

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Karin Smith	Wendy Paisley
021 434 8743	072 625 0274 (Evenings)

**Important !**  
 Fire/theft/crime  
 086 110 6417

## FLASH NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 84

**Scheduled activities** (the schedule can also be viewed on our web site [www.friendsoflionshead.org](http://www.friendsoflionshead.org) or on our Facebook site [www.facebook.com/FriendsofLionsHead/](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLionsHead/)).

**Note:** Activities are free for members and visitors are welcome to make a R10 donation to FLASH

Date	Convenor	Event details	Fitness level	Time
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Margaret Moore 076-787-9849 021-790-2617	Orangekloof led by Ralph Roseman(12 persons ONLY/Must book by phone) Meeting Place: Constantia Nek Carpark	Strenuous	Start:0830
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wendy Paisley 072-625-0274 (evenings)	Table Mountain contour. Meeting Place: Kloof Nek parking.	Moderate	Start:0800
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Colin Theunissen 082-484-4600	Rhodes Memorial ramble	Moderate	Start:0800
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Gisela Mittendorf 083-940-4128 021-422-1394	Newlands Forest. Meeting Place; Newlands Forest parking.	Moderate	Start:0800
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Margaret Moore 076-787-9849 021-790-2617	Myburgh's Kloof. Meeting Place: Suikerbossie parking.	Easy	Start:0800
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Nic Van Rooyen 082-484-4600	Cecilia Forest. Meeting Place: Cecilia Forest parking.	Moderate	Start:0800
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Colin Theunissen 082-484-4600	Kalk Bay. Meeting Place: Clovelly Golf Club down Clovelly Road.	Strenuous	Start:0830
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Gisela Mittendorf 083-940-4128 021-422-1394	Lions head contour. Meeting Place: The Kramat	Easy	Start:0800

**Note:** Wear suitable gear and footwear for the weather and roughish terrain. Also waterproof protection or hats, sun-block, lots of water and refreshments for the mid-walk break. Dogs on leads are welcome. "Moderate" fitness required - for mountain paths; no climbing or scrambling. No smoking on walks, please, and switch off/conceal cell-phones. For security reasons, please phone the Convenor for meeting place and further details, especially on dubious weather days.

## Tygerberg Nature Reserve (by Margaret Moore)

On 16th September 2017 Gisela Mittendorf led us on a hike on the Tygerberg - the other side of the fynbos curtain. Tygerberg was declared a Local Area Nature Reserve as far back as 1973. From the Tygerberg there is a view across the flats to Table Mountain, Lion's Head and Signal Hill. On the western side it protects one of the few remaining areas of Swartland Shale Renosterveld. The ploughed fields on the eastern side are being rehabilitated but are infested with wild mustard. Along the way we met a very excited youngster who told us about a buck he had just seen. Sure enough there was a Bontebok gazing with interest at all the hikers passing by. The reserve is home to 46 mammal species. 560 plant species have been identified in the reserve and we had fun trying to identify some, peering at them with Andria's magnifying glass. We identified the wonderfully named orchid - Cowled friar (*Pterygodium catholicum*), the showy Peacock flower (*Spiloxene capensis*) and the Kalkoentjie (*Gladiolus alatus*). We had a lovely morning, thank you Gisela. -----



Kalkoentjie



Cowled Friar



Peacock Flower

## Flower Walk Lions Head Saturday 14 October 2017 (by Tessa van Rooyen)

When we saw the Flash program of walks and noted that Wendy had arranged for Dr Dee Snijman (Paterson-Jones) to lead the 14 October walk I went YIPEE! Dee is a retired taxonomist specialising in bulbous plants. Most of her fieldwork was concentrated in semi-arid areas of Western and Northern Cape. She travelled widely with her late husband Colin Paterson-Jones in southern Africa gathering photographic material on South Africa's incredible wildflowers. So we were in for a treat having such a knowledgeable walk leader, and we were not disappointed.

Dee explained how, depending on which way the different sections of Lions Head faced the sun, there would be different vegetation, and how important the different soil types were, with the area being of great interest to geologists because there is a variety of rock types on the mountain. And if you are unsure of how to identify a plant that looks similar to another, always check out the leaves for guidance.

Because she is such a fundi Dee named a great many of the beautiful indigenous flora we saw on our walk and I must confess that my brain could only absorb a portion of all the different names. But I do remember the exquisite *Pelargonium lobatum* which according to the Mary Maytham Kidd is seen from September to November from Signal Hill to Llandudno. Also of great interest to me was that South Africa has its own rose namely *Cliffortia*, the Climbers friend or Steekbossie/Doringbossie, part of the Rosaceae family. Doesn't look anything as pretty as the roses I am used to but I believe it can come to your rescue should you be unlucky enough to fall while hiking as long as you grab onto it, but it could be eina!

The break for a snack and a breather was in an area overlooking both Clifton and Camps Bay - surely the most beautiful views ever.

We had a wonderful hike which ended with a group photo of 13 of us in front of the FLASH info board on Signal Hill road. Thanks to Wendy and Dee for a marvelous morning.



