

Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

A Newsy Letter from Calitzdorp, South Africa
for Succulent Plant Enthusiasts Everywhere

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This small beauty made an appearance in the garden this month. *Pleiospilos nelii* grows in habitat just east of Calitzdorp and we hope it will propagate readily in our front yard.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

September 3 – Rooiberg Rendevous.
Road trip across the Rooiberg (Red Mountain) with a braai at the top.

Oct 2 to 17 – Hemenway trip to central Namibia scouting for plants and beer.

End November – Apricot Harvest Festival

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Editors' Message

Suddenly it's Spring! The beginning of August was cool and damp but by the end of the month the days are very warm and apricot trees are blooming, grape vines are sprouting, and the veld is turning yellow and purple. This is a beautiful time of year here in Calitzdorp.

Buck and I drove to Pretoria early in August to visit with the Johannesburg Succulent Society. They asked Buck to be their speaker for the meeting and of course he was happy to do so. While in the area we also visited with Kotie Retief of Gariep Nursery and president of the Succulent Society of South Africa and with Andy De Wet and Quinton Bean of the Aloe Farm to discuss the planned Succulenta Convention in Calitzdorp in September 2018. Andy De Wet is an Aloe hybridizer who has created many large hybrids with spectacular blooms. Of course we came back to Calitzdorp with several new Aloes for our garden.

On the way back home we stopped in Prince Albert to buy more plants, especially pelargoniums, that grow well in our area. We happened on the annual church fund raiser where local farmers bring in their spring lamb and beef for sale. It was a special opportunity to get the best meat and Buck and I took advantage.

The Arts on Track event was a smashing success for the Calitzdorp arts community. The theme this year was "Freaky", and many of the pieces were very strange. However Buck and I bid on several outstanding art works, most by good friends in Calitzdorp, and came home with 6 new pieces to hang. We also won the bid for a cake that was oddly decorated but very delicious.

Calitzdorp hosted a Blossom Festival the last weekend in August featuring runs through the De Krans vineyards and orchards for the young and fit. The rest of us enjoyed wine and food at the local cellars. The lamb shanks and port potjie (stew) at Boplaas was melt-in-your-mouth delectable.

We are looking forward to visits from friends and acquaintances from California next month. Botanizing and braais coming up.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway



Visiting the Aloe Farm near Pretoria. L to R: Buck Hemenway, Andy De Wet, and Quinton Bean.



One of the fabulous Aloe hybrids developed by Andy De Wet.



Buck enjoying a coffee at our favorite deli in Prince Albert.



The friendly crepe maker at the Prince Albert farmers' market. The crepes were delicious.



Thanks to friends Wendy and Giovanni, Buck and I know where to find these special plants in profusion. L: Boo-phane distichia and R: Dioscorea hemicypta.