

ORTHOLOPHA



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

PO Box CY300, Causeway

aloe143@gmail.com

www.aloesocietyzim.com & www.facebook.com/ACSSZ

Issue 14-02 February 2014

RAIN AT LAST!

A few interesting navigational glitches aside, the January outing to Xanadu Farm was a memorable one. Some 68 of you eventually arrived (others may still be lost) and marvelled at the amazing landscaping and enjoyed the game drive and lunch. And even the downpour cooperated by holding off until after lunch. A huge vote of thanks to Kim and Steph MacDonald for hosting us.

Subs are now overdue. There are 171 of you who have still not paid. As a reward to those who did pay on time, we are offering you a 5% discount on the upcoming international congress (see below). So no special pleading from the rest of you.

Ingens No. 49 is being posted/delivered this week.

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
883724

Ros Houghton - 0772 115 364 or 333975

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

Mike Kimberley – 339175

Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772
653 110

Sunday, 23rd February

This month's outing is to the garden of Henk & Tracey Botha.

The address: 77 West Road, Avondale

Contact details: 335848

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

Directions: No. 77 is on the right going north, about halfway between Argyle & Lomagundi. Unless the Patch Squad has paid a recent visit, the surface of West Road is in a diabolical state, so take care.

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, hats and umbrellas as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction.

For Your Diaries

The ACSSZ is hosting an international congress—"Succulents—Plants for Our Future"—in Harare the last week of June. The three-day jam-packed congress will feature speakers and presentations from all over eastern and southern Africa, numerous vendors of plant art and plant-related products and several post-conference tours and outings. We have not done this sort of thing for over 25 years, so it will be a very special event. Put June 20-22 in your diaries. The programme is still being finalized, and complete details will be sent to the full membership and will also be posted on the Society website.

La Rochelle

Both the Tree Society and the Orchid Society have recently visited La Rochelle, one of our National Trust properties, to assist with cataloguing and organizing plant collections. Information supplied to us by the National Trust had indicated that there were (in 1978) at La Rochelle 320 species of trees, shrubs and other plants, 13 species of palms, 6 species of *Cycadaceae* and 101 *Aloe* species—plus 14 identified *Aloe* hybrid crosses. Thinking a visit by the Aloe Society might make an interesting outing and be useful to La Rochelle in identifying and managing the *Aloe* collection, we visited La Rochelle in January to assess the prospects for such a visit. Not only did the place seem to be completely abandoned and locked up but also we could only locate a grand total of four aloes—of three different species. This seems to confirm what Darrel Plowes had told us—that years of baboon damage and poor management had destroyed the *Aloe* collection. So not recommended for a visit.

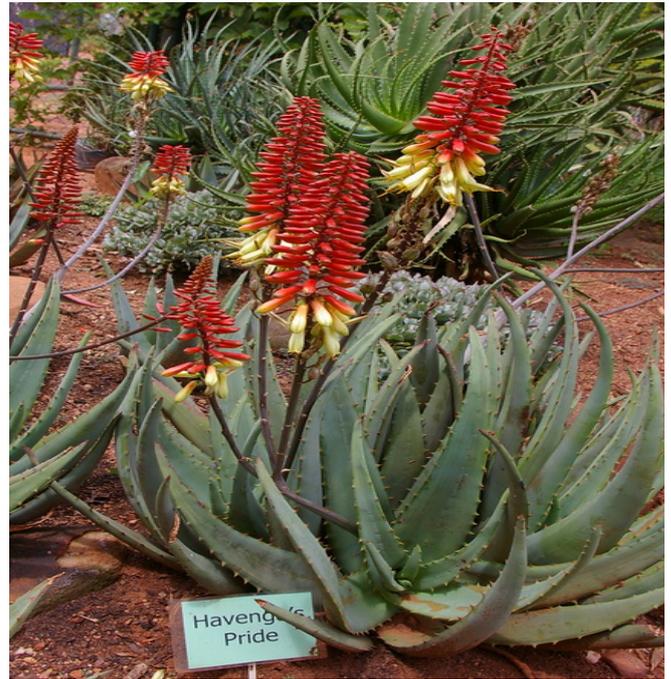
Dealing with Illegal Plant Vendors

Many of you have asked how to report the plant vendors so often found on our street corners. As a reminder, it is illegal to sell—without a licence—any indigenous *Aloe* or orchid. While most of what you see being sold has been poached from habitat, some has also been stolen from local gardens. National Parks is keen to protect all indigenous plants and asks that you report illegal vendors to any of the following: Mr Matipano (0772-116 389), Mr Nhira (0772-104 390) or Anna Pasipanodya (0772-572 044). Save these numbers. Another reminder: It is illegal even to possess indigenous aloes—as well as Sabi and Lundi Stars, indigenous palms and cycads—without the certificate issued by the Society. [Your current certificates are being mailed/delivered with *Ingens*.]

An Experiment

Because your committee knows that many of you have church or other commitments on Sunday mornings—and thus we don't see as much of you as we would like, the Society is going to experiment with having outings at different times. Sunday or Saturday afternoons? We'll see what suits the membership best.

What's flowering now?



February is not usually a great Aloe month, but look at these. On the left, the species *Aloe reitzii*. On the right, the cultivar 'Havenga's Pride'—recommended for rockeries and pots. With thanks to Kotie Retief.

Hope to see you all on the 23rd.

Lynn & Bill