

**REPORT – VISIT TO BRACKENRIDGE
FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2023
OUTRAMPS EFF (EASTERN FRIDAY FLOWERS) DIVISION OF CREW
(CUSTODIANS OF RARE AND ENDANGERED WILDFLOWERS)**

REPORT BY: Heather Kennedy

VISITORS: Nicky van Berkel
Nanna Joubert
Isabella de Beer
Heather Kennedy

BACKGROUND

On Friday 17 March 2023, a small group of volunteers from the Outramps EFF (Eastern Friday Flower) group of CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) visited the Brackenridge Private Residential Estate.

The Brackenridge Estate has undertaken to limit development to 40% of the area, thus dedicating 60% of the area to greenbelt, which includes walking and cycling trails. The purpose of the visit was to explore and record different naturally occurring species within the greenbelt area to build a database of knowledge for the management and residents within the estate.

Thanks to Charm Hawkes from Brackenridge for guiding us around some of the greenbelt area to record and identify these plants.

METHOD

The iNaturalist app is used to identify and record different species. This is a citizen science database, described on Wikipedia as follows: “iNaturalist is a social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe.”

Photos are taken of plants (or any other species) and uploaded to the app. Suggested identities are verified by experts on the species in question. (See Appendix for more on iNaturalist.)

Volunteers in action:

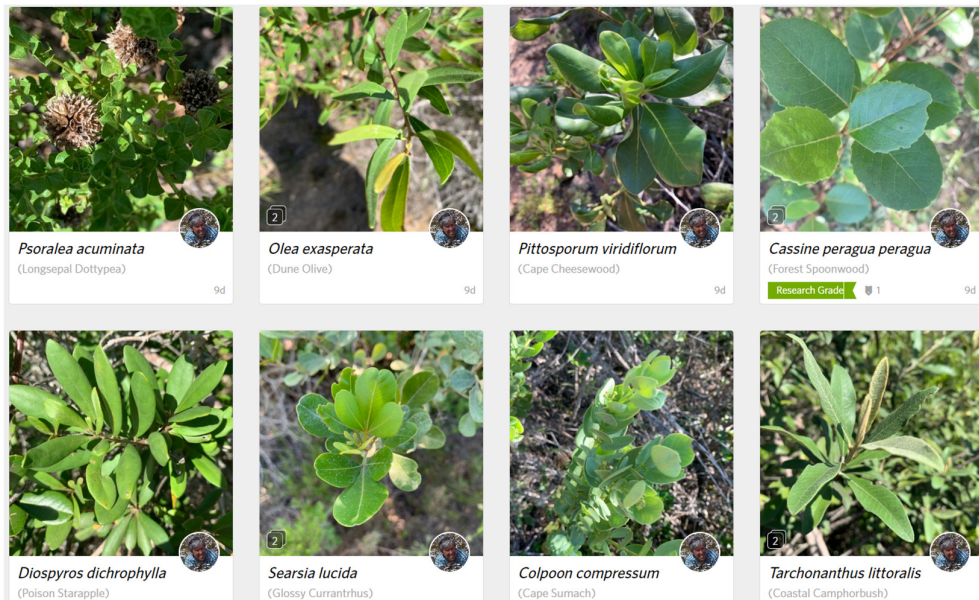


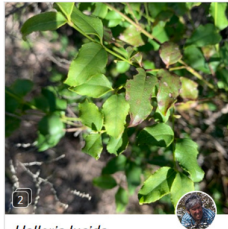
BRACKENRIDGE VEGETATION

The vegetation within Brackenridge alternates between Fynbos (Garden Route Shale Fynbos) and Thicket, with crossover areas of both. A selection of some of the species recorded is given in screenshots from iNaturalist below. Some of these species' identifications still need to be verified – these can be checked on the iNaturalist site. This was just the selection of one observer – there will be other species in the area recorded on the iNaturalist site. Any further species can be added to iNaturalist on an on-going basis, thus building the database of the area. Only naturally occurring species should be recorded (not garden or introduced plants).

