
Your mind is a flower; your thoughts are the seeds; the
harvest can either be flowers or seeds. *Wordsworth*

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6 July 2026 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

DO YOU SUFFER FROM ARACHNOPHOBIA?

Norman Larsen, Honorary Associate Arachnologist at the Iziko Museum and photographer and author of their Biodiversity Arachnid website, will tell us more about this creepy-crawly subject. Come and hear what he has to say, and marvel at his amazing photographs.



Salticidae *Thyene inflata* (not the fly)



Theridiidae genus

This will be followed by another **SEASONAL RAFFLE**. If you have anything garden-related you would like to donate as a prize, please bring it along to the meeting. R10 raffle tickets can be paid for in cash or by card.

NEXT OUTING

Sun, 26 July at 11:30: A walk around Rondebosch Common with Clive McDowell. Limited to 25. Please RSVP to Glenda by 22 July.

Proposed outings:

September: View the Clivias and Hoyas in two members' gardens.

October: Visit Heart and Soil

Further details will follow.

President Marianne Alexander | **Hon Treasurer** Joy Currie | **Hon Secretary** Glenda Thorpe
Committee Members Susan Armstrong, Chris Wren-Sargent, Anne Gleeson, Belinda du Rand, Lisa Otto, Barbara Patton
Honorary Members Marianne Alexander, Mary Smith, Adam Harrower, Bill Elder
Ernst van Jaarsveld, Pam Hart, Jenny Scarr, Glenda Thorpe
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WELCOME TO ...

... Geert Sprangers, Mary van Blommestein, Jeannine Viljoen, Lloyd Stuurman, Bovain Macnab and Michelle Potter who have joined us this month.

We wish them all a time of happy gardening with the CHS, learning from experienced members and enjoying the various activities.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

With the Plant Sale having moved into past tense, the Committee is not going to slide into that sheepskin-slipped-hot chocolate-hibernation mode so popular among many Cape plants and some Capetonians. No, not at all ...

We are now picking up the reins on a number of matters that need attention. Such as:

- 1 As mentioned at the AGM, we are looking at a Special General Meeting later this year to address changes to our Rules. Two sub-committees are considering various changes, essentially to modernise our rules and make them fit for 2026. Once we have done our side of things, we will approach all members well before the SGM to show what our thinking is and allow further thought to occur before we vote on the proposals.
- 2 The Committee has asked the Athenaeum to look into improved lighting at both walkways leading to and from the parking lot. The Athenaeum is also looking to improve safety on the outdoor stairs at the edge of the garden by installing a handrail. We have indicated our willingness to contribute to these improvements, and our thanks go to the Athenaeum Board for responding favourably towards these initiatives.
- 3 Friends of Wynberg Park approached the CHS for assistance in a tree-labelling project, and we have indicated our support. Two committee members will attend their monthly meeting on 25 June to offer help.

This is another of the many successful partnerships between CoCT and local residents to 'reclaim' public areas and keep them in a good condition. Two major successes are Friends of Silvermine down south, and the GRAPA – the Gabriel Road project which is selling produce weekly, and expanding its footprint with a fynbos garden. Both of these projects are really worth visiting.

If any CHS member would like to take part in the Wynberg Park project, please contact Jane Yeats, Anne Gleeson or Chris Wren-Sargent.

- 4 There have been a number of changes to the Committee over the last few months, so let us try to bring you up to speed on recent developments:

Isabella Hayden resigned from the Committee after many years of selfless service, most recently as Treasurer. We thank her for her many and varied contributions to the CHS and wish her all the best for the future.

Joy Currie has recently agreed to take on the task of Treasurer, for which we are genuinely grateful. Her background in accounting will be most helpful to the CHS.

Glenda Thorpe continues as Honorary Secretary at present, but she has indicated that she would like to begin to relinquish some of her responsibilities with a view to stepping down in the next 12 months. We are keen to find members who can begin to take on some of her many duties now, so that the eventual changeover is planned and gradual.

Chris Wren-Sargent has also indicated a desire to step down from the Committee later this year.

A special word of welcome to Barbara Patton, elected onto the Committee at the AGM.

As we have not been able to find a chairperson who has both sufficient expertise, capacity and time to devote to running the CHS, we are running the CHS by committee, without a chairperson or vice-chairperson. Our monthly meetings will be chaired by various members of the Committee until we are able to resolve this difficult matter.

If any member feels that he or she could assist the committee in its work, please speak to any one of us and we will listen carefully!

