



**BIOS OF COMMITTEE NOMINEES**

**Carol Cornell**

Carol's working career as a physiotherapist included time in Groote Schuur Hospital, a long spell in Community based Day Hospitals on the Cape Flats, community work in the rural and hospital environment in KZN and working in paediatric physiotherapy in her private practice.

Throughout Carol's years of professional life she had always been involved in community projects. These ranged from volunteer work with my professional society, with Lifeline, to supporting various school and preschool projects, developing rural child programs, community outreach work and church involvement. So on retirement she knew that she wanted to continue engaging with people and communities.

Carol was fortunate to be accepted to train as a Garden Guide at Kirstenbosch where she revelled in the opportunity to engage with people from all over the world and share our exceptional Cape Floristic region with them until recently when COVID-19 intervened. A particular passion of hers is to be part of outreach programmes specifically developed for children and young people to introduce them to the natural world and encourage in them a life-long understanding of and commitment to biodiversity.

**Moneer (Mo) Dalwai**

Mo grew up on the Cape Flats in Athlone, matriculating at Trafalgar High School. Because of the apartheid laws at the time, he was not allowed to continue with higher education in the Cape so studied part time through UNISA, obtaining a BCompt Accounting qualification.

After completing a stint at an auditing firm, Mo joined Shell Oil Company where he worked for 27 years in various financial positions. His last post was in forensic investigations in sub-Saharan Africa.

His passion has always been climbing mountains. He has climbed Thebana Netlenyana in Lesotho, the highest mountain in Southern Africa; Kilimanjaro – highest in Africa; Everest Base Camp and attempted Elbrus in Russia – highest in Europe.

At the age of 55, Mo retired from Shell and became a tour guide to primarily take visitors hiking up Table Mountain. Through regular hikes up Table Mountain, mainly Plateklip Gorge, he became familiar with the fauna and flora of Table Mountain and started learning more about the Cape Floral Kingdom and the fynbos that grows on our doorstep.

Mo joined The Kirstenbosch Branch of The Botanical Society of South Africa in 2019 and was appointed Treasurer at the AGM. His understanding of the Cape Floral Kingdom has expanded tremendously since joining The Botanical Society.

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### **Mmei Matjuda**

Mmei is an Environmental Advisor for Eskom Distribution in the Western Cape. He has 20 years of experience in conservation and environmental management on both government and provincial levels with Table Mountain National Park, CapeNature and Koeberg Nuclear Power Station. His experience includes project management, stewardship and conservancies, contract nature reserves, island management, the Millennium Seedbank Project, biodiversity offset, and spearheading the Fire Protection Association and other restoration projects. Mmei has been part of the Western Cape Wetland Forum Steering Committee and a member of Fynbos Forum Committee since 2014.

Mmei has an MSc in Project Management from UCT, business management qualifications from both the University of Stellenbosch Business School and UCT's Graduate School of Business, a MPhil in Environmental Management from Stellenbosch, and a B Tech in Nature Conservation from Tshwane University of Technology, amongst other qualifications.

### **Chris Moir**

Chris worked for over seven years for The Sunflower Fund which gives hope to sufferers of blood disorders such as leukaemia, whose chance of finding a matching donor is 1 in 100000. As a donor recruitment specialist she helped create awareness, educate and recruit donors for this worthy cause.

