

Dear Members of the Hangklip Botanical Society:

INTRODUCTION

As I write this newsletter from a very hot and dry England, I am once again reminded (that I ever needed reminding) that we live in the most beautiful part of the world and are blessed to be part of the Kogelberg Biosphere – the richest and most diverse floral kingdom of the world.

It is our duty and obligation to preserve this heritage for future generations, and I do believe all of you, as members of the Hangklip Botanical Society, realise this and are doing a magnificent job of protecting the fynbos, as well as educating as many residents of the area as possible as to their duty to grow, protect and enjoy the fynbos of the Kogelberg.

Membership of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) continues to grow as we edge nearer to 200 membership mark. We aim to have more than 300 members by year-end. Sue McConnell is doing a great job as Membership Co-ordinator, but she does need the help of every member in recruiting new members. Thanks to Chris Geldenhuys for his assistance in recruiting new members too.

The National Botanical Society of South Africa will be holding its AGM on Saturday 15 th August 2026. At the Special General Meeting to be held immediately after the AGM, the decision to transition from a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) to a Non-Profit Company (NPC) will be ratified.

We wholeheartedly support this step. The new National Botanical Society (NPC) will have external and internal branches. The external branches will be totally autonomous and will have their own membership base and will be responsible for all their own affairs (finance, fund-raising, insurance, etc.).



Dual membership of the external branch and the National Botanical Society will be allowed but not a requirement. All that is not clear now is how the external branches will be affiliated to National. Hopefully this aspect will be clarified at the special annual general meeting. At this stage it is envisaged that there will be two external branches, namely Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) and Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society (NPC). We fully support the Memorandum of Understanding for external branches, which we will be signing in the near future.

NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY – KOGELBERG BRANCH APPRECIATION EVENT

The National Botanical Society will be holding an appreciation event on Saturday 18 July 2026 from 10h00 to 10h30 at the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, to which all Hangklip Botanical Society and Kogelberg residents who are members of the National Botanical Society were invited.

On Tuesday 7th July, the National Botanical Society informed us that the guest list had been fully subscribed, and no more guests can be added to the attendance list. It is pleasing to note that Hangklip Botanical Society members will be attending this event hosted by the National Botanical Society to express appreciation of the work of our Kogelberg Branch in conserving the fynbos of the Kogelberg.

HAROLD PORT 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. One of the major challenges facing us, the volunteers and the whole Hangklip Botanical Society, is the replanting of these flowerbeds that we weed each week to plants of our area (keeping in mind we need diversification). The red tape to do this is huge.

Plants may only be obtained from plants self-propagated by Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens or Fynbos registered by SANBI nurseries, of which there are none in our area. The propagation shed at Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens has been declared unsafe after storm damage of a few years ago.





The manager of Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens will not approve temporary repairs so that the staff can continue propagating plants. We are told there are plans to build a new propagation shed. No timelines have been given.

Despite the challenges, we have a great working relationship with the staff of the Harold Porter National Botanical Society, and we will find a way to replant the meticulously weeded flowerbeds. At present, the ribbon bush (*Hypoestes Aristata*) and *Plectranthus* are taking over the beds – we need diversity.

NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

See notes earlier in this newsletter regarding the National Botanical Society AGM and Special General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 15 August 2026. We have had some very welcome correspondence from the Chairman of the National Botanical Society (Frank Webb) setting out how he sees the working relationship between the National Botanical Society and the Hangklip Botanical Society.

We fully endorse all the points he made in his letter, namely that collaboration between the two bodies will only strengthen our fynbos conservation efforts.

WEATHER

June was a very average rainfall month. Recorded 157mm in June 2026, which was a very average amount of rain for June.

Total rainfall recorded for the first six months of the year was 806mm. This is only 252mm less than the long-term average rainfall for Betty's Bay.



HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP



Fortunately, sales for June 2026 were substantially up on June 2025 sales – up 70%. The very successful book launch on Saturday 27 June 2026 (Bulbs of the Fynbos) helped greatly. We recorded the highest ever single day's sales (excluding plant sales days). The very, very sad news is that the Kirstenbosch Branch bookshop at Kirstenbosch is closing down at the end of August 2026 for financial reasons. Plant sales continue to do well for the shop.

