



A dessert fit for a Valentines lunch. This decadent chocolate cake was served at one of our favorite spots, Buffelsdrift.

### Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

March 23 – Evening Soiree at the Queen of Calitzdorp with a reading by author Sally Andrew (Recipes of Love and Murder - A Tannie Maria Mystery).

March 24-28 – Zoar Oesfees (Harvest Festival).

March 24-30 – Klien Karoo Arts Festival in Oudtshoorn with music, dance, drama and more at over a dozen venues.

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## Succulent Karoo

# Chronicles

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

February 2016 - Volume 2, Number 2

### Editors' Message

Grapes, grapes, grapes! February is the month to harvest this most important local crop. Dozens of tractors pulling wagons full of green or red grapes chug past our house each day. Everyone is munching on grapes and the breeze carries a waft of fermenting wine. I got in on the action at Axe Hill Cellars when our friend and local winemaker, Mike Neeby, invited me to stomp grapes. It is hard work but fun.

Buck and I have spent most of our time this month visiting nurseries to find succulents for our new garden. We have acquired some rare and amazing specimens. Buck is completing the garden path that will meander through the garden to the carport. Our local highway (Route 62) is known as the Garden Route. I think our new path will become the Hemenway Garden Route.

My veggie garden is at its summer peak right now and our first tomatoes will be ready to pick next week (with hundreds right behind them).

Buck and I, together with friends Alex and Judy Fick, went to Mossel Bay for lunch at an open air seafood restaurant on the beach, the Vette Mossel (Fat Mussel). Of course the menu features mussels but there were several varieties of delicious seafood, fresh baked bread and, of course, kooksisters for dessert. After a huge lunch we spent an hour with a bottle of wine in the "cigar lounge" overlooking the Indian Ocean. Perfect way to spend a hot summer afternoon.

We decided to have a Valentine's Day party for a few neighbors and friends. By the time party day arrived, we had over thirty guests, plenty of great food and wine, and a fun time.

I am attending yoga classes a few mornings a week and both Buck and I are taking Afrikaans lessons from a local woman who is a well-known journalist. Progress is slow but steady.

I've been asked to join a local women's league and attended my first meeting last week. We hosted a group from a nearby town with an organ recital at the local church and a sit-down lunch for 50! The local ladies are an impressive force.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway





Above is the historical pipe organ that was donated to the Dutch Reformed Church by the local farmers in the 1930's.



Lunch for 50 in the church hall. Note the tapestries hanging on the walls. They were hand-made by the local ladies in the late 1990's and are quite famous in South Africa.

### Progress at 2 Queen Street, Calitzdorp



The vegetable garden continues to thrive. The pumpkins have escaped under the shade structure and are invading the orchard.



The front garden under construction and some of the amazing plants we have acquired, L to R: medusoid Euphorbia more than 2 feet across, Pachypodium namaquanum, and of course Baby Bums (in this case Gibbeaum heathii).

