

ORTHOLOPHA



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

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A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

More than 60 members—a near-record turnout—attended the outing in the Hooks' wonderful garden last month. What we saw was a real inspiration for creative ways of dealing with both scorching sun and deep shade. And the illustrated talk on Bromeliads by Ros, topped off with the chance to buy some stunning specimens in the auction, capped the day. A big thank you to Sharon and Ed, and to Ros.

See below for an overview of forthcoming events as well as the updated offerings from the seed bank—and a deadline for orders.

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, 24th February 2013

Our next outing will be at the garden of the Swales—Raynel and Keith—in Borrowdale West.

The address: No. 21 Dart Road. Borrowdale West

Phone: 851949

The time: 10.00

Details are below.

Directions:

From Borrowdale Road: Go through the traffic light past the race course where Borrowdale Road is divided & turn left into Dornie Road (just before the first right turning into the Borrowdale shops). Continue on Dornie past Northside Church (on the right) where it becomes Edinburgh. Turn left into Glenelg Avenue & then take the first right into Dart Road. No. 21 will be on your right.

From Churchill Avenue or The Chase: Turn into College/Teviotdale Road & continue north to Edinburgh Road, where you turn right. Take the first right into Teign Road, then the first left into Dart Road. No. 21 will be on your left.

The Day

The day starts at 10:00 with tea, so please bring the usual plate of treats to share for tea. In addition to the customary reminder to bring your chairs and hats—and perhaps umbrellas as well!--do remember to bring a labelled plant/plants, or other contribution, for the raffle and auction. Again we shall have a speaker: Rosie Bruce will talk on the theme "Cacti integrated with Tropical."

Subs & Ingens

Ingens #47 was posted on 31 January to all who had not collected their copies or had them delivered by hand. If yours hasn't arrived by now, hassle your postman.

On the reverse side of your mailing label will be the membership subscription form for 2013. All subs expired at the end of 2012, and 2013 subs are now due. Membership for a couple for 2013 is \$20, while a single junior membership is \$5. Even though we may have them, **please** fill in your details accurately and completely so that we don't lose contact. And please pass your completed form along with the \$20 (or \$5) to any of the current committee members or bring them to the February outing.

The Society is in the process of opening a CABS account so that you can pay your subs via a deposit at your nearest CABS branch or an online transfer. Full details will be provided when the account is functional.

In print

Aloe ferox, commonly known as the bitter aloe or Cape aloe, is a polymorphic species indigenous to South Africa. The plant has been used since ancient times as a generic chemopreventive and anti-tumour remedy in folk medicine, and it has a well-documented history of use as a laxative. In addition to many traditional medicinal uses, *A. ferox*, like *Aloe vera*, has recently gained popularity as an ingredient in cosmetic formulations and food supplements. Anti-oxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer and anti-malarial activities have all been reported. In addition, the ability of Cape aloes to enhance the transport of poorly permeable drugs has seen recent research interest. Due to its medicinal and commercial importance it has also been a popular research topic for natural product scientists. Reflecting this trend, a recent article ['Cape aloes—A review of the phytochemistry, pharmacology and commercialisation of *Aloe ferox*'. Chen et al. *Phytochemistry Letters* 5 (2012) 1–12] summarizes the historical and modern day uses, commercialisation, chemical composition and biological properties of this ethnomedicinally and commercially important species.

And, for your amusement, a sample sachet of Forever Living's Aloe vera toothgel given to us has on the back a list of benefits of the product, including that it "fights plague." If only they'd had this in the Middle Ages the Black Death would have been defeated with toothbrushes!

Upcoming events

The Society's **AGM**, normally held in March each year, has been moved to 19th May. Further details will follow. Your Committee is this year seeking new blood and a wider sharing of responsibilities. Nomination forms will be circulated to all members prior to the AGM. And a reminder—only those who have paid their subs are allowed to vote at the AGM.

So you can begin your preparations now, the first **plant sale** of the year will be held the last Sunday in May—the 26th. The venue again is the Botanical Gardens, and the sale will be widely advertised. Full details for both sellers and buyers will be distributed at a later date.

The Seed Bank

Of the seeds listed in the January newsletter, the following are no longer available: *Aloe africana* and *Agapanthus miniature* 'Nana'. The following are new additions to the January list: *Acacia polycantha*, *Acacia abyssinica* and *Weltwitschia mirabilis*.

And (thanks to Erika van der Merwe and Sheilam Cacti & Succulent Nursery), we have the following new additions: *Cyphostemma* sp., *Pelargonium* mix, *Hoodia gordonii*, *Conophytum* mix, *Orbea variegata*, *Faucaria*, *Aloinopsis luckhoffii*, *Aeiospilas* mix, *Gasteria* mix and two new aloes: *microstigma* and *thraskii*.

Note: The seed bank goes into hibernation from mid-March to mid-May because we are travelling, so do place any orders for seed you want sooner rather than later.

Hope to see you all on the 24th

Lynn & Bill