



# SWISS CLUB NATAL

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## BENVIE OUTING/LUNCH HOWICK 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018



*"Spring has Sprung  
The grass is griss  
I wonder where the blossoms is"*

Well, one did not have to look further than a few metres! The whole of Benvie Garden was just ablaze with every colour of Azalea, and they were in their hundreds! What an absolute picture the whole Garden was – beautifully kept lawns, excellent pathways, delightful Clivias in abundance nestling in the shade of *THE* most wonderful trees.



This beautiful area derives its name from 'Benvie', a tiny village near Dundee on the East Coast of Scotland. John Geekie arrived from such a village in Pietermaritzburg in 1862 and in 1883 bought this area of land in Karkloof primarily to establish this garden. Trees were imported from all around the world, mostly from nurseries in Georgia, Atlanta in the USA (now the golf course where The Masters Golf Tournament takes place) and from Scotland. However, the northern hemisphere stock was not successful due to the heat, so the trees seen today are suited for the southern hemisphere and have come from Honduras, Japan and many other southern hemisphere countries.

Also, in abundance were most beautiful and very large colourful grasshoppers, but sadly many were found dead on the paths.

After our walk through the Garden, 25 Members/Guests and 2 very well-behaved children, met at the Yellowwood Restaurant in Howick. This venue gives wonderful views of Howick Falls and with the weather being more than delightful, we were able to dine outside in the shade of the trees. A very nice lunch was enjoyed by all.

During this most enjoyable day, old acquaintances were renewed! Gavin & Marianne Manley were soon chatting to an unknown face (Ingrid) and asked this lady what her occupation was. She replied that she was involved in environmental work and lived locally in Howick. Gavin then remembered that the sister of a friend of his, whom he had not seen for 50 years, was also involved in that line and asked if she knew the name Nänni. She replied that she was a Nänni! The Manleys then were introduced to her sister Pia and brother-in-law Kéch (the new Members) so talk turned to reminiscing about growing up in the same area in Pretoria – the two families being together in the same school, same scouts and sharing common friends! Ingrid's brother also came over for a chat and Gavin had last seen him 10 years ago!

May I take this opportunity to say goodbye and wish Carolyn Payn and family a fond farewell as they leave with their two lovely boys for North Carolina, USA in a few weeks. We wish them well and will get their up-to-date news from the rest of the Mitchell Family in due course.

Our thanks to Philippe for sourcing this lovely outing.

*So not only does the SCN plan lovely outings for its Members, but is a source of Friendship.*

Here's to the next time!

Kind regards

SHEILA