



123 YEARS

CHS NEWS

April 2026

From the earth we were formed,
To the earth we return,
And in between, we garden.

The Seasons of Life (Nelson Eddy)

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NEXT MEETING

Monday, 4 May 2026 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

Notice is given of the 121st AGM of the CHS to be held on Monday, 4 May 2026 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum, Campground Road, Newlands

Agenda

1. Signing the Register
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM held on 5 May 2025
3. Chairperson's Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Approval of Amendments of the CHS Rules
6. Appointment of Accounting Officer
7. Election of President
8. Election of Committee
9. Election of Honorary Member
10. General

Kathy and Jill will follow the proceedings with a 🎯 fun 😊 quiz.

The quiz will include a wide range of plant-themed questions. You will be put into groups, so there's no need to stress 😬 about doing it on your own. Come and have some fun.

NEXT OUTING

As Anne organised two outings in April, and the Plant Sale is in May, the next outing will take place in June.

WELCOME TO ...

... Shelagh Gibberd, Heather Harrington, Donatella le Roux and Bradley Croukamp. We hope that their time with the CHS will bring them as much pleasure as it does to the rest of our members.

FROM THE SALE COMMITTEE

When you receive this newsletter, there will be two weeks to go before the Plant Sale on Sunday 3rd May. Just enough time for a last reminder to -

- volunteer some of your time on either the Friday, Saturday or Sunday – or all three days;
- drop off your beautifully grown plants on Friday 1st (all day) and Saturday morning (until noon);

President Marianne Alexander | **Chairlady** Cherise Viljoen | **Hon Treasurer** Isabella Hayden | **Hon Secretary** Glenda Thorpe
Committee Members Susan Armstrong, Chris Wren-Sargent, Anne Gleeson, Belinda du Rand, Lisa Otto, Joy Currie
Honorary Members Marianne Alexander, Mary Smith, Adam Harrower, Bill Elder, Ernst van Jaarsveld
22 Rustenburg, Pinelands | 021-531-5713 | info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za | <https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za>

- drop off sturdy boxes in which buyers can carry their purchases;
- drop off clean yoghurt tubs, or even better, strips cut from yoghurt tubs for labels;
- drop off items to be sold at the "Gardenphernalia" stall;
- donate something for the Raffle prize;
- let us know if you can lend us extra fold-up chairs and tables suitable for outdoor use and, if possible, tablecloths too;
- bring tasty treats for the tea garden to sell with the teas and coffees; and ...

... we'd love to see lots of CHS members and friends at the sale on Sunday – between 09:00 and 13:00!

All the above items, other than the eats, must please be delivered on the Friday or the Saturday – not the Sunday! The address for this event is the home of our member, Bernice Mallet. Her property is called "Pols Acre" and it's 22 Ladies Mile Extension. This is the road between the Constantia Emporium and Christ Church. Travelling from the circle, you will pass two roads going off to the left (Sohland Avenue and Roderick Way). Bernice's property is the second one, also on the left, after Roderick Way. Take care on this busy road.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subscription renewals have been coming in, but there are still a few outstanding. This is a reminder that you will be removed from the membership list come 4 May, unless you have paid your subs. That means no more newsletters for you. 🎉

Here are our banking details:

Name: Cape Horticultural Society

Bank: Standard, Blue Route

Code: 02560920

Acc: 072030321

Please use your surname as a reference and e-mail proof of payment.

REPORT BACK

April Plant Table

(Below, left) Japanese *Anemone*, Ranunculaceae family: a species of flowering plant, native to Asia; flowers from late summer into autumn; adds a lovely touch to shaded areas; up to 90 – 120cm tall; rhizome-like root structure; loves humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil.

Plectranthus (Spur Flower) *ciliatus* "Mona Lavender"

Plectranthus glabratus madagascariensis

Ocimum basilicum "Italian Basil"

Ocimum tenuiflorum – Thai Holy Basil "Tulsi"

Amaranthus viridis "Green Amaranth" – a vegetable

(Centre and Right) *Syngonium auritum* – growing on a 1m high mosspole; main part of the leaf is 30cm.



