



**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 her professional society, with Lifeline, to supporting various school and preschool projects, developing rural child programmes, 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 revels in the opportunity to engage with people from all over the world and share our exceptional Cape Floristic region with them. 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. Carol is currently the deputy chair of the Kirstenbosch Branch Committee.

**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 the 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.

### **Grant Smith**

Grant is currently studying for his Higher Diploma of Education at Stellenbosch University, having recently graduated from there with a BSc in Biodiversity and Ecology. He 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 affords him the opportunity to assist in the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom, the ecosystem which ignited his passion for nature.

### **Louis van As**

I suppose growing up on a farm was always going to nurture an appreciation of all things natural. As a youngster, I started out raising ducklings. Then, wildlife became a big interest. More recently, though, I started learning about our indigenous trees – probably because I have been battling far too long (and without much success) to establish a Fynbos garden.

My day job keeps me busy with numbers in the financial services industry. But living in Hout Bay is a real luxury and a bit of an antidote to all those hours spent in front of the PC. Not much beats watching those last rays of the evening sun light up the 'back' of Table Mountain. My wife and I have two teenage boys. There are also a couple of dogs, chickens and geese in the backyard. So, dull moments are few and far between.

Louis was recently co-opted onto the Kirstenbosch branch committee as treasurer, and hopes to continue contributing in this role.

### **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.