

# Editorial

Like many times before, we have to start with an apology; *ALOE* 47:4 (as well as *ALOE* 47:3) will only reach you in 2011 instead of 2010. Avoiding a long list of excuses, we would rather say that we do have action plans in place to make sure that *ALOE* is produced on a regular quarterly schedule in 2011. We would appreciate the support of our members and subscribers, of course. With this *ALOE*, statements for the 2011 fees are included; without these it would be impossible to continue publishing the journal.

The production of *ALOE* is a labour of love; a number of people are putting in a lot of hard work with no compensation apart from the satisfaction of being part of the team producing a (hopefully) worthwhile publication dedicated to the succulent flora of mainly Africa and Madagascar. The team consists of the Editorial Board members, who are putting in many hours of hard work to make the journal work, as well as our authors without whom the journal will

be impossible. Regular contributors make it possible to get the job done. A few names must be mentioned here: we owe a serious word of thanks to authors producing articles on a regular basis; these include Ernst van Jaarsveld, Gerhard Marx, Georg Fritz, Judd Kinkel, Sean Gildenhuis and Dr. Graham Williamson. On the scientific side (apart from members of the editorial team), invaluable input came from Dr. Otto Leistner and Ronell Klopper.

Emsie du Plessis has done very valuable work editing articles and Tersia van Rensen, our designer, has been an invaluable part of the production team since 1982.

As mentioned in the notes on *Succulenta 2010* in the *ALOE* 47:2, we are hoping to cover as many of the congress talks as possible in *ALOE*. A number have appeared already; some are in this journal, more will appear in the next issue or two. We would like to thank the speakers at the congress who are going to a lot of trouble to rework

their talks into articles for *ALOE*.

In this *ALOE* an announcement appears about the Aloe conference, **Inhlaba Indaba, the World of Aloes**. This will hopefully be a major event for all participants; obviously *ALOE* will play an important role, especially in publishing talks and reports on discussions at the conference.

We would like to invite all readers of the journal to comment on the journal, its contents, design and so on. Contributions and articles are always very welcome: all we need is a manuscript in MSWord format and photos (preferably electronic, but slides or prints of good quality are welcome as well). Detailed information about the format in which we would like to receive contributions, is available on request.

*We wish you all a happy and healthy 2011, and may all your succulents and other plants prosper!*

**Kotie Retief**  
Editor

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Inhlaba Indaba – The World of Aloes

An international conference on the genus *Aloe* will take place from 6 to 8 July 2011 at the Cradle of Life Centre at Badplaas in Mpumalanga. The Centre will be the host for the event. Other partners taking responsibility for the conference will include the Succulent Society of South Africa (SSSA), the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and Gariep Plants succulent nursery. The title of the conference is derived from 'inhlaba', isiZulu for 'aloe' and indaba' which means 'meeting' or 'gathering' in isiZulu. 'Indaba' can also refer to 'story'; this is very appropriate as this gathering will look at **the story of Aloes**.

Speakers will include John Lavranos, Len Newton, Tom McCoy, Guiseppe Orlando, Gideon Smith, Ronell Klopper, Ernst van Jaarsveld and Andy de Wet.

The African/Madagascan region is host to more than half of the world's succulent plant species. There is general consensus that Aloes are the flagship of these succulents. The conference, **Inhlaba Indaba – the World of Aloes**, is planned to celebrate this unique genus and to tell the story of Aloes. Mankind has been fascinated by them for millennia, at first by their medicinal uses and the colour they bring in an often dry winter landscape. In the last few centuries the interest has moved on to the scientific level. Aloes also became the serious interest of

collectors and they started to play an important role in horticulture and landscaping. Cosmetic uses became as important as the medicinal.

In all these areas the interest in Aloes is very strong at the moment. In addition to the number of existing books which have appeared during the past 60 years, a book on the unique Aloes of Madagascar has been published recently. Three other are in the pipeline; a major publication by Kew on the Aloes of the world will be out early in 2011. A new comprehensive work on the Aloes of South Africa and Namibia, authored by Ernst van Jaarsveld from Kirstenbosch is in its early stages of production, and a very important book on the Aloes of the Arabian Peninsula will hopefully be launched at the conference.

The proposed conference is planned for the period **6 to 8 July 2011 at the Cradle of Life Tourism and Conservation Centre at Badplaas, Mpumalanga**. This is the peak of the Aloe flowering season in the summer rainfall region of the country and will allow field trips to the habitat of many of these species; a conference field trip is planned for 4 and 5 July.

More information will be available soon. If you would like to be kept informed about developments, please send your address to **kambroo@mweb.co.za**



**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: *Euphorbia multiceps* growing just east of Laingsburg in the Great Karoo.

Photo: Kotie Retief

# ALOE

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Back cover: *Aloe variegata* in flower in September at the same locality east of Laingsburg.

Photo: Kotie Retief

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