

FORUM BOTANICUM

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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSKAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

S.A.G.P. VERSLAG VAN DIE PRESIDENT VIR 1977: Geagte mede-plantkundiges, dit was vir my 'n besondere eer om vir die afgelope jaar as Ere-President van ons Genootskap te dien. Dit was verblydend om eerstehands te kon waarneem dat die SAGP allerwêë as die amptelike en 'n verantwoordelike mondstuk van die plantkundiges van Suid-Afrika aanvaar en gerespekteer word. Hiervoor moet ons die ampsdraers van die verlede bedank. Dit is die gesonde en prysenswaardige wyse waarop hulle die sake van die Genootskap in die verlede hanteer het wat 'n status aan ons Genootskap verleen het wat ons as 'n kosbare kleinood moet vertroetel.

Gedurende die afgelope jaar het 54 persone by die Genootskap aangesluit terwyl ons 14 lede verloor het. Daar was dus 'n netto toename van 40 lede. Die huidige lidmaatskap staan tans op 315 wat saamgestel is uit 6 ere-lede, 14 ge-affilieerde lede, 10 instituuitlede en 285 gewone lede. Van die lede wat ons verloor het, het 4 ons deur die dood ontval. Hulle is Dr M R Levyns, Mev E Powrie, Dr M A Pocock en Prof H G W J Schweickerdt. As 'n huldeblyk aan hul nagedagtenis vra ek u om vir 'n paar oomblikke in stilte te staan.

Verskeie van ons ge-eerde lede is gedurende die afgelope jaar vereer. Ek dink veral aan Dr L E Codd aan wie die S A Medalje deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Genootskap vir die Bevordering van die Wetenskap toegeken is. Dr I C Verdoorn het dieselfde Genootskap se Sertifikaat van Verdiensterlikheid ontvang. Ons wens hulle graag geluk met hierdie mooi prestasies.

Die samestelling van die Raad het twee veranderinge beleef. Dr Fiona Getliffe, het na haar huwelik met Dr R E Norris, haar in die VSA gevestig en haar plek op die Raad is deur Mnr Charlie Boucher gevul. Dr Helmut Tölken het nie kans gesien om na Desember 1977 met die veeleisende taak van die sekretaris voort te gaan nie en is deur Mej Mienkie Welman opgevolg. Aan Dr Tölken ons opregte dank vir die groot hoeveelheid werk wat hy op 'n onselfsugtige wyse vir die Genootskap verrig het. Aan Mej Welman ons opregte dank vir haar bereidwilligheid om die plantkundegemeenskap van Suid-Afrika op hierdie wyse te dien. Ons ken haar as 'n pligsgetroue persoon en koester

hoë verwagtings van haar.

Die Raad het die afgelope jaar drie keer en wel op 29 Januarie, 26 Februarie en 20 Augustus vergader terwyl die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Raad vyf keer vergader het. Laasgenoemde vergaderings het op 25 Februarie, 18 Mei, 24 Junie, 10 Augustus en 16 November plaasgevind. Van die 15 Raadslede het 12 die eerste raadsvergadering, 8 die tweede en 9 die derde vergadering bygewoon. Afgesien van die swak bywoning van Raadsvergaderings is dit verontrustend dat afwesige lede selde van die vergunning gebruik maak om plaasvervangers aan te wys wat hulle op die vergaderings moet verteenwoordig. Aangesien die belange van die Genootskap nie bevredigend deur so 'n handelswyse gedien word nie, het dit miskien tyd geword dat remediële stappe oorweeg moet word.

Tydens die hersiening van die grondwet het dit aan die lig gekom dat verskeie wysigings óf noodsaaklik óf wenslik is. Voorstelle ten opsigte van sulke wysigings sal hopelik gedurende die nuwe jaar deur middel van posstemming besleg word. Die grondwet maak byvoorbeeld nie op 'n bevredigende wyse voorsiening vir die vervanging van 'n raadslid wat deur middel van die bloknominasiestelsel aangestel is nie. Die vereistes vir die toekenning van eerbewyse (medaljes en sertifikate) is tans in meeste gevalle so streng dat toekennings selde gemaak sal kan word. Daar word naamlik vereis dat minstens 80% van alle raadslede ten gunste van 'n toekenning moet stem alvorens die toekenning gemaak kan word. Vir sekere toekennings word hierdie vereiste as onnodiglik straf gesien.