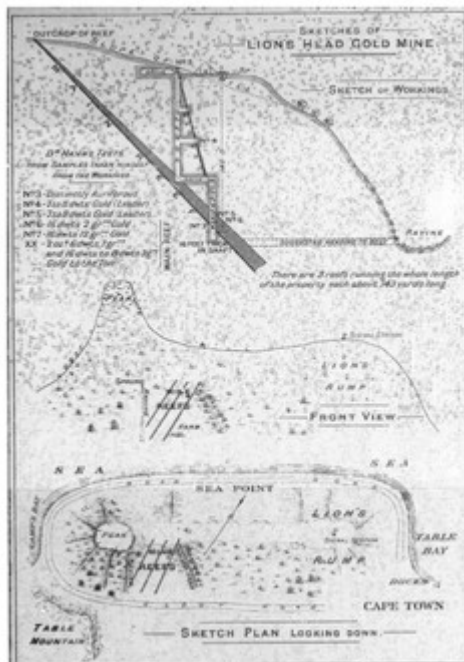
## The Gold Mine on Lions Head

This article was written by Peter Spargo and taken from The Heritage Portal. The article has been shortened and the full story can be found at <http://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/lions-head-gold-mine>

The discovery in March 1886 of the Witwatersrand Main Reef by the Australian prospector George Harrison did not come as a complete surprise. However there can be little doubt that, in spite of what Andrew Geddes Bain called "the golden mania" that was sweeping the Colony at the time, most readers of the Cape Times of Thursday 9 September 1886 would have been astonished to find there a letter from one 'HOPEFUL' - under the eye-catching heading THE LATEST GOLD FIELD - announcing that "there is one energetic fellow working a claim on the hill under the Lion's Head, and ... he has obtained gold in small quantities, a sample of which I have seen myself"

In August 1886, a few persons, interested in the search for gold formed themselves into a syndicate for the purpose of prospecting for gold on the Lion's Hill, and obtained permission from the Hon. J. H.

Hofmeyr, M.L.C., to prospect on his farm on the Kloof Road on the slopes of Lion's Head."



Sketches of the Lion's Head Gold Mine

Perhaps anxious to establish the legitimacy of the mine in the eyes of a critical public - and no doubt especially future investors - the Syndicate staged a well-organised publicity event: the gathering and sealing of a substantial sample of the ore from the mine in the presence of none other than the Hon. Frederick X Schermbucker who, as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works, was an important official in the Cape Colonial administration and would ensure its legitimacy. Although the report came back as positive the amount of gold found in the ore was less than the previous samples that were tested. The syndicate however needed more money to continue with the prospecting and issued a prospectus to raise funds for The Lions Head Cape Town Gold Mining Co..

This however was not successful and on 17 January 1888, a final press notice was issued by the company "The Shares not having been fully subscribed for, and [the] issue of [an]

amended Prospectus deferred, Deposits for Shares will be returned on application to Twycross & Co., Brokers." The venture had failed.

The syndicate, although presumably now dormant, must have lingered in existence after the mine ceased operating, for in 1892 they disposed of the farm which they had bought with such high hopes five years before. The previous year the Cape Town City Council Public Works Committee had decided that the open shaft on Lion's Head was dangerous and instructed the "Gold Syndicate" to fill it in or face prosecution. However, nothing was done and the shaft was only finally filled in in 1951 after a fire-fighter had narrowly escaped falling into it.

Today all that remains of the mine is a depression where the material used to fill in the shaft in 1951 is settling with time, some terraces and low stone walls, a few piles of excavated waste now covered with thick fynbos and the words "Old Gold Mine" on Peter Slingsby's 1:20,000 map.

**Application for New Membership – Friends of Lion’s Head and Signal Hill  
(FLASH)**

Title	Mr		Mrs		Ms		Other	
First name					Surname			
Postal Address								
						Postal Code		
E-mail address								
Telephone number (H)							Cell number	
Do you want to receive the FLASH newsletter? Please supply your email address							Yes	No
Do you want to purchase a FLASH t-shirt for R80?							Yes	No

**Membership fees and Payment**

Membership is R50 per person per annum, effective from January to December. Please deposit this amount directly to our bank account

Bank: Standard Bank Sea Point branch

Savings account no. 07 474 594 8

Please include your name as our reference.

If you pay by cheque or make a deposit at the bank, please add R20 to cover our bank charges, i.e. please pay R70. Cheques must be crossed and made payable to Friends of Lion’s Head.

Alternatively, you may give the cash to the leader of the walk. Please make sure that the name of the member, in respect of whom this payment is made, is recorded.

**Forms**

Your completed application form may be:

- a) Handed to the leader of the walk together with your payment, or
- b) Sent by email to friendslionshead@gmail.com or

**General**

Should you choose contact by email, your payment, once banked, will be confirmed by email. You will also receive the newsletter by email.

Activities presently include: regular hikes and litter clean ups. Other activities could include flower viewing and bird-watching, depending on volunteer guides.

For any further enquiries please contact Wendy Paisley 072-625 0274 (after hours).

Friends of Lion’s Head is a non-profit organisation and a member of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA).