

# ORTHOLOPHA

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



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Issue 15-04 April 2015

Hi Everyone,

Another month and the first of our Rare Plant Sales draws ever closer!!! Hopefully most of you have money from which you will be easily parted and many of you will have plants on sale that will be much in demand. This will then be a marriage of great convenience.

I write this newsletter from the very sunny environment of Perth. Great to see that many gardens in this the driest of continents sport aloes, succulents and other xerophytes. Even the wonderful Kings Park which towers over the city has a special section dedicated to the aloes of Africa, Madagascar and Arabia, which is a special honour since the Australians quite correctly try and encourage indigenous flora as much as possible. However I know what has caused their dryness and a few weeks with a couple of chainsaws and all the gums would topple and the continent would green up again.

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

### Monthly Meeting : Sunday 26 April 2015

This month's meeting is at the home of Di Kerr and Bill Bedford on outskirts of Harare.

**The time:** 10.00am for 10:30am

**Address:** Alpes Road past the Wild Geese

**Directions:** From Harare Drive, take Alpes Road heading North out of town. Pass Pomona Quarry and Barracks (MIND THE HUGE HUMPS NEAR THE BARRACKS), past Wingate Golf Course and Emerald Seedlings follow the road round the double bend and turn left towards The Wild Geese Lodge. Follow the road past the Lodge the tar road changes to dirt, about a kilometre past the Lodge look for sign on the left "BEDFORD".

**If you need further directions contact one of the Committee Members.**

Please remember to bring a plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle. We will discontinue the auction for a while. Manfred Spindler, will give us a brief talk on the grass aloes.

## Flowering Aloe: April

Well the March competition generated the most interest yet!!! We had a lot of entries and some very interesting side issues arose including whether the aloes already identified in Zimbabwe are correctly identified. However for now we stick with what we know and the March aloe was *A. zebrina*. It is one of the few that flower in March. Unfortunately it does not grow well out of habitat and is susceptible to black spot. So although fairly common from the Atlantic Coast of Angola right across to Mozambique, it is not often found happily in the garden which is a pity because it is quite attractive. The leaves stand almost upright and around 30 cm long and have whitish bands on top and dark green bands underneath, or no bands at all.

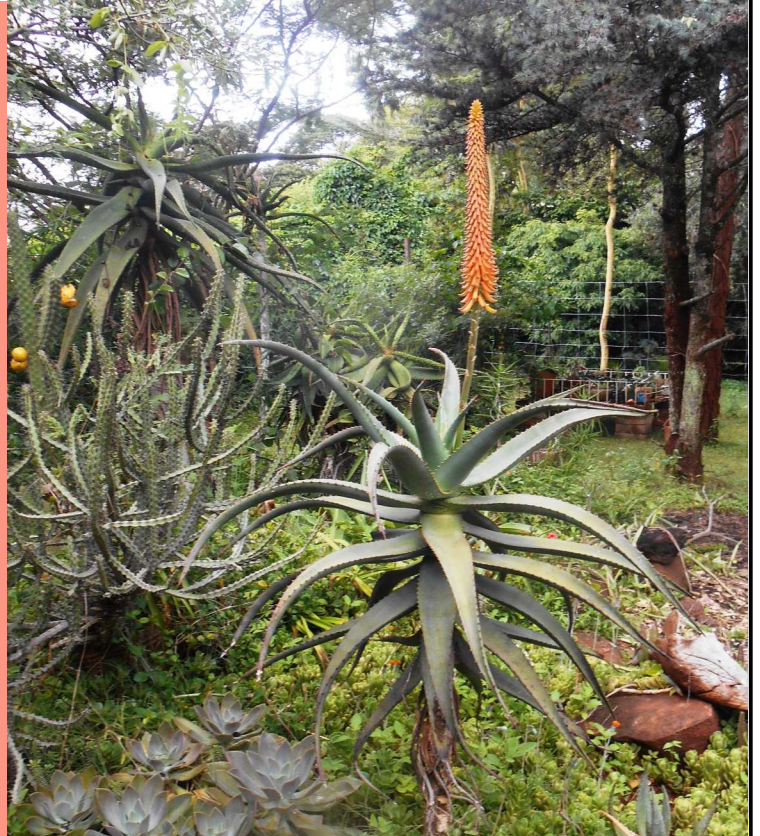
### What is this aloe, on the right?

