



FRIENDS OF TOKAI FOREST

P O Box 442 Bergvliet 7804



NEWSLETTER NO.2

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996

Hello "TOKAI FRIENDS",

JOHN GREEN is presently Overseas visiting his children. As he normally puts the newsletter together his eloquence on this occasion will be missed.

Friday the 9th's meeting in August was well attended with the wind and rain battering the umbrellas as our two little "FOREST FRIENDS", daughters of the Foresters, with beribboned spades, valliantly and honourably I might add, helped JOHN plant a WILD PEACH KIGGELARIA AFRIKANA. This particular tree happens to be one of the two trees of the year. In other words, every year, two species of tree are planted on a national scale by the Forestry Department. (CHRIS BOTES the Plantation Manager tells us that in about 50-70 years time, this tree might have a chance of coming around again!) See if you can spot it next time you are in the Arboretum. It will grow to approx. 13m in height. Has a pale grey bark with yellowish-brown young branches. The leaves are oblong and the young ones have yellowish or greyish soft hairs on both surfaces. The fruit is a spherical capsule, rough, warty, greyish to yellowish-green when mature, splitting into 4 valves to reveal the black seeds which are completely enveloped in a bright orange-red, sticky coating (February to July.) The Tembu people believe that the tree should not be touched as it attracts lightning, but the South Sotho use parts of it for a potion to protect their kraals.

The weather did not dampen the spirits of the group however and wine and snacks were happily devoured after a SLIDE SHOW presented by SIBYL MORRIS. She proclaims she is an amateur botanist, but her underplayed "it's-only-amateur-photography" slides of fynbos and other feathered and furry friends that she found in the forest, left us all spellbound at just how much is actually in there. We would like SIBYL to come back again with her sound knowledge and excellent slides.

JOHN GREEN, LESLEY SKARZYNSKY, CHRIS BOTES, JUDY and her husband PATRICK MCKUNE took a ride out to the PAARL ARBORETUM for a "look-see" at what other Arboretums are all about; what they are doing and to glean any information that they could use to our advantage with our own Tokai Arboretum. They report that the trees have huge spaces around them and that it is very open. Nothing much was learnt and with satisfaction they returned knowing that our ARBORETUM is positively on its way and has the potential to being one of the finest.

There is A MEETING AT THE ARBORETUM on the morning of the 19th October. We have invited a number of knowledgeable people who are interested/affected and who are working in this field. If you feel you have some worthwhile input, please telephone JUDY MCKUNE on 752 107 should you wish to know more.

GERALDINE HIGGS would like to start initiating monthly WALKS. She will, where convenient, arrange for a knowledgeable person to come along as a guest, so to speak, to make it more exciting and interesting. Walks will be held once a month on the LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. Starting off this month the first one will be on Sunday 29th September. Meeting place is outside her home

which is in Dennendal West Avenue, which is off Orpen (which continues as Spaanschemat) Road. The house is "the double storey that faces the forest", (corner of Stuart Close.) There is ample parking. We meet at 2.30 and SIBYL is going to take you to see some of the fine fynbos specimens, with a couple of surprises that you DIDN't know about. The sun should be out and the flowers facing in the right direction. Family and friends welcome, but please no dogs. (Keep it a secret, don't tell them where you are going!)

The next two walks will be on Sunday October 27th and Sunday 24th November. We have our own display of flowers on the Vlakkenberg and hopefully it won't be too late end-October. There is some orienteering in the offering - great for kids - and a walk up to Elephants Eye and a general knowledge quizz of our area. But all this will be advised in the next newsletter.

Mr. ARCHIE LUSK, General Manager of Audi Cape Town gave us a DONATION, for which we thank him kindly.

ALF MORRIS has donated some Cedarberg seedlings - from the Cedarberg - and we hope to plant these in the Arboretum.

There are many members (and I am embarrassed to say even COMMITTEE members!) who have not yet paid their MEMBERSHIP FEES. We rely on this commitment to cover various costs and would ask you to please pop your R15,00 or R20,00 (single and family yearly membership fees respectively) into an envelope to our P.O. Box 442/BERG-VLIET 7854 soonest.

RECEIPTS of those who have paid - with thanks - enclosed herewith.

We do hope some of you have responded to the call of "HELP" from BOB LEE (Tel: 72.7522) to help eradicate alien invaders.

Do get the CHILDREN involved. After all this is their future.

We need input from you the members and would ask you to fax anything you have to GERALDINE HIGGS on 61 5657 or post it to our box number in Bergvliet (442). Don't be slow in coming forward! Anything helps whether it be interest generated towards a walk, something you have seen on one of your walks, a question to which you would like to initiate a general response, a poem from a child, a letter etc. et al. After all, this is to you, from you, about us - FRIENDS OF TOKAI FOREST.

Till next month,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geraldine Higgs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'G'.

GERALDINE HIGGS for JOHN GREEN

Did you know that one tree gives out enough oxygen for
40 people!