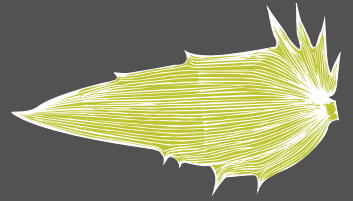


WOODIANA

N°001
2013



Cultivating People and Plants

| Living Beehive

| ...a botanist of the highest rank

| Permaculture with purpose

| The magic of this space is going to touch us

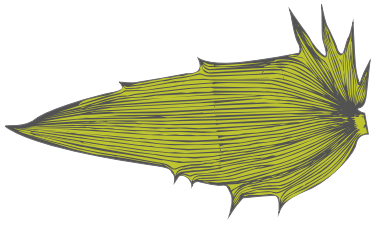
| Touching a life

| Solar Solution

A Publication of the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust



Summer Edition



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A Message from the Curator

Martin Clement - Curator, Durban Botanic Gardens

"The Gardens are bigger than us"

Our first edition of Woodiana marks a changing focus for one of Durban's oldest, and most-beloved institutions. As a Botanic Gardens, our mandate is increasingly shaped by the knowledge that plants and intact natural environments make for healthy societies. This awareness, and its growing relevance, challenges us to expand the definition of a 'Botanic Garden'. There is now broad recognition that cities must lead in pioneering adaptations to an uncertain economic and environmental future, and that ecosystem-based solutions are effective and appropriate. If Biodiversity and ecosystem services help to reduce economic and social risk, then the time to trust in this truism is now. For this reason, we must seek a new horticulture – a horticulture that is relevant to a future of socio-economic and environmental vulnerability. In a city marked by inequality and exclusion, this is both the model of plant use and the social contract that we seek. At the same time, the Gardens are treasured for their scenic, social, spiritual and scientific dimensions, among many others. These dimensions too, are part of the well-being that supports environmental justice and wisdom. The Gardens speak many languages, to a wide audience. They make space for toddlers and taxonomists, passers by and permaculturists, activists and artists – all are needed and all are welcome. If you are tired, you may wish to simply slip from the city, slow down and stop - to rest in the living and poetic presence of plants. This too is necessary. Come for whatever reason brings you. The Durban Botanic Gardens (DBG) is yours - it has a moment, a moral and a memory for you all.



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

... a new publication, a new name, a new focus

Ivor Daniel – Chairman, Durban Botanic Gardens Trust

Welcome to Woodiana, a publication of the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust, and a fresh voice in our efforts to support and promote the Durban Botanic Gardens. The launch of this publication coincides with the Trust's relocation to new offices at the Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors' Centre.

From these solar powered premises we shall continue to raise funds on behalf of the Gardens and to see that such funds are accountably deployed in accordance with the Trust's fiduciary obligations regarding public money. We are motivated in this task by a keen and growing perception - as expressed in the publication you hold in your hands - that the Durban Botanic Gardens is a treasure of growing importance. The scientific value of the Garden's plant collections alone sets them apart from seemingly similar municipal parks, while their historical and cultural pedigree accord them a value that is rare among Durban's open space assets. Looking to the future, the Gardens aspires to become a centre of practical assistance for those wishing to live more lightly and sensibly in response to environmental challenges and uncertainties. For these reasons, the Durban Botanic Gardens deserves the support of an independent body who can work with the City to maintain their singular character as a much-needed and relevant resource for Durban's residents. To do this we must continue to bring the Gardens to life as a place of excellence, so that its unique attributes and meanings speak to all. This is perhaps the best guarantee of its future we can hope for, and to this end, I hope that you will enjoy and be inspired by Woodiana, and all that it stands for.



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

Living Beehive

The DBG recently became home to The Living Beehive COP17 Legacy Project, a joint undertaking of the Department of Environmental Affairs, South African National Biodiversity Institute, eThekweni Municipality and the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust. The installation was opened by Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi during COP17. Taking its design template from the iQukwane, or traditional Zulu Beehive hut, the installation uses a high tech steel frame to imitate the hut's domed structure. The hut's walls and ceiling comprise a meshwork of both out- and inward-facing displays of plants, which are visible from both outside and inside the 'hut'. The plant palette emphasises indigenous species local

to the eThekweni area, with sun-loving, wind-resistant and water-wise taxa on the roof, and shade-loving ones within. The structure brings together elements of technology and biodiversity – the high-tech steel framework combining vertical wall and rooftop gardening approaches with plants rooted in an evolving variety of organic and manufactured growth media and supporting materials. The significance of this conjunction was aptly indicated by eThekweni Mayor James Nxumalo and Minister in The Presidency : National Planning Commission, Trevor Manuel who summarised the Beehive's symbolism as an integration of human, technology and ecosystem-based adaptations to climate change.



