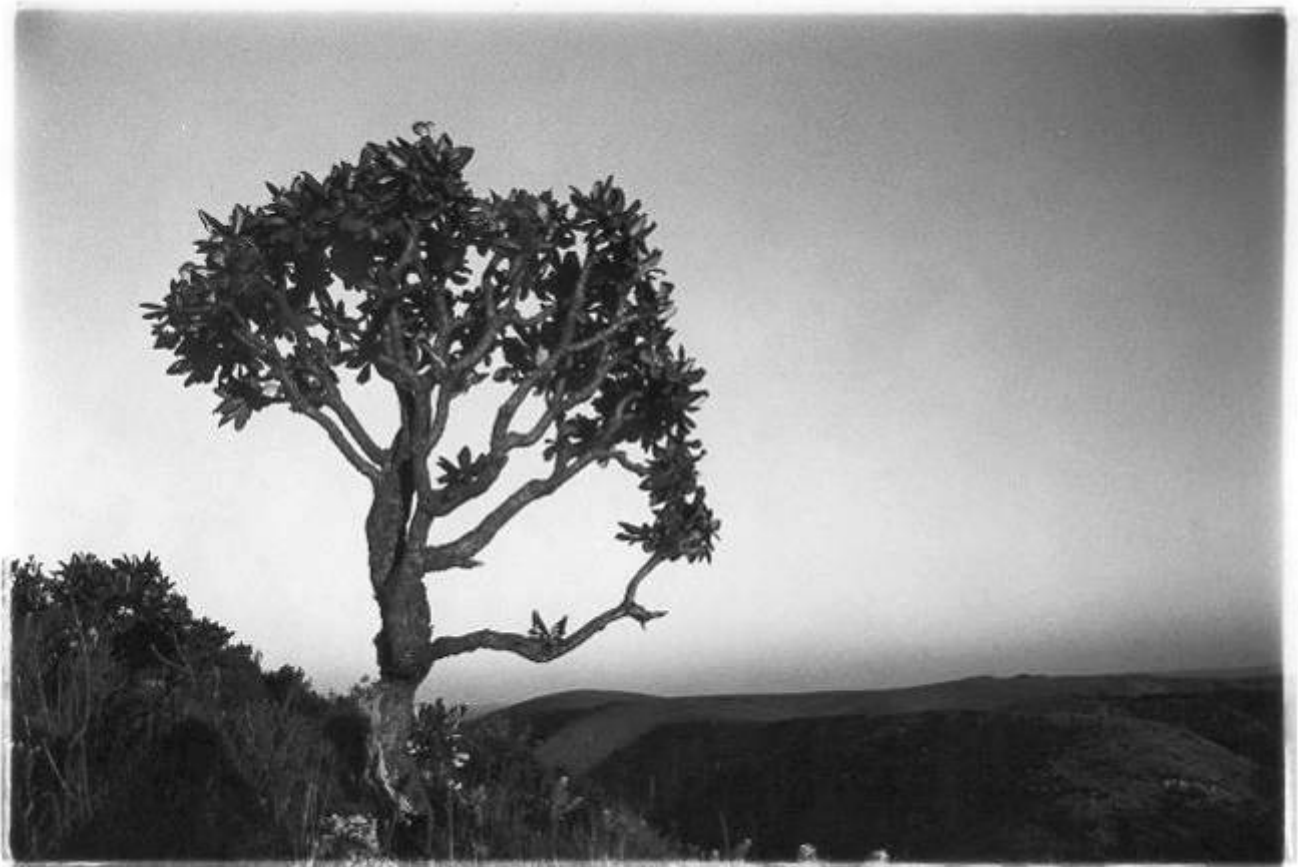




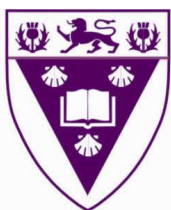
37th annual conference of the South African Association of Botanists (SAAB)

"Plants in a changing world"

First Announcement



Department of Botany, Rhodes University
Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 January 2011



RHODES UNIVERSITY



The 37th annual conference of the South African Association of Botanists will be held at Rhodes University in Grahamstown from the 17th to 19th of January 2011. The conference will be held in conjunction with the 9th SASSB conference "*Biodiversity Matters*" from the 19th to 21 January 2011, with overlapping sessions on the 19th of January.