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.

Last month's entry was *A. zebrina*

**Lucky winners in March were Malcolm Bethune, and Professor Barbara Maasdorp. !!!!!**

**They can claim their prizes at the monthly meeting next weekend. Caryl Stutchbury also reached the right answer after much diligent research and initial erroneous guesswork, but the judge felt that spontaneous answers better deserve the reward.**



The Aloe above is the April entry. What is it? A clue: It may or may not be indigenous, which is not very helpful at all but then April is always that kind of month.

Photograph was taken by Mafungi in a garden in Rolf Valley.

**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.***

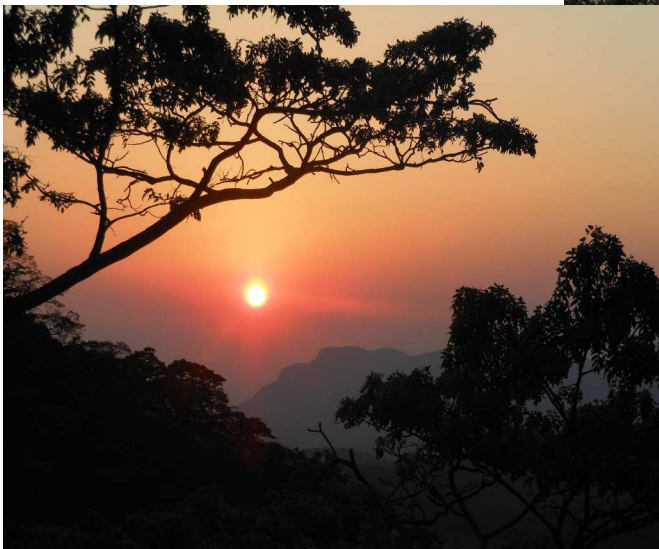


Indigenous tree: ***Cussonia spicata***

The cussonias are very distinctive trees that are quite hardy, can withstand fire and frost. Their chief attributes are the weirdly designed leaves, the upright structure and prolific flowers and subsequent fruits which are attractive to both birds and insects.

This particular specimen stands alone and proud at the edge of a field along the Wengesi river which you probably all know as the very sandy riverbed just before the turn-off to Cashel on the way to Hot Springs and Birchenough bridge in Manicaland.

The one thing these trees share with humans is a love of a good view and cussonias usually have the very best seat in nature's amphitheatres. Our tree here looks down over the almost unknown Seven Infinity Pools of the Wengesi. Behind it tower the almost equally unknown Himalayas which line the border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique and between the Bvumba and the Chimanimani Mountains.



This is the sunset that the Wengesi Cussonia sees every night so long as the sun shines. Who wouldn't sleep happily with such a view!!! Remember that every time you plant a tree it must improve the view, provide shade, shelter and/or food. Or better yet be the foundation for a tree-house for some future generation. Now there is thought, although cussonia is not the best tree for this purpose because the wood is rather weak.

The common name for the tree is Cabbage Tree but they have very little in common with this most common of vegetables. The particular specimen photographed above is probably 15 metres tall, which is huge!

Three of the Wengesi's Infinity Pools. Each with a private waterfall leading down to it.

Photos: by Mafungi





**Annual Subscriptions:-** 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

Remember your committee is entirely made up of volunteers and one of our most tedious tasks is chasing up subscriptions. We want you all to be active members and have access to the amazing collective knowledge, meetings, library and publications of the Society This depends on us having a steady stream of subscription income to kick-start the year. The next issue of Ingens will come out soon and you need to be sure you will continue to get it!!!! You do your bit and we will do ours!!!!



**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

**Remember that the next Rare Plant Sale will be at the end of May 2015**

**See you on Sunday Cheers, Mafungi**