

# Succulenta 2010



Participants preparing to explore the area in the Anysberg Nature Reserve under guidance of Jan Vlok, probably the best authority on the Flora of the Klein Karoo and whose book (co-authored by his wife Anne Lise) was launched at the congress. It was only in the Anysberg that the whole group traveled together, on the other days smaller groups went to separate and exiting localities.

The 7th congress of the Succulent Society of South Africa was held in Laingsburg in the Karoo from 13 to 17 September. More than 50 delegates attended the activities which comprised of talks in the mornings and field excursions to the very rich succulent plant areas around Laingsburg in the afternoons.

A wide variety of topics were introduced during the presentations. The opening talk was by Prof. Braam van Wyk, discussing the question whether the end users of plant names do have a freedom of choice when names change, Frans Noltee then introduced the congress to the locals: the succulents of the Laingsburg area.

Over the next few days very interesting talks were delivered by Ernst van Jaarsveld, Priscilla Burgoyne, Jan Vlok, Dr. Matt Buys, Andre Hoffman, Karen van der Walt, Rob Nagel, Dr Graham Williamson, Dr. Ronnie Uys, Sean Gildenhuys, Gerhard Marx, Dr. Peter Bruyns, Andrew Hankey, Russell Wagner, Dr. Sue Milton-Dean, Prof. Eric H Harley and Judd Kirkel. As far as possible, summaries of these talks will be published in the next two issues of ALOE, one of the topics, **The Critically Endangered Succulent, *Adenium swazicum***, by Karen van der Walt, appears in this number.

At the congress function held on the Thursday evening fellowship of the Succulent Society of South Africa was bestowed upon two distinguished members. The accolade of fellowship is presented for outstanding service to the Society and its aims.

Prof. Francois Steffens was introduced as fellow of the Society after many years of excellent service as editor of the journal ALOE. Francois was editor from 1976 to 1978 and then again from 1990 to 2009. From 1979 to 1989, when he handed the editorship to Prof. Niko Sauer, Francois remained a member of the editorial board. During all these years he was instrumental in establishing ALOE as one of the leading journals on the succulent flora of Africa and Madagascar.

The second fellowship was awarded to Alex Fick who was president of the Society from 1992 to 2006. He has also been serving on the editorial board of ALOE since 1999. Alex played a major role in the organising of the congresses in 1996 (Pretoria), 2000 (Cape Town), 2003 (Calitzdorp), 2006 (Calitzdorp) and 2010 (Laingsburg). There is no doubt that the two recipients did indeed give outstanding service to the Society and its aims.



**Succulent Society of South Africa**  
**Vetplantvereniging van Suid-Afrika**

**Objectives**

The objectives of the Society are to promote knowledge, the cultivation and conservation of succulent plants and to contribute towards the protection and conservation of all indigenous plants and their habitats.

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**Front cover:** *Aloe aculeata* flowering in June at Magneetshoogte west of the Steelpoort River Valley.

**Photo:** Kotie Retief

# ALOE

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**Back cover:** *Gasteria acinacifolia* growing on sand dunes at Nature's Valley.

**Photo:** Kotie Retief

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