Alhoewel die ondersteuning wat lede in die vorm van bydraes aan Forum Botanicum kan lewer, ruimte vir verbetering laat, het mnr Ted Oliver en mej Mienkie Welman daarin geslaag om hulle uitmuntend van hul taak te kwyf. As 'n nuusbrief is Forum Botanicum ongetwyfeld 'n groot sukses en ons opregte dank gaan aan die redaksie vir hul opofferings.

Die Gemeenskaplike Raad van Natuurwetenskaplike Verenigings verrig steeds op verskeie fronte 'n waardevolle funksie aan die wetenskaplikes van die land. Een hiervan wat baie moeilik is om deur te voer maar wat nogtans daadwerklik vorder, is die registrering van natuurwetenskaplikes. 'n Konsepwet is opgestel vir finale bekragtiging deur die lidverenigings. Onderhandelings is ook aan die gang om die Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Wetenskap van die Suid-Afrikaanse Genootskap vir die Bevordering van die Wetenskap, onder die voogdyskap van die GRNV te plaas en met die hulp van die Buro vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies as 'n nasionale tydskrif uit te gee.

Die lede van die SAGP wat op die minister van Landbou-Tegniese Dienste se Advieskomitee insake Plantkundige Sake dien, verrig steeds 'n waardevolle

funksie. Die vier sub-komitees van die Advieskomitee het gedurende die afgelope jaar elk 'n omvattende verslag met ingrypende voorstelle vir die toekomstige ontwikkeling van plantkunde in Suid-Afrika opgestel. Die gekonsolideerde verslag wat oor ekologie, ekonomiese plantkunde, fisiologie en taksonomie handel sal hopelik later vanjaar aan die Minister voorgelê word.

Little progress has been made with our efforts to raise funds for the Association and to improve those aspects of the Nature Conservation Ordinances of the Country which irk many of our members. The proposed manual on how to Organize a Congress has also received hardly any attention during the past year. The committee which is to report on the training of ecologists in South Africa has made a promising start and we look forward to their report. The re-constituted committee which has to find ways and means of effectively publicising Botany in South Africa has shown so much activity of late that they have almost bewildered Council with the financial implications of their proposals!

Considerable progress has been made in getting unanimity amongst the parties concerned with the establishment of a truly national South African Journal of Botany. Many thorny issues must still be solved before the appearance of such a journal will be a practical proposition. We are however confident that with the prevailing goodwill and drive to establish a series of subsidized national journals, the solution of none of the foreseeable problems will prove to be insurmountable.

Should we succeed in our negotiations, all members of SAAB will automatically receive the South African Journal of Botany as one of the privileges of being a member of SAAB. This would however necessitate increasing the subscription to SAAB to the tune of about R5 per person, per annum. The journal will be sold to non-members at a considerably higher price.

During the 1977 Congress, Dr P Berjak and other interested persons sought the assistance of SAAB in getting the Beachwood Mangrove Swamps near Durban preserved. Your Council gladly took the matter up with several government bodies and received a favourable response. The swamps have in fact been declared a Nature Garden under the Natal Nature Conservation Ordinance number 15 of 1974. It will be administered by the Natal Parks Board for the Provincial Administration. We trust that this will prove to be a satisfactory arrangement.

The Pretoria National Botanic Garden at Brummeria in which the Botanical Research Institute is situated is likely to be threatened by road building schemes in the neighbourhood. For this reason your Council considered it

appropriate to endeavour to have the Garden proclaimed a National Monument. Thus far the response to our efforts has been positive.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who during the past year have assisted me in looking after the affairs of SAAB. Our treasurer, Prof Albert Eicker once more deserves a special word of thanks for the splendid way in which he has discharged his duties.

The rich experience and sound judgement of the past president, Dr Bernard de Winter, which was freely available during the past year is highly appreciated. To the vice-presidents, Dr Amy Jacot Guillarmod and Prof Kobus Eloff, together with the other Council members my sincere appreciation for their loyalty and assistance. Since Professor Lutjeharms will not serve on Council for the coming year, I would like to extend a special word of thanks to him for his contributions to the affairs of SAAB. The membership has elected Mr Charlie Boucher, Dr Guy Bate, Dr Bernard de Winter, Prof Kobus Eloff, Dr Amy Jacot-Guillarmod, Prof Trevor Steinke and Dr Adrie van der Walt to Council for the next two years. Although most of them are old hands at the job, I would nevertheless like to congratulate them on being elected and welcome them to Council.