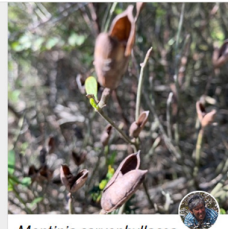
We saw a fairly good variety of Fynbos species that are common to the area, such as *Erica canaliculata* and *Erica sparsa*, *Metalasia* spp., *Aspalathus*, *Chironias*, *Struthiolas* and many more. The thicket areas contained a healthy number of *Burchellia bubalina* in various stages between flowering and going to seed. The estate is making a concerted effort to get rid of invasive aliens, although we did spot a few Black Wattle and Port Jackson saplings.

An interesting find was *Selago villicaulis* which is listed as Vulnerable. This occurred in patches (see next page – apologies for the poor picture, but a visit to the iNaturalist site or a Google search of this name will have better images of the species).

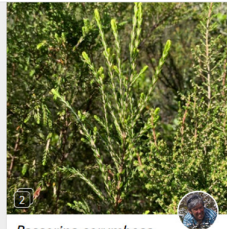




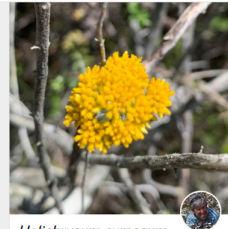
Halleria lucida
(African Honeysuckle)
Research Grade 1 9d



Montinia caryophyllacea
(Pepperbush)
Research Grade 1 9d



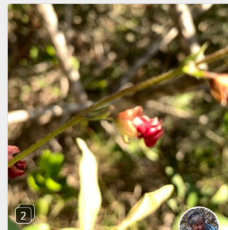
Passerina corymbosa
(Common Gonna) 9d



Helichrysum cymosum
(Fume Everlasting) 9d



Helichrysum nudifolium
(Hottentot Tea Everlasting) 9d



Hermannia flammea 9d



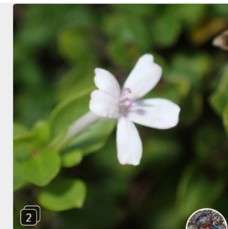
Rhoicissus digitata
(Baboon Grape) 9d



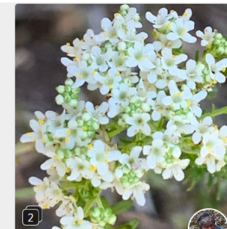
Knowltonia vesicatoria
(Common Burnlea) 9d



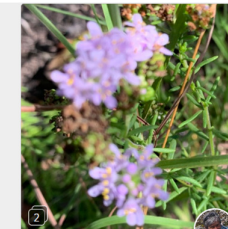
Senecio deltoideus
(Climbing Ragwort) 9d



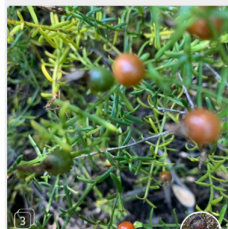
Dyschoriste costata 9d



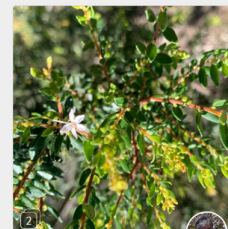
Selago corymbosa
(Stiff Bitterbush) 9d



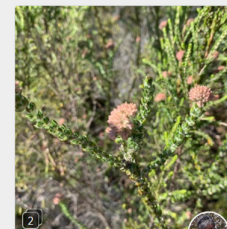
Selago villicaulis
(Dune Bitterbush) 9d



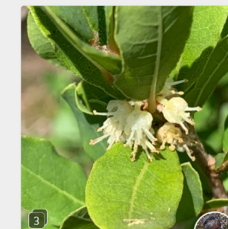
Chironia baccifera
(Christmas Berry) 9d



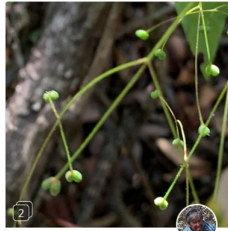
Agathosma ovata
(False Buchu) 9d



Metalasia pungens
(Stink Blombush) 9d



Lachnostylis hirta
(Coalwood) 9d



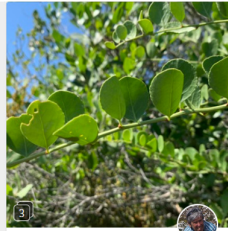
Galopina circaeoides

Research Grade



1

9d



Gymnosporia buxifolia

(Common Spikethorn)

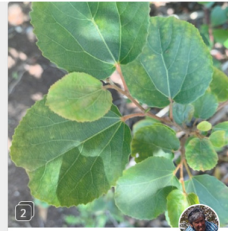
9d



Carissa bispinosa

(Num-Num)

9d



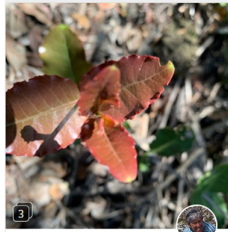
Trimeria grandifolia

Research Grade



1

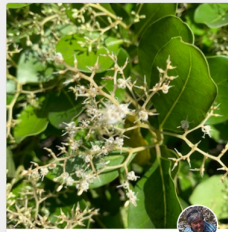
9d



Lauridia tetragona

(Climbing Saffron)

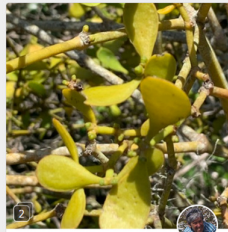
9d



Apodytes dimidiata

(White Pear)

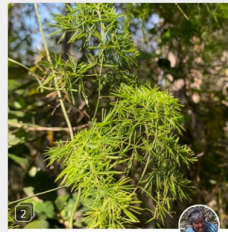
9d



Viscum rotundifolium

(Redberry Mistletoe)

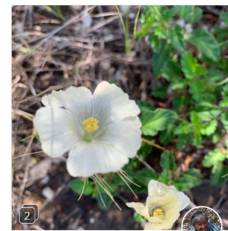
9d



Asparagus setaceus

(Common Asparagus Fern)

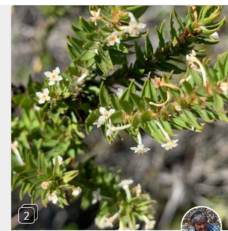
9d



Monsonia emarginata

(Monsonia)

9d



Struthiola hirsuta

(Shaggy Capespray)

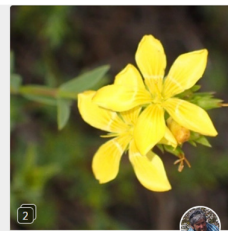
9d



Aspalathus ciliaris

(Fringe Capegorse)

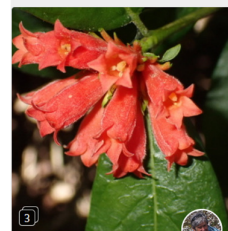
9d



Linum africanum

(Half-mast Flax)

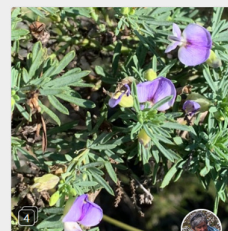
9d



Burchellia bubalina

(Wild Pomegranate)

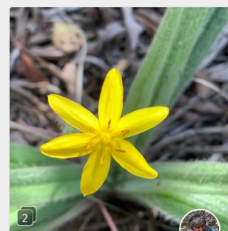
9d



Psoralea axillaris

(Violet-flash Fountainbush)

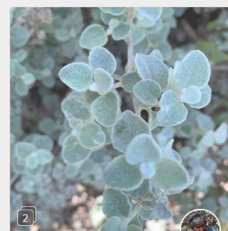
9d



Hypoxis villosa

(Shaggy Stargrass)

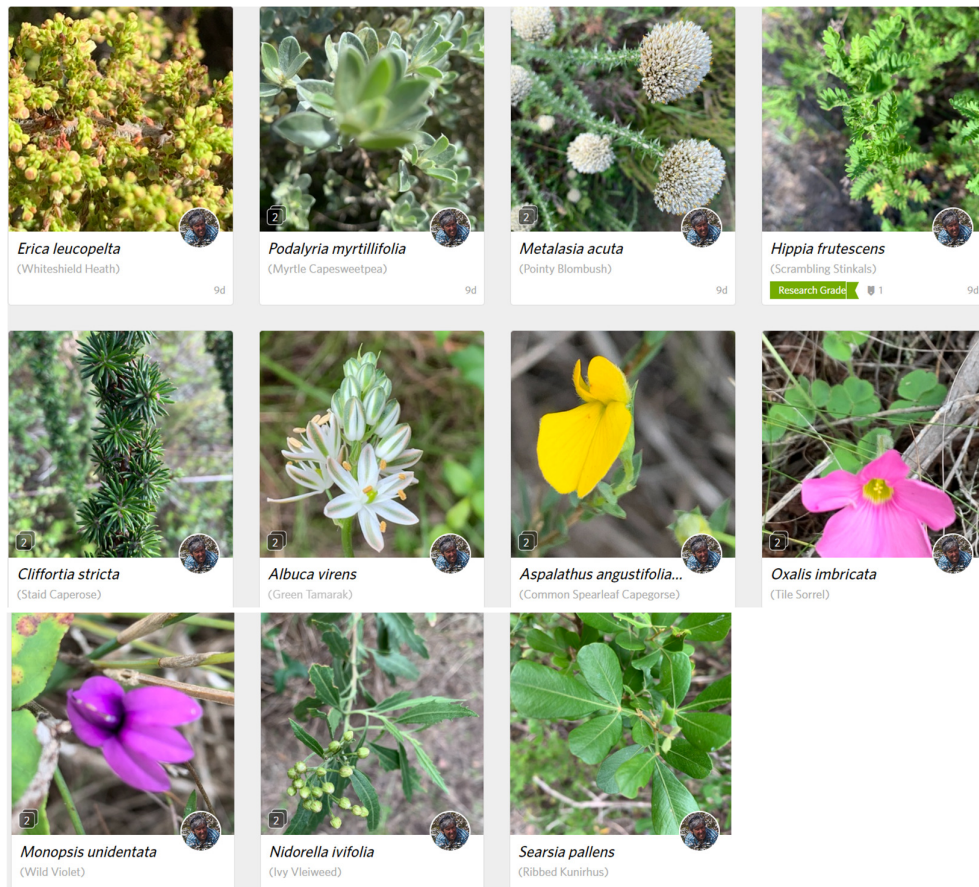
9d



Helichrysum petiolare

(Licorice Plant)

9d



SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There will be other species that have not yet been recorded within Brackenridge. Residents can contribute to building this database on an ongoing basis, particularly as the seasons change and different flowers emerge, which makes for easier identification. Only naturally occurring species must be recorded – no garden or introduced plants.

It will be essential to take note of the sites at which the Vulnerable *Selago villicaulis* occurs and to avoid disturbance of this species to avoid species loss.

Homeowners should continue to be encouraged to plant indigenous plants, and more specifically *locally* indigenous plants. In any case, gardens that replicate the surrounding environment make garden maintenance much easier.

Residents and estate management should watch out for the emergence of any Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs) within the estate. On the walkabout, we noticed a growing *Bryophyllum delagoense* (Mother of Millions, or Chandelier Plant) growing in someone's retaining wall structure, along with many seedlings that were already starting to grow in the open spaces on the wall.



Bryophyllum delagoense, a Category 1b invasive alien plant.
It must be eradicated.

<https://invasives.org.za/fact-sheet/chandelier-plan/>

Category 1B regulations (NEMBA – National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act) state that “Property owners and organs of state must control the listed invasive species within their properties”.

These plants out-compete indigenous species and are poisonous to humans and animals to varying degrees. To eradicate, use a black plastic bag and once collected, tie the bag tightly and leave it in the sun to bake. The prolonged heat and lack of air will literally “steam” and kill these seeds.

