

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

April 2024

Dates	COMPETITION PLANT			MAIN FEATURE
	Open section (For all members)	Novice section (Membership 5 yrs & under)	FFF (For all)	
April 18	Echeveria or Dudleya	Echeveria or Dudleya	Flowers Foliage Form	Talk & Photos by Sue
May 16	Sedum or Sempervivum	Sedum or Sempervivum	Flowers Foliage Form	Auckland AGM Growing on plants Competition winners

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

DATE: Thursday 21-03-2023
TIME: 7:30pm
LOCATION: : AHC Hall,
 956 Great North Road,
 Western Springs, Auckland
IN ATTENDANCE:
 Approximately 17 members.

President Max Croft welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 7:32pm.

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS:

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
 Minutes of the meeting held on

15-2-2023, having been circulated in the newsletter, were taken as read.

Moved: Max
 Seconded:
 Carried.

MATTERS ARISING:

CORRESPONDENCE INWARD:
 AHC - Autumn Plant Fair ? date
 BCSS - Zoom - Late again
 BCSS - e Newsletter - March
 New Plymouth Newsletter
 Wellington Horokaka Newsletter

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD:
 Monthly Newsletter

MATTERS ARISING - Nil.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

We changed our order of business
 Based on the Questionnaire
 A short break to vote for the plants
 Then a talk & picture show by Mike
 Had Supper
 Competition winners announced.
 Raffle was drawn
 Meeting Closed 9pm

Max

Subscriptions – Are now due for 2024

Full member \$40
 Associate (same address)\$12
 Junior (under 18).....\$12
 Junior Associate.....\$ 5

A full member & Junior receive the Newsletter & Journal, Associates don't.

You can pay at the welcome desk, if paying cash make sure your name is written on the Paid list.

or

You can also pay by Direct Credit to Bank a/c **12 3014 0842149 000**
 Please make sure you get the number correct, and that your name appears somewhere on the payment.

Last Months Talk / Video (Mike Nudds)

"The most amazing garden at the 2024 AGM in New Plymouth."

Here are a few references from Mike's talk at the last meeting that you might like to look at.

Kew Plants of the World Online
<https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:30028643-2>

24 Types Of Popular Pachypodium Pictorial Guide
<https://asucculent.com/24-types-of->

[popular-pachypodium-pictorial-guide/](#)

Pachypodium and other plants from Madagascar in habitat
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/voyage-madagascar/albums/72157662785283526/>

PlantzAfrica
<https://pza.sanbi.org/pachypodium>

Competition Results



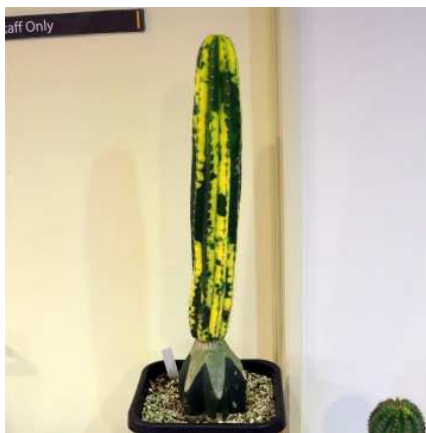
Open 1st - Sue Kirkby
Lobivia arachnacantha



Open 2nd - Harry Sollis
Echinopsis subdenuata
bircolor ??



Open 3rd - Harry Sollis
Trichocereus terscheckii
x - validus



Novice 1st - Thomas Finney
Trichocereus scopulicola
x - variegated



Novice 2nd - Thomas Finney
Echinopsis hybrid



FFF 1st - Yvonne Gibbons
Epiphyllum 'Curly Sue'