In conclusion I would like to thank the local Congress Organizing Committee who functioned under the chairmanship of Dr Keulder, Dr van Rensburg and also Miss A M Reyneke. Many of us who have experience of the trials and tribulations that go hand in hand with organizing a Congress can appreciate what they have put into the project to ensure its success. Many thanks once more.

BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PRETORIA: On the first of May 1978, the Botanical Research Institute will be celebrating its 75th birthday. This is the anniversary of the day on which Dr Joseph Burtt Davy took office as botanist and agronomist in the old Transvaal Department of Agriculture. His section later became the Division of Botany in the Union Department of Agriculture. It became best known to Pretorians, and to botanists the world over, for its national herbarium which was for many years housed at 590 Vermeulen Street, in the shadow of the Union Buildings. Here, scientists, agriculturalists, gardeners and naturalists brought plants to be identified - a service basic to conservation and utilisation. But the Division of Botany also offered many other services and did research in many other fields, such as plant ecology, anatomy, cytogenetics and economic botany. In fact Dr Burtt Davy's first duties were to make extensive journeys through the Transvaal to meet farmers, discuss agricultural needs of the districts, take note of forage plants, poisonous plants and noxious weeds, and to collect

and preserve specimens of the indigenous vegetation.

By 1972 the Division of Botany, now known as the Botanical Research Institute and under directorship of Dr L E Codd, had moved to spacious new buildings in the Pretoria National Gardens, adjacent to the CSIR. This garden is unique as a scientific collection with plantings representing the various communities found in South Africa eg Bushveld, Forest, Karoo and Grassland. Already this garden incorporates 4000 species, from all parts of the country, but of course the Transvaal and the Pretoria area with its distinctive vegetation is particularly well represented.

Between the appointment of Dr Burt Davy on the 1st May 1903, and the appointment of the present director Dr B de Winter, in 1973, the Botanical Research Institute has had a number of eminent botanists as its directors: Dr I B Pole-Evans (1913-1939), Dr E P Phillips (1939-1944), Dr R A Dyer (1944-1963) and Dr L E Codd (1963-1973). It has also had many staff members who have achieved international recognition in their various fields. Among them are: Dr Inez Verdoorn who rose from being a technical assistant, to being one of the most consulted taxonomists in South Africa, Cythna Letty - South Africa's foremost botanical artist, Mary Gunn - botanical historian and bibliophile, who made our library the finest in South Africa and John Acocks - doyen of ecologists in South Africa and author of the great Veld Types map of South Africa.

In its 75 years the Botanical Research Institute has achieved much to be proud of, and it stands on the brink of newer and bigger contributions to the life and well-being of the country.

The 75th birthday celebrations will commence with a symbolic re-collection of Aloe davyana, on Meintjies Kop near the Union Buildings. This species has been chosen because it was one of the very first to be collected by Dr Burt Davy, as part of his official duties and was later named after him. Later in the day the plants will be placed in a small commemorative garden.

In the morning (at 9h30) the role of botany in the development of the Republic of South Africa will be reviewed in a symposium to which 100 guests, prominent scientists and administrators, will be invited. This will highlight the importance of the plant sciences to agriculture, commerce and industry, as well as stressing their strategic value and their importance in the social ecology of mankind.

The symposium will be followed by a lunch for 350 guests and members of the institute, and a speech and tree planting ceremony by the Hon. Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agricultural Technical Services.

The menu for the lunch will be an exciting one - consisting mainly of indigenous foods washed down with maroela juice and a punch made from rooibos tea. Venison, smoked snoek and waterblommetjiebredie will be accompanied by Kei Apple jelly, salads made from Okra (an African Hibiscus), mother-in-law's tongue (Sansevieria) mushrooms and there will be a 12 kilogram fruit cake made with one ostrich egg.

Some of the plants used are indigenous not only to South Africa, but to Africa as a whole, or may even be plants of world-wide distribution - such as the common purslane (Portulaca oleracea) a little weed whose succulent leaves provided salads for our ancestors in Europe centuries ago. And in one or two cases we have included plants that originated further north in Africa, such as Sorghum which provides the flour for puddings, and the grain to substitute for rice or potatoes. There will be nuts and trimmings too from indigenous plants - but all chosen for their tastiness.

Thus although some plants used are not strictly speaking indigenous to South Africa, the whole accent will be indigenous.

In this way we hope to give a way out 'treat' to the Institute's friends, those who have supported the cause of botany down the years, and to publicise the importance of indigenous plants as alternative sources of foods.

