



# ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 15-05 May 2015

Hi Everyone,

So it's time for the first of our Rare Plant Sales in 2015. Sellers please ensure you check your plants in this coming Saturday early. Buyers come on Sunday morning anytime between 9 am and 1 pm and snap up the bargains on offer!

It is great to see a renewed interest in the aloes which were the plants that triggered the formation of our Society many years ago. Road verges, roundabouts and even manicured gardens are increasingly turning to these wonderful plants for their hardiness and their amazing ability to brighten the coldest winter's day with bright red, orange or yellow flowers. Birds love them, bees love them and a combination of the two, birds and bees usually results in babies and they will love them too! So get busy and redecorate your gardens with plants that thrive in the hot dry continent of Africa!

Of course since the early days, we have taken on all sorts of other plants such as palms, cycads, succulents and cacti, but they all have a place and can make your gardens special places for people and wildlife together. It all makes a difference!

Cheers,  
Mafungi.

### Your Committee

Chairman - Doreen Richards  
0772 255784

Vice-chairman – Rob Jarvis  
078 3383214

### Committee members:

Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644  
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364  
Mike Kimberley – 04 339175  
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611756  
Hans Wolbert – 0772 653110  
Debra Wolbert - 0772 515436  
Gaudencia Kujeke - 0775 376600  
Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131  
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286  
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044

**Plant Sale Reminder**

Aloe, Cactus & Succulent Society of Zimbabwe *Plants for our Future*

ALOES, SUCCULENTS, CACTI, SAVE STARS, BAOBABS, PALM & CYCADS

**RARE PLANT SALE | SUNDAY 31st MAY 2015: 9am - 1pm**  
Harare Botanic Gardens HERBARIUM entrance

**Upcoming Events** : June and July are the main aloe flowering months and we have the following scheduled:

**Sunday 14 June 2015— Norman Conlon at 17 Eagle Heights, Lake Chivero**

**The time:** 10.00am to 12:30am

**Directions:** Go past the Lion & Cheetah Park...about 25km out of Harare. At the Old Turnpike Garage, now a Sukunda Garage, on your left, turn left for Lake Chivero and follow the road going over the railway line and up and over the hill. As you approach the bottom of the hill, turn left into Beesway Road, continue and then turn left again into Eagle Heights Road and continue to number 17, on your left.

**If you need further directions contact Norman on 0772 143309**

Please note this is an extra meeting and you will need to bring your own tea / refreshments and snacks. Don't forget to bring chairs and hats. There will be no raffle or speaker.

**Sunday 21 June 2015— Brian and Barbara Terry at 2 Halford Road, Greystone Park**

**The time:** 10.00am to 12:30am

**Directions:** From Harare Drive or Stonechat Lane get onto Gaydon Road, heading north, after the small shopping centre on the right, take the 2nd turn to the right onto Newbold Road. Halford Road is the 2nd left and the Terry's home is on the corner.

**If you need further directions contact Brian on 0772 313427**

Please note this is an extra meeting and you will need to bring your own tea / refreshments and snacks. Don't forget to bring chairs and hats. There will be no raffle, but we are hoping Brian will give us one of his very interesting talks.

**Sunday 28 June 2015— This is a joint breakfast meeting with the Mountain Club of Zimbabwe to Ewanrigg Botanic Gardens.** Further details to follow in the next newsletter.

### **July Events:**

**Fri 3—Sun 5 July 2015 — This is a Camping trip to Buchwa Mountain and surrounding areas**

**Sunday 12 July 2015 — Early start and picnic lunch trip to the Great Dyke**

**Sunday 28 July 2015 — Normal meeting at Caryl Stuchbury's home in Umwindsdale**

Details on all these to follow in the next newsletter.

Field trips in May/June/July are a wonderful opportunity to see aloes in habitat and appreciate the environments in which these plants thrive.

These *A. chabaudii* are flowering in the rocky outcrops of the quartz mountains of the Chimanimani. In every colony there is a range of flowering types from open heads to tightly-bunched inflorescences and from a rich red to a bright orange colour.

