

ORTHOLOPHA

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



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Hi Everyone,

A Happy New Year to you all! Part of my job entails driving around many parts of Zimbabwe, the Region and Africa generally. I must admit that other than the many mountain ranges in South Africa there is not much to compare with our own rocky kopjes, Miombo woodlands and great granite monoliths that cover so much of Zimbabwe. On top of these we also have the lush near-tropical rainforests of the Bvumba Mountains, those of the steep valleys of Nyanga and then there is the Chimanimani Range. Aloes, sansevierias, stapeliads, even a lone cactus species and many other succulent plants abound everywhere. There is much to know, more to learn and still much to discover.

So get out there and do your bit!

Your Committee

Chairman - Malcolm Thackray
0772 516644

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Ros Houghton - 0772 115364

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Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131

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Monthly Meeting: Sunday 25 January 2015

The function this month is at the home of Malcolm and Coleen Thackray in Mt Pleasant. Hopefully we don't have too much rain in the next week or it could be a swamp. Jeremy Lewis will give us a talk on The Law and You. It should be most interesting and unless you are lucky enough to be married to a lawyer, in which case you only need protection, you all need this information.

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Address: 8 Cheshire Rd., Mt Pleasant

Directions: Going out of town on Sam Nujomo Street (Second Street), after the Lomagundi intersection, but before the traffic lights at The Chase, turn right on to Cheshire Road. If you are coming from the other side of town get on to The Chase, follow it around the sharp left hand corner onto Upper East and Cheshire Road is the second road on the right. In case you cannot find it, his contact numbers are: 04 303494 or 0772 516644.

The Thackray's specialise in cycads and palms but they also have some magnificent aloes and other plants in their lush garden. Don't miss this visit.

Parking is limited as the verges have various obstructions, so please share transport wherever possible.

Flowering Aloe: December

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.

What is this aloe, the same as last month but now flowering ? Although we have had one submission, this did not go through the correct channels and so we are keeping this open for one more month and adding a second aloe. You have two chances to win!!!

Photo by Caryl Stutchbury

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.



Ooops !!!! We made a mistake last month and the Aloe was correctly identified by Shayne Dorward but reported incorrectly by us (as in me). The Aloe is *A. dawei* and many thanks to the indefatigable Darrel Plowes who picked it up at midnight on the day the newsletter went out. *Dawei* is more commonly known as a red or orange-flowering aloe that has several flowering flushes each year which prove a great attractant to sunbirds.

The winners of the first two month's of the Guess the Aloe Competition, i.e. Caryl Stutchbury and Shayn Dorward came for their very own prestigious Chameleon Safari on Sunday 11 January. They and their families had a very enjoyable evening meeting the Lionkillers of Rockyvale (Ridgebacks), several hippo, a crocodile and a duck.. Venturing down to the Property Land where all sorts of wondrous things reside and they savaged the weeds in the empty dam, met a leopard, a baboon, a guineafowl and a flamingo and were later confronted by a giant gorilla!!! To calm the three kids down after such excitement, they were allowed to play pool. Many baby and adult chameleons were seen clinging to the grass stalks in the dark of the night. **You would be well advised to try and win this competition and earn yourself a place on your very own Chameleon Safari before they get fully booked out by Overseas Visitors.**

Annual Subscriptions:- Gaudencia and Debra are collecting subs and handing out new badges for 2015, at the meetings, the subs are only \$20 for 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.

This is your second chance to win a coveted Chameleon Safari by guessing the species of Aloe that this picture depicts. It is quite small and the leaves very fleshy. The aloe was photographed yesterday 17 January 2015. Send your prediction to bo.hoom52@yahoo.com.

Photo by Mafungi

Indigenous tree:

This month we feature two trees, not one. The first is *Phoenix reclinata* a very cosmopolitan palm found almost everywhere in Zimbabwe. It tends to clump and in the photo it is underplanted by *Aloe arborescens* and here at the foot of Leopard Rock Mountain they make quite a stunning sight. The first flowers of this tree aloe are just starting to come through, but *arborescens* is more usually flowering in June. Your Society will be undertaking a trip to Buchwa Mountain in June of this year so that members can see tens of thousands of these trees in full flight! Both kinds of tree are easy and fast to grow and can easily survive and thrive on whatever season we receive!



Photo by Mafungi

Remember that the next Rare Plant sale will be at the end of May 2015 and now is the time to get your plants into tip-top shape if you want to do well. Take advantage of the rain and sunshine!!!

See you on Sunday! Cheers, Mafungi