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

▲ Instructive both inside and –out, the Garden's Beehive draws attention to the necessary convergence of human values and ecosystem-supportive technologies that may assist us to respond to environmental change

“...a botanist of the highest rank” – The John Medley Wood Medal is awarded to Cecil James (Roddy) Ward



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

The Durban Botanic Gardens are most closely associated with the person and curatorship (1882 – 1913) of John Medley Wood. A prolific collector after whom approximately sixty species of plants are named, Medley Wood published the first flora of Natal and established a herbarium of some 46 000 specimens at the Botanic Gardens. To honour the memory of this superlative field botanist, the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust bestows an annual award to an individual deemed to have made a comparable contribution to the botany of the province.

The awarding of the first John Medley Wood medal to Cecil James (Roddy) Ward provided a rich opportunity to reflect on the form that such a contribution may take, and to honour a humble and unassuming ecologist.

From his early days as a student, Roddy identified himself as a generalist, a lover of the field and a collector - “I wanted to learn by being in the bush and I saw collecting as something inherently positive”. Employed for ten years at Hluhluwe Game Reserve with the then Natal Parks Board, Roddy’s capacity for fieldwork and footwork was legendary - his enjoyment of collecting matched by that of the physical exertion that attended it. During this period he was tasked with determining the carrying capacity of the Zululand game reserves and started the Natal Parks Board Herbarium, while also attending to environmental matters from the coast to the Drakensberg.

His strenuousness as a collector led, over a period of six

decades, to the lodging of just over 17 000 herbarium specimens. The scientific capital represented by this work is not only difficult to evaluate, but may also be overlooked. Indeed, some botanists – correctly so – have described collecting as an altruistic pursuit. Duplicates of Roddy’s specimens are to be found in a number of South and southern African herbaria, and overseas herbaria including Kew Herbarium; his collection of aquatic plants is gauged to be one of the more extensive and complete in southern Africa. His vouchers are accompanied by field notes which are recognised for their meticulous and instructive observations, reflecting what has been described by fellow botanists as an “unsurpassed” ecological and taxonomic knowledge of the KwaZulu-Natal flora. Because publications on the flora of Natal have mostly been contemporaneous with Roddy’s collecting career, there are few published works or field guides which have not benefited substantially from his contributions. In addition to their obvious value to taxonomy, Ward’s herbarium specimens have been cited in many international publications over the years. The invaluable practical application of his field experience is attested to in his many site management reports, vegetation descriptions and species lists drawn up for environmental impact assessments, and his ongoing advice to municipalities and environmental planners regarding developments. Adding to this scientific capital is a personal photographic collection of plants, animals, habitats and aerial photos comprised of approximately 200 000 images.

But it is perhaps as a teacher that Roddy is most fondly recognised. His practice of coaxing his students into the field, and inspiring in them a love for their subject is well known. To this day, students speak of the “Ward effect”, and remember a man who was “kind, patient, and always willing to share his time”; they recall a mentor who “moulded our attitudes in seeing people as people, and looking beyond skin colour.” When J.H. Ross produced *The Flora of Natal* in 1972, students spoke of their “pride” at encountering references to material collected by their lecturer.

In both his professional and personal life, Roddy appears to have modelled a rare orientation. In pursuing the altruistic path of collecting, and in identifying himself



Photography by - Asok Rajh

as a generalist and a naturalist, he chose an approach to his subject in which “...the best you can give are direct observations in the field.” While such an ethos is difficult to measure or reward, it is a timeless reminder of what formal, academic ecology all-too-often forgets; that ecology is anchored – irreducibly - in description, observation, and the long-lived field inquiries of the naturalist. In his broader dealings with students and society during the height of apartheid, Roddy elected a similarly authentic activism. His temperament was unsuited to rhetoric or posturing, but his courtesy, his talent for meeting others ‘on equal ground’, made an enduring impression on many.