Saturday 15 th August 2026 at 12h00.

Note the later time, have shifted the book launch time to enable as many members as possible to attend the National Botanical Society AGM and SGM virtually at 09h00 the same day. Tony Park will talk to us about his novels, especially those with a conservation theme. His book “The Pride” is set against the backdrop of Abalone Poaching.

Janet will be on leave from 7th to 18 th August 2026 (inclusive), and thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who, within hours of Paddy requesting, had filled in all the slots.

WHAT A WONDERFUL BUNCH OF VOLUNTEERS YOU ALL ARE, THANK YOU.



FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

See notes earlier in this newsletter. Please put your name forward as a volunteer to weed in the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens. It would be great if you could do 2 only 2.5 to 3hr shifts twice a month, alternating on a Tuesday or a Thursday morning alternating.

The next gardening session will be:

Tuesday 14 th July 2026 at 08h30, ably led by Jenny Pattinson.

Please note the winter starting time.

The next Thursday gardening session will be:

Thursday 23 rd July 2026 at 08h30, ably led by Viv vd Heyden.

(A big thank you to Wendy Smith for standing in for Viv for the past two sessions, greatly appreciated).

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

Galia Manicom reported that the June visit to 2494 Bass Road, Betty's Bay was a great success. William Raats was most informative, explaining the various options re landscaping a fynbos garden. The next garden circle meeting will be on Friday 17 July 2026 at 09h30.

Will be visiting the home of Barbara Jenman: 4977 Serruria Circle, Silversands, Betty's Bay.

The fire of 1998 wiped out all the vegetation on the surrounding dunes, turning the dunes into a moonscape, but plants have the miraculous capacity to regrow, and now Barbara's highlights include enjoying the many varieties of dune fynbos, visits from Mongooses, bakkies, and birds. Barbara is seriously attempting to grow veggies in a new shade house – she has just had her first meal of fresh spinach. Then we all know that fynbos is finicky. It isn't only about HOW to plant, but WHAT to plant and KEEP the plant. It virtually begins with knowing your plot's specific soil and microclimate. To help us, Ebrahim Hull, Chief Horticulturalist at Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, will join us and share some of his extensive fynbos knowledge. We will end the morning with our traditional tea/coffee/biscuits (Donations welcome), and for the energetic ones, you can take a walk over the dunes to the beach.

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 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

MONTHLY TALKS

By all accounts, the June talk by Corrie du Toit on the “Life Cycle of a Butterfly” was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. The next monthly talk will take place on Saturday 18 th July 2026 at 17h30 for 18h00. We look forward with immense anticipation to Dolf Nel’s (our own Janet’s husband) talk on “The size of the Universe and where we fit in?”

- Be part of the memorable journey through the breathtaking universe.
- Dolf will give us a colourful and captivating presentation as we explore the wonders of our solar system.
- Discover the celestial treasures that grace our skies and marvel at the beauty and grandeur of creation.
- Join us on Saturday 18 th July 2026 in the Education Centre at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. Be there at 17h30 for a glass of wine before the talk commences at 18h00.
- A contribution to the evening’s expenses will be appreciated. Until then, we wish you clear skies and happy anticipation.

Please RSVP via WhatsApp to 079 657 2385

Email hpbookrsvp@gmail.com

KOGELBERG BRANCH MONTHLY WALK

There will be no walk this month because of the National Botanical Society's appreciation event on Saturday 18 July 2026.

CONCLUSION

I have written this newsletter while overseas, and while putting pen to paper, I once again come to the realisation that the Hangklip Botanical Society (trading as Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA) is a multifaceted organisation with many irons in the fire.

It is thanks to the hundreds of magnificent volunteers who are part of the Hangklip Botanical Society's activities that all irons in the fire contribute to a most successful and rewarding end product.

To all our magnificent volunteers, a BIG, BIG thank you. Enjoy the fynbos and commit more than ever to the preservation of the most beautiful floral kingdom in the world. See you all in August when Paddy and I return home after visiting family overseas.

Best wishes,
Peter Dall, Director
Hangklip Botanical Society 082 784 4326
Email: peter@pdconsult.co.za