



Vet Brief

December 2017

Next meeting Sunday 17 December 2017
Red Mountain Lodge 4:00 PM

Save The Date:

**Dec. Meeting
17 December
Holiday Party at
Red Mountain
Lodge 4:00 PM**

**Jan. Meeting
21 Jan 2018
AGM**

**Feb. Meeting.
11 Feb. 2018
Calitzdorp
Garden Tour**

**March Meeting
11 Mar. 2018
Medicinal uses of
Succulent Plants**

**22–24 Sept. 2018
Vetplantfees
2018**

Message from the Chair

I want to thank Priscilla Burgoyne once more for her wonderful contribution to our group. Our Discovering Mesembs workshop was a fabulous success. I am only sorry that more of our local members did not participate. Priscilla has a way of explaining things about plants that increases everyone’s knowledge. We all learned a great deal about the veld around us and in particular how those fascinating Vygies work. All of the participating people took home dozens of planted seeds and I am sure that they are sprouting as you read this.

We continue to search out new vendors for the Vetplantfees. Jako recently attended a “Potters Fair” near Capetown and was disappointed to find that not one was selling plant pots. We have spoken to the people who sell their cement pots on the curb near the Pick ‘N Pay and they showed some interest.

Our December meeting is a social. We will have a picnic at the Red Mountain Lodge (formerly Ret Stone Hills Guest Lodge) which is located in the Red Mountains on the Kruisrivier road. The owner of the property is Charles Roux and he is very excited to have us at his property. I can tell you that it is beautiful in the extreme. Lovely lawns and gardens, a beautiful dam plus those stunning red mountains in your view all of the time.

The function will start at 4:00 PM. Charles has made his kitchen available to us as well as his braai. This will be a pot-luck picnic. Bring your own meat, either pre-cooked or not and a dish to share with the group. You also need to bring your own table/chairs/blanket and eating utensils that you would for a picnic. Also bring your own drinks.

There is a beautiful swimming pool, and following supper we will take a walk in the nearby hills to see what we can see about the succulent foliage there. For those who wish to stay, at around 9:00, Charles will turn on his huge LED lights and light up the mountain. It is a sight to amaze you. You know the place, the one with the buildings with the green roofs sitting just below the road. This function is for members and their families. Kids and grandparents are invited.

We are beginning the planning for more veld experiences with Priscilla. If you have ideas about where and what we should study, please let someone on the Committee know.

See you at Red Stone Hills..

Buck

December Meeting :
Holiday Party at Red Stone Lodge,
Sunday 17 December 4:00 PM. Bring
your own picnic.

Leadership Team

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

Plant of the Month: *Delosperma Calitzdorpense*

Delosperma calitzdorpense L. Bolus 1950 If the name strikes a familiar tone, it is because this plant is known to occur near our town of Calitzdorp. We found a large number of them in the veld near Jakkalskop on our explorations with Priscilla Burgoyne in preparation for the Discovering Mesembs workshop recently. The plants are smallish shrubs with woody stems to 25 cm tall and double width. The leaves are normally greyish in color, but after our recent rains, many of the plants have become much more green. Leaves up to 15mm in length and are pubescent (hairy). Flowers are white and about 20 mm in width with creamy-yellow colored centers.



It is amazing to finally get to know at least one of the mesemb shrubs. In the place where it is growing, it is the dominant plant. For about 100 meters along the road on both sides, that is all there is.

SANBI estimates that more than 50% of the entire population of *D. calitzdorpense* has been eliminated in recent years due to farming activities. For that reason and the fact that the known habitat is so limited, this is a red-listed endangered species .

They are relatively easy to grow. We collected a number of seed capsules under the permit of Garden Route Botanical Garden and we have sown quite a number of them. It is our hope that we can get them established in members' gardens and that they will spread to the veld. Kind of a reverse of the destruction of habitat that has been going on and invading plants back to their normal place in the veld.



Botanical Term of the Month;

-ense; -ensis

When the specific epithet or what we consider to be the "species" name of a plant ends in either of these suffixes, the meaning is that the plant comes from that place. Thus *Delosperma calitzdorpense*, means simply that this *Delosperma* plant comes from or occurs near Calitzdorp. As I understand the Latin use of these two suffixes, they mean exactly the same thing, but in different genders. The "ense" at the end of Calitzdorpense is female. Any words ending in "ensis" are male.

Opportunity at the Church. Please note the following email received this morning from Marina Murriss:

It looks like we have a volunteer to begin this project. More in the new year.

Discovering Mesembs



Looking for the right plant



Wow! Did you see that?



Beautiful Mesemb seeds.