

Bergvliet Meadowridge Ratepayers' Association

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Our Suburbs

Die Oog, the Meadowridge Common, our verges and gardens

Our suburbs contain some wonderful natural features and open spaces and the Association has supported the restoration and upkeep of these gems

Die Oog - Sight Restored



Built in 1726 on the site of an artesian spring, Die Oog was surveyed in 1883 as being 65m in length, with a 5m high wall. Over the following decades, Die Oog remained a feature of Bergvliet Farm, until most of the farm was sold to build homes for returning servicemen.

Die Oog - 1920



Designated by The City as public open space, by 1988 it was overgrown, unsafe and vandalised. Its sorry state was remedied by an initiative of the Chairman of the Ratepayers', Brian Gripper. With support from the City, the Hill Trust, the Lions Club and overseas donations, work on restoring Die Oog began.



Brian Gripper

The Friends of Die Oog continued what Mr Gripper and others began, restoring fynbos and providing a haven for waterfowl and endangered Western Leopard Toads.



The Meadowridge Common

The Common was an integral part of Meadowridge Garden City. At first just trees and bush, some areas were levelled by Garden Cities for sports: tennis and cricket at first, and now soccer, bowls and running.



Called "The Gorilla's Armpit" when socials were held there in the '50s and '60s, this Community Hall, now Sunny Skies Play School, stands on the Common.



The Meadowridge Common, a site of critically endangered Cape Flats Sandplain Fynbos, was recognised as a Conservation Site in 2011. Of the original list of flora compiled by Dr Purcell who owned the farm in the early 1900s, over 125 of them have been found there. This Public Open Space is managed by City Parks, assisted by the Friends of the Meadowridge Common.

Rare protea found on city common

GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN and its environs have more extinction-threatened plant species than any other city in the world, according to a botanical expert.

Mr Chris Berens, national co-ordinator of the UCT Protea Atlas Project, was commenting on a recent find by a Meadowridge woman of three plants of an endangered protea on the local common.

Mrs Esme Morris was walking on Meadowridge Common when she discovered a Flats Silky-puff Diastella proteoides.



Picture: GILL TURNBULL, The Argus

ENDANGERED PROTEA: Mrs Esme Morris of Meadowridge with the endangered low-growing protea plant she found on Meadowridge Common.

Until some years ago, the BMRA Spring Gardening Competition, judged by Nurseryman Ken Gillard and others, awarded prizes for: Best Verge, Best Vegetable Garden, Best Children's Garden and Best Patio Garden.



Time for spring garden competition

GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

YOU don't have to go all the way to Namaqualand to see spring flowers, says Bergvliet gardening expert Mr Ken Gillard.

Mr Gillard sprinkled indigenous daisy seeds on the verge outside his home in March, "walked on them and wet them" and they "popped up" to give a wonderfully colourful display.

"This is my contribution to a more beautiful neighbourhood," he said.

