

Newsletter

Auckland Branch of the Cactus and Succulent Society of New Zealand Inc.

Meetings - 3rd Thurs of month at 7.30pm
Plant Sales - start at 7.00pm

August 2017

Dates	COMPETITION PLANT			MAIN FEATURE
	Open section (For all members)	Novice section (Membership 5 yrs & under)	FFF (For all)	
Aug 17	Oreocereus, Espostoa, Cleistocactus	Oreocereus, Espostoa, Cleistocactus	Flowers Foliage Form	Talk and picture show. by Martin Walker
Sep 21	Euphorbia	Euphorbia	Flowers Foliage Form	Short Talk & Ballot Sale

Minutes of a Meeting of the Auckland Branch of the Cactus and Succulent Society of New Zealand Inc. (CSSNZ)

DATE: Thursday 20 July 2017

TIME: 7:30pm

LOCATION: : AHC Hall,
990 Great North Road,
Western Springs, Auckland

IN ATTENDANCE:

Approximately 22 members.

President Max Croft welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 7:40pm.

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS:

One member joined during the week, after making an email enquiry. Then one new member joined tonight

So there are now 6 new members that need to be presented with a complimentary plant.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017, having been circulated in the newsletter, were taken as read.

Moved: Max

Seconded: Trevor
Carried.

MATTERS ARISING:

CORRESPONDENCE INWARD:

4 emails from AHC
1 enquiry for membership - he then became a member
Email to say Xerophilia 21 is ready for download.
Email Wellington Newsletter

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD:

Monthly newsletter Emailed, posted
Sent 2 emails back to AHC
Sent the 4 emails from AHC to our email members.
Emailed out the Wellington Newsletter, And Xerophilia note.

MATTERS ARISING -

We are affiliated to AHC therefore we all had to be informed of the problem. There are 38 affiliated clubs in the AHC

General problem is at Their AGM in June they didn't get enough people to fill all the positions on the committee. So they are having a Special General meeting to see if they can fill the positions. If not then the AHC will be dissolved, which means council will take over bookings. And probably put up the rents again.

Checkout Web
www.aucklandhortcouncil.webs.com
Special Meeting Sat 19 Aug 2pm
at Club rooms 990 Gt Nth Rd.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

FFF discussion took place.
Had Supper
Competition winners announced.
Raffle was drawn
Talk by Val Parkinson,
on blooming Africa

Meeting Closed 10pm

Max

OUR PEOPLE:

Great to have Martin Walker back to meetings again. Without a walking stick. Doing great, but gets tired quickly.

Nursery still has limited hours so check the website for opening days and times.

Articles for future newsletters are very welcome from any member.
Deadline next issue **8th Sept 2017**

Competition Results



Open 1st - Noel Magnusson
Pleiospilos nelii "Royal Flush"



Open 2nd - Roy Plackett
Lithops olivacea



Open 3rd - Gorakh & Anne
Lithops optica rubra

Other plants in Open





Novice 1st - Billy Liu
Lithops fulviceps lactinea

Novice 2nd - Billy Liu
Cheiridopsis Species

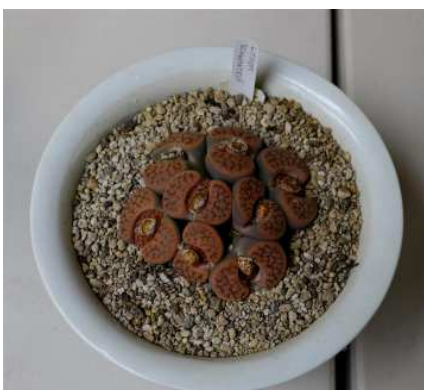
Novice 3rd - Billy Liu
Lithops otzeniara



FFF 1st - Billy Liu
Echeveria zaragoza

The Name could also be:-
Echeveria cuspidata zaragoza

Very nice plant and nice pot.
Need to find out where it came from.
Not much info on Google either.



FFF 2nd - Gorakh & Anne
Lithops schwantesii

Lithops schwantesii is a tiny caespitose succulent that grows almost completely buried in the soil with only the upper truncated portion of leaves visible. Bodies usually forming small groups with 1-3 heads, but occasionally with more than 15 heads, up to 4 cm high. It is very variable, but conforms to the

typical Lithops morphology: two thick, fleshy windowed leaves separated by a crack from which a yellow flower appears. The windowed part allows light into the inner portion of the leaf where the process of photosynthesis is carried out. As with many other species, several varieties or local forms have been described based on the variation of the colour of the tops of the leaves.



FFF 3rd - Noel Magnusson
 Haemanthus albiflos
Haemanthus albiflos is a species of flowering plant in the family Amaryllidaceae, native to South Africa. It is sometimes given the English name **paintbrush**, not to be confused with *Castilleja* species which also have this name. It is an evergreen bulbous perennial geophyte, prized horticulturally for its unusual appearance and extreme tolerance of neglect. *H.*

albiflos is the only *Haemanthus* species found in both winter and summer rainfall regions, and has a mainly coastal distribution from the southern Cape through the Eastern Cape to KwaZulu-Natal, showing a preference for cool, shady spots.

