

Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

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Artist Mize has just completed one of two murals on our wall. Now we have to explain to all the local passersby what the “H” stands for. Buck and I commissioned the work last October and we are thrilled with the results.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

May 6-8 – Redstone Hills Mountain Bike and Trail Running weekend at Buffelskloof, Kruisrivier.

June 16-19 – Calitzdorp Winter Festival (formerly Calitzdorp Port Festival).

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Editors' Message

Here it is Autumn already. Seems odd to think of March as the end of summer but we are all grateful here for some cooler weather. The last of the fall harvest is being picked with grapes, almonds and olives ripening one after the other. The Hemenway olive crop was just over 50KG (about 110 pounds). Buck and I picked them this week and the crop is on the way to the olive press to turn into olive oil.

Last week the Queen of Calitzdorp Hotel put on a book launching event. Author Sally Andrew gave a reading from her book, *Recipies of Love and Murder*. The book is set in a dorp (town) in the Little Karoo and her characters are delightful and the book is a fun read. There are even recipies for traditional Karoo food at the end. I recommend you read it.

We made good progress on our landscaping project. The Calitzdorp museum is planning a garden tour in May and they have asked Buck and I to put our garden on the tour. The pressure is on to complete by then.

We spent a day at the Klien Karoo Arts Festival in Oudtshoorn. This is a huge event with plays, musicians, dancers and other entertainers at various venues around the city. Then there is the beer garden and wine tasting tents and, of course, vendors selling food and local crafts. We had a great time and will go again next year.

Buck and I have a new piece of art. Local artists and restaurateurs, Mize and Deon, designed and installed a tile mural on our wall at the end of the driveway. It is creating quite a buzz in the village.

My veggie garden is giving us tomatoes and peppers and I can't keep ahead of the chard. I planted peas a few weeks ago and they are already climbing their trellis. Also planted some Aloe seeds (*microstigma* and *longistyla*). I guess we just can't give up being nurserymen.

Buck and I are on a week-long trip next week to the Addo Elephant Reserve and a few other interesting stops along the way. More about that next month.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

Another view of our new murals.

Notice the grape leaves turning red over the carport.



A pretty Proteocea species growing in the Otenequa Pass.



Buck and I had lunch with friends Neil and Brenda Currie at this 'Feather Palace' just outside Calitzdorp. Reichtfontein was built in 1909, the same vintage as our house. I had the most delectable ostrich fillet washed down with a wonderful local sauvignon blanc.



Seen on a morning hike in the velt at the end of March.

L: *Crassula capitella*

R: *Glottiphyllum carnosum*