We want to make this a memorable 75th birthday celebration, and a fitting tribute to our institute and the field in which we work - the study of plants on which mankind depends.

DEPT PLANTKUNDE, UNIVERSITEIT VAN STELLENBOSCH: Die jaar 1978 het vir ons Departement op 'n hoë noot begin deurdat die getal eerstejaarstudente in Plantkunde feitlik verdubbel het tot ongeveer 270. Hierdie skielike toename stel groot eise aan die beskikbare ruimte en geriewe in ons gebou. Vir eerstejaars-praktika word tans van 'n goed-ingerigte tydelike laboratorium in die Ingenieursgebou gebruik gemaak. 'n Nuwe Biologiese-gebou word nou as 'n dringende behoefte gevoel, veral vanweë die feit dat die groter getal eerstejaars ook 'n toename in later jaargange gaan veroorsaak.

Dr J J A van der Walt en mnr R B van der Merwe het die derdejaarstudente gedurende die April-kortvakansie na die Tsitsikammabos en -seekus Nasionale Park by Stormsriviermond geneem. Verskillende aspekte van bos-, fynbos- en kusplantegroei is bestudeer.

Dr J J A van der Walt is van April tot Junie met studieverlof en vertrek gedurende Mei vir 2½ maande na Brittanje en Europa waar hy verskeie herbaria sal besoek in verband met die projek oor die Geraniaceae waarmee die Departement besig is.

Mnr M J T Botha, onderwyser aan die Hoërskool Strand, tree vanjaar op as tydelike dosent in die afdeling Plantfisiologie waar hy tans besig is met navorsingswerk vir 'n M.Sc.-graad.

In die afgelope paar jaar het die Botaniese Tuin van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch hom toegelê op die uitbouing van die sukkulente en semi-sukkulente Geraniaceae. Die Tuin beskik vandag oor goeie versamelings van Sarcocaulon en van die sukkulente spesies van Pelargonium. Met die hulp van die Navorsingsinstituut vir Plantkunde sal van hierdie plante in Julie in Pretoria by Succulenta 78 uitgestal word.

Mnr R O Moffett het sy studie oor Sarcocaulon afgerond en verwerk tot 'n proefskrif vir die M.Sc.-graad. Hy verlaat Stellenbosch by die einde van Mei om 'n betrekking as lektor in Plantkunde aan die Universiteit van die Noorde te aanvaar.

Mnr P Drijfhout wat, ondermeer, belas is met die versorging van die Geraniaceae in die Botaniese Tuin van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, gaan in Mei vanjaar op -uitnodiging na Hillscheid in Duitsland waar hy kennis sal maak met die kweek van Pelargoniums deur die firma Pelargonien-Fischer KG. Na sy verblyf in Hillscheid sal hy verskeie vooraanstaande Botaniese Tuine in Europa en Engeland besoek. Op sy terugreis sal hy Succulente 78 in Pretoria bywoon.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT PHYSIOLOGY, IAPP: IAPP has embarked on a project to produce a Directory of Plant Physiologists covering national representatives, their addresses and terms of their mandates and the number of members of each National Society of Association belonging to IAPP. Questionnaires were sent out but needless to say IAPP has only had 50% reply - people can't be bothered to react when it affects themselves.

WNPP, What's New in Plant Physiology, was a roneoed journal produced by Dr G Fritz of the University of Florida. This used to be sent out free to members of IAPP and was supposed to have been circulated with Forum. Now WNPP has been reorganised and a charge of \$3 per 12 issues is being levied, starting January 1978.

The purpose of WNPP is to publish monthly mini-reviews of about 2000 words on a variety of topics in plant physiology. Written by specialists, they are intended for plant scientists seeking an overview of new developments outside their fields of concentration. Although most manuscripts will be generated by invitation, volunteered submissions will be considered.

Subscribers in South Africa are requested to pay by U S bank draft or international money order (\$3) to Houston Baker, 9411 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20760, USA.

The newsletter of the IAPP lists congresses, symposia and courses of interest to plant physiologists. Many of them were too late for inclusion in Forum. However those still to be held are noted here.

12th Harden Conference on "Mechanisms of Action of the Reproductive Hormones"

Wye, Ashford, England, 10-15 September 1978

Organized by R V Short.

Information: The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, London, WC1 5DP, England.

The Biochemical Society, Refresher Course on "The Biochemistry of Membrane Function"

Nottingham, England, 25-27 September 1978

Information : The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, London, WC1 5DP, England.

