

HANGKLIP BOTANICAL SOCIETY (NPC)

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER NO. 6

Dear Members of the Hangklip Botanical Society:

1. INTRODUCTION

September is going to be a very full month for your Society and there are lots of exciting things happening, more about that later in this newsletter.

Probably the most exciting news is that Carte Blanche visited the Hangklip Region on 31st August and 1st September to interview members of the Hangklip Hardcore Hackers and leaders of this initiative as well and also to discuss our co-operation with the Sugarbird Foundation. It is great that they wanted to film the hackers at work and interview a number of the hackers and leaders, to get a better understanding of how the Hangklip Hardcore Hackers and the other Hacking groups go to work and the collaboration with the Sugarbird Foundation. A number of the Carte Blanche team remarked how good it was to film something positive for a change and they really enjoyed their visit. Chris and his team are not sure what the end product of all these interviews and filming will turnout to be in the end but we have approximately two weeks of waiting to see and hear. It will be screened on Carte Blanche on DSTV Channel 101 on Sunday night sometime after 19h00. We are not sure which Sunday it will be screened but according to Chris, more than likely either the 20th or 27th September 2026. As soon as we have an exact date, we will inform the members of the Hangklip Botanical Society when the programme will be aired.

2. HAROLD PORTER NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Viv von der Heyden and Jenny Pattinson continue to do, with the aid of a merry bunch of volunteers, sterling work in the gardens.

The number of volunteers reporting to help do maintenance work in the gardens is increasing weekly and we thank all the new recruits for volunteering for this very important contribution to the maintenance of the beautiful Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens.

See notes later in these minutes re the meeting with Bernie Carolus, the Manager of the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens.

I am very pleased to say that one of the positives that came out of this meeting is that we are now able to donate specific plants to the gardens to plant up all

the bare areas that have been cleaned of weeds etc. The first thirty-four plants were donated at the end of August (*Phyllica ericoides* and *Selago corymbosa*)

As a small start, the Hangklip Botanical Society will be donating approximately 40 plants per month to the gardens to plant up these areas (+/- R3000 worth). Some months could be 80 plants and other months nothing but in total we hope to donate up to R18 000 worth of plants annually to the gardens to be able to plant up their garden. I see this as a very positive step and is enthusiastically welcomed by the Friends of the Harold Porter Gardens.

Tim and I met in the middle of August with Bernie Carolus, the manager of the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens with the aim to try and improve the relationship between Hangklip Botanical Society and HBNG and I believe it was a very positive meeting and the following was agreed:

- We would meet monthly with the Manager of the HBNG and at that meeting, Viv von der Heyden representing the Friends of the Harold Porter Gardens and Paddy Dall representing Harold Porter Book and Craft Shop would also be in attendance, to discuss mutual matters of interest.
- We would explore ways in which the Friends of the Harold Porter Gardens and the three hacking groups could assist in maintaining the gardens.
- The Hangklip Botanical Society has set aside a budget to assist with urgent funding requests from HPNG such as machinery maintenance, storm damage repairs etc.
- Plant potting material etc. etc.
- The HBNG would submit a wish list, and this would be discussed monthly and if funds permitted, Hangklip Botanical Society would assist in funding these items.
- For August the items funded were:
 - ✓ Repairs to the Raw Sewerage and Grey Water Installation next to the Education Training Centre and this installation was no longer functional. Initial repairs just to get it working cost approximately R22 000 and this was funded by Hangklip Botanical Society.
 - ✓ Supply of Anti-Vibration gloves for those working with heavy machinery.
 - ✓ Cement for fixing up the path to the Disa Waterfall.
 - ✓ We are in the process of procuring potting soil for the propagation of cuttings.
 - ✓ There were other items on the wish list that we could not fund at this stage, but we will look into, possible funding in the future.

- ✓ The manager assured us that money had now been allocated to rebuild the propagation hut, but this would probably only happen in 2028 because we still had to go through planning, environmental impact studies etc., and then it has to go out to tender. We do believe we are making progress.

3. NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Special General Meeting and the AGM of the National Botanical Society has come and gone, and I believe both were successful events.

- The Special General Meeting: The establishment of the National Botanical Society of South Africa (Non-Profit Company) was approved, and this will now be actioned. The terms of reference for Internal Membership and the Memorandum of Understanding for External Membership were also approved by the Special General Meeting. The Hangklip Botanical Society is the only branch that has formally been accepted as an External Member, and the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the National Botanical Society.

