

Dear Members of the Hangklip Botanical Society:

INTRODUCTION

The Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) is up and running, and we are slowly closing down the bank account and statutory requirements of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa. This is work in progress, but the Directors of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) are happy with the progress to date.

What has been disappointing is the lack of applications to become a member of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC). Most of the membership applications are from the Hackers, and thanks to Chris Geldenhuys for promoting the benefits of being a member of the Hangklip Botanical Society to all hackers.

The Garden Circle has over 300 contacts on their WhatsApp Group, the Book Shop has over 45 Volunteers, the Friends of the Harold Porter Gardens has 20 Gardeners, we have over 80 people attending talks regularly, many walking with Tim Attwell every third Saturday of the month, yet we have just over 50 members of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) to date. There are some who are advocating that all the events we have should be limited to members only. I do believe it will be a sad day if we have to implement this, but please sign up and become a member of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC).

It has been agreed by Tim Attwell, Chairman (that this newsletter would go out to all those on our database albeit from the old members of the Supporters of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society, National Botanical Society Members etc., but this would be the last newsletter going out to all and from the June newsletter, it will only be circulated to members of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC). There will only be one newsletter. Tim Attwell will not be writing a newsletter in future.

Sue McConnell is doing a great job in chasing membership; thanks, Sue.



The Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC), trading as the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa, is doing amazing work; see notes re:

- The Hackers' efforts and what has been achieved.
- The Bookshop turnover for this past financial year increased by 47% on the previous year.
- The Garden Circle does wonderful work, especially in education.
- Galia Manicom and her team are doing great plant rescue work.
- Gerda Theron is a stalwart member of Crew who is doing outstanding work. The talks, the walks, the book launches are all very well supported. We have a vibrant, energetic, highly motivated and successful Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC). I am very proud of what the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) has achieved.

HAROLD PORT NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

We continue to support the gardens wherever we can, and Viv von der Heyden, Jenny Pattinson and their team of gardeners are doing wonderful work in clearing flower beds; we just need to find a way now to replant these flower beds. We look forward to the hackers clearing keurbooms in certain parts of the garden and all dead trees and dead and broken limbs sometime in the not-too- distant future.

NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

No news from National as to when they will be transferring to a nonprofit company as proposed. Hopefully this will happen in the near future.



WEATHER

When one ventures a prediction about nature, but especially the weather, one often ends up with egg on one's face.

This is definitely true after what I wrote in the April Newsletter. So far, there is no sign that it is going to be a very dry winter.

April's total rainfall was 164mm, the wettest April that I have recorded since 2015 and May up until 10 th May has already recorded 61mm so up until 10 th May 2026, we have recorded over 500mm of rain for the year so far, which is far greater than the long-term average of 312mm until the end of May. We are very grateful for the rain.

	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	61*	102
Jun	134	167	119	157	104	161	213	212	277	133	202		171
Jul	246	144	110	84	195	168	211	91	126	391	195		178
Aug	134	110	148	188	67	196	193	119	89	219	111		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	517*	1058

HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP



The shop continues to perform well. April 2026, the first month of the financial year of the Hangklip Botanical Society NPC. The shop turnover was up 37% on April 2025. Mainly as a result of very successful Easter Plant Sales. Planning has already begun for the September 2026 Plant Sales.

We are trying to get a meeting with the Harold Porter Gardens Manager so that we can fix a date.

Remember, there are plants on sale at the bookshop up until the end of November, when we stop selling plants and commence again in April 2027. We have some exciting new plants for sale, and it is worth paying a visit to see what there is for sale.

Very excited about being able to stock *Mimetes Stokoei*. It is on the Red List of South African plants, and SANBI Red List Status goes on to say *Mimetes Stokoei* is a highly restricted mountain fynbos endemic, occurring only on the Palmiet River Mountains of South Africa.

It has an extent of occurrence and an area of occupancy of 8 square kilometres. It was thought that it had gone extinct in 1969. It was not observed for 30-years and did not set seeds for 50 years. However, following a fire in 1999, thirty-four plants were recruited and between 50 and 25 mature individuals set seed. It would appear to be naturally able to persist at low population numbers. It remains vulnerable to *Phytophthora* infection.

It is therefore listed as critically endangered under Criterion D. It is pollinated by birds; observed visitors include Cape Sugar Bird, Malachite Sugar Bird and Orange-breasted Sugar Bird. The late Robbie Thomas did great work in preserving this very special *Mimetes* species. y.



Saturday 9 th May 2026 Book Launch:

The First Safari: Searching for Francois Levillant by Ian Glenn. This was a fascinating and well-presented book launch by Prof. Ian Glenn.

Prof Glenn's narrative of how he researched Levillant for over 25 years, from the West Coast of South Africa to the Museums of Paris. Willem Stigling What's App to me after the launch. "One of the best presentations that I have seen at a book launch!!!"

We were truly honoured to have this very high-calibre author and researcher give of his time to do a presentation for us.

Saturday 27 June 2026 at 10h30 for 11h00.

