



This is how squash and gourds grow at Babylonstoren! Buck and I toured the gardens with Judy Fick (above) and Ernst van Jaarsveld.

Upcoming Events

in and near Calitzdorp

February 1 to 28 – Hanepootpluk (Hanepoot grape picking) at De Krans vineyards. R7.00 per kg (about 20 cents a pound).

February 14 – Valentines Brunch at the Queen of 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).

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Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

January 2016 - Volume 2, Number 1

Editors' Message

We are well into the lazy days of summer. Temperatures range from the high 80's to the low 100's F (25-35 C) with the occasional thunder storm and rain bringing some relief.

Buck's mornings are spent moving soil and rocks in preparation for planting our new succulent landscape. Since it is only cool enough to work outdoors for a few early morning hours progress is slow, but that is one reason we moved here to Calitzdorp - the liesurely pace of life. It is amazing how our stress level has decreased over the last six months.

We took a 3-day mini vacation to the Stellenbosch area in mid-January and hooked up with our friends Erma and Ernst van Jaarsveld. We toured Ernst's place of work, Babylonstoren (www.babylonstoren.com), to look at a possible venue for a succulent conference in the fall of 2017. We'll keep you posted! On the way back home we stopped in Montagu to say hello to Franz Noltee and his wife. Franz is a noted botanist (formerly a Calitzdorp resident) who published his work on Karoo succulents in CD format. Montagu is another charming Karoo town well worth another visit.

Buck and I were invited to have lunch at local resort, The Retreat at Groenfontein. The setting in the foothills of the Swartberg Mountains is stunning and the resort offers everything you could want for a getaway; hiking trails, swimming in rock pools, beautiful gardens, wildlife and birds galore, excellent food, comfortable accommodations, brilliant star-gazing and a wonderful hostess, Marie Holstensson, who made us feel very welcome.

Harvest time continues with melons, figs, onions, tomatoes and peppers. Grapes are nearing their peak sweetness and are now ready for picking. The local wine cellars are gearing up for this year's vintage with huge truckloads of bottles and other supplies rolling past our house at all hours.

New Years resolutions: Buck - drive slower to avoid speeding tickets. Yvonne - learn to drive on the left side.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

Progress at 2 Queen Street, Calitzdorp



The vegetable garden is maturing at a fast rate. The canteloupe is spilling over the wall and crawling out of the shade-house. The first tiny tomatoes have just appeared and I have already harvested arugula, lettuce and basil.

Buck can be found in the early mornings sculpting our new landscape. It is now ready for irrigation and shortly thereafter the fun part begins - planting succulents.

Buck is in great shape after moving TONS of soil and rocks. The neighbors think he is crazy to do it himself when labour is so cheap, but gardening is what we enjoy.

