



Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.

Lao Tzu

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NEXT MEETING

Monday, 1 July 2024 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R30 per person

THE HISTORIC HEUNINGBERG AND SURROUNDING SWARTLAND

The Cape Horticultural Society will host Geoff Tribe whose illustrated talk will move from the prehistoric rock art of the Heuningberg area and the abundant grasslands that existed in 1660, which supported thousands of grazing species and Khoisan hunters, through to the present day and that, despite the enormous changes to the environment, the magnificent colonies of the unique cape honeybee still remain intact in the Heuningberg area.

He will do his best to answer any botanical questions about the Heuningberg.

WELCOME TO ...

... Fiona Milanese, Irma Albers, Karin Schaefer, Ragmat Davids and Hammaad Railoun who have all joined in the past few months. We hope that their membership of the CHS will be an enjoyable and beneficial experience.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is: Cherise Viljoen (Chairperson), Chris Wren-Sargent (Vice Chairperson), Glenda Thorpe (Secretary), Isabella Hayden (Treasurer), Jenny Scarr, Susan Armstrong and Anne Gleeson. In addition, Belinda du Rand was co-opted to the committee in June. Our President, Marianne Alexander, is an ex officio member.

Associate Membership: This topic was raised at the AGM, and it resulted in much discussion at the committee meeting. While we support the positive intent behind the suggestion, our concern is that Associate Membership could result in a number of members no longer coming to meetings, which might threaten the existence of the Society. At present, we are trying to encourage greater attendance at meetings, in part because of the positive effect this has on people’s lives. We feel we should instead put energy into the second suggestion of a Lift Club, which will allow members who do not drive at night to carry on attending meetings. If you are willing to be a CHS Uber-driver, please read page 4

Membership Update: 17 new members have joined CHS this year, so we need another 3 to reach our target of 20 by the end of August. Please keep twisting any arms to which you have access! The draw for the various prizes will be on September 2nd.

Plant Sale: We have decided that the date for our Autumn Sale will be **13 April 2025**. Yes, it is a Sunday, but we are hoping that the day will be less busy for buyers and families – and our member helpers, of course. Our hope is to

have quite a few unusual plants on sale, so we will be approaching some members to propagate these. We also want plants that are more fully developed, so please start propagating as soon as you can.

Plant Sales: We really appreciate the plants you bring in to donate for sale at the sales table, as this is a consistent source of funds for the CHS and adds much value to meetings. However, those plants that don't sell present work for those volunteering to run the plant sale table, as they have to take them home and nurse them until the next meeting or the plant sale. Would you please consider doing that yourselves? We would also like you to please bring your plants labelled and priced – you know best what they are and what their value is – but bear in mind we all LOVE a bargain!

Tea Roster: We are utilising Susan in so many ways that she now requires assistance with serving teas at the meetings again! She has been doing a wonderful job of it alone thus far, but we are asking for willing hands to help her. Please speak to her at a meeting if you can help. A list will also be circulated, so please add your name if you are able to assist.

Social Media: The committee still requires a volunteer(s) to help with our Facebook content and posting. Let Glenda know if you're willing to give it a try.

Your committee is determined to make your membership of the CHS full of wonderful plant experiences, where we share information, knowledge and fellowship. Your confidence in, and unwavering support of us is invaluable, and much appreciated.

REPORT BACK

June Exhibits (formerly Plant Table) – read this in conjunction with the June Exhibits video.

Exotic:

Citharexylum 'Bush Fiddlewood'

Kalanchoe fedtshenkoi – growing into a nice bush – ± 45cm; may have open flowers next month; note leaf with tiny new plants

Kalanchoe longiflora (below, top)

Asparagus?? (right)



Indigenous:

Crassula ovata (below, right)

Kniphofia praecox??

Strelitzia reginae

Tulbaghia simmleri (below, centre)

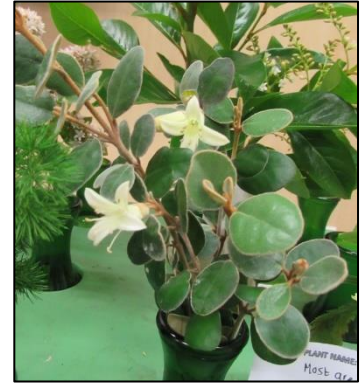
Apodytes dimidiata "White Pear" (below, right) – Coastal and evergreen forest; hardy and adaptable; beautiful red and black pea-sized fruit; evergreen; beautiful honey-coloured wood, highly valued for furniture-making.



