



# SIMON'S TOWN FLORA CONSERVATION GROUP

113 Runciman Drive, Simon's Town, 7975

**NEWSLETTER: 30/2007**

Dear Members

## HACKS

Attendance at hacks over the last three months as follows:

Saturdays: 6,R,9      Sundays: 3,4,3      Tuesdays: 2,2,3  
Special hacks (Saturdays): 2,2,3,2,3,3      R=Rained Out

**SATURDAY HACKS:      5/05/07      2/06/07      7/07/07**

Venue:    Elsies Peak      Meet at the top of Golconda Road,  
Glencairn Heights      14:30-17:30

**SUNDAY HACKS:      20/05/07      17/06/07      15/07/07**

Venue:    Redhill      Meet at Pinehaven on Redhill      09:30-12:00

**TUESDAY HACKS:      15/05/07      19/06/07      17/07/07**

Venue:    Dorries Drive      Meet at far end of Dorries Drive,  
Froggy Pond      09:30-12:00

**SPECIAL HACKS –      12/05/07      26/05/07      9/06/07  
SATURDAYS:      23/06/07      14/07/07      28/07/07**

Venue:    Woodlands      Meet in Dido Valley Road,  
opposite Woodlands      09:30-12:00

Convenor for all hacks:    Peter Salter    Tel: **021 786 1620**

**For those interested, there is a hack on Elsies Peak every Monday, Wednesday & Friday afternoon. For details contact: Iluska Allan on tel: 021 782 2736**

# WALKS - (RAMBLING)

**NB: ALL WALKS ARE UNDERTAKEN AT OWN RISK**

## **Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month**

For details phone: Claire McCarthy Tel: **021 789 1334**

- Day walks of approximately 5 hours
- Weather permitting
- Bring picnic lunch
- Warm and waterproof clothing should be taken on all walks

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## **GENERAL**

On 21 April, ±70 teachers and learners from Michael Oak Waldorf School helped Iluska remove many aliens on Elsie's Peak. Iluska is very impressed with the enthusiasm with which they tackled the work.

Another person to whom we are very grateful for the many hours of hard work put in over several years at the Magic Forest above Dorries Drive, is Kennet Xaba. He has cut down and stacked numerous large Rooikrans trees.

Get Well Wishes go to Bobby van Vuuren who has had a serious heart by-pass operation. The good news is that Bobby is recovering at home. Also to Hanlie Pretorius who had a nasty fall on the Silvermine walk on 22 April. Our thoughts are with you both.

### **Claire's Walk Report**

**January** was the "Two Dams" walk from Lewis Gay to Kleinplaas. Interesting flowers were *Erica cyrilliflora* (endemic to the Red Hill area) and a floriferous orange and cream *Erica curviflora*. The bright pink *Erica laeta* was flowering in the marshy area below Kleinplaas Dam wall.

Ericas and Disas predominated on the **February** walk up Steenberg Peak. *Erica mammosa* covered a previously burnt area in shades of pink, red and mauve. The honey scented *Erica ericoides* covered the rocks in pink. Many orange cluster Disas (*Disa ferruginea*) dotted the plateau with the Blue Disas (*Disa graminifolia*) providing contrast. On Steenberg Peak, we were treated to an aerial display by a trio of Fish Eagles.

On the **March** walk from Platboom to Gifkommetjie, we were entertained by the antics of a large troop of baboons foraging off the rocks for sharks' eggs. A herd of about 20–30 Eland watched us from the dunes. A few late *Crassula coccinea* dotted the rocks below Gifkommetjie and on the ridge track, a variety of Ericas were flowering. Here we saw the baboons again and a solitary Red Hartebeest. Orange and yellow Red Hot Pokers (*Kniphofia uvaria*) brightened the road back to Platboom.

Regards

PETER SALTER