



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 20-10 October 2016

Hi Everyone,

What a loss! The legend of Manicaland, Darrel Plowes passed away this past week. Mentally active right until the end, Darrel was a much-loved member of our Society with an absolute treasure trove of knowledge about almost everything to do with the animal and plant kingdoms. What a life he has led and Sunday nights will not be the same without a late-might e-mail from him, letting us know whether he liked the latest issue of Ortholopha, correcting an error or more frequently, following up on some posting in which he had an interest. This especially applied to the stapeliads and he was considered the world expert on these unusual plants and he was busy compiling the reclassification of them based on a lifetime of study.

Our thoughts are with his Family! Let's also hope that his collection and work are preserved for ever! There is a Facebook page titled Darrel Plowes where you can post stories, the Family would greatly appreciate any you may have.

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
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Gaudencia Kujeke - 0775 376600
Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286
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Michele Oftebro - 0772 378 679

Monthly Meeting : OUTING Sunday 30th October 2016

This month's Meeting is at Jean and Norman Kennaird. They were the 'other' around an acre, **FIRST Prize Winner** in the NAGC Garden Competition from last year. Jean and Norman have a rose garden primarily and Jean's daughter owns "Simply Seedlings" a family who adores gardening !

They have had water issues but its breathtaking !

PLEASE remember to bring a delicious plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring your chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle.

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: Glenara Estate, to get there take the Mazowe Rd go past the military barracks, proceed through tollgate (have money for toll for there and back) proceed then turn left at Glenara Estate. As you turn in, take the right hand dirt road (NOT THROUGH THE BOOM) follow that dirt road until it splits then take the left lane to the house which is then only about 200 meters.

Jean's mobile number is 0772 570 465

Flowering Plant: October

What is this, on the right?

Send your knowledgeable and considered opinions to 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.

We did not have a single guess for September!!!!

There is no winner!!!!!! But don't think you are going to get away lightly this will be reposted until one of you gets it right!!!!!!!!!!



The plant above is the October entry. What is it?

Photograph taken by Mafungi

You can win a box of chocolates!!!

Send your entries to Mafungi at bo.hoom52@yahoo.com



We realised that some of you may not be Aloe fundis so a double extra Competition this month, can you tell us what these two plants are? Send your considered opinions to Mafungi. See above.



Annual Membership: The end of the year is just about here, members that haven't paid there their 2016 membership will soon be removed from the mailing list, thanks 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

ALL PAID UP MEMBERS
ARE ENCOURAGED TO
COLLECT THEIR COPY
OF THE NEW

INGENS 55

AT THE UPCOMING
SUNDAY OUTING ON
30th OCTOBER 2016

Ingens

No 55

September
2016



We have recently received notice from Xerophylia a cactus and succulent-loving society from Romania. They produce some excellent publications and can be found on the web at <http://www.xerophylia.ro>.

They also have a Facebook page which you can easily search for and find by typing in Xerophylia.

Their e-zine is free and in the rush to do this publication I haven't actually been able to open it, but apparently with Adobe PDF Complete it is QED!

What a treat!

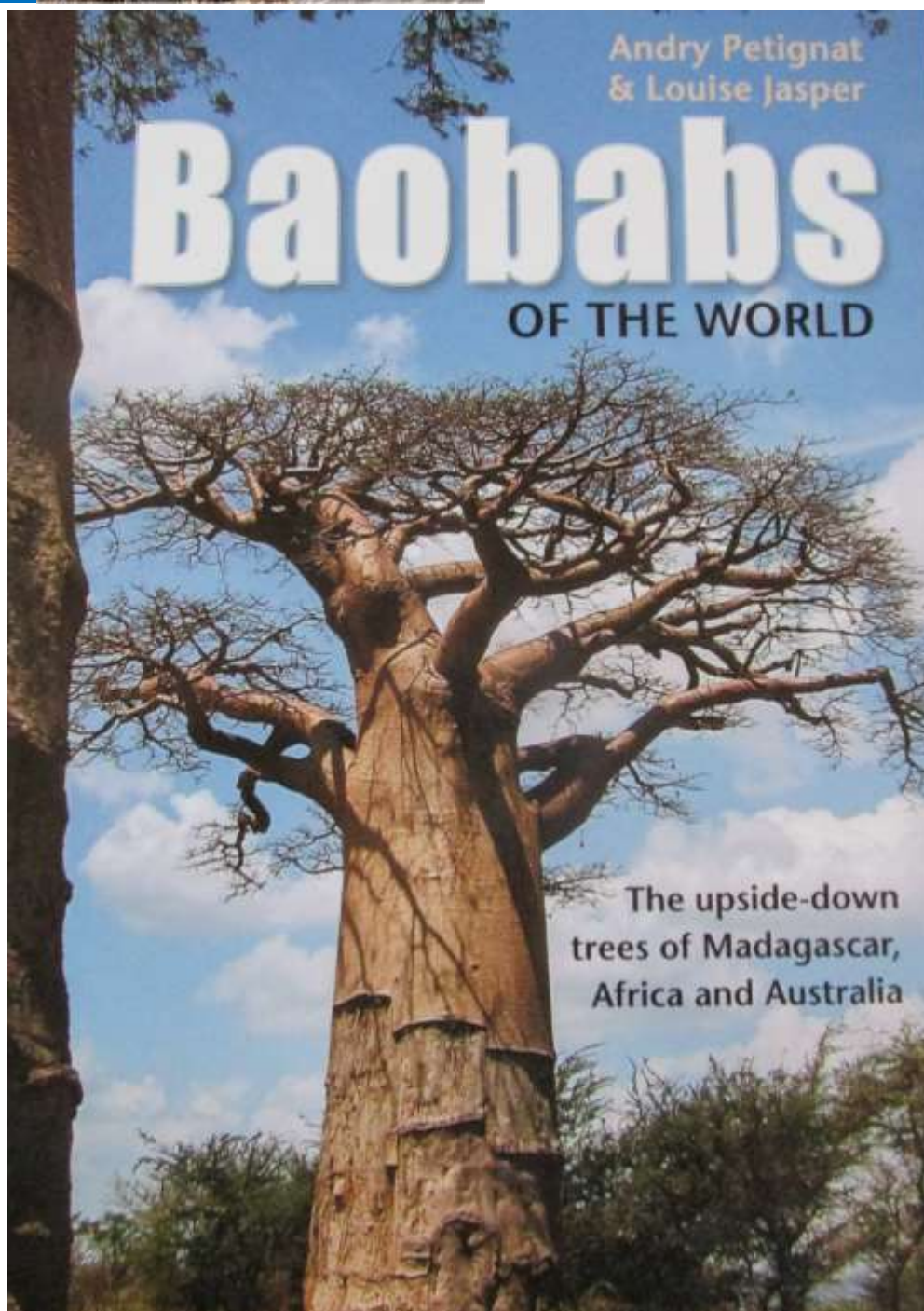
Travelling on a well-known African airline I noticed an advertisement for this book. Upon landing at Oliver Tambo Airport in Johannesburg I raced into the bookstores and found copies already on the shelves there.

