



Vet Brief

September 2017

Next meeting Sunday, 10 September 2017 at The Station 2:00 PM

Save The Date:

**August Meeting
10 September at
2:00 PM at the
Station**

**Vetplantfees
25- 27 Sept.**

Meeting Dates
10 September
23 – 25 September
"Vetplantfees"
8 October
12 November
10 December
21 January 2018

Message from the Chair

I want to thank George Hatting for arranging our outing for last meeting. As dry as the veld is, the succulent plants are there and are on display. Many of them were flowering. That is just a very nice place to view succulent plants.

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 Friday morning.
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

The Vetplantfees is going to be really wonderful. As of this moment we have sold over 50% of the available veld walks. We have all of the invited plant vendors committed and attending. We have a group of extremely talented and dedicated speakers who will present during the fees. All together, we are looking forward to a fantastic weekend. Oh, and did I mention that I am receiving several phone calls each day from people who are planning to attend, from all over the Southern Cape.

Our meeting for this month will be held at the Calitzdorp Railway Station. We will meet at 2:00 PM. We will have a run through of the events to be held during Vetplantfees.

See you at the meeting.

Buck

September Meeting :
**Preview of Vetplantfees at the
Calitzdorp Railway Station 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: *Mesembryanthemum tortuosum* (*Sceletium tortuosum*)

Mesembryanthemum tortuosum (*Sceletium tortuosum*) (Linnaeus 1753) (AKA: **Kanna, Kougoed**) is one of the oldest mesembs known to the western world. It became known to the early colonizers of the Cape in the 17th century and has been cultivated in England since 1732.



Spring time flowers

The Khoisan people of South Africa, who use the plant in folk medicine, introduced this mood elevating plant to the western world. In recent years, preparations from *Sceletium tortuosum* are commercialized as anti-depressants and to reduce anxiety. Although the plants are grown commercially on a large scale there is tremendous conservation pressure on wild harvesting of *Sceletium* species.

Plants are climbing or creeping. The slender branches become thick and only slightly woody with age. Water cells are



Summer time, waiting for cooler weather

conspicuous on the leaves that have recurved tips and 3 to 5 major veins. The flowers are very shortly pedicellate (almost sessile) and of medium size (20 to 30 mm diameter). Petals are white to pale yellow, pale salmon or pale pink. The calyx has four or five sepals. Fruit are 10 to 15 mm in diameter and open when wet (hygrochastic). The species is readily distinguishable by the imbricate leaves with incurved tips.

It ranges from the Klein Karoo north through Namaqualand and commonly occurs in quartz patches and is usually found growing under shrubs in partial shade.

Plants are easily grown in cultivation from seed or cuttings. In

the Klein Karoo, we need to remember that they should have some shade in the hottest parts of the day.

Calitzdorp is part of the Kannaland Municipality, which was named for this plant

Botanical Term of the Month;

Hygrochastic

Hygrochastic. of or relating to the opening of a fruit or flower caused by water or moisture. This is an important term in our veld. It describes the action of the seed capsules on the vygie plants. The capsules ripen and dry during the period following flowering and pollination. After drying they may remain closed for a long period of months until they are moistened by rain. When they are wet, they open and allow their seeds to be dispersed. These plants are obviously well adapted to our climate of infrequent and sporadic rain events for their survival and propagation.

Vetplantfees 2017

Demonstration Garden More plants added last week, thanks Bridgitte..

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.

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

I just wish to confirm our telephone discussion of earlier this morning and wish to thank you for your warm reception in this matter.

As discussed with you, the Board of the Dutch Reformed Congregation of Calitzdorp, has approved that the Calitzdorp Succulent Society and its members, may use the gardens of the church grounds for the establishment of a succulent garden.

It is our sincerest wish that this should be a community initiative for a public garden, so that: the members of the society along with the members of the congregation (many being landowners with access to natural veld teaming with succulents) can contribute to the garden;- the garden should be open for tourists to admire the rich succulent heritage of our environs.

We are looking forward to working with you and thank you for your initiative in this regard. All future correspondence in this matter can be directed for my attention.

We also take this opportunity to wish you well with the upcoming Succulent Festival later this month. We are looking forward to participating in the many activities that will be offered during the weekend of the festival.

Kind regards

Marina Murriss

On behalf of the Church Board

Dutch Reformed Church Calitzdorp