Outing to Linda Pollard in Constantia

Our Outings Co-ordinator has this to say about Linda's garden:

Our outing to Linda's was ideal for a hot autumn day as we had lots of lovely filtered shady areas to see. Stepping through the front gate, we were greeted with various staghorn ferns attached to a large tree in her courtyard. Shady streptocarpus, delicate geraniums, oxalis, fuchsias and anthuriums grace this dappled shady spot with a delicate plectranthus growing up a trellis. Linda spent time explaining how the garden evolved over time and explained how the stream was installed by her husband who is handy with these projects. Otherwise he loves to keep the lawn in good nick. Linda has a number of moon flowers including some she grew from cuttings brought from her overseas travels. Various shades of Barleria flourish along with plectranthus putting on an autumn show. She has several statues featured around the garden. Her propagating area is in a dappled shaded area. She has had her wooden planter boxes built to be twice the size of the standard type. Here she propagates and has suitable spaces for making her own compost using leaves and kitchen waste. We enjoyed a delicious tea on her verandah overlooking a Duranta full of golden autumn berries.



Outing to Hart Nursery in Ottery

Pam Hart gave us a very interesting talk on how and what to plant in our respective planting zones.

Cape Town and the surrounding Western Cape region are primarily classified under a Mediterranean climate (winter rainfall, hot dry summers) and correspond roughly to USDA Hardiness Zone 10a (-1.1°C to 1.7°C), making it nearly frost-free, with only light frost in specific inland pockets.

Horticultural guides generally divide the Cape Peninsula into specific planting zones based on wind exposure, soil type, and moisture levels, rather than just temperature.

1. **Coastal Zone:** (Gordon's Bay to Simon's Town and Hout Bay)

- Conditions: Harsh south-easterly winds; sandy soil lacking organic material; salt air.
- Planting Advice: Focus on indigenous coastal plants, fynbos, and succulents that can handle salt and wind; high soil maintenance (adding organic material) is required.

2. **Coastal Zone:** West Coast (Llandudno to Melkbosstrand)

- Conditions: Harsh north-westerly winds (bring winter rain); sandy soil; high salt spray
- Planting Advice: Similar to the East Coast; native indigenous, and salt-tolerant succulents thrive here; sheltered spots are necessary for less hardy plants.

3. **Cape Flats** (Marsh/Lowland Zone)

- Conditions: High water table in winter (previously marshland); very sandy; high wind exposure; poor soil for fruit trees.
- Planting Advice: Best for vegetable gardening and specific fynbos.; Proteas and Ericas do not thrive in these damp, sandy marsh areas.

Key horticultural tips for Cape Town:

- Water-wise: due to low rainfall in summer, focusing on indigenous Fynbos (Proteas, Restios, ericaceous fynbos) is recommended.
- Wind protection: use hardy pioneer species like Bietou (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) and Blombos (*Metalasia muricata*) to create windbreaks.
- Soil amendment: Cape soil is often sandy; organic matter must be added regularly.

4. **Boland** (Durbanville, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Somerset West)

- Conditions: High water table in winter (previously marshland); very sandy; high wind exposure; poor soil for fruit trees.
- Planting Advice: Best for vegetable gardening and specific fynbos.; Proteas and Ericas do not thrive in these damp, sandy marsh areas.

5. **Mountain/Suburban** (Ceres and Grabouw)

- Conditions: High rainfall; very cold in winter; good for fruit farming.
- Planting Advice: Suitable for fruit trees (apples, pears, nectarines) that need cold to thrive.

To find out more about xeriscaping, follow this link: <https://www.hartnursery.co.za/cp/31236/xericafe>





AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...

Here are the details of our upcoming Plant Sale in May. Please share this with your family and friends.

You will find a list (Page 1) of everything that is still required to make a huge success of this sale. Thank you to those who have already volunteered their time.

A few people are needed to help on the Friday and Saturday with the 'traffic' onto and off the property. There will be a 'drop off and go' system for delivering plants. If you've had a yearning to be a real traffic cop, here's your chance.

Also, if you're good at selling 'ice to eskimos', please consider doing an hour or two on the Gardenphernalia stand.

Help is also required to promote the CHS to the public – handing out flyers, enrolling new members etc.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Contact Chris on 060-402-2089.

We hope to see you sometime between the 1st and the 3rd.



WHAT IS THIS?

Do these look familiar to you? Send Glenda your answers and you'll find out how correct you are in the May newsletter.



Only one member identified one of last month's photos. Here are the correct answers:



Sansevieria inflorescence



Breynia disticha 'Roseo-picta' (Ice-cream bush)



Photos: A Gleeson, B du Rand, A and G Thorpe

Any and all photos taken at CHS events may be used in the newsletter and on social media.