Perhaps Roddy’s humility, his service to botany, and the many accolades to an “honourable” and “perfect gentleman” his award has occasioned, suggest a further virtue - gratitude. When presented with the Medley Wood Medal he said – “To have been awarded a medal for having done what I have enjoyed doing all my life is, indeed, a double bonus”.



Described by colleagues as an “unsurpassed” repository of ecological knowledge, a “botanist of the highest rank” and a “perfect gentleman”, Roddy Ward receives the John Medley Wood medal from Ivor Daniel, Chairman of the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust

Regarded widely as a selfless botanist and teacher, Roddy Ward was most at home in the field, with notebook characteristically to hand



Photography by - Dr Jerry Gosnell

Permaculture with Purpose

“It is one thing to speak about biodiversity and horticultural excellence, but in a permaculture garden you see it” – so says Jabulani Memela, lead trainer in the DBG’s newly-established permaculture teaching garden. The garden is upfront about its intentions; a large outdoor poster declares permaculture “a design system that reconciles human communities with the ecological imperatives of a living planet”. This ethos anchors the DBG’s goal to support a city-wide production of safe, fresh and healthy organic food through socially and ecologically sustainable methods. The DBG’s schools food security project, and the many permaculture courses hosted at the Gardens – in both English and Zulu – have initiated a close, and ongoing relationship between the Gardens and a growing clientele. Other beneficiaries include the Corner Cafe and the Cancer Association. A Food Gardens Network has been established to offer support to new permaculture practitioners; one group started their own Facebook page, and many course participants return to the Gardens to seek advice. In this way, the DBG are helping people from all walks of life to take personal and practical control over their health and food security. As one of the posters in the permaculture garden declares – “Be the change you want to see happen”!



Photography by - DBG



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

▲ The Durban Botanic Gardens Permaculture Garden

▼ Wearing his heart on his head ! Jabulani Memela is a qualified permaculture design instructor and lead trainer for the DBG’s permaculture outreach project. A Durban Botanic Gardens Trust sponsorship is allowing Jabulani to forge a network of rich and ongoing relationships with Durban residents. Learning-by-doing makes permaculture come alive. Children thrive on this hands-on approach

“...the magic of this green space is going to touch us”. - Freshly Ground

The Durban Botanic Gardens continues to confirm its status and success as an outdoor music venue. The Garden’s Music at the Lake concerts have been sponsored by Old Mutual for 2012 and 2013, and were organised in 2012 by the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust joint venture partner, Impi Concept Events, and is one of the Trust’s major fundraising programmes. Performances by Johnny Clegg, Mango Groove, The Parlotones and Freshly Ground have underscored the Garden’s value as a favoured venue for these musicians, and garnered many an appreciative observation. Johnny Clegg spoke of Botanic Gardens as a reminder of the “fundamental truth” that within the confines of a city “thousands of living trees, plants, flowers, insects, birds and small mammals have a place in our life”. Echoing this appreciation, Mango Groove’s Claire Johnston recalled that

“This space should be celebrated. It is a wonderful natural site. We are delighted that we will be playing here.” To judge by the crowds in attendance, many concert-goers are in agreement that the Gardens are perfect meeting place of nature and culture – the Gardens a perfect setting for home-grown music. These sentiments were enthusiastically captured in September by none other than Hugh Masekela who described his concert to a packed gardens as “an absolute blast”. Perhaps reflecting on the power of both music and nature to unite people, Masekela saw the concert as “... a major step forward for the Gardens in terms of opening up to all segments of society.” He observed that “Most of my staff didn’t even know it existed...I must have run into about a hundred regulars from my jazz club on the day and they all thoroughly enjoyed it”.



Photography by - IMPI Concept & Events

▲ A home to many moods, audiences and icons, the Gardens are a much-loved venue for musicians and concert-goers alike

FEATURE ARTICLE



Images supplied by - <http://www.artprintsa.com/sibonelo-chiliza.html>

The significance of the Garden's beauty and atmosphere cannot be accounted for in any definitive sense, because these qualities resonate uniquely in the interiors of all who enter. This subjective dimension, however, is made manifest in all who are inspired, or moved by the Gardens, to express themselves. Sibonelo Chiliza came to the Gardens and discovered himself anew, as a painter of plants

Touching a life - the story of Sibonelo Chiliza

The Gardens touches people's lives in many ways. This is the story of SA's first black botanical artist, Sibonelo Chiliza.

