



Vet Brief

August 2017

Next meeting Sunday, 13 August 2017 at the Agri 2:00 PM

Save The Date:

August Meeting
13 August at
2:00 PM

Vetplantfees
25- 27 Sept.

Meeting Dates

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

Message from the Chair

Our first ever Vetplantfees is just around the corner. All of us are needed to help out to make the event successful. As we reviewed at the July meeting, each of us can help in several ways.

1. Exhibition, plants: If you have succulent plants in pots, please bring them to the fees to be part of the exhibition. The plants should be in good condition, clean pots, no bugs or pests. We can use them all.
2. Exhibition, Art: We will have a display of botanical art, using the Arts on Track display fixtures. Some of these works will be offered for sale during the fees. If you are the creator of the art, please feel free to bring and share.
3. Set Up, Tear Down We will need help on Thursday and Friday
4. Help during the fees. We need help in the club's sales and information area, in the Exhibition room and other places. Please help out.
5. There will be more specifics coming up in the near future and we will have a final run down at the September club meeting

We have requests all of the time, to spend more of our organized club activities in the veld. For that reason, we have organized our next meeting to be a walk in the veld. We will explore a wonderful kopjie very near Calitzdorp. The farmer who owns the property has given his permission. We will meet at the Calitzdorp Agri on Sunday 13 August at 2:00 PM and drive to the location. It is very close to the Agri, no more than 5 minutes. Plan a 1 to 2 hour walk. Sensible shoes, hats and weather sensible clothing. Members and members families only on this one please.

Prior to the actual meeting, we will have a preview of Vetplantfees and review what you can do to help. We will meet at the Station at 12:00 noon and do the run-through. All of our members are welcome and invited to join in.

See you at the meeting.

Buck

August Meeting :

**A walk in the veld.. Sunday, 13
August. Meet at the Agri at 2:00 PM**

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: *Aloe microstigma*

Aloe microstigma (Salm-Dyck 1854) (AKA: **Karoo-aalwyn**) Is one of the most wide spread aloes in southern Africa, occurring from Ceres to the Eastern Cape and north with some botanists insisting that it occurs in southern Namibia as well. We know it as our local aloe growing on short stems up to 50 cm. The



leaves are greenish red with small white spots (thus “micro stigma). The plants show definitive signs of drought at the end summer and early winter, The leaves turn quite red and curl up to protect the growing tip of the plant.

We see them literally covering rocky hillsides throughout the veld near Calitzdorp. They are spectacular when in flower at this time of year. Unfortunately due to our severe drought, the flowers stalks that should be showing now have not started. It remains to be seen whether or not the plants will get enough moisture in 2017 to perform their normal functions of making flowers and seeds. This is an example of succulent plants at their most extreme

level. The plants will survive, but may not do the normal reproductive cycle in this year.

For the most part, the plants are single stemmed. The flower stalks (racemes) are also simple (not branched), but a single plant may put up several racemes in a single flowering season. The flowers are quite unusual in that they are predominantly orange when in bud and then changing color to yellow as they open.

Take a look at them as you drive along our roads and you will see how red the plants are. Hopefully, we will see them in flower soon.



Botanical Term of the Month;

Rosulate

Rosulate. The growth form of a plants with regards to its leaves. Leaves which are growing in a rosette are considered Rosulate.

Vetplantfees 2017

Demonstration Garden The garden is beginning to take shape. We will do a fresh up and plant new cuttings in August. As soon as I can shake the flu.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.