The 2018 Spring Walk season will be most interesting! Following the recent rainfalls, we are excited to see what flowers are on display!! As you may remember, last season, even with the drought, we recorded two new species on the Common, namely *Ornithoglossum viride* and *Adenogramma molluga*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Walk Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays 11h30 to 13h00</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 September</td>
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If you have a group of about 10 people you can contact us and we will try to arrange a special walk for your group. It is preferable if the walks start late morning as few flowers are open before about 11-11:30.
RESTORATION PLAN UPDATE

As announced last year, the Friends of Rondebosch Common have embarked on producing a detailed Restoration Plan, using our own resources.

Alex Lansdowne has been appointed by FRC to compile this plan. As reported in our April newsletter and at the AGM, he had completed a vegetation and habitat quality survey and produced a draft “Habitat Condition Assessment Map”. Additional sections of the plan have been done and the consolidated Draft Plan is completed. The Plan has been sent for further review and input from the main stakeholders, being City Parks, SANBI and City Biodiversity. We are also using Dr. Clive McDowell, the botanical consultant to the RCLC, to assist.

While this “desk work” is taking place, some field work was also done! A combined initiative with SANBI and FRC took place on 21 June where 4000 *Protea repens* seeds were scattered in 4 plots (25 x 40m) on the Common. These seeds were smoked two weeks previously and provided by Kirstenbosch and sourced from Devil’s Peak. They were planted mostly on the Red Cross Milner road side. There are some sticks marking the GPS co-ordinates of the NW corner of each block. There are already 3 Proteas growing near here – from seeds planted last year.

Under Frances Taylor and Communitree, 2 members of the bird club are volunteering to monitor the bird population before and after which will be very valuable information. There were 2 Spotted thick knees (dikkops!) sitting there the day after seeds were scattered.

We watch and hope a number of these Protea seed germinate and flourish!!
2018 MANDELA DAY INITIATIVE

FRC advert on Facebook and People’s Post

Friends of Rondebosch Common and Communitree are celebrating Mandela Day on Saturday 21 July. Arrive any time between 9.30am and 1.00pm to work on and around the Common, planting, cleaning or hacking aliens.

Meet us at the Kikuyu lawn on Sawkins road and we will find some activity for you to participate in. If you can, bring along gloves, hand fork or spade and clear plastic bags for either collecting rubbish, weeding or planting. Ph Joanne for further information 0760424306.

All are welcome. For those who are not able to do physical work, manning the tables to direct new comers, promoting the Friends and selling our cards and books would be very helpful.

Communitree, our partners are also arranging a week of events!

Join us during Mandela Week! We warmly invite people, organisations, groups, friends, families, and others to join us in our public greening activities from Monday, July 16 until Saturday, July 21. We have a large number of activities planned during and around Mandela Day, July 18, to ensure that everybody can contribute and help green public spaces in Cape Town during their 67 minutes of contributing to service South Africa.

We have scheduled 2 hour sessions every day of the week, as well as Saturday. Everybody is welcome to join us at any time during the 2 hour time slot. Every help is welcome, even if you join for 67 minutes or less. You can sign up with a group friends, as part of an organisation, community group, or as an individual. We need all the help we can get to improve these public spaces.

For more info: https://communitree.in/mandelaweek
FRC members may recall mention of albums of paintings done by Betty’s family. A good while after we’d sorted through all the paintings that Betty Bowker Dwight (1924-2015) had left to the Friends of the Common (which included many by her grandmother) we were informed by Richard and Helene Cooke that a chest, which Betty had given to them, contained a number of small albums.

These albums had belonged to Betty’s great-aunts (Beatrice and Annie Francis Cummings) and were filled with a great many beautiful small sketches and paintings. They date from the late 1870’s through to 1924 and the subject matter was widespread throughout England and North Wales – with a great many being in and around Chester where they lived.

The Cooke’s have extremely generously passed the albums over to the FRC on the understanding that a suitable institute would be found in the UK to take custodianship of them. A photographic record has been made of all the sketches/paintings (over 950) and contact has been made with a number of the more relevant archival offices.

We have recently been informed by the Wales National Library in Aberystwyth that they will look after the albums, assess the photographs, if necessary re-digitise them and make them available on their social network platforms which will then be accessible to all relevant heritage interest groups throughout the UK.

Given that the majority of the content relates to north Wales, this has been wonderful news. Beatrice lived and painted in the small village of Caerwys (which has the status of a town having been granted a charter by
Edward I in 1290) and is the smallest market town in Britain. One of the albums is filled with pencil sketches of all the wild flowers around Caerwys – clearly an interest and skill which Betty inherited from her family.