Sibonelo Chiliza's first visit to the Durban Botanic Gardens set his career on a new trajectory and breathed life into his dream of being an artist. Because his High School did not offer art as a subject he studied Textile Design at DUT. But a visit to the DBG in search of ideas for a second year assignment caused Sibonelo to be drawn to, and to draw some of the plants he saw there. This was the turning point. The drawings were noticed by a friend, mentor and ex-lecturer of his, Jean Powell, who discerned at once the promise and potential in the work. This led to a three month internship at the DBG and exposure to The Botanical Artists' Association of Southern Africa, for whom the Gardens are a home. During this period, Sibonelo met Gillian Condy, the resident Botanical Artist for the South African National Biodiversity Institute, who offered a

further internship at the National Herbarium in Pretoria. While his career path took various twists and turns, Sibonelo's identity as an artist came increasingly into focus, as he participated in various projects, illustrated books and gained recognition. To this day, Sibonelo speaks fondly of the afternoon in 2001 when he entered the Durban Botanic Gardens for the first time and discovered among its plants the talent that "gave my life direction." He still visits the Gardens as often as he can for the "inspiration and renewal" that he finds there. Sibonelo is aware that he is breaking boundaries as SA's first black botanical artist, and while this is exciting to him, he also mentions the great pleasure he felt on his mother's first attendance at an exhibition of his work in April 2011. He remains grounded in the focus and stillness that informs his work, and his affection for the plants that first spoke to him in the Durban Botanic Gardens: "I am doing something beautiful, and I still go to the Gardens just to sit and get in touch with myself."

Solar solution

The Garden's status as an outdoor classroom recently expanded to showcase a practical, high-visibility smart solution to the energy challenges we face and the low carbon lifestyle to which we must aspire. Arriving at the Gardens, the feel of a renewable energy working environment becomes immediately obvious in the form of the display – stepping from your car you will see two 2.1 kW solar photovoltaic arrays mounted on tracking systems which follow the sun and provide solar electricity to the adjacent Visitors Centre. The installation was suggested by Carbon-cutting NGO Project 90x2030 which received funding from the German Ministry of Cooperation to deliver 15 renewable-energy demonstration sites in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Western Cape. The solar panels and tracking system were designed and installed by the sustainable energy engineering firm Grey Green, and the Gardens have signed an MoU with Grey Green committing to ownership and maintenance of the facility, and its

integration into the DBG's ongoing environmental programmes. This approach is designed to link with Project 90x2030's vision to model life-style changes and clean technologies in the areas of energy, transport, waste and water use. Because cities account for two thirds of global energy demand and up to 70% of global greenhouse gases, the greening of our growing cities is the place to start, and the Durban Botanic Gardens is thus a high-impact display site where city dwellers can see renewable technologies at work for themselves. If you're looking for an off-grid, carbon-neutral venue to host your next function, the DBG Visitors Complex is the place !

Clean, lean and green ! Cities account for two thirds of global energy demand and up to 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors Complex is having none of it !



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Sara Oldfield

Secretary General – Botanic Gardens Conservation International



Durban Botanic Gardens, established in 1849, has a wonderful history and exciting future! Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is proud to include Durban Botanic Gardens within its global membership. We celebrated our long association in 2009, when Durban hosted BGCI's 7th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens. This was the first time the education congress had been held in Africa. Over 100 delegates from 23 countries enjoyed the opportunity to discuss connecting plants and people in the beautiful setting of the Botanic Gardens.

BGCI's mission is to mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet. One of the ways we do this is to highlight best practice and showcase successful initiatives underway in botanic gardens. We are impressed and inspired by Durban's work in permaculture and look forward to bringing this work to a wider audience. Certainly the participants in the 2009 Education Congress shared our enthusiasm for the permaculture food garden training centre and Durban's outreach to local communities.

Land degradation through unsustainable farming practices is one of the major causes of biodiversity loss and weakens natural resilience to global climate change. At the same time a significant proportion of the world's population do not have an adequate diet. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) estimated that 852 million people were undernourished between 2000 and 2002, whilst per capita food production declined in sub-Saharan Africa. Permaculture offers a solution increasing food output in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. Botanic gardens, with their skills and expertise in botany, horticulture, plant conservation, ecology and education are in a strong position to promote permaculture. Traditionally many botanic gardens were involved in the development of agriculture and trialing new crops. Botanic gardens in various parts of Africa retain an interest in growing food crops and working with local communities to improve household food security. Food and culture are implicitly interconnected and can be effectively interpreted within a botanic gardens context. Durban Botanic Gardens, Africa's oldest botanic gardens, is taking the lead in making this a reality!

