



# Vet Brief

January 2018

Next meeting Sunday 21 January 2018

Jako Voges' Building

## Save The Date:

**Jan. Meeting**  
**21 Jan 2018**  
**AGM and**  
**Vetplantfees**  
**Preview**

**Feb. Meeting.**  
**11 Feb. 2018**  
**Medicinal uses of**  
**Plants from the**  
**Veld**

**March Meeting**  
**11 Mar. 2018**  
**Calitzdorp**  
**Garden Tour**

**April Meeting**  
**8 April 2018**  
**Veldwalk place**  
**TBA.**

**May Meeting**  
**13 May 2018**  
**Vegetative**  
**Propagation**

**June Meeting**  
**10 June 2018**  
**Photography**

**22-24 Sept. 2018**  
**Vetplantfees**  
**2018**

## Message from the Chair

Thanks very much to Charles Roux for having us at his beautiful Red Mountain Lodge for our holiday party. We were so worried about potential hot weather, it was *COLD*.

Our veld never disappoints. Here we are in the middle of a historical drought and there are plants flowering. The incredible Krimpsiektebos (*Tylecodon cacalioides*) is showing off those fantastic yellow flowers throughout our local area. There are Spekboom in flower as well as a number of Vygies.

Our January meeting will be our annual AGM which will include election of officers for 2018 and review of finances as well as our progress during 2017 and what we are looking forward to in 2018. Please attend and see what the group will be up to this year.

We will review our position for Vetplantfees at the January meeting. We will talk about plans that are in place and take suggestions for fine tuning our festival for this year. We welcome all ideas and thoughts. Please join and participate.

Dues are due for the new year. Your Committee decided to leave the dues amount at R 50 per family. We hope that all of our members will continue to enjoy the comradery of the group and learn more about succulent plants.

Please note the planned meeting topics for the next few months. We are always willing to look at other activities which can make our monthly meetings more exiting and educational.

We will begin regular planning meetings for Vetplantfees in the near future. Please help and join in the effort to make our fees the best in South Africa.

In the meantime Pray for Rain.

See you at the meeting.

Buck

**January Meeting :**  
**AGM and Vetplantfees Preview**  
**21 January 2:00 PM at Jako Voges**  
**building.**

## 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: *Tylecodon cacalioides*

*Tylecodon cacalioides* (Tolken 1978) (Krismissenta, Krimpsiektebos) This plant is flowering profusely as this article is being written. We are just not used to seeing such beautiful, intensely colored flowers on succulent plants during the summer months. If you are driving between Outschoorn and George in the month of January, you will see them on both sides of the road. The plants have upright, branching stems that tend to be hairy when young. The plants grow to about 50 cm tall. The inflorescences (to 55 cm tall) carry bunches of flowers that are described as sulphur-yellow in color. They are very bright against the desert scrub of our local veld.

*Tylecodon cacalioides* occurs primarily in the Klein Karoo. Farmers have been removing them from fields for hundreds of years as they are poisonous to herbivores. As is the case with some of this genus the plants shed their leaves for the summer period. They have no leaves then, when



flowering, much like the larger *T. paniculatus* (Botterboom) and others.

There is a similar plant that has a wider habitat from Namaqualand through the Klein Karoo, *Tylecodon walichii*, which is nearly identical to *T. cacalioides* except for the flower color which is a greenish-yellow.

Look for this plant when driving anywhere in our local area. The main pollinator is considered to be this long-proboscid horse-fly.





## Botanical Term of the Month;

-ense; -ensis

I have been properly corrected regarding these terms. It turns out that *Delosperma* is not even a Latin based word. It is Greek. The grammar is now complicated beyond where most of us want to go. Just know that if a plant name ends with “ense” or “ensis” the meaning is that it occurs in that place.

**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.

### In the Veld

More plants flowering right now



*Portulacaria afra* (Spekboom)



*Cotyledon orbiculata* (Plakkie, Pigs Ears)



*Cotyledon orbiculata* flowers