

Marinda Nel, CFA

August 2018 to date: Chairman of BotSoc Council

June 2017 – August 2018: Chairman of BotSoc Kirstenbosch Branch

1986 to date: Member of BotSoc

1975 – 2014: Beginning with four years carrying out and analysing market and opinion surveys, Marinda then worked in market research and development at Old Mutual Life Assurance. From 1995, she was an investment professional, responsible for business development at Old Mutual Investment Group.

1972-1974: B Com, University of Free State

2003: Chartered Financial Analyst, CFA Institute

Achievements

Over the past three and a half decades, Marinda's membership of the Botanical Society has been one of her greatest joys. She first joined BotSoc in 1986, aspiring to be part of the community projected in *Veld & Flora*. She credits BotSoc with raising her curiosity about a range of botanical fields, including plant identification, indigenous gardening and the environmental and climate context.

Her journey within BotSoc led her to becoming a regular BotSoc hiker and, in 2016, a volunteer. This showed her how members are BotSoc's true driving force. She values the fact that most are plant enthusiasts like herself, who have chosen to know, value and enjoy the plant world during their precious free hours away from building busy careers and from everyday demands. She was elected chairman of Kirstenbosch Branch in June 2017.

As an elected BotSoc office-bearer, Marinda combines her passion for indigenous plants and our country's environment with the skills she honed in the business world at one of South Africa's top blue-chip companies. These include effective negotiating, financial analysis, business development and the principles of good governance.

Marinda has always believed that, as well as wholeheartedly embracing its mission and objectives, BotSoc should be a member-driven organisation. In 2017, while chairman of the Kirstenbosch branch, she spearheaded fundamental change within BotSoc nationally. This resulted in a new constitution and election of a new council, consisting of responsible and committed members.

Today, as national chairman, she remains firmly committed to returning power within BotSoc to members, empowering branches to operate both independently and cooperatively within the BotSoc network. This is overseen

by a hands-on council, which represents BotSoc formally, formulates policy, ensures legislative and regulatory compliance and broadly coordinates activities within BotSoc. To facilitate this, a core team of full-time employees provide the council and members with professional expertise and services to carry out their responsibilities.

Marinda has already set in motion working relationships for BotSoc with other entities striving to conserve and improve South Africa's environment. Now she looks forward to helping BotSoc raise its profile and make a lasting impact through environmental educational initiatives and campaigning for conservation.

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