The only other possible external member is Kirstenbosch, but they are still weighing up their options and have not decided if they will become an External Member or an Internal Member. See notes in previous newsletters defining what the difference is between an External Branch and an Internal Branch is.

- National Botanical Society AGM was a successful event, and all the reports were well presented and the challenges facing the National Botanical Society were well aired.
- The past year, a great effort has been put in to try and focus the activities of National BotSoc on Conservation Projects and a great deal of good work in this area has been done.

There has been a drive to increase membership, but this is proving to be very difficult. I think it is generally accepted that member-funded societies are no longer viable, and the other sources of financing are required to make any society or association viable.

National has spent a great deal of effort in trying to improve the income of the National Botanical Society through Fund Raising but the fund-raising climate is very tough in South Africa, especially raising funds for administration and working funds of the society is very difficult. It is

easier to raise money for projects than for the running of the Society. In my own humble opinion this is the biggest challenge facing the Botanical Society of South Africa. For the loss recorded this year was R468 006. Actual loss was R4 271 941.00 reduced to R468 006 after a fair value adjustment of investments.

We all believe that we need a National Botanical Society of South Africa striving to conserve the Flora of South Africa and we all believe that we need a strong financially viable Society and unfortunately unless there can be a dramatic turnaround in fund raising results the structure and the format of National will have to be relooked at as losses of between R1m to R4m per annum on a continuous basis is just not sustainable.

Chairman: As per the previous newsletter, Hedwig Slabig is the new Chairman of the National Botanical Society of South Africa. Congratulations and best wishes from the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) to Hedwig Slabig.

Treasurer: The new Treasurer is Bradley Bergh who is well known to us and has helped the Kogelberg/Hangklip Botanical Society greatly over the years and we congratulate Bradley on his appointment as Treasurer.

Ordinary Council Members are as follows:

Michael Brunke
Beneke de Wet
Nicole Loebenberg
Rob Soutter
Frank Webb

We wish the new council everything the best for next year.

4. HANGKLIP BOTANICAL SOCIETY (NPC) TRADING AS THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) trading as the Kogelberg Branch of the National Botanical Society of South Africa will be having its AGM on Saturday 19th September 2026 at 18h00 in the Nivenia Hall, Harold Porter National Gardens. The AGM will be held just before the monthly talk which will follow immediately after the AGM.

Notice of the AGM has been circulated to all Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) Members and we ask that you please support the AGM as at the very least we need a quorum.

This will be a very significant AGM as Tim Attwell has indicated that he would like to stand down as Chairman of the Management Committee. Tim has given invaluable service to the Kogelberg Branch and of late the Hangklip Botanical Society, over years and we are deeply indebted to what he has contributed to the wellbeing of a very vibrant strong and active Society. Tim from all of us a big, big thank you for all you have done for the Society over the years.

As per the Constitution, twelve management committee members will be elected at the AGM and these twelve members will then select the Chairman at the very first meeting of the management committee.

As per the constitution, the management committee is there to make sure the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) operates efficiently and as per the constitution. The Board of the Hangklip Botanical Society consists of: Peter Dall; Rob Boyd and Chris Geldenhuys, they are the nominated board members as required by the CIPC when registering for a NPC (Non-Profit Company) but all the work and all the activities are managed by the management committee, which will be elected at the AGM.

5. WEATHER

The dry weather continues with only 33mm of rain recorded in August against the average of 143mm in August (23% of the normal rainfall).

I have no doubt that we are going to have a Super El Nino phenomenon this coming summer which means it is going to be a very hot and dry summer and we have to brace ourselves for it.

Betty's Bay Rainfall 2015 to 2026

Harold Porter National Garden

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Average
Jan	42	74	77	47	45	93	17	7	54	24	33	53	47
Feb	28	23	18	54	27	38	30	19	85	31	24	191	34
Mar	28	132	23	62	119	13	187	41	173	34	43	48	78
Apr	14	71	26	88	34	51	12	32	68	137	27	164	51
May	56	35	6	90	71	67	263	90	263	31	153	193	102
Jun	134	167	119	157	104	161	213	212	277	133	202	157	171
Jul	246	144	110	84	195	168	211	91	126	391	195	21	178
Aug	134	110	148	188	67	196	193	119	89	219	111	33	143
Sep	29	104	51	113	140	100	33	44	232	71	61		92
Oct	71	33	72	28	12	84	124	14	65	30	28		53
Nov	45	12	140	59	61	127	69	25	38	38	7		61
Dec	18	32	10	21	61	39	125	89	34	26	29		46
Annual Total	845	937	800	991	936	1137	1477	783	1504	1165	913	860	1058
*To Date													

6. HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

August sales were reasonable, not great 24% up on the previous year. We hope the plant sales planned for the Heritage Day weekend on 26th September will boost turnover for September greatly.