- 5 And lastly, the committee has discussed (at length) how we could encourage the wearing of name badges at meetings and outings. We considered a range of options from both ends of the spectrum: rewards or fines for those wearing their badges – or not. And without fail we could not settle on a practical and pleasant way to do the job. We have decided to stick with reminders, and the regular thanking of those who are wearing their badges.

REPORT-BACK

June Exhibit Table

Pelargonium – 3 species

Kalanchoe beharensis “Donkey’s ears” from Madagascar – very tough; survives with minimum fuss on a pavement

Euryops

Aechmea caudata – thrives on neglect

White Rosemary

Strobilanthes hamiltonia “Chinese Rain Bell” – An evergreen shrub, native to subtropical Himalayan regions; attractive leaves and sprays of tubular pink flowers; blooms during autumn through winter; does well in semi-shade; very easy to propagate; grows to 1.5m; useful to plant at the back of beds.

Viola odorata – rampant in my garden; spreads by surface roots

Justicia (Jacobinia) carnea “Plume flower” – native to South America; a smallish evergreen shrub growing 1.2 to 1.5m tall; happy in shade/semi-shade; rewarding because of the regular flowering in summer into autumn; needs regular dead-heading to encourage new flowers.

Liriopogon berries – confusion as to whether this is Liriope or Ophiopogon.

Lobularia – a perennial



L to R: *Kalanchoe beharensis*; *Aechmea caudata*; Rosemary; *Strobilanthes hamiltonia*



L to R: *Justicia carnea*; *Euryops*; *Liriopogon*

Outing to Coastal Park Materials Recovery Facility in Muizenberg

We visited this facility not knowing what to expect, but we came away feeling informed and even more fired up than before, ready to recycle anything that should not find its way to a landfill site.



Top row : The truck offloading bags of recyclable materials collected from around the Peninsula; the bags' contents that will be sorted.

Above: That pile arrives on the conveyor belt where workers, on each side, each remove their specific items. These are put into bags or dropped down a chute into big metal bins; a bin full of cardboard.

Below: The bins underneath the conveyor belt collect certain products and the large white bags hold other sorted items; the items left over after sorting will go to the landfill.





The hand-sorted material, sent to the bins or the bags, is put into the baling machine, compressed and tied up.

Do you recognize any of these items?

Left: Belita next to the bales of cereal, biscuit boxes, and the like.

Right: Milk cartons.



Left: Bales of tins and cool drink cans.

Right: Chip and sweet packets.

Below: Chris with bales of plastic bags; bales of polystyrene trays.



Maurice van Blommestein, the Plant Engineer at the Materials Recovery Facility, was our Guide, assisted by 2 Supervisors. We first had a full safety briefing. Then we were kitted out with visibility vests, before going down to the processing floor.

Maurice explained that the plant – which is a series of raised conveyor belts – was built by a company from Paarl. The conveyor belts are currently running at the slowest speed, but they still have a huge amount of rework which was not sorted, and has been left to one side for a slow day.

Currently, they process about 25 tons a day. The system is, however, designed to process 75 tons a day and employ 160 people. Staff quota is currently 60.

The plant started operating in November last year and was officially opened in March 2026. It is run by a contractor who is also responsible for finding a market for all the sorted recycling.

This system is an incentive for the contractor to find a market. Some new info for me: broken glass is accepted (just package it separately and clearly), tetrapaks are recycled, and chip packets are baled and have a market! The brown and green 1.5/2 litre cooldrink bottles are sorted separately as the green bottles are sold to the manufacturers who make green 'plastic wood'. Likewise the brown bottles are used for the brown plastic picnic table and chairs as well as other items.

After the tour two of us went round to the back to the 'shop'. There is an open area where locals can go through clothes and select what they can sell. There are locked bins where sellable stuff is stored. I found 3 terracotta trays which I bought for R10. There was a perfectly usable coffee table in one of the locked bins!

The visit was amazingly informative and educational. I worked with ZeroToLandfill in Mowbray for 2 years – but learnt a whole lot more during this visit about what can be recycled!

Sue Kingma



The group of members and three visitors, pictured here with the two supervisors, Eddie and Dumi, found the whole process very fascinating. It was good to know that the majority of the recycled waste from our homes is being put to good use and not being dumped on the landfills or being blown into the sea.

