

ORTHOLOPHA



The Newsletter of the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Zimbabwe

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A GREAT SPRING PLANT SALE!

Last month's plant sale set another new record, not only for the quantity of plants sold but also for the number of new members joining. A very warm welcome to you all. The Cycad auction was also an outstanding success and will almost certainly be repeated.

For you new members, this will be your first newsletter. We normally get them out much earlier in the month to keep you posted on upcoming events for planning purposes, but the sheer volume of names to be added to the mailing list has slowed us down this month. November will see a return to the normal routine.

Your Committee

Chairman - Malcolm Thackray - 303494
Vice-chairman – Doreen Richards - 884003 or
0772 255 784

Secretary/treasurer - Lynn & Bill Kinsey –
0772 782 493, 0776 404 950 or 302812

Committee members:

Val & Hamish Brown - 0772 423 344 or
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Ros Houghton - 0772 115 364 or 333975

Rob & Sheila Jarvis – 0779 888 180 or 0772 262
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Mike Kimberley – 339175

Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772
653 110

Sunday, 27th October

This month's outing is to the garden of Elmarie Coetzer in Pomona.

The address: 23 Cameron Road, Pomona, Borrowdale

Contact details: 0732 475804, coetzer@zol.co.zw

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

Directions

From town, go out Borrowdale Road past the race course. Just before Sam Levy's Village, turn left into Cameron. No. 23 is toward the far end on the right.

The Day

The day starts with the customary tea when you arrive, so please remember to bring a plate of eats to share. Remember also to bring chairs and hats as well as a plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction. Following tea, there will be an open discussion on water-wise gardening. This will start with a short introduction, and then we'll have a roundtable and ask members to contribute their own success stories—or dramatic failures!-- in managing gardens in the face of water shortages. With enough suggestions, we can put together an article for *Ingens*. After the discussion, Elmarie will give us a guided tour of her garden...and water-wise practices.

A New Aloe

In 1984, Tom McCoy first came upon an *Aloe* in South Africa that did not seem to match any of the known species. Four years later John Lavranos came across the same *Aloe*, collected one and took it to Portugal, where it has flowered for him every year. Only 12 years later, sitting on a beach in Yemen, did the two of them start a discussion that has resulted in the recognition of a new *Aloe*.

This new species appears to be restricted to a single site in the eastern highlands of South Africa. Here the plants grow in fairly solitary fashion among exposed sandstone boulders, or flat rocky outcrops, on otherwise grassy slopes. This is a summer rainfall area with frequent winter frosts. Despite searches in surrounding areas, it appears this taxon is restricted to a single location. Interestingly, like our *A. ortholopha*, this location is in close proximity to chrome mining.

The new addition to the genus *Aloe* was named in honour and commemoration of Barbara Jeppe, the well-known *Aloe* artist whose lovely book on the South African Aloes was first published in 1969.

[The full reference to the article is: Tom McCoy & John Lavranos. 2013. "Aloe barbara-jeppeae: A long-overdue tribute". *Cactus and Succulent Journal* Vol. 85, No. 4: 154-9.]

Below is a general view of part of the colony of *Aloe barbara-jeppeae* at the type locality. Most plants have already developed the normal red colouring of the winter period.



An Aloe Mystery...solved?

Caryl Stutchbury was in Vic Falls in August a few weeks before we were, and she has posted photos of some of the Cataract Island aloes on the ACSSZ website. She was told by a guide that they were "Veld Aloes" (google=*Aloe greatheadii*), but Caryl noted the flowers appear far redder than typical *A. greatheadii*. See Caryl's photos on the website.

Darrel Plowes has told us that the Vic Falls *Aloe* is a form of *A. chabaudii* somewhat akin to var. *verekeri*, which grows in mopane woodland in the Gwaai River area. It was evidently well-known to *Aloe* aficionados back in the 1950s, including Larry Leach and Oliver West, but Darrel is not aware of anyone collecting it. A black & white photo of it was published somewhere at that time, but Darrel can't recall where.

Sounds like the Vic Falls guides need some updating on identification and nomenclature.

See you on the 27th

Lynn & Bill