The following three book launches are planned for September, October and November:

- **Guide to the Cederberg: Saturday 26th September at 10h30 for 11h00 in the Educational Center at the Harold Porter Gardens**
We are very fortunate to have David Bristow present his hot of the press Guide to the Cederberg. This book contains information re the top trails, places to stay and things to do and 8 touring maps and routes.

Come early to ensure your seat as we are sure that this will be a very popular launch.

- **Life at Grootbos Nature Reserve and the Walker Bay Region. A field guidebook** by Sean Privett, Paula Strauss, Rebecca Dames, Mike Fabricius. The launch will be on the second or third Saturday in October and the date will be confirmed soon.

- **Kruger Speaks:** Helena Kriel and Don Pinnock. A unique portrait of Kruger conveyed through the voices of those who live and work there and through the environment itself. Supported by beautiful photography and lyrical vignettes that trace a south to north journey through the park. Interweaves human stories with features on the park diverse wildlife. Explores thorny issues such as poaching, the growing elephant population and park community relations. This book will be launched second or third Saturday in November.

These are exciting book launches to look forward to.

Come and explore the shop and there are a host of new products in store, and we do believe the variety and quality we have on offer is well worth seeing.

7. FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

Nothing to add to what was said earlier in this newsletter.

The next gardening session will be:

Thursday 17th September 2026 at 08h30 ably led by Viv vd Heyden

Please note the winter starting time.

The next Tuesday gardening session will be:

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 08h30 ably led by Jenny Pattinson.

8. KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

Galia Manicom reported that the August visit to Lee Ann Becker's garden in Rooiels was a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Ebrahim Hull's contribution was greatly appreciated as well as Cape Agricultural Products for coming all the way to Rooiels to demonstrate gardening products that they have available for sale in Somerset West.

The garden circle has a very full programme this September:

- **Tuesday 15th September 2026:** The garden circle will be visiting the Chelsea Flowers in Stanford exhibition where the exhibition will be proudly celebrating South African Wild Fynbos Landscapes, and the theme of this year's show is "Life after fire". Please contact Galia Manicom if you intend joining the garden circle on this visit to Stanford.
- **The Kogelberg Garden Circle Meeting Friday 18th September 2026 at 10h00** at Huis Stormvogel, 18 Constantia Street, Welgelegen, Stellenbosch situated on the Somerset West side of Stellenbosch but right on the edge of Stellenbosch town.

Our hosts, William Raats and David Mostert.

William is already known to us when he showcased his landscaping skills in the March and June Gardens.

With a milder Stellenbosch climate, we will see Clivias now in full bloom under tall trees (real trees not our short windblown versions). More than 25 species of Cycads, countless species of Aloes and Bulbs all interplanted with Fynbos.

Also, will be treated to scones and tea, while we enjoy the lush surroundings.

Getting there: Galia is organizing a carpool e.g.

- ✓ Kleinmond people can carpool from Spar Parking.
- ✓ Betty's Bay people can leave from Harold Porter Gardens
- ✓ Pringle Bay people can leave from the Community Hall
- ✓ Rooiels people can leave from the shops or jump into some of the KGC passing cars

Please RSVP Galia Manicom

Convenor: Galia Manicom Cell: 082 963 3804

9. HACKS

9.1 Betty's Bay Hack No. 750

Betty's Bay Hack No. 750 took place on Saturday 5th September 2026.

Rob Boyd reports as follows:

"26 Volunteers met in Sunny Seas braving a 50km/h + easterly wind. This was a continuation of the August hack on the municipal land zoned for community facilities, bordered by Pearl Drive and Albertyn Drive. The target was to remove the remaining Australian tea bushes and a particularly bad area riddled with New Zealand Christmas trees and bottle brush and more tea bushes.

Dave Maurant was notable by his absence following a bad fall down the stairs at home. Despite this, he and Anne provided all the blue and all that was needed for our tea and coffee break. It is because of commitment and dedication such as this that the Battle for Betty's Bay has reached its 750th milestone after sixty-three and a half years.

