

Hedwig Slabig

Hedwig Slabig has been involved with the West Coast Branch of the Botanical Society since it was founded in the early 2000s and has been Branch Vice-Chairman for many year and Chairman since 2018.

She was born in Cape Town, growing up in Hout Bay. She studied BA Fine Art at the University of Cape Town with English, Botany and Zoology as BA subjects and Majoring in printmaking and book design.

While completing her studies Hedwig was involved with the veld food and medicinal plant garden, making preserves for sale at the Hout Bay Museum. In 1993 she moved to 20 ha of untouched Strandveld while starting and running Die Winkel op Paternoster and later the Voorstrandt Restaurant in Paternoster.

Hedwig worked with Dr Renata Coetzee in her work with Veld Food research and recipe development for her studies into the food culture of the KhoiKhoi and her books 'Koekamakranka' and 'A Feast from Nature'

She has represented the West Coast Branch of the Botanical Society at various community and government organisations including the Saldanha Bay Forum and IGTT Stakeholders meeting.

Hedwig is a Board Member of the West Coast Biosphere Reserve and regularly attends workshops on their behalf. She is also actively involved in EIA processes for applications for mining, wind farms and other development applications.

She is closely involved with Tourism on the West Coast and is part of the Sunshine Project in Paternoster. This group strives to see and understand all parts of the Community, the History and the Environment as a whole for the success of the village as a Destination.

She is involved with the Food Garden with the " Kinder Foerdern Zukunft Stiften", a German NGO working with local children after school hours.

She was nominated by the West Coast Branch of the Botanical Society for Council and was elected to Council at the AGM in February 2019 and she has served on Council continuously since then.

She also serves as a member of the newly -formed Conservation Committee.

She was nominated by the West Coast Branch of the Botanical Society for Council in 2019 and served until 2021.

She has now again in 2023 been nominated by the Weskus Branch to serve as a Council Member.