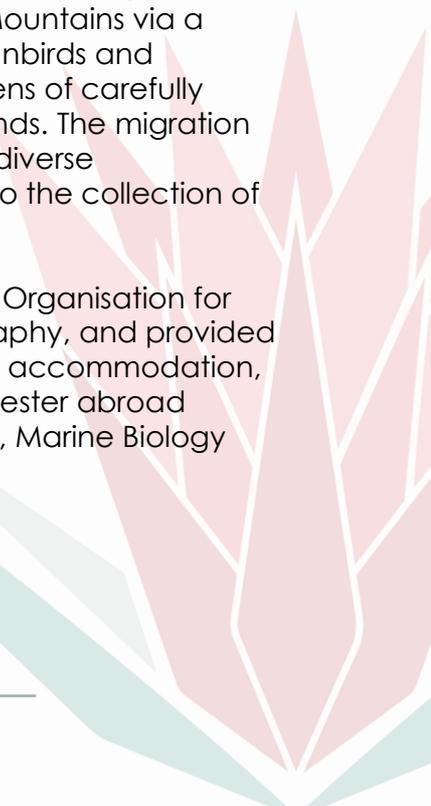
One of her favourite pastimes – hiking – opened up a new plant world for Chris, and so began a process of learning and involvement in this unique opportunity for her to 'know, grow, protect and enjoy' our indigenous flora. Whilst her recent NGO experience was involved in saving human lives, she has now found herself learning how to save plant lives. Chris sits on our Conservation, Outreach and Fundraising Subcommittees.

### **Ceinwen Smith**

Ceinwen is a freelance marine researcher and outdoor educator. She is currently the project manager for the Ingcungcu Sunbird Project, one of the conservation and outreach projects supported by the Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society. This project aims to link the Table Mountain National Park with the Boland Mountains via a series of pollinator gardens that will act as filling stations for migrating sunbirds and sugarbirds crossing the densely urbanized Cape Flats by planting gardens of carefully selected nectar-producing plants on strategically located school grounds. The migration corridor crosses the suburbs of Cape Town where school children from diverse backgrounds are engaged in all aspects of the project, from planting to the collection of bird and plant data.

Previously she was the logistics coordinator and resident lecturer at the Organisation for Tropical Studies where she lectured on marine ecology and oceanography, and provided field research expertise. She also coordinated the logistics for transport, accommodation, equipment, and permitting for OTS, an undergraduate field-based semester abroad program for conservation biology. Ceinwen has a MSc Oceanography, Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography from UCT.

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### **Grant Smith**

Grant is a recent graduate of Stellenbosch University with a BSc in Biodiversity and Ecology, and has previously completed a four-year course in the SANParks Junior Rangers Programme. Grant has always really enjoyed many outdoor activities such as camping, bird watching, wildlife photography and hiking which have in turn led to a keen interest in conservation.

Grant believes being a member of BotSoc will allow him the opportunity to assist in the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom, the ecosystem which ignited his passion for nature.

### **Simon Tamblyn**

An appreciation of plants was instilled in me in my childhood. My father would often take us hiking and gave me the best advice when it came to respecting the natural world, and specifically, fynbos: that you have to get down on your knees to really see it.

But it took Cape Town's recent drought to shake me awake and see the magnitude of the natural world around us. I am proud to say that I am tearing out my lawn in Plumstead and replacing it with endemic and indigenous flora.

Not one for half measures, this has resulted in me building a small hothouse, maintaining a spreadsheet of plants in our garden (over 200 endemic and indigenous species so far and counting), and always carrying a hand lens on me. On weekends you can often find me riding my bicycle (modified to carry a pullsaw, garden gloves and herbicide) around the Southern Suburbs eradicating wattles or photographing endemic flora and tapping away on iNaturalist or Instagram.

I have been a regular volunteer since 2020 for both the Princess Vlei Forum and the Botanical Society, Kirstenbosch Branch. I have met the most inspiring people along the way, who have been gracious enough to share their expertise and experience with me and others, and I hope I can do the same one day.

I work in the edtech industry as a digital design coach and I am passionate about communication, education, technology and collaboration. I believe all the threats facing our flora – around the world – are rooted in solvable human problems. We need to communicate and collaborate to form consistent and vigilant strategies to safeguard threatened species.

I believe it's my duty to ensure my child and their generation have the role models, knowledge and means to deal with these problems if they persist after I am gone.

### **Jeremy Wiley**

Jeremy is the current chair of the Kirstenbosch Branch Committee and a longstanding member of BotSoc. He is a businessman with an interest in commercial property and other investments. Jeremy enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle. BotSoc's conservation and biodiversity objectives align well with his personal philosophy.

Jeremy has a BSc and Post-graduate Diploma in Future Studies from Stellenbosch, amongst other qualifications.

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