Armed with loppers, poppers, hand and chainsaws and blue, the tea bushes near Albertyn Drive were quickly dispatched. The infestation further in was a much tougher proposition, compounded by all the dead

branches left by others. It took an age to expose the new growth embedded amongst all the dead material before they could be dealt with. Despite this, far more was accomplished than anticipated. It highlights how important it is to remove the cut material. Apart from reducing the fuel load for fires it makes access so much easier when doing follow-up work. Compliments to the tireless draggers and stackers who make this happen. It is to everyone's credit how people identify what needs to be done, find their role and contribute to a seamless and productive hack. Amazing to be part of this wonderful group.

Jan Joubert and Paul Whitelaw continue to cut down the rooikrans trees growing on the verge of Albertyn Drive at the Salmon Street intersection whilst others returned to the open space.

Rob reports that there was an ad hoc hack on Tuesday 25 August 2026 where they removed predominantly New Zealand Christmas trees as well as Myrtle and Rooikrans on the Overstrand Municipality Community ground on the Western side of Waterfall Road. Paul cut down rooikrans along High Level Road on his way home.

As ever, on behalf of Betty's Bay Fynbos, thank you for all your efforts.

Next Hack is Saturday 3 October 2026.

Convener: Rob Boyd's Cell Number is: 082 567 8858

9.2 Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (No. 79): August 2026

Chris Geldenhuys reported as follows re the Hardcore Hackers August activities:

"The month of August 2026 provided 8 hacking opportunities, including one brought forward from September with no activities lost due to rain. The group recorded a total of 203 man-days.

Congratulations to Marius Joubert for being awarded the John Whitehead Floating Trophy as hacker of the month for August.

Chris goes on to say how valuable a member Marius is to the hardcore hackers, but his most special attribute is his keen and attentiveness to the needs of village residents, where a small-scale ad hoc session is needed. This might involve someone who is ill or too frail to arrange to get the job done themselves. He avoids claiming credit for this, content to help in urgent situations.

Chris lists donations that we have received from landowners where hacking activities have taken place on their private land. He also notes that Jonsson Workwear have donated again this year in excess of R54 000 worth of protective clothing and this was Jonsson's fourth annual donation and we are so grateful.

Chris continues:

The Sugarbird Team has started a new project to clear alien vegetation from Hangklip Valley. They began at the top, on the escarpment above Sea Farm and are working their way down into the valley. They are doing excellent work, and we are truly grateful for the support and dedication of this team.

Chris reports on the HHH hack to remove the last aliens of the Forest Triangle of FCE across the Buffels River. It was not easy getting across the river, but the hackers adjusted to the circumstances and the job was undertaken and completed with much enthusiasm.

**Chris goes on to state that the next hack will be on:
Monday and Wednesday of every week of September 2026.**

Convener: Chris Geldenhuys (082 900 8299).

9.3 Pringle Bay Hack:

Chris Geldenhuys, the convenor of this hack but unfortunately the Pringle Bay hack that was scheduled for 29th August 2026 was cancelled due to strong winds and rain.

**The Next Pringle Bay hack will be on:
Saturday 26th September 2026 - Meeting point will always be in front of the Hangklip Bottle Store, in Central Avenue, Pringle Bay, at 08h30.**

Convener: Chris Geldenhuys (082 900 8299).

9.4 Rooiels Hack:

Philip Kantor reported on the Rooiels Hack convened on Saturday 8th August 2026. Philip stood in for Mike Christelis who was away for the month of August.

12 Hackers reported for duty. The hackers split into two groups to tackle target sites at opposite ends of the village.

- ✓ The Koppie: we cleared a concentrated area of young Rooikrans and Port Jackson shoots, along with several established trees.
- ✓ Ocean View Drive: We tackled and cleared a dense, concentrated thicket of Rooikrans on a sea-side plot.

A huge thanks to Chris and Mark for filling their vehicles, as well as loading up Geof's trailer to cart all the cuttings off to the tip

Thank you all again for your incredible effort and community spirit today.

Next Rooiels hack will be Saturday 12 September 2026 (By the time this newsletter is received in your in boxes, this hack will be over, and the October hack is scheduled for Saturday 10th October 2026).