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST



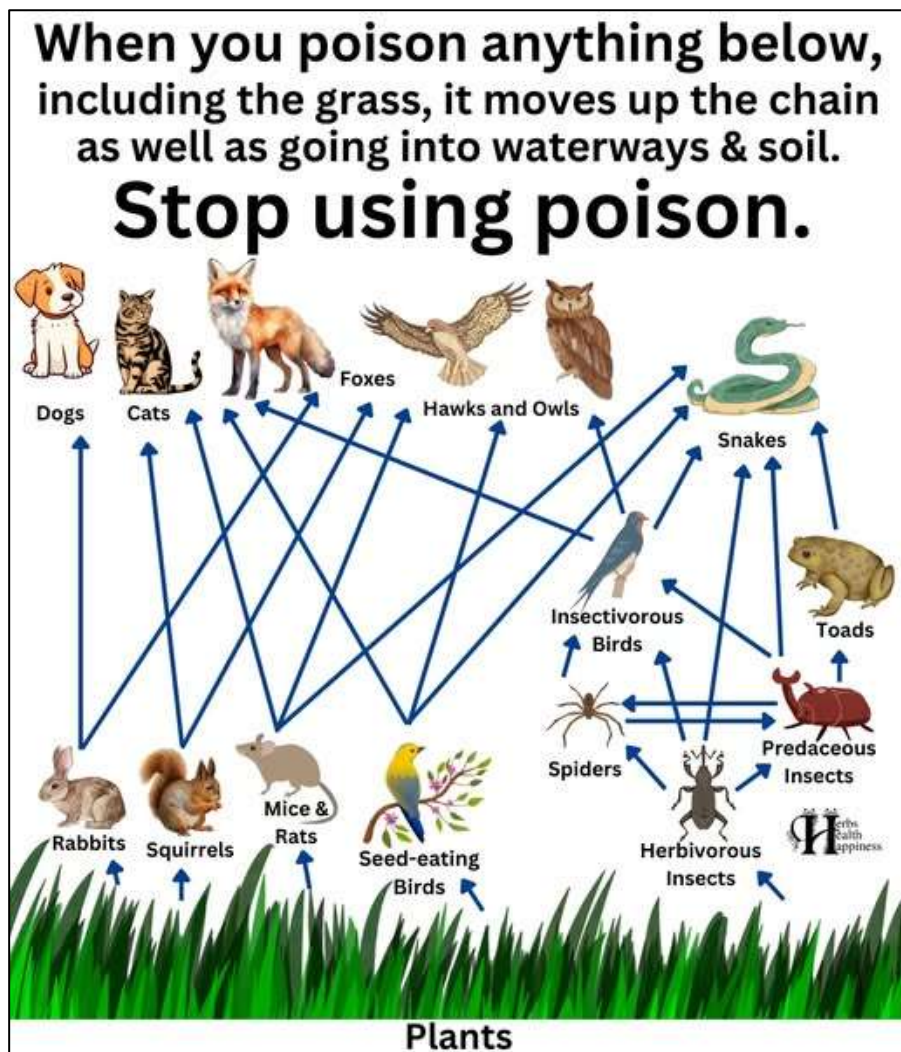
Jenny Liedtke sent this message while having fun in Europe:

"I am currently on leave overseas and actually managed to visit the Chelsea Flower Show, which was absolutely amazing! And next week I am going to the Netherlands for the flower trials where they show all new varieties and so on that are available on the market; it sounds really great!"

I also received the great news today that I am Young Grower of the Year, I have attached the photo of the award.

So, all in all, I am very well, but it has been a lot and very busy."

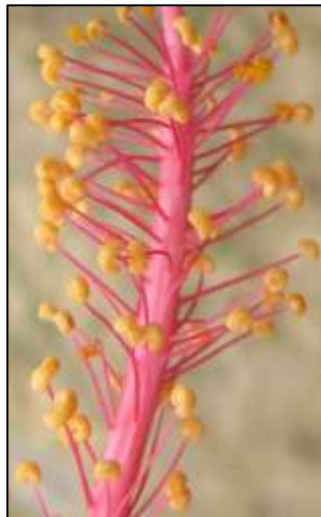
Congratulations!



WHAT IS THIS?

How recognizable are these two on the left? Send Glenda your answer and you'll find out how correct you are in the July newsletter.

Here are the names of last month's close-ups:



Possibly *Hibiscus*
"Psyche"→



The process from beginning to end of a pine cone, once a squirrel has nibbled and had his fill.

Photos: N Larsen, S Kingma, M van Blommestein, J Liedtke, A and G Thorpe
Any and all photos taken at CHS events may be used in the newsletter and on social media.