

FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2012

Dear Friends

A very Happy New Year to you all - we wish you all the best for it!

Sunday Walk: Richard will be leading the walk from Gifkommetjie

Walk report - 18th December 2011 Walk Leader: Kelly Izzard

One of the interesting unknown quantities of a walk with the Friends is how many will attend! We were unfortunate with a couple of wet Sundays during the year resulting in just 2 or 3 brave walkers but there was no fear of that on this walk! Fine and sunny with just a touch of a welcome breeze.

Being the Christmas picnic walk we expected several Friends and Cape Point Volunteers so were pleased to see 14, and then were delighted to welcome a further 19 visitors, giving a grand total of 33 walkers.

We took the main path from Buffelsfontein Visitors' Centre up to Kanonkop.

It is not a particularly good time of the year to see a great variety of fynbos so appreciated what we saw - *Diastella divaricata*, *Edmondia sesamoides*, *Erica abietina* and *cerinthoides*. Pink seemed to be the 'in' colour for the flowers we saw - particularly the *Chironia lionoides* and *Lachnaea grandiflora*. Perhaps a flower highlight was lilac coloured *Corymbium africanum*, a delight to photograph complete with insects amongst the flat flowerheads. Luckily for the visitors we had a few fynbos 'fundis' interspersed among the group.

Reaching the top of Kanonkop we paused for a break to admire the view down south to Cape Point. The old canon was bright and shiny (and still slightly sticky!) with a fresh coat of rustpreventing paint. Our visitors - some from England, Wales and U.S.A were interested to hear the history of the canon - fired only as a signal - and that the Diaz and Da Gama monuments were used as navigational aids.

The return trail down to BVC was naturally quicker - spurred on by the thought of the picnic which was held at the small patio at the back, shaded by the old stone pine. We were glad to be joined by 2 more Friends, Joan Allen and Joan Ackroyd. After enjoying a delicious assortment of food, kindly contributed and shared by everyone, we asked Jean Sikutshwa to tell us all about the Red Hill Eco Club with which the Friends are involved. We had some pictures of the children enjoying

the first few outings we have organised. The Friends were very grateful to those who contributed some cash donations so that we can carry on encouraging a love of nature among the children.

In particular we would like to thank Tony and Julie Burgess, Miriam and Martin Horrocks and Magda for their very kind donations.

In order to make the outings more fun we have been providing some basic food in the form of rolls with cheese, etc, apples - in other words healthy food. For the December outing we took the group back for lunch to the Visitor's Centre as Bortjiesdrif was currently under siege by the local baboon population. At the centre we gave them food plus a home-baked fruit cake followed by some presents of an Environkidz magazine, some coloured pens or pencils and a chocolate bar for each child.



corimbium africanum



edmondia sesamoides

Red Hill Outing - Bortjiesdrif to Venus Pool - December 13

This was an adventure which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. Amongst the interesting things we encountered were the Bortjiesdrif baboons, the oolitic limestone cliffs, a big mole snake, tortoises, an eland skeleton (minus skull and horns), a snoozing seal, a spiny starfish and a couple of ostriches with their 2 babies. The kids were intrigued by these creatures showing varying degrees of excitement/anxiety.

As mentioned above, lunch was after the walk at the BVC in order to escape the unwelcome attentions of the baboons at Borties. All in all it was a pleasant outing and hopefully a spur to the children to appreciate the wonders of this natural world.

At a follow-up meeting they were given a work-sheet on the animals encountered with snippets of information and questions about them. They wrote their stories of the outing which Miriam judged and were given chocolate rewards.



a snoozing seal



on the rocks



a spiny starfish

Welcome: to new FOGH member Yvonne Viljoen.

- Remember southerncrossroads.info/fogh/

COMMITTEE

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