

# ORTHOLOPHA



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

PO Box CY300, Causeway  
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Issue 13-5 May 2013

### **PLANT SALE MONTH!**

This will be a busy month. First the AGM plus social on the 19th followed a week later by the first plant sale of the year. If you are going to be selling, you should already be finalizing your preparations. To appeal to buyers, plants have to look their best and that is not a look that is achieved overnight.

As always, members are encouraged to be a part of the sale—by selling some of their own precious plants, by purchasing plants they have always wanted and by encouraging their friends and families to attend the sale. We, as usual, shall also be using the plant sale as a vehicle to recruit new plant-lovers to the Society, since those who attend the sale are invariably impressed with what they see.

### **Your Committee**

Chairman - Manfred Spindler – 0712 416 722

Vice-chairman - Malcolm Thackray - 303494

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

### *Committee members:*

Val & Hamish Brown - 0772 423 344 or 883724

Ros Houghton - 0772 115 364 or 333975

Rob & Sheila Jarvis – 0779 888 180 or 0772 262 150

Mike Kimberley – 339175

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772 653 110

### **Sunday, 19th May 2013**

Our next outing will be a combination of the AGM and a social event at the garden of Sheila and Rob Jarvis.

The address: 2 Rockyvale Close, off Rolfe Avenue, Rolfe Valley

Phones: 0779 888 180 or 0772 262 150

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

### **Directions:**

Coming from town, just after Willowmead Junction, take the first dirt road to the right by some palm trees into Rockyvale Close and then first right into No 2. The property has Rolfe Avenue as its northern boundary and is opposite St. John's College playing fields. From Harare Drive, turn into Rolfe Avenue and then left into Rockyvale Close opposite the college playing fields.

### **The Day**

The day starts as usual at 10:00 with tea, so please bring the usual plate of treats to share for tea. As usual, do bring your chairs and hats, but because the plant sale follows by only a week there will be no raffle or auction...so no need for contributions. The formal AGM will be followed by a braai, and those who would like to stay on for this should bring meat and drinks. There will also be a chance to investigate Rob's exploits in attempting to restore the Jarvis place to indigenous forest.

## A Request

Because we are out of the country and are unable to post the newsletter to those who do not have email, we ask you to contact any members you know who do not have email to remind them of the AGM. This category includes the following folks: Elias Chifetete (0775 974003, 31000315), Charmaine Curry (0772 264772, 495870), Nela Dimitrova (0772 448732, 0772 724469), Gerald Dinhidza (0734 022331), Mr & Mrs N Jivan (0772 852672, 0772 707620), Maraquinha Kara (0773 991933, 497130), Derek & Nicole Kee (0773 017750), Morna MacKinnon (0772 283999, 300813), Debbie & Tom Needham (882855), Marie & Max Pretorius (0772 438227), and Sylvia Trautman (0773 603038, 303078).

## Subs

A gentle reminder that those of you who have not yet paid your subs for 2013 will be unable to vote at the AGM. No, we won't read out your names, but we will have the forms at the AGM so you can pay there. We'll also have the Society name tags for those who have not yet collected theirs. Remember what we wrote in the last newsletter about (probable) free access to the Botanic Garden for the plant sale if you wear your name tag. So, if you want a name tag and will not be at the AGM, you can phone or email us in the last week of May to make a plan to collect yours before the sale.

## Plant Sale—Sunday 26th May

For those who plan to sell, a copy of the plant checklist accompanies the newsletter. Short notes are at the bottom of the checklist, and some of these points are emphasized here.

Each plant seller must have a vendor number (VN). To obtain your VN, phone Hans Wolbert, who will assign the VN. It is to your own advantage to have your VN before the sale because you will need it to prepare for the sale. All your plants must be individually labelled (on the special 2-part labels provided) with the species name, the price & the vendor number. Plant sellers should also wear their Aloe Society name tags.

A new procedure: sellers **must** deliver their plants to the Botanic Gardens on Saturday afternoon. The Society is providing security from then through until Sunday morning.

Your plants will be checked in by a Committee member on Saturday, and sales begin only at 9am Sunday morning and continue until 3pm. The minimum price is \$1, and all prices must be rounded to the nearest dollar. When a plant is sold, the purchaser will have to take it to the cash desk—with the help of the workers and wheelbarrows that will be present. At the end of the sale, a Committee member must check out your unsold plants.

The restaurant/tea shop in the Botanic Gardens is now open again.

If you have any questions regarding the sale, contact Hans Wolbert [numbers above].

## A New Book

A new and much-anticipated book (by well-known Kirstenbosch botanist Dr Ernst van Jaarsveld, together with Uschi Pond), on a unique plant is to be launched in July 2013—with the title *Uncrowned Monarch of the Namib – Welwitschia mirabilis*. This lavishly illustrated volume (430 photographs and 49 art works) aims to provide (in 298pp and bilingual German and English text) background knowledge of the plant to the professional and amateur botanist alike. Topics include: botanical background, conservation, its odd ecology, cultivation, habitat, where to find it, history, plant art, and evolutionary history.

*Welwitschia* is an extraordinary plant. With the family, genus and species all rolled into one, *Welwitschia mirabilis* is unique. A rarity among rarities, it is found only in the Namib Desert extending from Namibia to Angola. Throughout the biological world and since the discovery of this bizarre Namib endemic in 1859, no other single plant has aroused the curiosity and attention of so many scientists. *Welwitschia* is the national plant of Namibia and a true flagship species of the Namib Desert. Although not the prettiest, it is the most peculiar and advanced due to its amazing botanically engineered life form with an incredible capacity to survive the Namib desert environment. It is no small wonder that *Welwitschia* is one of the most researched desert plants in the world. This book explains not only where *Welwitschia* fits into the biotic world, but also its adaptations to a dry desert environment and its place in the Plant Kingdom.

With a limited edition of 1000 copies, the book will become a collector's item. The ex-publisher's price is R685/US\$94 (excl P&P) and the book may be ordered from [uschipond@telkomsa.net](mailto:uschipond@telkomsa.net).

Hope to see you all at the AGM and the plant sale.

Lynn & Bill