Another invasive species to watch out for is *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Cathedral Bells), which is another garden escapee that is very invasive. <https://invasives.org.za/fact-sheet/cathedral-bells/>

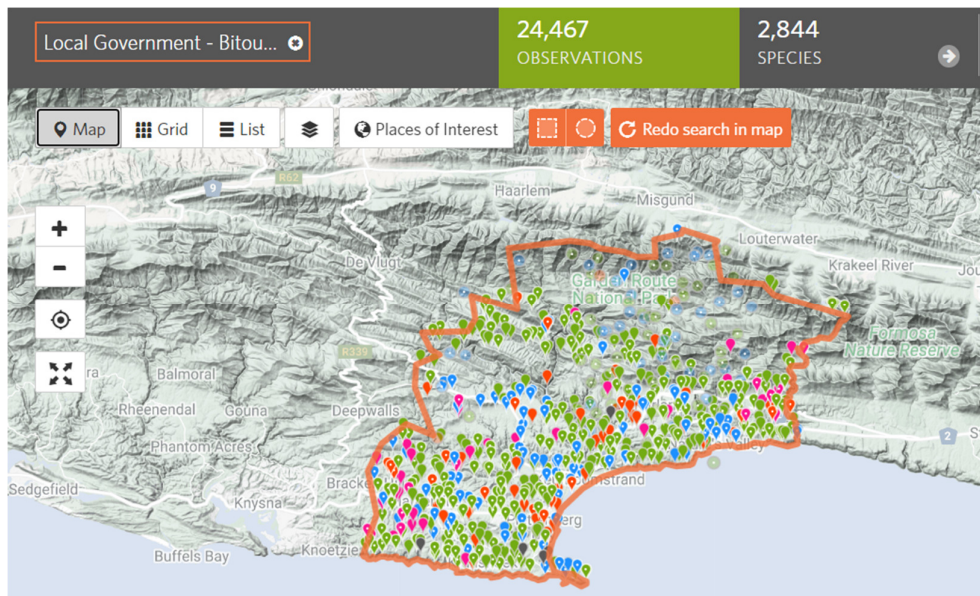
While most people are aware of the commonly occurring invasive alien plants in the area, such as Black Wattle, Port Jackson, Rooikrans, there are several other species that are categorised as invasive. A useful source of information is www.invasives.org.za

APPENDIX - USING THE INATURALIST APP

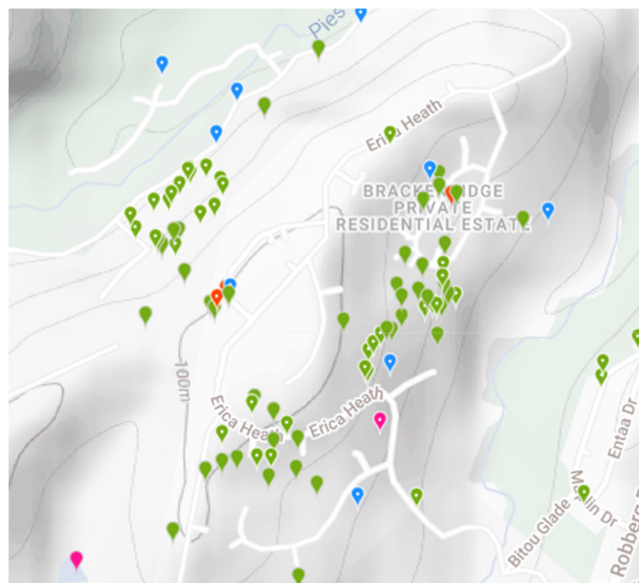
To investigate the different species in the region, one will need to download the iNaturalist app (either on PC/laptop or cellphone) – <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. A video tutorial is available on the site that shows one how to use the app.

As there is currently no defined 'place' for Brackenridge on the app, one can search for 'Bitou' and then zoom in specifically on Brackenridge.

The picture below shows all species recorded within the Bitou area.



These are the species recorded within the Brackenridge Estate:



Zooming in on any of the data points will give the detailed information about what was recorded at that point, for example:

