



Aloe comptonii blooms in September-October in lower elevations, but high in the Swartberg Mountains this lovely specimen is blooming at the end of November

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

November 21 to December 6 –
Apricot picking at De Krans Winery

November 28, 9:0 am til late –
Apricot Festival and Christmas Market at The Station.

November 28 – Potjie (pronounced poykee) Cook Off at The Station. Taste and help judge 15 entries of traditional South African stews.

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Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

November 2015 - Volume 1, Number 2

Editors' Message

Spring is a very busy season in the agricultural valley that Calitzdorp lies in. Crops such as peaches, apricots, pears and plums and onions and squash are being harvested as they ripen. Grapes will be ready in late January. Truck loads of produce travel the highway to market and all the local ladies are making preserves. If you haven't tried them, preserved whole green figs are divine. Our Calitzdorp Saturday Market now has tables where local hobby farmers offer vegetables plucked that morning from their fields. I bought some pattypan squash that still had the fresh blossoms attached! Try finding that in your local supermarket.

Here's a little background about our trip to Groenefontein last month. On July 3rd this year UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) approved the status of World Heritage Site for the Rooiberg, Gamkaberg, and Groenefontein Protected Areas just south of Calitzdorp. We live in an area that is incredibly special in global environmental and conservation terms. As a matter of fact, Calitzdorp already sits right in the middle (from east to west) of the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve that was established in 2011 with the aim of protecting and restoring the biodiversity of the Little Karoo. Our village is therefore surrounded by eco-regions that, between them, have about 4,500 species of plants that are found nowhere else on earth!

November was a very busy month for us. Our first US visitors, Nan and Tim from Riverside, arrived on November 4th and we spent a fabulous 10 days together in Stellenbosch, Cape Town, Lamberts Bay, and Calitzdorp taking in the sights and a considerable amount of wine. Next to arrive were Kelly Griffin and Jeremy Spath from the San Diego area who are on a botanizing trip throughout South Africa for several weeks and spent some time with Buck and me.

Our house restoration is now complete and we held our first Stoep Party on November 22 with about 40 of our friends and neighbors. A fun time was had by all and Buck and I are now official Calitzdorpers.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