The Durban Botanic Gardens and COP 17 - a retrospective comment



As host to COP 17 Durban was recently part of an effort to build consensus in managing our atmosphere, a shared environment belonging to all. What role did the Botanic Gardens play in this weighty matter? While COP 17's subject was climate change, it had a deeper relevance. COP 17 indicated a global awareness of the imperative to live co-operatively on a finite planet. It was this emerging planetary awareness that was truly significant. How might a Botanic Gardens support this kind of awareness in the many spheres in which it is needed?

The Durban Botanic Gardens (DBG) is re-fashioning its identity to answer this question. Guided by a new focus of - Biodiversity. Education. Heritage. Research and Horticultural excellence, the Garden Window Project invites a deep understanding of our intimate and mutually sustaining relationship with plants.



The Garden's many programmes show how these relationships are preciously expressed in Science, Art and Culture, and how these expressions can serve the needs of sustainability, social justice and public interest. Our permaculture training, food gardens outreach to schools and environmental education are a major focus for 2013 and beyond. This applied horticulture also relates to ethnobotany, organic food production, ecological literacy and design, and urban greening and biodiversity conservation. Our new focus will contribute to the City's IDP and service delivery for a 'climate smart' city by addressing the quality of natural and built areas and the environmental services that underpin healthy urban living. Against this backdrop, the Gardens remain a splendid example of a classic, historical arboretum of cosmopolitan provenance and international repute. As a venue freely accessible to all since its founding in 1849, the Gardens are treasured by Durban's citizens, while some 500 000 visitors and over 1000 school groups pass annually through its gates. From toddlers to teenagers, scientists to sunbathers...the list goes on, revealing the Gardens as a treasure that has matched its message and meaning to many, and a space which speaks to all who pass through it.

Block by Block - A new book in the making - by Dr. Hugh Glen, Di Higginson-Keath and Barry Lang

SANBI specialist botanist Dr. Hugh Glen has teamed up with Garden Education stalwart Di Higginson-Keath and Chief Horticulturalist Barry Lang. The trio will be digging deep into the Garden's interpretive possibilities on a block-by-block basis to provide visitors with, to quote Hugh, "a fragrant mixture of fun and facts." With the twin goal of updating the Garden's plant inventory, the three hope to produce a book that will bring the Gardens alive through a mixture multifarious - touching on natural history, horticulture, ethnobotany, cooking and history, amongst many other subjects pertaining to plants. Envisaged is a format based on each of the blocks demarcated in the DBG maps made available to visitors. Each block will be treated as a space with its own character and stories. Their offering will enable visitors to explore the Gardens afresh, as if placing a magnifying glass over each block and seeing textures previously unseen.



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

The Friends of the Durban Botanic Gardens

Guided by the efforts of the Friends of the Durban Botanic Gardens, the DBG continues to host a variety of visual and performance arts. In addition to its Discovery Room, Visitors Complex and amphitheatre, its many discrete and enclosed environments lend themselves variously to music concerts, open air theatre and drama, art exhibitions, fashion shoots, photography, sculpture displays, guided walks, weddings, picnics, mothers' groups and both out- and indoor corporate functions, including book launches and wine tastings. The Gardens recently featured in Channel 2's Magazine Programme Pasella which covered the DBG as one of SA's historical treasures. Many of the abovementioned activities are co-ordinated and hosted by the 'Friends' to raise money on behalf of the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust, and make an important contribution to maintaining the Garden's services and standards.