Scientific programme:

We believe the theme "*Plants in a changing world*" is broad, inclusive, covers all aspects of Botany and is topical in the popular press. You are encouraged to consider how your research fits into this theme. Other descriptive and experimental studies are also encouraged as such information is required to understand how plants may respond to changing environments. The conference will comprise a number of themes, with an emphasis on linking theory to its application in the context of global change. Participants are invited to suggest additional themes, and to organise and chair sessions.

Session themes will include (but are not limited to):

- Plant responses to global climate change: from individuals to ecosystems
- Mitigating impacts of global change on biodiversity
- Ecosystem repair
- Invasion biology
- Biological control of plant invasions
- Plant use and ethnobotany
- Integrating cultural values into biodiversity conservation
- Biogeography: what can we learn from past and present plant distributions?
- Palaeobotany and palaeoecology
- Long-term monitoring of ecosystems
- Plant-animal interactions
- Adapting to global change: complex social-ecological systems
- Taxonomy, systematics and phytogeography

A number of leading international botanists have been invited to speak at SAAB 2011. Confirmed speakers are listed below and details of other plenary and invited speakers will be made available as they are received.

- **David Beerling**
David Beerling is Professor of Palaeoclimatology at the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences University of Sheffield. He has published over 100 papers in international scientific journals investigating the fundamental relationship between the ancient biosphere and climate. Recently he authored the acclaimed book "*The Emerald Planet: How Plants Changed Earth's History*". Before this he held a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, where his work on the evolution of life and the physical environment was recognized by the award of a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize in earth sciences (2001).
- **Peter Weston**
Peter Weston is a Senior Principal Research Scientist at the National Herbarium of New South Wales, Sydney. He has wide ranging interests including pollination, systematics and biogeography, ecology and philosophy. He has been part of a recent collaborative effort to examine biome transitions in evolutionary history, and has made important contributions to the debate surrounding the use of fossils as calibrations in molecular dating studies. He also has interests in assessing species responses to climate change and the Australasian flora in general.

Venue:

Rhodes University has a small intimate campus and all conference venues (lecture theatres, dining halls, residences and function venues) are within easy walking distance of one another (no more than 5 minutes). You will NOT need your car once in Grahamstown.



Garden of the Department of Botany, Rhodes University

Accommodation:

Accommodation will be available on the campus in university residences (B&B). Pricing details will be made available on the web page and communicated in the 2nd circular. Booking will take place online at the time of registration.

There are numerous nearby B&Bs, local Backpackers, and camping facilities close to campus. Details of these can be found at www.grahamstown.co.za/category.php?cid=1.

Field Trips:

Two field trips are planned during SAAB 2011. An afternoon excursion will take place on Monday 17th January after the sessions to see the flora and vegetation on the surrounding hills of Grahamstown (the Rietberge) now cleared of alien vegetation. This will be of interest to those working on ecological rehabilitation after alien clearing, and anyone interested in seeing the local grassy fynbos, grasslands and forests. A two day post-conference field excursion will be held depending on sufficient interest (12 or more participants), departing on Thursday 20th January. The field excursion will examine the dominant biomes of the Albany Centre of Endemism including the thicket, grassy fynbos, forests and karoo. Cost will be about R500 per day, depending on the class of accommodation. Please indicate whether you are interested and any specific areas or vegetation types that you would like to visit. Also provide preferences on where you would like to go, what type

of accommodation you prefer and where you would like to complete the trip. Reply to Roy Lubke at r.lubke@ru.ac.za by 30 September 2010.

Interested SAAB delegates may also wish to apply for inclusion in the planned SASSB post-conference field trip to the newly described Sneeuberg centre of plant endemism (see South African Journal of Botany 75:196-238). This trip (of at least three days) will depart from Rhodes on Saturday the 22nd January and visit one or more remote areas of this region. This trip is being co-ordinated by Prof Nigel Barker and Dr Ralph Clark. Please email Nigel Barker (n.barker@ru.ac.za) if you are interested in participating in this trip. Deadline: 30th October 2010.

Registration:

Register will take place online, opening on 1 September 2010. Abstracts should be submitted online by 30 October 2010. Payment for early bird registration closes on 15 November 2010.

Details of abstract formats, program, field trips will be made available on the conference web site and communicated via the second announcement at the end of August.

Contacts:

For further information, please contact the organising committee at:

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