



Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

July 2016 - Volume 2, Number 7

A find like this will make your day! We spotted this variegated *Senecio radicans* scrambling through a *Glottiphyllum regium* on one of our recent hikes. The sun was at just the right angle to highlight the variegation.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

August 6-14 – Art on Track 2016.
Art competition and exhibition.

August 27-28 – Bloeiselfees (Blossom Festival) at De Krans Winery.

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

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Editors' Message

It's mid-winter in Calitzdorp and everyone is hunkered down trying to stay warm. No central heating here and most people rely on fireplaces and various types of heaters. Buck and I thought we would tough it out but decided we were old enough to require a certain level of comfort so we put air conditioning/heating units in 3 rooms; bedroom, lounge and kitchen. We are snug now no matter if the weather goes down to freezing overnight.

But daytime temperatures are very pleasant and we continue to work in the garden every chance we get. I had my first experience pruning grapevines on the trellis over our driveway. It was hard work climbing up and down the ladder to reach the higher tendrils but now we're ready for the new growth in about 4-6 weeks.

Buck and I joined local plant enthusiast and butcher, George, for a morning's hike at a local farm that is now being converted to its natural state by Cape Nature Conservancy. There is always something new and exciting for us plant nuts to see in this amazing succulent hotspot we call home. There are several pictures included on page 2.

One of our local young wine makers, Louis Le Sueur van der Reit, introduced his maiden vintage under the Le Sueur label at the De Krans Cellar this month. It was exciting for Louis to host a wine and food pairing event to showcase his hand crafted red and white wines and share the stories of how they came about. His blend of Pinot Noir and Cinsaut grapes, named Paradoks, has gained immediate acclaim. Winemaking here is a very serious and demanding business.

July is birthday month for Yvonne and we took over the Porto Deli restaurant to host a birthday party with twenty-five or so friends. The setting was lovely and the social hour featured champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Owners Mize and Deon served a delicious meal featuring lamb and seafood with, of course, birthday cake for dessert. Many bottles of wine were consumed and a good time was had by all. As our new Afrikaans teacher, Kim Verlinde, would say "*Baie Verjaarsdag, Yvonne*".

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

Happy Birthday Yvonne



Restaurant decorated and ready for the evening's festivities.



Yvonne with Wendy and Giovanni, owners of the best Italian restaurant in Calitzdorp.



Buck giving a warm thank you to Mize for catering the birthday event.



The birthday cake (vanilla with lemon curd filling and whipped cream frosting) was delicious.



This energy-saving device is popular in the Klein Karoo. It's called a hotbox.

Just get your stew, or lamb shanks, or eisbein bubbling on the stove, then put the pot into styrofoam-filled hot pot, tighten up the sides and flip the lid over. Leave for 2-4 hours and Voila! dinner is cooked and tender.

I bought mine at the Calitzdorp Winter Festival.