

Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

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At the Craft Market, Victoria & Albert Waterfront in Cape Town. Irene is shopping for colorful South African handicrafts to take back to Canada.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

December 11 – Bring & Braai at the Calitzdorp dam. 11:00 am

Christmas Eve – Christmas Feast at the Naked Lady Pub.

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Editors' Message

November is a busy month for the farmers here in Calitzdorp. All along the Gamka Valley stonefruit crops are being harvested and shipped to market. Tons of apricots go by our house daily during the last two weeks of November and of course we had an Apricot Jam-boree. The organizers (Zelma Kriek and Mike Murren) added a new wrinkle this year and challenged the town to produce 1000 jars of apricot jam in one day. Well we did it! With generous donations of fruit, sugar, jars, etc. and hours of volunteer help, the sale of the jam will add needed funds to the Community Chest for worthy projects.

For Buck and I, the most exciting event in November was the arrival from Vancouver, Canada of my mother, Irene, and her sister, my Aunt June. They stayed with us for the entire month and we gave them a taste of South Africa and, in particular, our little village of Calitzdorp. They now have new friends in far away places.

We spent a few days at a game lodge near Albertinia and during our game drives saw lions and rhinos and ellies (and many other animals that once roamed in the area). We visited the town of Hermanus on Walker Bay where the Southern Right Whale visit in the spring to have their calves. We were too late for the whales but this is a lovely seaside town with great seafood and fabulous views. We spent time with the penquins in Simon's Town and drove to Cape Point. Another day we toured the Victoria and Albert Waterfront to get in some last minute shopping. Skys were blue and views of Table Mountain were outstanding. Of course we visited the beautiful Kirstenbosch Gardens in Cape Town. We dined one afternoon at our favorite restaurant in Franschoek, Le Petite Ferme. We can't decide which is best there, the food or the views over the valley, but it is always an enjoyable experience.

Buck and I held our second annual Stoep Party in November and many friends helped Buck to celebrate his birthday. Guests began arriving at 3:00 and the last of the wine was poured at 10:00 pm. We are already looking forward to next year's bash.

Not much botanizing in November but many fond memories.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway



Buck taking pictures of elephant butts.



South African Penguins on Boulders beach in Simon's Town. They are all waiting for their moult to finish so they can swim out to sea and go fishing.



Three happy sight-seers perched on a wall above Cape Point. L to R: Yvonne, Mom Irene and Aunt June.



Party guests at the Hemenway Stoep Party (aka Buck's Birthday Party).



An apricot jam-making frenzy at The Station in a successful attempt to make 1000 bottles of apricot jam in just one day.