Convenor: Mike Christelis Cell: 082 467 2795

10. SPRING PLANT SALES

Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) will be having its annual spring plant sale on Saturday 26th September 2026 at 08h00 in front of the Nivenia Hall at the Harold Porter Gardens.

Over 1000 plants will be for sale with a wide variety of species and varieties.

For anyone spending more than R500 their entrance fee to the gardens will be refunded on presentation of their entrance receipt.

Make sure you do not miss what promises to be a very exciting plant sale.

We know this is part of an action-packed Heritage Day Weekend, but we are sure that you will find an hour or two to browse round what is available for sale and come and purchase your spring plants.

Interesting to note that many people who bought plants at the spring sale held in October in Kleinmond were so impressed as to how well these plants have

done. The only thing one needs to do is for the first three months of the plant's life, if planted in early summer, is to water the plants regularly.

11. CREW

The Kogelberg Crew Team continues to do wonderful work in searching for endangered or near endangered species, recording the numbers and locations and it all helps with conservation of the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere.

To Gerda Theron and her team, thank you very much. Keep up the good work, we are proud of what you do on behalf of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC).

Contact: Gerda Theron Email: kogelbergcrew@gmail.com

12. MONTHLY TALKS

Roger Parson's talk in August titled "Day Zero - Keeping Critical Infrastructure alive." Was incredibly interesting and once again stressed the importance of conserving water and using water wisely.

The next monthly talk will take place on:

Saturday 19th September 2026 at the Nivenia Hall, Harold Porter Gardens. Be there at 17h30 for a glass of wine/fruit juice and the talk commences immediately after the Hangklip Botanical Society AGM which will be at 18h00.

The talk will be given by Andrea Grant Broom, and her talk will be about Biomimicry.

Biomimicry is an interdisciplinary approach that brings together two often disconnected worlds: nature and technology, biology and innovation, life and design.

Andrea is a certified practitioner, having managed many innovative projects over the last 15 years. She will share some examples of human solutions, in a local context, that create conditions conducive to a more sustainable life.

Look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 19th September 2026.

A contribution to the evening expenses will be greatly appreciated.

Please RSVP via

What's App to 079 657 2385 or Email hpbookrsvp@gmail.com

13. KOGELBERG BRANCH MONTHLY WALK

There will be a monthly walk on Saturday 19th September 2026 at 09h00.

Everyone to meet in the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens car park.

As soon as Tim informs me where the walk will take place, it will be circulated to all the members.

14. A TRIBUTE TO URSULA HUYSEN BY MERRILEE BERRISFORD

Every reader of this newsletter will know of the Brodie Link Reserve at the Hangklip end of Betty's Bay and will rejoice that it preserves still more of our natural landscape. Few of you will remember who in our community initiated the action to save this land from a housing development.

It was a vigilant Ursula who, on discovering that there was a very real possibility of this, contacted Allan Heydorn, another Betty's Bay personality, and a giant in South African environmental matters.

The full story of how this land was brought for a reserve is told in Skip Krige's Betty's Bay book.

Ursula's father, Pastor von Delft bought a property in Betty's Bay a long time ago. Merran Silberbauer told me that he was still hacking there when he was ninety. Ursula and her husband, Reinhardt lived in Pretoria but spent a lot of their time in Betty's Bay. They too, were very keen hackers. Their passion must have inspired their composer son, Hans, as he dedicated his orchestral suite, The Protea Variations to "The Betty's Bay Hacking Group". This must have mystified concert goers at the work's first performance held in Cape Town's City Hall.

Ursula was living in a German retirement complex in Pretoria and was still active until very near her death. All of us in Betty's Bay honour her memory and should smile when we drive past the fynbos slopes of the Brodie Link Reserve.

15. CONCLUSION

My apologies for this very long newsletter but there is so much on the go and so much exciting stuff that I feel had to be reported.

Enjoy spring in the fynbos and as I look out of my window dictating this newsletter, the mountain is a blaze of orange (*Leucospermum Cordifolium*), purple/pink (*Pelargoniums*) and flashes of yellow (*Leucadendron Salignum*) and many other fynbos plants - what a joy to behold.

From all of us and the committee of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa and the Hangklip Botanical Society Directors, a big, big thank you to all the wonderful members of the Hangklip Botanical Society for all they do to conserve the magical fynbos, in the richest floral kingdom in the world. A big, big thank you.

Best Wishes

Peter Dall

Director: Hangklip Botanical Society

082 784 4326

Email: peter@pdconsult.co.za

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