

Vet Brief

May 2017

Next meeting Sunday 14 May 2017 at Jakkalskop 2:00 PM

Save The Date

14 May – Veld Walk at Jakkalskop. Meet at Spekboom Cottages

RSVP to Buck Please.

23 May - Work party at the Station 9:00 AM

Vetplantfees
25- 27 Sept.

Meeting Dates

11 June
9 July
13 August
10 September
23 – 25 September
“Vetplantfees”
8 October
12 November
10 December
21 January 2018

Message from the Chair

Thanks to Jako for hosting last month’s meeting. I hope that we are all slicing and dicing our favorite plants so we can share their progeny with our friends.

Planning for **Vetplantfees** is coming along. There will be a meeting of the planning committee on Monday, 22 May at The Rose of the Karoo at 5:00 PM. All members are invited to attend and pitch in.

Our May meeting will be a hands on learning experience, a Walk in the Veld. Kevin Koen will lead us on a 1 ½ - 2 hour walk where we will explore the amazing variety of succulent plants that grow on and around Jakkalskop. This will be a preview of the planned walks that will take place during our Vetplantfees in September. There is no charge for members to participate. Guestes will pay R150 per person.

The Society has joined the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve, which is an association incorporated not for gain to manage the biosphere reserve in terms of the requirements of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme. They are very actively invloved with Cape Nature and other groups that are helping to conserve our natural heritage.

Our web site is functioning. You are all invited to look at it and make suggestions on how it might be improved. The site’s URL address is:

WWW.VETPLANT.CO.ZA

We will have a table at the Winter Festival in June.

We had a little rain earlier in April, but not nearly enough to fill the dams and turn the veld green. We are all hoping for more as winter approaches.

I will miss tha May meeting, (hope you all have a great time),

Buck

May Meeting :

We will explore the veld at Jakkalskop with Kevin Koen. Plan on 1 ½ hour walk and talk. Wear sturdy shoes and head cover. Paid up members attend free, guests R150 per person. Please call Buck 076-298-7337 so we’ll know how many are coming.

Leadership Team

Chairman – Buck Hemenway 076-298-7337
Vice Chairman – Mike Horan
Secretary – Jako Voges

Treasurer – Yvonne Hemenway
Director – Irma Welman

Plant of the Month: *Haworthia truncata*

Haworthia truncata (Schoenland 1910) AKA: horse teeth, perdetande Distributed in the eastern Klein Karoo. The plants bloom in late winter to early spring. Flowers are born on an up to 200mm inflorescence. They are white with brownish veins. The plants are found in locations throughout the eastern part of the Klein Karoo, with very large populations east of Oudtshoorn.



H. truncata var. *truncata* near Calitzdorp

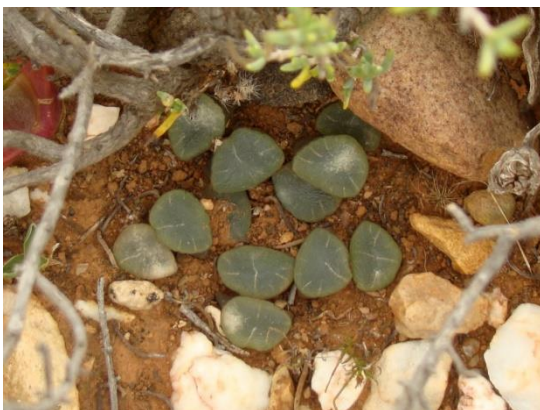
H. truncata var. *truncata* grows in a distichous (fan shaped) form. The leaves are quite fleshy growing in a single flat shaped (distichous) rosette. Most of the plant is growing below surface. We see only the ends (windows) of the leaves. The ends are elongated with shapes varying from squared off edges to rounded ends. We have a number of populations in the Calitzdorp area.



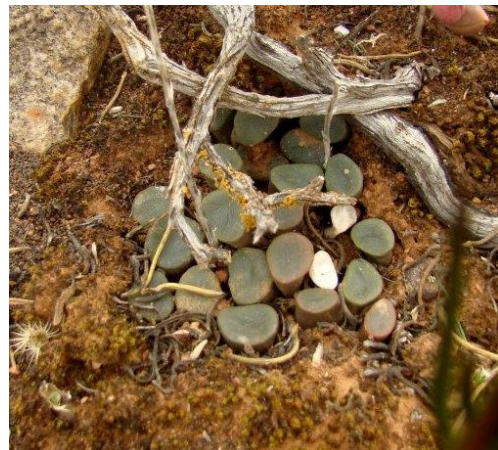
H. truncata var. *truncata* near Dysltdorp



H. truncata flowers



H. truncata var. *maughanii* (Fearn 1966) A form of *truncata* in which the leaves are more rounded as seen from the end and the rosettes are more rosette in form, rather than distichous. Mainly found in the Calitzdorp area.



Botanical Term of the Month:

Inflorescence

Inflorescence: the complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers.

Distichous

Distichous - (distikus) (of parts) arranged alternately in two opposite vertical rows.

Vetplantfees 2017

We are moving along with planning for the first ever Vetplantfees.

Demonstration Garden We are planning a work party day to begin the garden. It will be on Tuesday 23 May at 9:00 AM at the Station. Bring gloves, shovels (spades) and wheelbarrows. Plan on 2 hours maximum for this day. Bring ROCKS.

The club has offered to install a demonstration garden at the Calitzdorp Station, in part to thank Cheryl and Mike for hosting the event. We are looking for donations now. We will need soil (approx. 20 cu meters). Rocks, many and fairly large to define the garden space. Irrigation equipment, 15mm pipe, sprinkling apparatus, valves, etc., and the finally, plants. You can help in several ways. After we have the donated material, we will have several work parties to get the garden put together. We can use cash donations that are earmarked specifically for this garden. We can use donated materials, call Buck to find out what is needed (076-298-7337).

Distribution of advertising material If you are planning a driving trip anywhere in the Western Cape, you can help by taking our brochures to Botanical Gardens, Nurseries and the like. Call Buck to find out more.