

ORTHOLOPHA

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



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Summertime Blues

Who knows what this season will bring? So far it has been very patchy and there is absolutely no doubt given the threadbare nature of our water supply in Harare that we should all be converting our gardens to something that we can manage with minimum levels of water usage in the hot dry months. We have taken advantage of our recent retirement of a long-serving gardener to reassess everything we do and make it all much more user-friendly. So out went the multiple pot plants and the green lawns and in went microjet systems so that ranks of needy plants could be watered at the twist of a tap. If a tree needs winter watering, then it dies and is not replaced. The lawn browns off and the buckets ply their trade between the bathroom, the pool and the single flower bed we almost maintain. Mulch until you drop!! The borehole gasps along.

Your Committee

Chairman - Malcolm Thackray
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Vice-chairman – Doreen Richards
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Committee members:

Ros Houghton - 0772 115364

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Monthly Meeting: Sunday 30 November 2014

The function this month is at the home of Zia Thomas and Bruce Cowley at 25 Trafalgar Avenue in Sentosa. Directions go along Lomagundi Road from Second Street Extension, at Greencroft Shopping Centre, just after Mike Harris Toyota on left, turn left at lights, go along Stoney Road until the T-junction, turn right into Sherwood Drive, turn left immediately after Mabelreign Girls High School into Takely Drive, follow this past two roads to the right and where the road forks, take right fork which is still Takely and then take second left which is Trafalgar. Follow this around sharp left corner and immediately if you see a big ship on the left, turn into that gate. Bruce and Zia are in the process of purchasing this property and would like advice and ideas on how to develop it as a largely indigenous, water-wise garden. They would appreciate donations of any sort of aloes, succulents etc that will fit into a granite-based waterless garden!!! The meeting is at 10.00am for a sharp 10.30 start so please be on time and remember to bring your chair, a hat, a plate of eats for the table and something for the raffle. Oh, and a raincoat! If you get lost, **which is impossible with these instructions**, Zia's number is 0772430756.

Christmas Function Sunday 14 December 2014

This year it is being held at Amanzi Restaurant grounds which at 158 Enterprise Road about 200 metres on the right after the Ridgeway intersection when proceeding from town. Bring food that can be shared, your own drinks and glasses, chair, raincoat, hats and a US\$10 present so you can all take part in the exchange of presents.

Time: 10.30 am until 3.30 pm

Place: Amanzi Restaurant

Behaviour: Impeccable

Attendance: Compulsory

Dress: Ladies only, Gentlemen to wear smart casual.

Bring: Christmas Spirit and a floral display involving Xerophytes for the Competition.

Present: Bring one per person, maximum value US\$10.

Seedbank:

The Society's Seedbank is being ably run by Bill Kinsey and members are encouraged to take advantage of this service. There are 75 different aloe species in the Bank and several other Xerophytes and Bill will be taking orders anytime and supplying from the end of this month. The list is on our website.

Rules of engagement:-

1. Ten species maximum at a time. There is no guarantee that all species are available.
2. Charge of US\$1 per order.
3. All issues should be accompanied by a germination report form which must be completed and returned to Bill Kinsey after planting. Please do this diligently because it helps to rate the stock held and indicate whether resupplies of fresh seed are required for any Aloe held.
4. Orders to aloe143@gmail.com
5. Collect from the Kinsey's home in Emerald Hill.
6. Germinate in coarse sand and move young plants into sleeves with a 1:1;1 mix of sand, gravel and compost, as soon as they are well established.

Flowering Aloe: November

We will be posting pictures each month of a flowering Aloe for this time of year, both to encourage you all to look to your roots when deciding what plants to include in your gardening plans and secondly because ecologically and from a preservation of plant diversity point of view it is a good thing to do. Last month's Aloe was correctly identified as ***Aloe camperi*** by Caryl Stutchbury. She wins the coveted place on a Chameleon Safari early in the New Year. Send your considered opinions to bo.hoom52@yahoo.com. The judge's decision is final and the winner will get an invitation to a prestigious Chameleon Safari in January 2015 when they kick-off.

What is this fine Aloe, flowering in November? Photo by C. Stutchbury



Aloe camperi very happy in Harare
And thriving under extremely neglectful
conditions



Aloe tenuior var tenuior a blaze of colour in
the hot summer months. Photo by Caryl
Stutchbury

Indigenous tree:

The Wild Mango, *Cordyla africana*, a giant in its natural habitat and makes a beautiful specimen tree in a large garden. Usually found along low-altitude rivers, enjoying deep alluvial soil. Prolific fruit or rather pod-bearer and is at its best when flowering during the hot months leading up to the rainy season when the tree can be a blaze of upright, orange-yellow flowers. Much loved by the beasts of the forest!!!! Photo taken at Senungukai Campfire Project, part of the Hippo Pools stable and about 12 kilometres upstream on the Mazowe River. Tree Zimbabwe no 281 in Trees of Southern Africa by Keith Coates Palgrave and updated by Meg Coates Palgrave .



. Hope to see you all on the 30th November at 25 Trafalgar Avenue in Sentosa, otherwise at the Christmas function on the 14 December.

Mafungi