

# FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

## Dear Friends

Sunday Walk: Magda will be leading the Sunday Walk on 16th October to Teeberg and in view of the fact that it is a restricted area and we are getting special permission, it will be restricted to the Friends as requested by Amos Lombo of Parks Board.

## Geology Excursion – September 17



This was a fantastically enjoyable day thanks to Dr John Rogers who kept us in turn enthralled / amused/ enlightened and amazed as he walked us (figuratively mainly) through the geology of the area from Hout Bay, through Cape Point, to Froggy Pond.

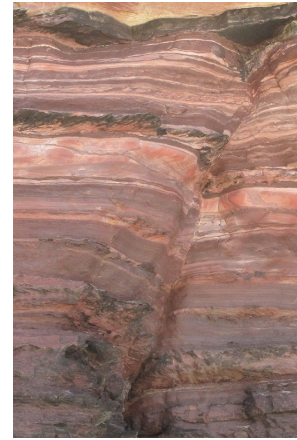
Starting in Hout Bay where he explained the various depositional processes at the Disa River estuary (with free advice given on where *not* to buy beach front property!) we (a group of 29 – mainly non-FOGH members) were kept entertained throughout the day. The next stop was at the look-out site on Chapman's Peak where John pointed out the granite-sandstone interface/ and where he showed us the thinly-bedded, maroon-coloured Graafwater sandstone sitting below the more blocky, lighter-coloured Peninsula formation.

Next stop was Misty Cliffs and then onto Cape Point itself where from the Smitswinkel look-out we contemplated the fault above Smitswinkel and the huge anticline which before erosion would have reached across False Bay to The Hottentots Holland.

John also expressed his thoughts on the formation of “monkey stones” though is rather dismissive of their importance in the greater scheme of things geological! (I just feel they need explaining as to me they are significant features on the Cape Point landscape though perhaps to a geologist they are very minor.) Then on to Diaz Beach where the dune sandstone,



and the clearly defined fault in the Graafwater sandstone



and a quartz intrusion in the Graafwater



fascinated us.

In conclusion, it was truly inspiring to look at Cape Point from a purely geological perspective even though the botanists in our midst couldn't refrain from admonishing John when he almost trod on a *gladiolus carinatus*. The flower people had made their voices heard.

(Please to those of you out there who are geologically aware this description above comes from a rank amateur. I am hoping to put a fuller and hopefully accurate description of the geology on the web site later.)

## Red Hill Initiative

Things have been moving at a rapid pace with the Red Hill Eco Club. We have had three meetings and have been very lucky to have found Jean who is proficient in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa and is proving very good at “making a plan”. We are hoping to acquire the use of a container as a clubhouse/office/storage space with the use of the ground next to it as a garden. But it is early days and we are aware that there's many a slip etc. We have set the kids the task of designing a t-shirt design and Jean has been talking to the printers. If any of you have any contacts with printers, soil, compost suppliers, please let us know. It is necessary to do things as cheaply as possible so any assistance would be welcome.

## **Visit by Kew Guides 27<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

Jayne McDermid

This is the second year we have been visited by the Volunteer guides from Kew Gardens, London. We hosted eleven Kew guides, with Kirstenbosch guides and two Friends. They came to Cape Point on a beautiful day and we visited the Lighthouse, walking up and down the path and then on to Cape of Good Hope. After a picnic lunch at BVC we headed for Gifkommetjie for a walk in the Fynbos. Those who preferred to, were able to have a good walk along the cliff top and the rest of us pottered along taking photos and identifying the various Fynbos plants. Those plants that most impressed our visitors were *Hyobanche sanguinea*, *Liparia parva*, *Adenandra villosa*, *Mimetes fimbriifolius*, *Oedera capensis*, *Dimorphotheca nudicaulis* and, of course, the *Ericas*. The Kirstenbosch guides impressed us with their in-depth knowledge of our common Cape Point plants such as the furry underside of *metalasia muricata* leaves being responsible for the name of the plant.

The visit was very successful.

On the Tuesday following the Kew guides entertained their hosts at the house of Mary Carson. They presented Dot Malan as leader of the Kirstenbosch Guides with the latest book by Mike and Liz Fraser – *The Smallest Kingdom*. It was published this year by Kew Publishing. The book is about the Collectors of Cape plants and the plants that have been taken to the UK over many years.

### **Cytinus capensis**

Jayne is continuing her ongoing monitoring and will keep us informed. The plants will start doing their thing next year around about July.

- **Remember** [southerncrossroads.info/fogh/](http://southerncrossroads.info/fogh/)

### **COMMITTEE**

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