

FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

Dear Friends

Sunday Walk!!

Due to forecasts of very inclement weather Kelly was put in a quandary about the walk and eventually decided to call it off. Magda and Ivan decided on walking and Magda's musings follow.

However this is what Stella and Jayne saw from the Red Track on the 11 August at the end of a Silvermine Friends' walk which also served as a recce for our abortive walk.



The baby zebra which was born at Cape Point

This on the walk itself:



Grey heron

Magda's musings:

Unfortunately the turn-out for a walk is usually very poor after a bad weather forecast, while at Cape Point the weather can be quite dry compared to the areas closer to Table Mountain. Quite often over the years we have done some great walks when the weather forecast was poor but in fact it turned out to be good for walking in our area.

We decided to do the standard Sirkel's Vlei circular walk, and it was lovely. Believe it or not we didn't get wet, except for an extremely light drizzle in places. We didn't even use our hoods.

On the sandy paths we saw no footprints at all except our own and that of some eland and a small buck. We saw no one else. The veld looked quite beautiful. The cloudy sky accentuated the colours of the plants, flowers and rocks. We walked close to a family of eland, and had a lovely sighting of 6 ostriches running up the hillside in a

tight bunch. There were sunbirds about, and at Sirkel's Vlei we saw the usual seagull, Egyptian geese, a pair of yellow-bill duck and a blacksmith plover. Just after leaving Olifantsbos we saw a group of 5 grey rhebuck - a lovely sighting.

Walking the trail I mused about the walks to the vlei our group did 20 years ago, in the days before there were any paths to it. Those were exciting times, but walking a well-marked trail leading through interesting rock formations has its advantages.

Geology trip to Cape Point on September 17

The Friends of Good Hope will be having an all-day geological outing from Hout Bay to Cape Point on September 17 at 8am. It will be conducted by Dr John Rogers. The starting point will be on the tar road behind Hout Bay Beach on the eastern side of the estuary of the Disa River, near Dunes Restaurant. There will be 7 stops before ending at the raised beach at the Cape of Good Hope. Geological mysteries such as cross-bedding, nonconformities, faulting, the age of the rocks and other topics will be explained in relation to the sites visited.

Cost : R10 per person.

Please phone Stella at 021 780 1472/082 964 0074 to find out more details and book a place. Please bring lunch. You will need your Wild Card or gate entrance money at Cape Point.

John Compton's book *The Rocks and Mountains of Cape Town* will be useful background reading.

"I heard a terrible kerfuffle outside..." These are the words



Jayne used to describe what happened one day as she was in her lounge. Rushing outside with her camera she took the above photo. The victor is a juvenile black sparrowhawk and the vanquished was a dove.

Cytinus capensis

Jayne is continuing her ongoing monitoring and will keep us informed. Apologies ! I got Priscilla Burgoyne's name wrong in the last newsletter.

* Remember southerncrossroads.info/fogh/

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