Correa alba

Commonly known as ‘white correa’, it is a prostrate to spreading shrub that typically grows to a height of 1.5 m and has rust-coloured, woolly-hairy young stems.

It is a species of shrub that is endemic to south-eastern Australia. It has egg-shaped to more or less circular leaves, which are leathery, elliptic to more or less round, 8–35 mm long. The lower side of the leaves is densely covered with woolly hairs. Erect white flowers are arranged singly or in groups on short side branches, and has green fruit.



Hellebore

They originate from Greece and Turkey. Most are sold as hybrids or cultivars of *Helleborus orientalis*.

This is an evergreen perennial suited to shady parts of the garden. The glossy leaves are attractive and the trees suit them, as they also benefit from good organic matter when falling leaves are left to decompose in the bed. They flower from late autumn to mid-spring. Once established they are hardy and spread through their rooting system. They also self-seed.

Leucojum aestivum

Originating from Europe, and commonly known as Snowflakes or Loddon Lily, these bulbs are easy to grow and make a very pretty show when grouped under trees. They do well in semi-shade to shade. They will develop into a clump if left for a few years. They have bell-shaped blooms with a green dot at the tip of each petal. They are planted in autumn. Each stem has 3 – 5 blooms. After flowering, let the leaves die down naturally until completely yellow.



June Outing to Happy by Nature Nursery

A happy find in the middle of suburbia.

Jimmy was very knowledgeable in all manner of healing with traditional plants, the use of essential oils and the growing of indigenous plants.



Sima, with the white hat, talking to Judi (above), is in charge of the garden where every ‘inch’ is bursting with plants.



Fiona (above) and Angela (left) having a good look at which plants are available to buy.

LIFT CLUB

The Committee has become aware that some of our members may be finding it difficult to get to meetings or attend the outings because of transport issues. This could also be the reason why some members have not renewed their memberships. Perhaps they do not have transport, do not like driving at night or just prefer to go with someone to the Monday meetings or the outings.

We are in the process of organising a list of regular attendees who would be willing to offer lifts. This will be divided into residential areas to make it easier to organise. If you do regularly attend the Monday meetings at the Atheneum and/or regularly go on the outings, please let us know if you would be willing to assist. You will be receiving an e-mail request shortly. Once we have willing drivers, we can find out which members need assistance and create a group on WhatsApp for each area."

Please get back to Glenda with your area of departure and the suburbs you pass through (not taking you out of your way) so she can start offering lifts to those in need.

SOUTH AFRICA'S ROSE-GROWING FAMILY – final

Concluding Ludwig Taschner's Rose History in South Africa.

ECO-CHIC ROSES by *Ludwig Taschner* (ROSA ANNUAL 2016/17)

When the editor requested an article on healthy rose varieties for the future, my immediate response was that we are already in the future! But let's first look at the past.

During the first half of the 20th century (1900 to about 1960) the modern hybrid tea rose varieties carried the stigma of being temperamental and requiring a lot of special gardening care to flourish.

Indeed, these varieties did not have the vigour and stamina to survive tough growing conditions. This had much to do with the way breeders selected new roses. The most important criterion was that the rose had to have a beautifully shaped bloom. Keen rose exhibitors were fiercely competitive and were prepared to go to any length to grow rose plants from which they could pick a champion bloom for the competitive shows. The more difficult it was to grow such varieties the better, because it kept out the normal gardeners. However, such winning varieties received worldwide publicity. So, when one reads complicated, over the top advice on how to grow roses, it stems from those days.

The rose breeding in those days as was mostly done in the moderate climates of Europe and North America and that was also the main market to sell rose plants. Obviously rose plants of these varieties arrived in Southern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and California. They either made it in those climates or not. The market there certainly was not big enough to worry if the rose didn't make it.