We have another book launch: "Bulbs of the Fynbos, the Author is John Manning and Dee Snijman". This promises to be a very interesting launch. "Bulbous plants produce some of the most striking natural floral displays, and our region is endowed with the greatest number and the widest variety globally.

With over 1200 naturally occurring bulb species, the Cape Floristic region is the undisputed bulb capital of the world.

This book is an informative introduction examining the biology, structure, and conservation status of fynbos bulbs, explaining the botanical features that are essential for identification and much more.

The book is only being launched at the beginning of June 2026, and this is a not-to-be-missed launch.

Please continue to support the Harold Porter Book and Craft Shop as the funds are badly needed to support all of the Hangklip Botanical Society NPC's activities.

FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

Viv and Jenny and their merry band of gardeners continue to do great work in Harold Porter Gardens. They do their best to garden between the cold fronts that are arriving with regularity. We appeal to anyone who has a great love for the Harold Porter National Gardens in the Kogelberg Biosphere to assist Viv and Jenny with the gardening activities. The next gardening session is:

Thursday 14 th May 2026 at 08h30 with Viv von der Heyden.

Please note the winter starting time. Jenny Pattinson's next session is **Tuesday 19 th May 2026 at 08h30.**

If you would like to volunteer, all you need to do is pitch up at the Harold Porter Gardens at the designated times; we have the tools and protective clothing, we just desperately need your hands to help.

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

Galia Manicom reported that the April visit to Andrea Kampmann's garden in Clarence Drive was a great success and Ebraime Hull gave the garden circle a lesson on how to prune proteas. Galia said that it was a very informative garden circle visit and she has videos of Ebraime's presentation which she is willing to send to those who are interested. The next garden circle meeting will be on Friday 15 May 2026 at 09h30. **The venue is: 2443 Plateau Road, Betty's Bay.**

Our hostess this month is Annalise Willems. Annalise Willems bought her house about five years ago and discovered gardening on the dunes presented its own set of problems.

Challenges like planting trees and flowers that need lots of protection from the wind and exposed soils need coverings. The easiest solution to have a small, cultivated area and leave the rest to nature. Adele Scheepers will also give us a little talk on what to look for when trying to identify a plant and how to use iNaturalist to help with that. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be served as always, and we would really appreciate a donation towards keeping the group going.

Convenor: Galia Manicom Cell: 082 963 3804

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 the conservation of the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere. I am very fortunate to see the crew's monthly report, and it is incredibly comprehensive.

For April, they hiked to nine different sites in search of endangered or near-endangered plant species. As I read Gerda's incredibly detailed report, the number of observations that they make on each visit astounds me, between 100 and 350 observations per visit.

They also record the alien species, and on most visits, there are a few aliens recorded and some sites quite a lot. Once again, it emphasises the necessity to stay on top of the possible alien invasion. 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

MONTHLY TALKS

The talk on Saturday 18 April 2026 by Corlie Hugo, CEO of Kogelberg Biosphere it was a very insightful talk, and it highlighted the wonderful work that the Kogelberg Biosphere was doing. It also highlighted the incredible challenges that they are facing with illegal logging and flower picking, as well as dog hunting, etc. They are doing great work, and they need our support. The next monthly talk will take place on Saturday 16 th May 2026 at 17h30 for 18h00.

An inspiring documentary on the African Oyster Catcher presented by Jacques and Van As Jordaan, a grandfather and his grandson sharing a deep passion for one of the most charismatic and beloved birds found along our coastline. Join us at 17h30 for 18h00 (enjoy a glass of wine before the talk). In the Nivenia Hall, Harold Porter Gardens.

****A contribution towards the evening's expenses will be appreciated.**

Please RSVP via WhatsApp to 079 657 2385 or Email hpbookrsvp@gmail.com

KOGELBERG BRANCH MONTHLY WALK

The next monthly walk will take place on Saturday 16th May 2026. Tim says as follows: “We will be walking Rod’s Trail, which has an incredible number of Fynbos Species, some just coming into flower at this time of the year.

To meet as usual at the Harold Porter National Gardens Car Park at 09h00 in the parking area on Saturday 16th May 2026.

CONCLUSION

I cannot help but repeat what I said in the last newsletter: “The Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) amazes me with all that it achieves, in its work to conserve the fynbos of the Kogelberg Biosphere. There are so many people working relentlessly on this greater conservation project.

To all of you, thank you. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. I know, especially newcomers to the area, find Overberg Winters fairly depressing: wet, cold, strong winds and not much sunshine.

We who have lived here all our lives really appreciate these winters, as the plants need the cold; they need water to build reserves for the long hot dry summers, and the rain fills the reservoirs to provide us with water for the long hot summers.

This is the time to sit around the home fires and realise how blessed we are to live in God’s greatest floral kingdom. The sunny days in winter are stupendous, and this is when we can get out and really enjoy the fynbos.

Best Wishes

Peter Dall

Director: Hangklip Botanical Society 082 784 4326

Email: peter@pdconsult.co.za