2nd International Symposium on Quantitative Mass Spectrometry in Life Sciences

Gent, Belgium

13-16 June, 1978

Information : Prof A De Leenheer, Laboratoria voor Medische Biochemie en Klinische Analyse, De Pintelaan 135, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

The Annual Meetings of:

American Fern Society

American Society of Plant Physiologists

American Society of Plant Taxonomists

Botanical Society of America

Plant Growth Regulator Working Group

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia
25-30 June, 1978

Advance registrations are being handled by each individual society. For all regular and student registrations received by Saturday, 15 April 1978, a discount shall be allowed (\$5.00) Advance registrations will be acknowledged if received by 1 June 1978.

Symposium on Transport by Proteins

Konstanz, FRG

9-15 July, 1978

Information : Prof Dr G Blauer, Dept of Biological Chemistry, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.

Prof Dr H Sund, Fachbereich Biologie, Universität Konstanz, Postfach 7733, 7750 Konstanz, Germany.

4th International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry (IUPAC)

Zürich, Switzerland

24-28 July, 1978

Information : Congress Secretariat, 4th Intern. Congress Pesticide Chemistry, P O Box 182, CH-4013 Basle, Switzerland.

3rd International Congress of Plant Pathology

Munich, FRG / 16-13 August, 1978

Information : Dr E Fuchs, Biolog. Bundesanstalt, Messeweg 11/12, 3300 Braunschweig, Germany.

4th International Congress for Virology

The Hague, The Netherlands

30 August - 6 September, 1978

Information: 4th Intern. Congress for Virology, Netherlands Congress Centre, P O Box 9000, The Hague, The Netherlands.

International Symposium on Enzyme Labelled Non-Radioimmunoassay of Hormones

Ulm, FRG,

Late summer/early autumn 1978

Information : Dr S B Pal, Universität Ulm, Dept für Innere Medizin I, Steinhövelstr. 9, 79 Ulm (Donau), Postfach 3880, Germany.

12th International Congress for Microbiology

Munich, FRG

3-8 September, 1978

Information : Prof K H Schleifer, Arcistrasse 21, 8000 Munich 2, Germany.

IUPAB 6th International Biophysics Congress

Kyoto, Japan

3-9 September, 1978

Information : Prof Fumio Oosawa, Dept of Biophysical Engineering, Osaka University, Toyonaka, Osaka 560, Japan.

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: At the second national weed conference held at Stellenbosch during February 1977 a decision was taken to investigate the possibility of forming a Weed Science Society. A questionnaire was subsequently circulated to all who attended the conference and others interested in the science and practice of weed control. Approximately 100 questionnaires were returned and the following summarizes the answers to questions:

Are you in favour of the formation of a
Weed Science Society?

YES: 95% NO: 5%

Would you join such a Society?	YES: 89%	NO: 6%
Should such a society operate on its own or become affiliated to some other suitable organisation?	On its own: 20%	Affiliated to other organisation: 78%
Do you consider that the S A Crop Production Society would be a suitable organisation with which to affiliate?	YES: 66%	NO: 15%

Replies were received from individuals in the following disciplines:

Agricultural Chemicals Industry	36%
Department of Agricultural Technical Services	21%
Forestry	3%
Universities	19%
Botanical Research	5%
Water Affairs	2%
Nature Conservation	2%
Municipalities	3%
Other (C S I R, Co-operatives, Control Boards, Private Research organisations, etc).	9%

POST CONGRESS EXCURSION TO THE EASTERN ORANGE FREE STATE AND LESOTHO

LOWLANDS: On Friday 27th January 1978, an enthusiastic group of botanists (mainly from South Africa but also from Rhodesia and New Zealand) departed from the J B M Hertzog Residence at the University of the Orange Free State for their four-day excursion. The first stop was made at Winburg, where our friendly and efficient "catering department" consisting of Mr and Mrs J S de Wet, were already waiting with the package lunch. After our arrival at the Willem Pretorius Game Reserve, we were taken on a tour through the reserve, ably guided by Mr D B Müller of the Orange Free State Nature Conservation Department. The photographers on the bus had a very profitable afternoon, giraffe, white rhinoceros, zebra, black wildebeest and various species of antelope being willing to pose for the botanists who are, of course, not interested in plants only. The small beehive huts of the Ghoja were also visited. After an enjoyable supper in the Restaurant, we were treated to a very interesting slide show and informal lecture by Prof E M van Zinderen Bakker, who was our guide for the Orange Free State part of the excursion. He discussed the flora of the Orange Free State and also gave an integrated picture of past climatic and vegetation changes, using information from various disciplines.