Photography by - unknown



Photography by - Geoff Redman

Sandile Myeni and Linda Larratt of the 'Friends' with the Durban Botanic Gardens exhibit at the Sunday Tribune Garden Show. The exhibit won a Bronze Certificate and served to re-introduce the public to the 'Friends' in anticipation of a full and varied programme in 2013

“Rarity unto death” – Durban’s Racecourse Lily

Kniphofia pauciflora - first collected in Durban by the renowned Swedish naturalist Johan August Wahlberg in 1841 - is presently the focus of attempts to secure its last currently-known population from developments anticipated in a possible expansion of the Durban harbour. *Kniphofia* has been championed by DBG Trust stalwart Professor Snowy Baijnath of the UKZN School of Life Sciences since his joyful re-discovery of the diminutive Lily following a presumed extinction from its last-known ‘natural’ locality, the Clairwood Racecourse, in 2003. Plans to sell the Racecourse for development as an Office Park are apparently at an advanced stage, and should the property developers fail to accord it protection, then its existing IUCN listing as ‘critically endangered’ will carry an additional foreboding.

The plant’s rarity has driven a steady demand in the horticultural trade and *Kniphofia* is now a popular subject in coastal gardens. However, propagation from seed is difficult, as seed set is poor, and nurseries bulk their stock vegetatively through basal division. This clonal material is derived from the presumably small Racecourse gene pool in which population in-breeding is already suspected, a

diminution of genetic fitness that may also portend extinction in the wild. A glimmer of hope does however exist, in the expectation that more populations may be discovered in the Pinetown area.

Kniphofia’s plight recalls that of all-too-many taxa, and flags a role for urban Botanic Gardens. Field observations are needed to understand its natural history, including flowering, pollination and seed set; field excursions are needed to search for new populations. Without these basic field data our recovery plans for *Kniphofia* will suffer for lack of knowledge. And it is precisely this kind of knowledge which returns us full circle to the Durban Botanic Gardens and its efforts to make plants like the Racecourse Lily come alive in the experience of their future champions. The Garden’s focus on whole plant studies and natural history, and its efforts to provide plant encounters that are vivid, tactile and interactive are fundamental. Such experiences, especially at an early age, provide a foundation of knowledge and concern for plants like the Racecourse Lily, and many others like it, who will require the support of Botanic Gardens now and in the future.



Photography by - DBG

▲ *Kniphofia pauciflora* on the Clairwood Racecourse near Durban. Embattled and endangered, the story of this diminutive lily is a reminder of the importance of Botanic Gardens in fostering the skills and sensibilities that are needed to take care of such taxa

Schools Education Programme

The DBG has an ongoing relationship with Durban's schools through its Schools Education Programme, which provides grade-specific Garden tours. Working closely with WESSA, and keeping current with the National Curriculum, the Programme's Garden-trained and accredited guides offer learners interactive, activity-based instruction in what is surely Durban's finest outdoor classroom. Teacher interviews prior to visits help guides to tailor tours to the needs of each group while the Garden's mix of habitats allows

learners to study aquatic, grassland and forest environments, and to immerse themselves in hands-on encounters with trees, flowers, seeds, soils and insects. With a focus on games, theatre and learning-by-doing, the Gardens offers a creative, sensory and tactile encounter with the plant world that is designed to bring the classroom to life. The DBG Schools Programme is currently managed by long-time volunteer and Gardens stalwart Di Higginson-Keath and her team of volunteer guides.

Photography by - Di Higginson-Keath



Photography by - DBG



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

Immersed in hands-on contact with the natural world, the Gardens offers curriculum-tailored sessions for learners under the instruction of accredited guides who provide creative, tactile and sensory encounters with plants that are designed to bring the classroom to life

Birds

The Durban Botanic Gardens is an important link in Durban's green network and plays host to a number of interesting species of birds. Foremost among these are Pink-backed Pelicans which began breeding at the lake in 2003, and remain to this day, forming one of only two breeding colonies in South Africa. The DBG lake is of particular interest bird-wise, and has for the last 11 years been the focus of monthly bird surveys, the data from which are submitted to the University of Cape Town's Animal Demography Unit as part of a country-wide programme of co-ordinated water bird counts, or CWAC counts as they are known in ornithological circles. By submitting these records the DBG contributes to a broader picture of bird distribution and habitat utilisation country-wide.



