

# News from the Bredasdorp CREW

For a year or two, a team of C.R.E.W. has been coming out occasionally to survey in the greater Bredasdorp area and making some significant finds. The Bredasdorp/Napier branch of the Botanical Society has also been prodded to get involved but available time and suspect knowledge about our rare and endangered species has held us back - that was until Ismail and Caitlin arranged a meeting with a small group of enthusiastic (but largely ignorant) potential C.R.E.W. recruits. Caitlin and Ismail put us at ease with the promise of support and there and then a local C.R.E.W group was formed and a diary of outings drawn up. Our C.R.E.W group has a major resource in having Rhoda and Cameron McMaster as residents in Napier, acknowledged indigenous bulb experts.



"Now if you look here ..." - Ismail explains the intricacies of plant identification to the C.R.E.W group in Napier.

We are going to have to rely heavily on them until we start finding our way (and rare plants at our feet). What we do know is this work is extremely important, firstly for finding the plants, secondly for educating the relevant landowners and thirdly, through the landowners, ensuring not just the survival of the endangered plants but also the ecosystem/microsystem in which they occur.

The Bredasdorp/Napier C.R.E.W group has had its first outing under the guidance of Ismail and we look forward to many more. Just today, an urgent request was made to make an unscheduled visit to a nearby farm to look for *Babiana montana*, last recorded in 1962 and possibly highly endangered. Early August is its recorded flowering time so we responded - "We'll send out a crew straight away". Watch this space for feedback.

Stephen Smuts



The Bredasdorp CREW group visiting the Bredasdorp airstrip with Caitlin and Suvarna after a successful hunt for *Babiana montana* close to Napier



← The CREW at the recently burnt Bredasdorp airstrip, limestone potholes