On Saturday morning we departed for the Golden Gate Highland Park, first

stopping at Senekal to have a look at the well-known fossilised tree stumps surrounding the church, then having tea at Bethlehem's Loch Athlone. Lunch was had at the Brandwag Hotel in the Golden Gate Highland Park, after which there was a choice of two hikes, depending on one's courage and fitness. This was a good chance to get acquainted with the rich Eastern Free State flora. Apparently there was enough excitement on both these hikes, provided by fearless individuals who either ventured perilously near to the edge of the Brandwag Buttress or who got themselves perched on high crumbling sandstone rocks. A braaivleis was held at the hotel in the evening where a certain professor of botany was unanimously elected as the best "hokey-pokey" dancer of SAAB. The evening's entertainment was terminated with the showing of the botanical film "The Third Day."

We departed after breakfast on Sunday morning and drove through the mountainous region of the Orange Free State past Clarens and Fouriesburg. We entered Lesotho through the Ficksburg customs post; Prof van Zinderen Bakker and Mr A J Healy leaving the group at this point. Our first stop in Lesotho was at the Dinosaur footprints at the Subeng River, where lunch was also enjoyed. We then drove through the lowlands of Lesotho under the expert guidance of Dr A Jacot Guillarmod. In Teyateyaneng we had our Sunday afternoon tea in the beautiful garden of the hospitable Mr and Mrs Cowley. Shortly after our arrival at the Holiday Inn in Maseru, a smaller group departed for a visit to the Bushman paintings at Ha Khotso, stopping on the way for a bird's eye view of Roma. The rest of the group had a chance to explore Maseru in the mean time.

The main attraction in the evening was, of course, the Casino. Fortunately it can be said that, since botanists are generally both prudent and poor, not much money was lost. On Monday morning there was a chance to buy typical Lesotho gifts and mementoes before re-entering the Free State at Maseru Bridge. Our last stop was at the ravine forest relic at Leliehoek in Ladybrand before driving back to Bloemfontein past Thaba'Nchu.

For the success of this interesting and enjoyable excursion, we must thank Mr and Mrs J S de Wet who drove in front with the Combi, the ever helpful Miss Andor Reyneke, our guides Prof E M van Zinderen Bakker and Dr A Jacot Guillarmod (They also compiled the informative booklet) and, of course, our strict but friendly tour leader, Mr Peter Stegmann. Last, but no least, we received the following poem from one of his many admirers:

We had a driver Koos Ras
who could drive without any fuss
and swing and swerve round any curve,
but bring safely back our bus. (M.W.)

S-W CAPE BRANCH REPORT, 1977: This year has been somewhat of an "in-between year" - inbetween the year of the holding of the first Cape Town Congress of SAAB and the year of preparation for the second S W Cape Congress which will be held in Stellenbosch in January 1979.

Our first official function this year was a very enjoyable picnic in the grounds of Coetzenberg, followed by an informative visit to the Protea farm of Mr Bachelor at Protea Heights which has now been taken over by the University of Stellenbosch.

The following lecture meetings were held during the course of the year in the Botany Departments of either the University of Cape Town, or the University of Stellenbosch:

1. Dr Richard Norris, the president of the American Phycological Society, gave an entertaining address (even for non-phycologists) on "The Phytogeography of the Kallimeniaceae", which he enlivened with speculation as to the reasons for this distribution.
2. Professor Christopher Cresswell, head of the Botany Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, provided an evening of entertainment for physiologists when he gave an address on the influence of nitrogen nutrition on the assimilation of carbon in photosynthetic plants.
3. Professor Halevy, professor of Horticultural Plant Physiology at Tel-Aviv, spoke on mechanisms of flower induction, and the experiments which he has been conducting in Israel in this connection.
4. Mrs H Threlkeld, a botanical artist of the Smithsonian Institute, currently occupied with illustrating the flora of Mexico, gave a superbly illustrated lecture on the flora of Alaska, memorable for the grandeur of the scenery illustrated as well as the floristic beauty depicted.
5. Over fifty members attended a very stimulating seminar led by Dr H J Deacon of the Department of Archaeology of the University of Stellenbosch on "Fynbos - a palaeoecological view". A lengthy and informative discussion developed on this topic, which was highly relevant in view of the recently initiated fynbos biome programme of the NPES
6. At the Annual General Meeting on 14th December an illustrated talk is to be given by Mr H C Taylor on the Flora of California (following on his recent visit to the USA.)