Three of Mary Genevieve Cope-Arnold’s (Betty’s grandmother) albums have already been deposited with the Compton Herbarium at Kirstenbosch. These were of the wildflowers recorded particularly around Camps Bay during her visit between 1911 and 1914. It is intended that all the remaining work relating to Betty’s grandmother and other members of the family will, in time, be sent to the Warwickshire Archives near where her side of the family lived.

The immediate happening is that, when Tim sets off to the UK on holiday this month, accompanying him will be two ‘small’ packages containing 4kg of albums destined for Wales National Library in Aberystwyth, via the British Museum (which is another story in itself!).
Where to find the best blommetjies this Spring? Ask BotSoc!

“We have hand-picked for you a selection of our favourite places to go and experience the Cape’s world famous wildflower displays.”

This list includes Rondebosch Common! We would like to offer a huge thank you to the Botanical Society of South Africa for featuring our popular spring walks in their ‘Wildflower Wonders’ article on the BotSoc blog. The article can be read here.
(Or look under July 2018 on https://botsocblog.wordpress.com)
Communitree has been working hard on getting the weeds under control on the traffic circle on Sawkins Road, adjacent to the Rondebosch Common. For Mandela Week we will be working alongside Friends of Rondebosch Common on Wednesday and Saturday morning to remove the invasive grasses that are dominating the berm and middle-mannetjies along Park Road (Greening Site #71).

The invasive grasses on the perimeter of the Common must be removed and replaced with indigenous plants before the invasive grass issue on the Common can ever hope to be brought under control in the longer term.

We have planned events each day this week at our other gardens as well. Each of these gardens are part of a stepping-stone corridor between Table Mountain and Rondebosch Common to assist in linking insect and bird movements by using these fynbos garden patches along the way.

For more details and to sign up to garden, visit https://communitree.in/mandelaweek

If you wish to be a volunteer and be involved with any of their urban greening projects, or if you have ideas on suitable spots, or for funding of projects, please contact Frances frances@communitree.in
Friends of Rondebosch Common can be followed on Facebook. Anyone can use this open group to share experiences and photos of plants, animals and activities seen and enjoyed on Rondebosch Common. We urge you to “like” our page and to post your pictures and comments – this will help us in preserving the Common as we can point to the community interest and support we have!

Simply search for “Friends of Rondebosch Common”, join the group and get posting! As usual, we like to include samples of recent postings:

![Sample Image 1](image1.jpg)

![Sample Image 2](image2.jpg)
BOOKS and CARDS

We do still have limited stock of our cards and our book, Rondebosch Common. Currently you can contact Joanne or Tim (refer Committee list) and Starke Ayres also has stock.

Betty’s book is a treasure for information and as I get to know the flora more and more the more I notice in Betty’s book –she had an artist’s eye for noticing things.
Friends of Rondebosch Common

Friends of Rondebosch Common are an affiliated member of WESSA
(Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa)

FRC Membership

PLEASE renew your annual subscription by EFT or at our AGM

Name of account: Friends of Rondebosch Common
Bank: ABSA
Branch: Rondebosch Branch Code: 632005
Account number: 9048123299

Please use your surname & initial as reference

Send suggestions and general comments to
FriendsofRondeboschCommon@gmail.com

2018 Membership Fees

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>3 years membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual or family:</td>
<td>R75</td>
<td>R200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pensioners &amp; Students:</td>
<td>R40</td>
<td>R100 (max to 2020)</td>
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Friends of Rondebosch Common
YOUR FRC COMMITTEE

Chair: Vacant !
Vice-chair & Membership: Tim Jobson 021 689 3098 / 083 679 2688
Secretary: Joanne Eastman 021 685 3451
Treasurer: Joan Alexander 021 671 7270
Minutes Secretary: Louise Parker
Newsletter & PRO: Sue Oppenheim 021 686 8968
Hacking Officer: Patrick Hurly 021 686 8283
Marketing: Stephen Croeser 082 348 1516
Other: Mark Callaghan / Dan Retief
Environmental Issues: Lucy du Toit / Zoe Poulsen
Spring Walks Co-ordinator: Joanne Eastman

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

For issues such as: dumping, digging out bulbs, picking flowers, injured wild animals, snakes in your garden, erecting illegal structures, lighting fires or over-nighting on the Common, please call Mr Moses (021 761 5071) during office hours.

Metro Police: 0860 765 423 for traffic and non-SAPS law enforcement.
City's Displaced Peoples' Unit (DPU): 021 596 1999 (24/7)
Land Invasion: 080 022 5669 - only if a structure has been built

South African Police Service: For serious crimes on Rondebosch Common call
Rondebosch Sector Van at 082 378 9264 or Mowbray Sector Van at 079 894 1466
General Emergency: Including FIRE landline 107 or cell phone 112.
Or call 021 480 7700.
FIRE COMMAND - CENTRAL CONTROL: 021 590 1900.