



Vet Brief

July 2017

Next meeting Sunday, 09 July 2017 at Jako Voges Building 2:00 PM

Save The Date:

**July Meeting 09
July at 2:00 PM**

Vetplantfees
25- 27 Sept.

Meeting Dates

9 July
13 August
10 September
23 – 25 September
"Vetplantfees"
8 October
12 November
10 December
21 January 2018

Message from the Chair

We had a chance to look at the succulent plants of Namaqualand in summer at the June meeting. Quite a difference between their more robust selves in late winter and spring and the end of a long hot and dry summer..

This meeting will be all about Vetplantfees. It is time for us to begin the final preparations for the festival which is fast approaching. We will have sign-up sheets for the various activities that will go on during the weekend. I will explain what is required for each job and the members will choose whatever they wish to help out. Please attend and get a look at what we will be doing. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We will prepare an exhibition table at this meeting so our members can look at how a plant exhibition should look. We are hoping the members will bring their own potted plants to exhibit. The public, who will visit our festival will be amazed at the variety and beauty of our succulent plants. Please be thinking about which plants you will bring to the exhibition. The more the better as we all have our own favorite plants. Just bring one or two or a whole bunch.

The Demonstration Garden at the Station was put together in a hurry before the Winter Festival. I will say that it looks pretty good. We need some additional plants for the garden now. We will have a work party in August to freshen up the garden and get it ready for the Vetplantfees.

If you have not visited our web site, you should. Jako's work is fantastic. 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 are still getting on line requests to join the club.

See you at the meeting.

Buck

July Meeting :

Is all about Vetplantfees and how individual members can help.

Leadership Team

Chairman – Buck Hemenway 076-298-7337 Treasurer – Yvonne Hemenway
Vice Chairman – Mike Horan Director – Irma Welman
Secretary – Jako Voges

Plant of the Month: *Crassula ovata*

Crassula ovata (Miller 1768) (AKA: **Jade Plant, Kerky Bush, Beestebul, Kerkij, Plakkies**) is a member of one of the largest families of succulent plants on earth, *Crassulaceae*. Most of the succulent crassulas are found in South Africa and a great many of those are found in the Klein Karoo.

Crassula ovata occurs in the eastern end of the Klein Karoo and is found in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal in valley thicket vegetation.



The plants tend to be single stemmed with shortish branches giving them a round squat look. They grow to a height of around 2.5 meters. They are evergreen with almost no leaf drop. The leaves are green and quite succulent up to 90 mm long and 30 mm wide, some with red edges.

This plant is one of the most widely grown garden and container succulent plants in the world. It is fairly cold tolerant surviving without any damage at temperatures to -5 deg centigrade. It is very drought tolerant, but will tolerate normal garden irrigation. They can be found in nearly every garden in the Klein Karoo.

Crassula ovata is extremely easy to grow. Cuttings root almost immediately in damp coarse soil. Some home owners have planted them as hedges on their property.

The true beauty of *Crassula ovata* is seen in winter. They are blooming now (July)

Crassula ovata at The Rose of the Karoo

in the Klein Karoo. Flower range from normally white to pink. There are really spectacular forms found occasionally in nature and these have been selected and grown as cultivated varieties around the world.



Crassula ovata flowers



Crassula ovata cv. Crosby's Compact



Crassula ovata cv. undulata

Botanical Term of the Month;

Endemic

Endemic (of a plant or animal) native or restricted to a certain place.

Such as *Euphorbia gamkensis* is **endemic to the central Klein Karoo near Calitzdorp**.

Meaning that it does not grow naturally anywhere else.

This is somewhat different than last month's "indigenous" in that it refers to a specific place where the plant or animal is naturally found *only*, rather than a place where it is found but the occurrence is not restricted to that place.

Vetplantfees 2017

Demonstration Garden The garden is beginning to take shape. We will do a fresh up and plant new cuttings in August.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

We will discuss how our members can participate at the July meeting. Here are a few of the general areas of participation:

Security We will hire gate security and night time security, but we need people to guard the entrance and exits to the exhibition hall. In addition we will need people to man a "holding table" where people can leave purchased plants while doing other activities and entering the exhibition hall. We will not allow any plants in or out of the hall while the public is around.

Members sales area. We will need people to collect money, answer questions etc at the club's sales table.

Kids garden planting. We will need people to man the kids table and help them plant their gardens. We will not collect money at this table. The kids will purchase their pot to plant the garden at the Members Sales table and bring it to the planting table.