

FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

Dear Friends

Our walk this month is on 19 June. Stella is absconding to the eastern Cederberg for rock art activities so Kelly is kindly standing in. Please meet her at the Gate for a prompt departure at 9.00 am. Bring water, hat, jacket, good walking shoes and a snack.

Walk Report – Sunday 15 May 2011

Walk leader – Kelly – Cape of Good Hope

It was a real “misty moisty morning” when we set off on the Cape of Good Hope Trail but surprisingly little wind. We were 8 Friends and 7 visitors.



Our first viewpoint was looking towards Dias Point and the lower lighthouse and we almost expected to see the phantom ‘Flying Dutchman’ sailing out of the mist! We were able to see the eternal surf breaking on Bellows Rock (does anyone know why “Bellows”?) and imagine the desperation of passengers and crew on the ill-fated ‘Lusitania’ back in 1911.



Erica coccinea

The main feature of this hike is always the dramatic scenery but in the viewpoint area we found several bright yellow *Erica coccinea*. Also seen in abundance were the *metalasia muricata* and *phylica ericoides*.

At the start of the boardwalk above Dias Beach we could see a pair of eland silhouetted along the top of the

Limestone Ridge and we hoped we might get a glimpse of them again later on.



Eland silhouetted above Peagrams Point (seen on the recce)

By now the clouds were lifting and as we headed up to Cape Maclear through the fynbos we came across a couple of Cape grassbirds (we appreciated Di being with us to identify them). Amazingly, while we paused to watch, the male came really close (we could see his russet cap clearly) and gave us an impromptu concert – possibly to draw attention away from his mate. It was one of those magic moments.



Our friendly grassbird

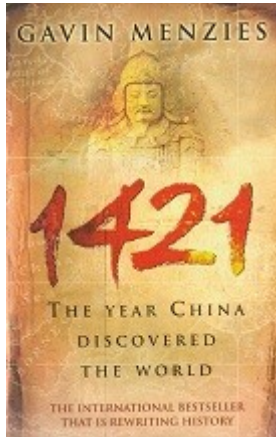
Teatime was at the lower point of Cape of Good Hope where we were joined by a friendly dassie. Then it was down to Maclear Beach and the walk along the coastline past Pappiesbank and Neptune’s Dairy. Apart from white breasted and Cape cormorants we saw familiar chats (LBJs!). We kept an eye out for the eland and sure enough spotted them near Groendam – in fact there was the pair plus an adolescent. We ended the walk in sunshine – the weather like the walk was full of variety!

SAD NEWS: It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of Joanna Sharland a very long standing member of the Friends. June Sykes reminisced :

Joanna and her husband, Clive, were long-time members of the Simonstown Yacht Club where she was a bridge recorder. Born in England she was at one stage mayor of Bulawayo. A devoted member of the St Francis Anglican Church, a true lady, a caring friend, she did also duty at the Field

Museum and impressed all with her uncomplaining nature.

FIRESIDE READING FOR THESE COLD WINTER NIGHTS: For an enthralling account of Chinese exploration round the Cape of Good Hope look at :



* Remember the Fogh web site
southerncrossroads.info/fogh/

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