Members were also circularised with information concerning guest speakers to the Botany Departments of the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town, and lectures held under the aegis of Die S A Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.

The only matter of an administrative nature with which the local committee has had to deal during the year is an amendment to clause 5.2 of the constitution to clarify the election procedure of committee members at the Annual General Meeting.

Members of the S-W Cape Committee for 1977 were:

Chairman:	Prof O A M Lewis
Vice Chairman:	Mr C Boucher
Secretary-Treasurer:	Mrs M L Jarman
Additional Member:	Mr R O Moffet
Council Representative:	Prof W J Lütjeharms
Ex Officio:	Dr J J A van der Walt
Ex Officio:	Dr E J Moll

OVS-TAK VERSLAG, 1977: Die ledetal van die OVS-tak van die SAGP het in 1977 uitgebrei tot 30 lede. Gedurende die jaar het drie ou lede die streek verlaat, maar daar het nege lede bygekom wat 'n vermeerdering van byna 25% van die ledetal verteenwoordig.

Die komitee vir 1977 het bestaan uit:

Voorsitter	: Prof J N Eloff
O/Voorsitter	: Dr H J T Venter
Sekretaris	: Mnr P Stegmann
Addisionele lid	: Dr W L J van Rensburg

Gedurende die jaar is vyf vergaderings gehou.

23/2/77	Mej D J Barlow - The ultrastructure of South African Microcystis
15/5/77	Prof R E Norris - Possible pathways in World Distribution in certain Algal Families (Red algae)
16/6/77	Dr R L Verhoeven - Die invloed van mineraaltekort op die struktuur van die chloroplast
10/8/77	Mnr E G Groenewald - Die moontlike gemoeidheid van prostaglandiene by blom vorming van die kortdagplant <u>Pharbitis nil</u> .
1/11/77	Mnr R D Walmsley - Limnologie in Israel

Die lesings was van 'n hoë gehalte, stimulerend en het 'n wye veld gedek, met gemiddeld 25 persone teenwoordig per vergadering. Die tak was baie gelukkig om sprekers van die buiteland en van ander inrigtings te kon ontvang.

Die jaarlikse SAGP-kongres is vanjaar in Bloemfontein gehou en dit het die plaaslike tak se aktiwiteite sterk gestimuleer.

N. TRANSVAAL BRANCH REPORT, 1977:

Committee: Chairman - Dr J C Scheepers
Vice-Chairman - Dr G K Theron
Secretary - Miss M Welman
Treasurer - Miss I von Teichman
Members - Mr L A Coetzer
Mr T B Vorster
Mr W Reyneke

Number of Members: At present there are 104 members of SAAB in the Northern Transvaal, of whom 90 are resident in Pretoria.

Lectures: The following lectures were arranged during the year:

28 March: Dr R Magill: "Evolution of Bryological Classification: Musci:
19 April: Prof N Grobbelaar: "Die Indië van Vandag: Indrukke van 'n vlugtige Besoeker".
17 May: Dr R E Norris: "Prasinophycean Taxonomy as determined by Electron Microscopy".
14 June: Mr E G H Oliver: "My Visit to the Twelfth International Botanical Congress in Russia".
2 August: Dr D W Goodall: "Theory and Practice in Ecosystem Dynamics".

The average of 20% Northern Transvaal members who attended the lectures, was slightly higher than the 17% of last year. An average of 14 visitors attended each lecture. The members of the Southern Transvaal Regional Section were invited to all the lectures and the members of the Grassland Society were invited to the lecture by Dr Goodall.

Other activities: On the 9th of August a seminar was held on "Aspects of the Flora and Fauna of South West Africa" with the following speakers: Dr H Tölken (Botanical Research Institute), Dr S Endrody-Younga and Mr W Haacke (both from the Transvaal Museum.) Slides were shown and there was an exhibition of books on South West Africa as well as photographs, maps and minerals of the area. This occasion was attended by more than 150 persons. Members of the Biological and Wild Life Societies were also invited.

Committee Meetings: The committee met 9 times during the year.

General: This Regional Section is still represented on the Council for the Conservation of Moreletta-spruit.