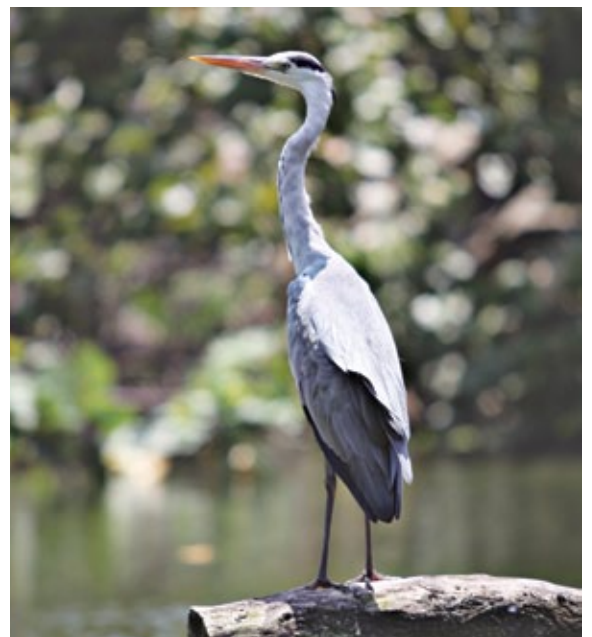
Photography by - Erin Wreford



Photography by - DBG

▲ A Pink-backed Pelican among the Lotus Lilies (*Nymphaea nouchali*) on the Garden's lake. These birds breed in the Large-leaved Figs (*Ficus lutea*) and Casuarinas (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) fringing the lake, making the Gardens one of only two breeding colonies in South Africa. This highlights the potential role that small urban habitat islands like the Gardens can play in influencing the fate of this vulnerable species

▼ The Gardens are currently home to a breeding pair of Black Sparrowhawks, a fairly common, but secretive and seldom-seen species which is nesting in a Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*), indigenous to Australia and New Zealand, and planted in the Gardens over one hundred years ago



Photography by - Clinton Friedman



Why the Botanic Gardens belongs to you

The Durban Botanic Gardens naturally speaks the language of learning, heritage, creativity; of the senses, the school syllabus and the six year old, of parents and permaculture, of artists and academics. The Gardens remind us constantly that we are inseparable from the natural world, and must care for it if we are to care for each other. In the DBG, this message is brought to life in myriad ways. It takes the form of the housewife who after years of cooking with Tamarind and Cinnamon comes to see the trees for herself, the academic who photographs a tree for a scientific paper and the activist who attends a course on ecologically responsible food production. It is present when a Buddhist gazes in reverence at the Bodhi Tree and when a five year old feeds the ducks; it is there for the matriculant whose biology syllabus leaps to life on a guided tour and the father who says to his son "this is the tree where Mom's coffee comes from." It is the botanical artist who finds a perfect subject, and the child who sees the biggest seed, the longest leaf and the tree roots which seem to dangle from the sky. It is there, too, in the graduate who discerns amidst the greenery evolution's unfolding, the school that grows organic vegetables for its pupils... the shy meeting of lovers in the Fern Dell on a summer evening. Whether you enter it as a classroom, chapel, studio, theatre or farmer's field...the Gardens are yours.

Photography by - Clinton Friedman

“On the last day of the world I would want to plant a tree”

-W. S. Merwin-



Photography by - Clinton Friedman

Give a Gift - support the 'Gardens Refreshed' Campaign

Should you donate to the Durban Botanic Gardens Trust, you are investing in the future work of the Gardens in areas of Plant Conservation, Education, Heritage, Research and Horticultural Excellence. There are a number of exciting projects which need support, ranging from cycad security, new garden features, maintenance of existing projects, restoring heritage spaces in the Gardens, and the water conservation project.

Please support the Durban Botanic Gardens 'Gardens Refreshed' campaign.

PayFast internet donation: durbanbotanicgardens.payfast.co.za

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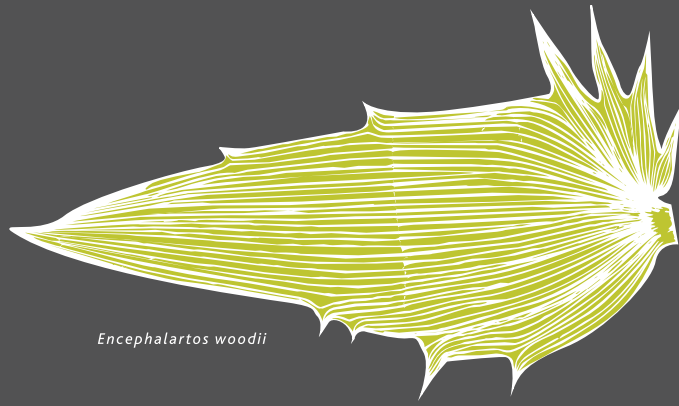
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