I have now bought four copies but no sooner do I bring one home and someone looks at me with a plaintive eyes and it is sold! They cost around R230 or US\$17 and it is well worth it.

Luckily we have grabbed one copy for the Society so if anyone wishes to read it, get hold of Hans Wolbert. As you all well know there are only nine species of baobabs in the World, six of them occur in Madagascar, two in Africa and one in Australia.

Respectively they are *Adansonia za*, *A. rubrostipa*, *A. perrieri*, *A. grandidieri*, *A. suarezensis* and *A. madagascariensis* from Madagascar. In Africa we have *Adansonia digitata* and *A. kilima* and Australia kicks in with *A. gregorii*.

Read the book and learn all about them! Watch this space to see where you can find them growing!





Baobab Blitz

On 18 and 19 November 2016, there is a concerted effort to try and find out exactly what creatures pollinate baobab flowers. So if you are anywhere near some baobabs on these nights would you be kind enough to take a groundsheet and go and lie under them, with your eyes and ears open, and record every living thing that you see coming to the flowers. In West and East Africa, bats are known to be the main pollinators, in Madagascar it is a combination of bats and hawkmoths, but here apparently in southern Africa we are largely in the dark and don't know what creature, if any, does the pollination.

If you want to take part in this wonderful citizen science project then go to the website below and contact the e-mail indicated. If you are in an area frequented by large pachyderms, in the interest of your own safety, smear yourselves with fiery red-hot chili sauce, this apparently will stop them from stamping all over you. Try not to get it in your eyes. Should you be chanced upon by lions or hyenas you will be a lot tastier than normal, allowing you to savour the moment, literally.

<http://vhembecosystem.org/sarchi/projects/baobab-blitz> and e-mail cath@vhembecosystem.org

There is a form you have to fill to register. This will also give the organisers a starting point in the event you do not come back from the exercise. Be responsible.

The Australians have not been invited to take part, probably because they call their tree a Boab and the common name is Dead Rat Tree which is an appalling descriptor for probably one of the most-loved icons of the former Gondwanaland. No wonder we sent them off to float at the bottom end of the Pacific. Unfortunately they have taken our acacias with them and left us with *Vachellias* and *Sengalias*.

Although not really our territory, I just wanted to share with you this photograph of the Leopard orchid *Ansellia*, which occurs naturally over much of Zimbabwe, usually in very dry areas.

This picture was taken on a small mountain between Murehwa and Mutawatawa known locally as Breathing Mountain. The orchid has taken hold of a fork in the tree about 1 metre off the ground. It is thriving and is clearly well-adapted to the summer rain, winter dry climate that we have and somehow has the reserves and energy to stay green and attractive and even produced a mass of flowers when the bush all around is completely devoid of greenery. Somehow it also resists being chomped by any vegetarians despite being very close to munching level. Breathing Mountain you ask? Well that is another story altogether.



The Health Corner:

Well we are in a state of shock. We have finally lost one of our members, Darrel Plowes. The first to go since we started this Health Column. But he died very healthy of mind and led an active life right up until the end. He was 91, so it was an exceptional innings.

So we are undaunted, advice will still spring forth from us as we try and maintain you all in a state of healthy equilibrium. Remember that family and friends are far more important than any modern gizmos.

Here is a picture of Darrel, threatening Tom McCoy, with what looked suspiciously like a fixed-blade knife, on the Eastern Districts tour after Xerophytica 2014. Great friends are made through common interests and this ended happily fortunately as Darrel was just trying to scrape the burrs of an alien-invasive weed off the blue jeans sported by Tom.

Soon afterwards they were to be seen clambering around the Haroni Gorge, at the bottom end of the Chimanimani, with Obety Baptista of Mozambique, finding, naming and then publishing a whole new species of Aloe.



Golden memories!

That's that then he said with a snap and a splat! When it is time to go, its time. Enjoy your week and we hopefully will see all of you at the Monthly Meeting out at Glenara.

Cheers, Mafungi