

## **VERLORENKLOOF NATURE WEEKEND 21 NOV 2014.**

A privilege for any eco-adventurer to saddle down here for a moment. If you need to experience some mountain magic, either through sound or physical encounters, you need to come and walk with us on our annual avifaunal and wild orchid hunts.

During this last weekend we were again swept away by this living misty mountain with its cascading waterfalls that has knifed through solid rock through ages to form beautiful dark and mysterious forests.



The many rock kraals and graves buried under dead wood and thick green carpets of lichens tell a story of a long lost civilisation that lived here for many decades. I am sure that the Nerina Trogons that are constantly calling from the deep forests is trying to warn off the lone wanderers telling the story of the tragedies that took place in these mountains and that may reoccur again. The lost souls cannot rest in peace. It is strongly advised that you do not wander alone at night and during the day but rather follow the guidance of a trustworthy Conservationist.



The head stone of maybe a King' such as King Solomon's grave?



Dr. W.A Krige and fellow wonderers exchanging some family facts .Frans Krige the Conservationist is a son of the Late Prof. W.A KRIGE, who are all descendants from the same Oude Libertas branch. More famous were their “kleinneefs”, Uys Krige the writer and Francois Krige the painter, both sons of the famous Japie Holme Krige, Springbok captain of around 1906. All of them now resting in peace under the moss.

We must be grateful to what our parents and grandparents have taught us and the talents that we have received. The Johnsons of Verlorenkloof are living examples of how through their love for God and His creation, they have conserved and developed this piece of mountain to become our piece of mountain.

Those who can “see” and “hear” the Living waters at Verlorenkloof can praise Him for the greatest gifts of all. Just look at what we found.



*Dianthus mooiensis* (Lady Di), “ n Wilde angelier en ‘n leë bottle bier, almal het maats net ekke nie”.



*Gladiola woodii* "Swaardlelie- Swaard van Lohengrin."



*Protea roupelliae* , Tiara for the Queen of Verlorenkloof



*Becium obovatum* . Cats whispers.



Many developing terrestrial orchids such as this *Eulophia clitellifera* and one epiphyte in flower found (*Polystachya ottoniana*).

BIRDS of interest noticed by me for the first time in this valley were Blue Cranes foraging in the harvested wheat fields en route to Verlorenkloof. And a Cape Rock Thrush. feeding chicks on a mountain slope. Spekvrettertjies not so familiar chats and spekskietertjies were abundant.....

Trout fishing during the weekend was reportedly very good and family members had great smiles when they left on Monday morning.

FRANS KRIGE

NOVEMBER 2014