The main problem with many varieties of those days was a susceptibility to fungus diseases – Powdery Mildew, Black Spot, Downy Mildew and Rust. Severe infections would lead to defoliation. In Europe this was little more than a nuisance since the roses would only have two flowering cycles before autumn and in spring time they were pruned virtually down to the ground to start growing again from the very base, almost like perennials.

A real change came about with the arrival of 'Peace'. Glossy green foliage, nicely shape large blooms and good vigour. Seventy years later it is still popular and its genes can be found in most modern roses of today. In 1954 the arrival of 'Queen Elizabeth' started to change the perception that roses are too temperamental to grow for leisure. Every rose breeder included this variety in their breeding programme and healthier, more vigorous roses were released onto the market. One will find 'Queen Elizabeth' planted in gardens all those years ago, almost forgotten in some corners of gardens and parks still flourishing.

This was also the era when Floribunda roses made their mark. They were known as Polyantha Hybrids, short broad, very free flowering roses with huge clusters of very small blooms. However, they were easy to grow. 'The Fairy' was the most prominent one that is still very popular. The group name of Floribundas was coined by Gene Boerner, breeder for Jackson & Perkins in the USA. They were hybrids with larger blooms and in the full colour range.

With a move towards organic gardening, accompanied by a reluctance to spray for pests and diseases, the market for garden roses shrunk considerably worldwide. Rose breeders took cognisance of this fact and began to select

varieties firstly for their healthy foliage and good flowering ability and only then looked at flower shape, scent and colour. Messrs W Kordes' & Sons with whom we have had a close working relationship for 40 years, led the way by introducing a Wichuriana hybrid and 'The Fairy' into their breeding. I selected from a huge field of these new hybrids some that could be interesting for us, but found that they would creep some 10 metres over the ground before they flowered. Kordes introduced some these under the name 'Immensee' (a lake of bees) and as 'Grouse' in England. Further crosses with this resulted in our Sunsation® range and it became the base for the famous 'Flower Carpet'. Although made popular in South Africa 'Flower Carpet' grows too strongly and tends to only flower at the tips of the flat growing branches with the centre of the bushes being exposed to our hot sun and subjected to sunburn. Our own selection from the many trial varieties we receive proved to be outstanding in our climate. It includes the Sunsation®, Profusion®, 'The Granny' group, 'Deloitte & Touche', 'Adele Searll' and a few others.

It was already in 1999 that I recognised an astounding deep yellow Grandiflora type rose amongst the trial varieties we had received from Mess Kordes some months before. Yellow roses were known to be 'finicky' and the reason for this is that with the introduction of the colour yellow into European type roses from Persia, the black spot fungus disease came with it. Nevertheless, I could see that this yellow rose had something special and in 2001 for our 30th company jubilee we introduced the above rose under the name 'South Africa'. Now 15 years later it has made its mark as a hyper-performing yellow rose. It has also become a superb ambassador under this name in the USA. A few years later we selected 'Cocolan', 'Winter Sun' and 'Archbishop Tutu' from the Kordes seedlings. They are outstandingly healthy varieties.

Writing about super performing roses one need not go further than 'Iceberg'. This variety has a genetic advantage over other varieties in that it easily sprouts from the old wood and indeed the major woody frame becomes thicker every year, sprouting new flowering shoots from these woody stems. Almost all other varieties of bush roses need to be rejuvenated by winter pruning which cuts out older stems while retaining the last season's canes. This genetic feature only applies in countries with a warm winter climate. When it is frosted down to the ground this feature is lost and Iceberg is just another rose. We do not neglect this knowledge in our own breeding programme.

In the USA an amateur hybridiser created a new rose that was then marketed as 'Knock Out'. It is grown by the millions in the USA, but again it is not superb in all climates. In South Africa it excels in Durban and the Midlands but not in the hot dry Inland regions. However the genes of this rose have been quickly introduced into the breeding programmes of other breeders as has happened with 'Peace', 'The Queen Elizabeth Rose', 'The Fairy', 'Immensee' and others.

From the rose breeder Delbard we trialled and released 'Arctic Ice' and 'Gülilah'. Both grow into formidable shrubs, bearing large fully petalled blooms with a very special sweet fragrance. The leaves are glossy and disease resistant. 'Fragonard', 'Pink Surprise', 'Never Ending Story', 'Remember Me' are the first off-springs.

Rose breeder Harkness gave us the Climbing Hybrid Tea 'Compassion', with super healthy, shapely, very fragrant blooms that appear all season long. 'Heart Throb' is one of the off-spring and this is bound to be a superb parent for novelties in our climate. The more recent Harkness variety that requires no spraying and just keeps on performing is 'Easy Does It'.

From Poulsen's in Denmark we received 'My Granny' from which we have found two mutations 'Granny's Delight' and 'Granny Dearest'.

Over the years we found that superbly performing varieties in our trials just did not conform to the expectations of the traditional classes or groups. In line with modern marketing we grouped extremely high growing varieties with a neat upright habit and hybrid tea shaped blooms as Spire® roses and others with a broad overhanging growth habit carrying clusters of large full blooms as Panarosa® roses. They are free standing or can be used as short climbers. These roses are obviously very vigorous and the root system is comparable with the huge foliage canopy or the other way around. In the Floribunda range we have introduced an Ayoba® range. Again these varieties are not troubled by fungus diseases.

The next step for our climate is to create broadly growing bushes that produce straight stems with blooms of the admired qualities in shape, colour and scent such as 'Double Delight', 'Just Joey' and 'Germiston Gold'.

My observation and statements above are made for warm climates. Many of our super tough varieties are not frost hardy. One needs to understand that the few months of growth in northern climates does not suffice for the new stems to mature into proper woody branches that are able to withstand severe frost. However, in Europe too, the

modern varieties are also pretty carefree, much tougher and more vigorous than the older hybrid teas. Here again these are not compatible with our long growing period. After carrying out a normal winter pruning they will flower well in October, but watch out for the subsequent flowering flushes. They easily reach between 3m to 5m in height. This is also the case with many of the David Austin varieties. The pre-printed labels show them to grow to knee height when indeed they turn into climbers with us.

One should not forget the creation of 'Baby Love' and several others by the Amateur Rose Breeders in the UK. 'Baby Love' too is a smallish shrub with open yellow blooms and completely resistant to Black Spot. We released this variety as well as 'Playmate' and subsequent varieties from Colin Horner who are all superbly healthy, 'Lyndal Dawn', 'Scarlet Midinette', 'Starry Eyed', 'Happy Home' 'Mushe Kirsh'.

There are obviously other good healthy new varieties by other breeders, of which I am not very familiar with.

From the above it becomes clear that the troubling fungus diseases can be kept under natural control by selecting the correct varieties.

However, I have no idea how to create new varieties that will remain free of insect pests without spraying or waving a magic wand. Thrips, aphids, beetles, spider mites are attracted by healthy leaves or flowers for a good meal.

Ludwig's Insect Spray or an Organicide (canola oil mixed with garlic juice) is non-toxic and a fair repellent. Koinor as a drench keeps small insects away for months after one application. It is non-toxic to mammals.

Roses need to keep growing, making new stems and leaves to be able to keep on flowering. For this they require a continuous availability of nutrients. By mixing Ludwig's Vigo-Longer once in winter or early spring into the soil around the bushes, all possible macro and micro elements become available over a full season.

Kind Regards, / Vriendelike Groete,



Ludwig Taschner

THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

The Glory of the Garden
by Rudyard Kipling

*Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and
avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the
eye.*

*For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red
wall,
You find the tool and potting sheds which are the heart
of all;
The cold frames and the hot houses, the dung pits and
the tanks,
The rollers, carts and drain pipes, with the barrows and
the planks.*

The Glory of the Garden (adapted)
by Geoff le Pard (TanGental)

"From time to time I like to ruin one of the Nation's favourite poems, as voted some years ago in a BBC poll. This time I have been musing on the hottest ever February. In doing so, I have taken an axe to Rudyard Kipling's fabulous poem."

*Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Though you'd really have to wonder if you listened to the
news.
The anchors turn you icy with all their talk of wars
While sneery politicians debate like old pub bores.*

*And there you'll see the gardeners, the man and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.*

*And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.*

*Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing: - 'Oh, how beautiful!' and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel paths with broken dinner knives.*

*There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.*

*Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.*

*Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!*

*But while they focus their trite ire on running down the clock
The world that matters to us all is preparing its own shock.
It's fed up with the disregard with which we've treated it
And soon enough will prove to us we've not defeated it.*

*With little thought for others we have wasted nature's gift
And made a virtue out of spending when sense demanded thrift
Consumption of resources has become our default state
And while we try and change our habits it may be far too late.*

*The icecaps are receding as the desert centre grows
And winter months seem like June with little chance of snow.
And all the time that the chatterati's attention is elsewhere
Our hopes of changing course are as doomed as the polar bear.*

*So enjoy those simple pleasures in England's pleasant garden
Before nature's patience ends and her heart begins to harden.
For it's not beyond imagining that soon will come the day
When the Glory of England's Garden shall finally pass away.*

Original poem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fwl9mzS3-jY>. [Well worth watching.]

TanGental's version: <https://geofflepard.com/2019/03/05/the-glory-of-the-garden-wither-goes-it-poem-rudyardkipling/> – “the images are from my garden over the last few, rather extraordinary days....”. [Lovely photos.]

Submitted by Shelley Brown

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...

... to which 'Friends of ...' group are you affiliated? The Committee is wanting to increase our database for publicising our meetings each month. We know there are many of these groups around the Peninsula that are 'garden-related', but do not know all of them and don't have contact details. So far we have Friends of the Arderne Gardens, Friends of Rondebosch Common. If you have the names and contact details, please let Glenda know.

Interesting links submitted by Jenny:

[\(9\) David Attenborough for the Nobel Prize | The Baobab or reniala is a prehistoric species dating back to over 200 million years ago | Facebook](#)

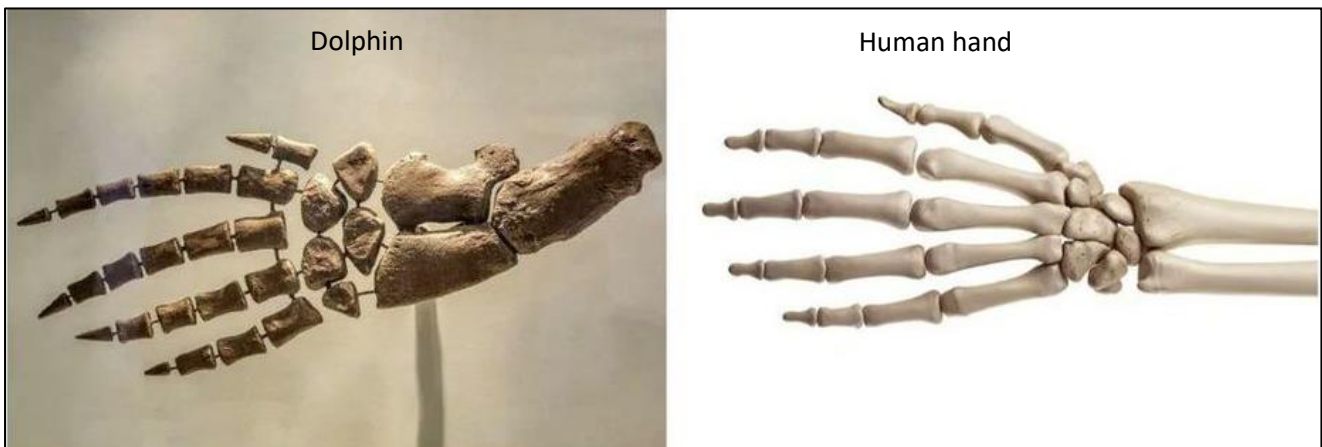
[\(9\) Really Rare Plants | Posted by Michael Shea. | Facebook](#)

Submitted by Cherise:

Babylonstoren's Healing Garden with Gundula Deutschlander

https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=npkAtluCb2uYxy_F&v=wM5KHxkzggc&feature=youtu.be

Take a look at these similarities:



Photos: You Tube, A and G Thorpe