The Committee made arrangements for a Short Course in the Theory and Practice of Quantitative Ecology and Numerical Taxonomy. Unfortunately this could not take place, because the Universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand did not have their holiday periods at the same time. It was therefore not

possible for Prof B Walker, one of the speakers, to be available in July when the computer of the University of Pretoria could be used. We hope that this course can be presented at a later stage.

INHEEMSE HOUTSOORTE: Dr C P Kromhout, Adjunk-direkteur (Houtnavorsing) by die Suid-Afrikaanse Navorsingsinstituut vir Bosbou, het die Ph.D.-graad in Houtkunde aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch verwerf.

Die titel van sy proefskrif is 'n Studie van die houtanatomie van die ver- naamste inheemse houtsoorte van Suid-Afrika en 'n sleutel vir hul mikro- skopiese uitkenning. Dit bevat anatomiese beskrywings van 139 inheemse houtsoorte van 46 plantfamilies, 'n kritiese beskouing van die mikrosko- piese kenmerke wat vir houtidentifikasie gebruik kan word, en 'n digotomiese sleutel met behulp waarvan inheemse houtsoorte mikroskopies uitgeken kan word. Beskrywings van sowat 60 anatomiese kenmerke wat in die sleutel ge- bruik word, word ook gegee en waar nodig met mikroskoopfoto's toegelig. Die anatomiese beskrywings is volgens plantfamilies ingedeel wat op hul beurt in die volgorde van Engler en Prantl se klassifikasiestelsel ge- rangskik is. Elke houtsoort se struktuur word met mikroskoopfoto's van dwars-, tangensiale en radiale mikrotoomsneë geïllustreer.

Dr Kromhout se promotor was prof G L F Hartwig, die eksterne eksaminator dr A M W Mennega van die Rijksuniversiteit in Utrecht, Nederland, en die mede-eksaminator dr A J du Toit van die Fakulteit van Bosbou, Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

EUCALYPT - THE TREE OF THE YEAR: The Eucalypt has been selected by the Green Heritage Committee of the Forestry Council as the tree of the year for 1978.

In its tree of the year campaign the Green Heritage Committee pays tribute to the country's fine indigenous trees like the Yellowwood and the White Stinkwood, as well as to exotic species like pine and eucalyptus which form the backbone of the commercial timber industry and which contribute R500 million annually towards the economy.

Eucalypts are native to Australia and they dominate roughly 95 per cent of the forest area of that country. Apart from the tall evergreen eucalypt or "gum" trees which we know in this country, the approximately 400 species and 200 subspecies of the genus Eucalyptus also include low, branchy shrubs. Because of their ability to adapt themselves to different climates, their rapid growth, and the excellent timber which many species produce, eucalypts have been planted extensively in various parts of the world. In fact it is

estimated that the volume of wood produced annually from plantations outside Australia and Tasmania has now grown to about five times that harvested in the natural eucalypt forests.

Eucalypts first came to South Africa in 1828. The first eucalypt to be introduced was E. globulus. To date more than 150 eucalypt species have been brought to South Africa, and their economic importance could hardly be overrated.

Of the 1 125 442 ha under commercial timber plantations, 380 010 ha is under eucalyptus. The most important commercial species by far is E. grandis (known in the timber industry as "saligna"), which covers an area of 303 948 ha.

Eucalypt timbers is the major source of locally grown hardwood and is put to a wide variety of uses. The most important are sawlogs, from which sawn timbers are obtained; fencing poles and droppers; mining timber, and pulpwood. Eucalypt timbers also make fine furniture and attractive laminated beams. The most important commercial species other than E. grandis are E. cloëziana, E. diversicolor, E. fastigata, E. paniculata and E. maculata.

Apart from its role in the forestry industry, the eucalypt has served South Africa well as a general utility and amenity tree in the colder and more arid, inhospitable areas where few other trees prosper. Eucalypts in farm woodlots and shelterbelts or in avenues lining country roads provide shelter and shade and are invaluable as a source of timber for local use and firewood. Important species which prosper in inhospitable areas include E. camaldulensis, E. cladocalyx, E. melliadora and E. sideroxylon.

The versatile eucalypt also makes an attractive ornamental tree thanks to the attractive flowers and foliage, or the picturesque bark of many species. The most popular ornamental tree is undoubtedly E. ficifolia, with its spectacular show of flowers. (Forestry News).

1978 S₂A₃ CONGRESS: Members are reminded that this Congress will take place at the University of Stellenbosch from 27 June to 1 July. Further details may be obtained from the Organising Secretary, P O Box 2050, DENNESIG, 7601.

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