The Corner, Chimanimani,  
Photo by Mafungi





## Flowering Aloe: May

### What is this aloe, on the right?

Send your considered opinions to [bo.hoom52@yahoo.com](mailto:bo.hoom52@yahoo.com). The judge's decision is final and the winner will get a box of choice Belgian chocolates, provided they are willing to share them.

April's entry was *A. Africana* which nearly everyone got right! The only person to get it wrong has been enrolled at Aloe School for a crash refresher course. She knows who she is.

### Lucky winner in April was Gaudencia Kujeke

She can claim her prize at the Rare Plant Sale this weekend if I remember to bring it along!



The Aloe above is the May entry. What is it? A clue: Even the clueless will probably get this right!

Photographs taken by Mafungi in The Corner of the Chimanimani National Park, eastern Zimbabwe. The top picture shows some fossilised aloe hunters from a bygone era forever preserved in the Chimanimani!

You would be well advised to try and win this competition and the prize for the correct answer to this month's query is a box of chocolates!!!! Send your entries to Mafungi at [bo.hoom52@yahoo.com](mailto:bo.hoom52@yahoo.com).

*You cannot win it, Unless you are in it!  
If you don't try it, We might bin it!  
That would be sad, wouldn't it.*

**Annual Subscriptions:- If you haven't yet paid please do, only about half our members are paid up for 2015.**

Gaudencia and Debra are collecting subs and handing out new badges for 2015, at the meetings, the subs are only \$20 per person/couple. If it's more convenient people can pay the CABS account:

**CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society**

**Acc #: 901 649 1871 Reference: kindly include your full names as a reference in any deposit.**

Alternatively send \$21-00 through EcoCash to 0783 911314

### **Feedback from the AGM.**

The Committee is entirely made up of volunteers and spend a lot of their time on Society issues. We sincerely appreciate any constructive comments and would welcome any new committee members with new ideas and energy that can improve our Society.

- The plant sale commission has been reviewed to 20% or \$400 whichever is lower. The Committee looked long and hard to reduce the commission percentage. With the costs and the hard work involved, reducing the percentage comes straight off the Society net income. Based on a good sale and a reduced commission of 15% the Society would only net about \$800 after costs. It would be preferred that sellers increase their plant prices by 5% and we keep the commission at 20%.
- Funds raised from membership subscription, plant sales, raffles, auctions, etc. are used in line with the aims of the Society's Constitution. The 2014 Xerophytica Congress, an impressive congress after a 26 year break, where a number of interesting presentations and contacts were made with experts in the fields of the plants our Society embraces. In addition to the funds spent on the Congress in 2014 there was also the following:
  - \$3,580 Printing 2 copies of Ingens
  - \$ 108 Additions to the Library
  - \$ 90 Meeting expenses
  - \$ 460 Postage
  - \$ 578 Chemical donations to Ewanrigg and Harare Botanic Gardens
  - \$ 487 Plant labels for Ewanrigg
  - \$ 259 Stationery
  - \$ 413 Sundry expenses

I am sure that you will all agree that the Society's funds are well spent and that the next Congress can be organised in such a way that sponsorship can cover the big expenses such as airfares and that participation by members will be limited only by availability and not cost!

Comments from members regarding the Society's publications are only positive and we certainly think that this large expense on Ingens is money well spent.

### ***Newsflash!***

***Keen plant enthusiast Bill Kinsey has passed on a couple of internet links that should be of interest to members why don't you look them up and see what is going on in this fast-paced internet world:- Seeds of Time on <https://vimeo.com/73726895>.***

***The second one is the link for a c. 12 minute video on saving seeds in the doomsday vault in northern Norway. It runs quite well on even a slow connection: <https://vimeo.com/20559825>.***

To finish off your Newsletter for May here are a couple of plants that we haven't embraced as a Society but that have a beauty all of their own. Proteas light the way to the main Chimanimani Mountains from The Corner and the second picture shows a restful bed of moss in one of the many streams that crisscross this magical kingdom. See you on Sunday!!!

Cheers Mafungi.

The Corner is a little known part of Zimbabwe that is surprisingly easy to access if you have a four-wheel drive vehicle and has an attraction all of its own. We have just spent four days there and never saw another human being, not a footprint, not a single discarded pet bottle, not even a Styrofoam fastfood throwaway container. We lived in a cave, washed in rock pools and bathed in starlight!!