(Border line as a succulent)

Other FFF plants



GRAFTING

How often have we heard it said that grafting spoils a plant, that it loses its individuality, that it is not natural, etc? I, personally, am not the slightest bit concerned whether the plant does not measure up to the botanical description. Is it still a nice looking plant? Does it grow happily? Does it flower well? If the answer to these is yes, then you can keep the struggling, poor flowering species and I will still graft. If the plant does well on its own roots then there is no sense whatever in grafting. A famous botanist once said: "They fiddle with the works of God, and make them look uncommon odd." I must point out that were it not for this "fiddling" the fruit industry would be in a rather bad way. Grapes would be most difficult to grow, roses and such beautiful flowers would be but a shadow of their present glory.

It is safe to say that without grafting many of the cristate and monstrose cacti would be very rare indeed. Putting them on to a vigorous stock permits them to multiply rapidly. If a monstrose plant is cut into pieces it takes quite a time for root-growth to start and the ultimate growth is very much slower than when grafted.

*Article From Journal
 Nov 1951*

**From Members
 You're Telling Us!**

Some years ago I had a Mam. karwinskiana which became badly infested with mealy bug within a few months (hundreds of small bugs), so it was useless to handpick them.

I decided to spray with boiled rhubarb water. A good soaking rid the plant of all the small bugs, the

plant never looking back, making wonderful growth since and today is a healthy plant. Tried it also on red spider with care, it settled the pests and has no apparent bad effects on the plant.

Knowing that Euphorbia cuttings take exceptional time to root, I tried a cut of *E. triangularis* in all sorts of soil mixtures over a period of two years with only two quarter inch rootlets appearing in that time. Finally a mixture of powdered charcoal and silver sand was its resting place. Recently I considered throwing it out, but on trying to pull it out I found it quite firm. Rare *E. rugosa* was just the same way and also *E. imbricata*, so I placed them in plastic pots with charcoal sand mixture and they both struck in less than two months.

*Journal Mar 1952
 From Mr. J. Brown, Wharepoa,
 Hikutaia R. D., Thames line.*

Winter Flowers

Malcolm A Grant

Middle of winter is a pretty quiet time in the greenhouse. Just a bit of checking for problems (one plant rotted so far), picking offsets off grafting stocks that are sprouting, watering about once a month on a sunny day. There have been a few plants making their first flowers, all after one year's growth on *Selenicereus* stock. None of them are ostentatious in their flowers but all make a nice show for midwinter.



Figure 1. *Turbinicarpus laui* 12 months

I have also kept up a small rate of seed sowing with some small orders coming through late. So I have sown them – the sowing is no problem, they are inside on heating pads. The harder part is keeping up a supply of grafting stocks to move them onto, the stocks need to be “awake” and in growth, not dormant. So far this seems to be working.

One other interesting event, one of my seedlings is a crest. And yes it is a crest, not a trifid. With trifids the growing tip spreads a couple of centimetres, with a crest it keeps on going. I have a normal and a crested plant:



Figure 3. *Turbinicarpus klinkerianus* 12 months

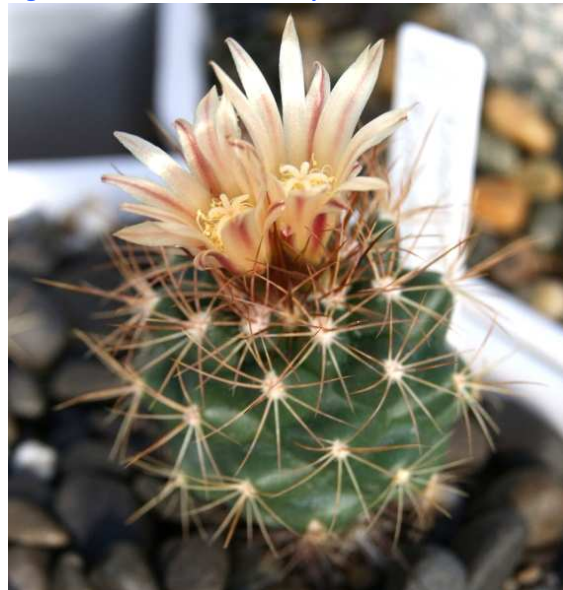


Figure 4. *Acharagma (Escobaria) aguirreana* 12 months



Figure 2. *Frailea friedrichii* 9 months.

Coromandel Cacti
Cactus & Succulent Mix

No expense spared in this premium formulation
 Controls root bugs, controls fungus gnats, fertilizer releases over 18 months or more, no need for liquid feeding, plants grow steadily without bolting, includes generous trace elements, uses optimum pH for cacti & succulents, drainage is superb, "wetting" problems banished forever.

<p><u>Fine potting mix (L1)</u> Suits fine rooted plants such as, Lithops Crassula and Echeveria. Also good for Cacti in small pots and seed raising</p> <p>5 litre bag = \$7 10 litre bag = \$10 20 litre bag = \$14</p>	<p><u>Standard Mix (L3)</u> Suits all Cacti & Succulents</p> <p>5 litre bag = \$5 10 litre bag = \$7 20 litre bag = \$11 30 litre bag = \$15</p>
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NURSERY HOURS **Very limited opening hours**
 Check the Website for days & times,

170 Mt Wellington Highway, Panmure.
 Phone 09 527 4052
 Email info@cacti.co.nz
 Order on line at www.cacti.co.nz

Other bits.



Now that looks like a tasty "desert"!

Cactus and Succulent Society of New Zealand Inc
Newsletter of the Auckland Branch

Postage .

www.akcactus.org.nz Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/3c2zy7j>

