

# *Vet Brief*

August 2021

Next meeting Sunday, 5 September 2021 at 2:00 PM  
Jako's Building across from Museum

## *Save The Date:*

**September Meeting:  
5 Sept. at Jako's  
Geyser Street  
Building**

We will be talking about final preparations for Vetplantfees and volunteer opportunities.

## **Vetplantfees 2021 is almost here.**

18 and 19 September in Calitzdorp

Our Calitzdorp Succulent Society volunteers in Calitzdorp will be very busy in the coming weeks putting the final touches on Vetplantfees 2021. Succulent plant vendors have confirmed they will arrive with loads of plants for sale; botanical artists across the country are packing up original art and prints for delivery to the galley for display and sale; speakers are doing final editing of their thought-provoking talks; the Saturday night dinner is booking up quickly; even the veld is cooperating with an amazing display of plant life after the recent good rains.

Check out all the details at Vetplantfees website: [www.vetplant.co.za](http://www.vetplant.co.za) .

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **LITHOPS in Habitat and Cultivation**

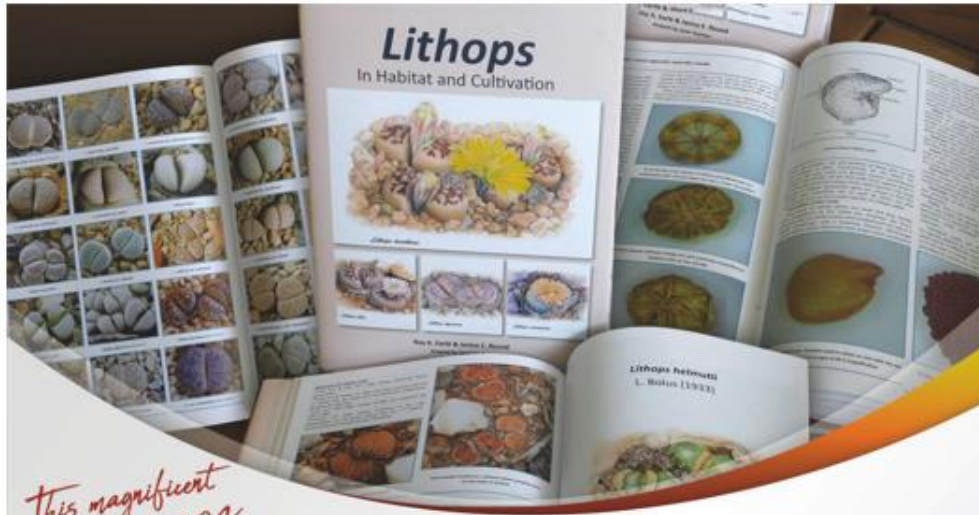
Many of us succulent enthusiasts are enchanted by the genus Lithops. Often called living stones or flowing stones (beeskloutjies in Afrikaans), these tiny, shy plants are a wonder of nature. And we now have a new, comprehensive book consolidating both research done by the authors in Namibia and South Africa over twenty years, and studies and discoveries by other renowned botanists.

The book (over 400 pages) is packed with information on the history, description, habitat, distribution, cultivation, conservation status, and photos of each currently recognized Lithops species. An added bonus is the delightful artwork by Janet Snyman who has meticulously painted each of the 40 species.

Lucky for those of us attending the Vetplantfees next month, the author, Roy Earle, will be on hand to sign the book for those who wish to purchase a copy. Janet Snyman will also attend and will have some of her art displayed in the on-site gallery.

### **Leadership Team**

<b>Chairman – Buck Hemenway</b>	<b>076-298-7337</b>	<b>Treasurer – Yvonne Hemenway</b>
<b>Vice Chairman – Allan Beech</b>		<b>Director – Irma Welman</b>
<b>Secretary – Dewalt Welman</b>		<b>Director – Hugh Sussens</b>
		<b>Membership – Stan Slogrove</b>



*This magnificent  
NEW BOOK  
presents* →

- The most recent biological and ecological data
- Other succulents growing alongside *Lithops*
- Habitat information and photo's
- Includes information on all 40 species
  - Over 1,400 colour photos from various contributors
- 40 botanical water colour paintings
- Contributions by various authors
  - Tips for growing plants in cultivation
  - Tips for showing *Lithops*
    - Information on cultivars (up to the year 2020)
- Detailed photos of the *Lithops* seeds and implications for taxonomy

**To register an interest in this book, please send a no obligation email address to:**

[lithopsbook2021@gmail.com](mailto:lithopsbook2021@gmail.com) (for buyers from UK and rest of the world)  
[sa.lithopsbook2021@gmail.com](mailto:sa.lithopsbook2021@gmail.com) (for buyers from South Africa)

## August Walk in the Veld

A group of about a dozen Society members enjoyed an amazing morning at the Groenefontein Reserve near Calitzdorp. This was the same drive/walk we took in May and the difference was notable. Bulbs, Crassulas and many wild flowers are blooming, with many other species ready to bloom in the coming month.

Here are some photos from our day in the veld.



Our group admiring the succulent plants and bulbs.  
Note the amazing green hills!



*Anacampteros papyracea* camouflaged in  
the white quartz.





A magnificent *Boophone distica* – between 10-20 years old. Bloom will arrive in the summer.



*Hermannia odorata* decorates the edge of the trail.



*Othonna retrofracta* has a very interesting, if short-lived, flower.



*Cerochlamys pachyphylla* is a single species genus endemic to the Klein Karoo.



*Massonia depressa* reaching out with pollen-filled stamens to attract pollinators.



These delicate *Crassula umbella* only appear in years with abundant rain.





The hills were lemon-scented with millions of *Freesia speciosa*.



*Bubine frutescens* is one of 5 Bulbine species endemic to the Klein Karoo.



*Conophytum minimum* and *Crassula congesta* are often found together. Note the seedling *Crassula barbata*.