



# ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 16-06 June 2016

Hi Everyone,

Sorry about the late issue of the Newsletter, but thought I would have a chance to complete it whilst trekking in the Victoria Falls area. Unfortunately lack of power, no internet and fatigue all took their toll.

One thing we noted along the way was that an increasing number of local people are using aloes and other succulents as markers along their paths and roadways up to the homesteads. This is a very positive development and something as a Society we should all encourage. What amazed us is that otherwise very well-educated people who accompanied us were not aware of the health

benefits of my particular favourite, *Bulbine frutescens*. Two of our party actually hiked the full distance in 24 hours, and as many of the others were not used to prolonged hiking, blisters, chafing and toe-nail casualties were prevalent. To our relief, we found a bed of Bulbine in the gardens of Msuna resort and in no time the natural hospital was up and running and miraculous cures achieved in all directions. One man even had a long-standing suppurating sore from a spider bite and even this was put to the magical abilities of the clear, fresh gel of Bulbine to correct.

Plant some Bulbine outside your front door today and never travel anywhere without a few leaves to hand. Only pregnancy and childbirth cannot be helped by this wonder plant.

Cheers,  
Mafungi.

### Your Committee

Chairman - Doreen Richards  
0772 255784

Vice-chairman – Rob Jarvis  
0783 383214

### Committee members:

Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644  
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364  
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

**Annual Membership:** We are halfway through the year and there are a number of Membership payments not yet paid, you are encouraged to make payment for 2016 as soon as you can, thanks very much to all those that have already paid.

Membership is \$20 per person/couple per year. Make payment to a committee member, or the CABS account: **CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society**

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

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

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

**Sunday 26 June 2016— Wendy and Jeremy Brooke's at 5 Harris Road, Highlands**

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

***Directions:*** From Glenara Avenue North turn onto Glen Shee Ave (this is the first road South of Runnivile Shopping Centre), then turn left onto Montgomery Rd at the T junction. Then turn first right onto Harris Road, and No 5 is the 3rd turn to the left.

**If you need further directions contact Wendy on 0772 101603.**

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.

**Sunday 3 July 2016— Caryl and Glenn Stuchbury's at 1 Sunlands Close, Umwinsidale**

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

***Directions:*** Travel out of town on Borrowdale Road.

At Helensvale Service Stations, turn RIGHT into Crowhill Road.

Go 1.7km and after Christchurch, turn RIGHT into Carrick Creagh Road.

Go 2.7km and turn LEFT into Borrowdale Brooke Lane (through Police Road Block.)

Go 4km, past the President's house and at T-junction turn RIGHT into Luna Road (strip road.)

Go 300m and turn RIGHT into Sunlands Close.

At the end of the Close, turn LEFT into No 1.

**If you need further directions contact Caryl on 0772 611756.**

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

**Sunday 17 July 2016— 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 or 0777 164691**

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.

**End of July and August Events:**

*Details to follow in the July newsletter.*



## Flowering Plant: June

### What is this, on the right?

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

May entry was ***not yet identified!***

**Lucky winner in May is still out there!!!**

**The competition remains open for another month, keep trying.**



The Aloe above is the May/June entry.

What is it ?

A clue: I have no clue, so neither do you!

**You can win a box of chocolates!!!**

**Send your entries to Mafungi at  
[bo.hoom52@yahoo.com](mailto:bo.hoom52@yahoo.com)**

### Msuna Hike

Overleaf I mention a hike we have just undertaken from Victoria Falls to Msuna Mouth. Along the way we chanced upon this group of Hobbits who cling tenaciously to the banks of the Deka River just where you cross it along the road. Such tales they could tell if given a chance, they are mainly *Sterculia* and *Commiphora* spp. But clearly ideal companion plants for the ardent succulent collector and landscaper. **Photo Sheila Jarvis**



The area is renowned for the calming scenes of carefree creepers and vast swathes of tumbling water! Long may it continue. However the river is dropping and Kariba will not fill so stock up on night glasses, dried foods and gas cookers.





We recently did a hike from Victoria Falls to Msuna Mouth on the upper reaches of Kariba. It takes five days and one ends up at the Msuna Resort for rest and recuperation after hiking 126.5 kilometres. Beautiful campsites along the way with the best being under these baobabs on the first night. However the ability of baobabs to take punishment was illustrated by the trunk of the tree on the left where clear evidence of panel-beating by locals over a gaping



wound was there for all to see.

The metal plaster was attached to repair a wound left by honey-gatherers and by filling in the gap, the hole behind becomes attractive again to a new swarm of bees in due course. However it is amazing just how much punishment these iconic trees can take.

I can highly recommend this hike to anyone interested, it is very well organised raising money for local schools. However my camera packed up just before we reached Msuna and I missed the opportunity to capture an amazing cliff of hundreds of *A. chabaudii* just coming into flower right at the water's edge. As the pundits say, growing aloes in clusters really makes a fine show at flowering time and no-one does it better than Mother Nature in habitat. Hopefully next month I shall be able to show you the scene if my request to get a good photograph when flowering is at its peak is followed.

### The Health Corner:

Health this month is more of a follow-on from previous pointers. A couple of week's ago I was in Nigeria on business and spending long hours in the field. I wore a hat but the hot African sun is at its hottest in places Equatorial and Nigeria is no exception. Direct sunshine and glare off open fields took its toll and my pale skin was smarting from the punishment received. I bought some avocado pears and local honey, made a mix and rubbed this in to every exposed patch of skin and even my balding top. In amazement I saw the avocado disappear with the rubbing and I was not coated with a green face-paint so I left the concoction on overnight and showered it all off in the morning! Wow, no sunburn, skin like a newborn baby and even shaving was considerably eased. I had done this once before after playing cricket all day with no hat, but included the gel from *Bulbine frutescens* but this was not to hand in Nigeria.

This procedure is of course not to be recommended if you share a bed with a loved one and they don't particularly like stickiness, but hotels are very understanding.

Cheers, Mafungi