

# ORTHOLOPHA



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

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### **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Suddenly it seems that spring cannot be that far away. The musasa pods are exploding with their usual vigour, bringing down cascades of leaves. And the new leaf colour is starting to appear everywhere. Also, the air is feeling decidedly warmer now, especially early in the morning. All very encouraging!

After our break and a long period of complete neglect of the garden, we are looking with fresh eyes and what we might be able to accomplish...but with even less water than last year. Our borehole has run dry a month earlier this year, yet our neighbours infuriatingly insist on watering the verges nonstop. This is a practice that should be banned.

### **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:*

Mike Caulfield 0772 241 286 or 884003

Ros Houghton - 0772 115 364 or 333975

Rob & Sheila Jarvis – 0783 383 214 or 0772 262  
150

Mike Kimberley – 339175

Gaudencia Kujeke -- 884860 or 0775 376 600

Anne-Katrin Maseko -- 0772 440 131 or 300417

Annah Pasipanodya -- 0772 572 044

Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756

Hans & Debra Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772  
653 110

### **Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August**

This month's outing, a palm Sunday, is at the garden of Erik and Madhu Morris.

The address: 66 Princess Drive, Highlands

Contact details: 0772 239 322 or 776546

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

#### ***Directions:***

Princess Drive runs between Enterprise Road and Glenara. From Enterprise, turn into the old route through Newlands shopping centre and take the eastern exit from the Newlands roundabout or, from Glenara, take the second right turn after leaving Enterprise.

#### ***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 and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction. Erik will also give us a talk on his palms.

In our efforts to encourage more members to grow indigenous plants from seed, the auction will include large collections of seedlings of *Aloe greatheadii* and *A. inyangensis*. The idea is that the successful bidder will take them home, grow them on and—in due course—have plants that can then go into his/her garden, be sold at one of the plant sales, or simply given to fellow gardeners who appreciate aloes.

### **Plant Sale & Horticultural Show**

At our next plant sale on 28th September this year, ACSSZ will participate in a joint Horticultural Show with the National Association of Garden Clubs. There will be 15 NAGC garden clubs, including the Aloe Society, exhibiting. For those of you who remember the Aloe Shows that used to accompany the plant sales, this will be a welcome restoration of an enjoyable and visually rewarding activity.

If all of our members put on just a single exhibit each, we will have a stupendous and delightful show. Not only will the show draw the public in to buy from our plant sellers, but also it will give the public a chance to view show specimens not often seen. It should be an exciting day to support and to be involved in.

The schedule will be out soon and will be distributed to the membership.

And a plea for assistance. Ros Houghton would very much appreciate your support in this first ACSSZ/Horticultural Show since without exhibitors and helpers, it will not be successful. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Ros at one of the two numbers listed above.

### **An Interesting Library Addition**

Those of you who heard him speak at the Congress will be interested to learn that we have acquired for the Society's library a copy of Ernst van Jaarsveld's recent book, *Waterwise Gardening*. This profusely illustrated volume is filled with inspiration and information for gardeners who practice their art in the widely varying conditions that prevail across southern Africa. Later in the year, we'll also be adding Ernst's book on *Welwitschia* that many of you saw on sale at the Congress.

### **Seed Bank Update**

We had hoped to announce the acquisition of a new stock of seeds for early planting, but timing glitches mean the purchased seed won't be available until November. However, in our travels to the far corners of Zimbabwe and beyond into South Africa, we did collect seed from a wide range of species: *Aloe cryptopoda*, *A. greatheadii*, *A. castanea*, *A. marlothii*, *A. daweyii*, among others. These will need thorough drying before they're ready, but they'll be in the list to be distributed in November.

We also visited the Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden, near Johannesburg, and explored the rockery that Andrew Hankey described in his landscaping talk at the Congress. Most amazing were the resident black eagles and the *Aloe pluridens* growing on the vertical cliff faces next to the Witpoortjie Falls. Unusually for botanical gardens, there is an excellent nursery selling only South African plants. Hoping to be able to acquire additional seeds and books, we also visited the Pretoria Botanical Garden, but we were unsuccessful because the herbarium was closed because of a holiday.



Enjoy your spring gardening.

Lynn & Bill