** at the CHS sale. Card facilities available. Get plenty of advice from members, and enjoy the tea garden and other entertainments!

FOOD | CONSERVATION | FYNBOS ARTISANS

R20 ADULTS
KIDS FREE



FynbosLIFE Fair

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
57 PROMENADE ROAD, MUIZENBERG
10am - 4pm

info@fynboslife.com

FynbosLIFE Fair 2023 sponsors:

ATIAN



FALSE BAY

GARDENING EXPO
AND FLOWER SHOW 2023

FISH HOEK CIVIC CENTRE

Sat 14th OCTOBER
9.30 am – 2.30 pm



Plants Flowers Succulents
Decorative displays Nature
Eco-living Planters Bulbs
Mosaics Bonsai Living Walls
Home produce Breads
Refreshments

Admission R20 per person

For further info contact Sally: 072 213 0600



ORGANISED BY THE FISH HOEK GARDEN CLUB

Photos: N Anthony, C Gibbon,
A and G Thorpe