FFF 2nd - Liam O'Meara
Lithops fulviceps v. *lactinea*



FFF 3rd - Sue Kirkby
lithops julii fulleri

Other FFF



ECHEVERIA

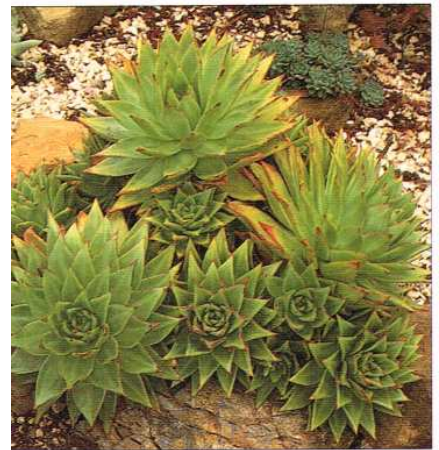
MOST OF THE ROSETTE-SHAPED SUCCULENTS in this large group are from Mexico. The 150 or so species vary in shape and size and are green to blue, red, purple or pink. They are greener when in active growth in spring or summer and become richly coloured during dormancy. Some have tall stems, others are stemless. Tall spikes of small, long-lasting, bell-shaped flowers, which are often 4 bicoloured in hues of gold, orange and red, are produced from the rosette. Small dry berries follow. In each season of the year, there are some Echeveria in flower. A few species are very challenging, but the thousands of hybrids are often beautiful and easy to grow. Generally sun-loving, Echeveria are more compact and intensely coloured when grown outdoors, but they also make good house plants for a bright position. Many species tolerate dry cold, but may rot if it is damp.

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Echeveria coccinea

The abundant, reddish yellow, spring flowers of this bushy, narrow-leaved species last well when cut. Upright at first, its stems become prostrate and root into the soil to form a spreading mound.
H 60 cm (2 ft), S 90 cm (3 ft). Mm. 5C (4IF).



Echeveria agavoides

Wax agave, moulded-wax agave
Grown for its variable but pretty foliage, this large stemless rosette offsets readily to form impressive clumps. In full sun, the usually pale grey-green leaves bluish red. Its reddish summer flowers are tiny.
H 25 cm (10 in), S 90 cm (3 ft). Mm. 5C (41 *F).



Echeveria setosa

Mexican firecracker

The summer flowers of this small, variable, clumping plant are bright yellow and red. Prone to rot and scorch, it needs dry shade.

H 13 cm (5 in), S 90 cm (3 ft). Mm. 7C (45F).



Echeveria elegans

This species is a good choice for formal summer bedding. It acquires a pink hue in full sun and pale yellow flowers appear in summer. The usually small but fast-growing parent offsets to form a mat of rosettes.

H 8 cm (3 in), S unlimited. Mm. 5C (41F).



Echeveria fimbriata

The late summer flowers of this erect bushy plant are red and orange or red and yellow. Its foliage is usually purplish green.

H 60 cm (2 ft), S 90 cm (3 ft). Mm. 5C (41F).

Articles for future newsletters are very welcome from any member. Deadline next issue **5th May 2024**

Climbing the wall

Malcolm A Grant

Well, a major feature of the garden is the rock wall at the rear (Figure 1). This provides great spaces for cacti that naturally grow on cliffs or in rock crevices.

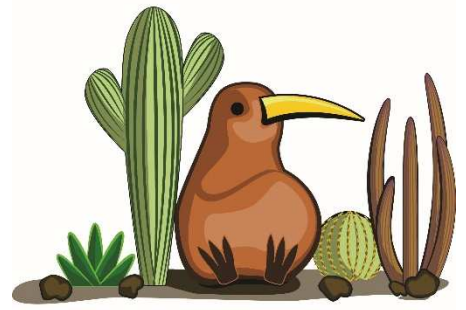


Figure 1. Rear wall.

Among the cliff dwellers are of course monkey's tails (Figure 2), pipestem Mammillarias (Figure 3) and Notocacti (Figure 4). The monkey's tails are the stars, and my plan has always been to have many of them to produce a display. I managed to buy, and grow from seed, a few plants, which I have been propagating. However at a chance visit to the garden centre they had a tray of cheap cacti, \$5 each. Among them were 5 monkey's tails, so I bought those. Then a tour round other branches brought me up to a total of 15. Then I went looking online and found another 20 at reasonable prices, so I cleaned those stocks out too.

Then the task was to plant them. I'm under doctor's orders not to strain my back, so I approached this carefully, Figure 5. The ladder has wide feet for stability – a fall would definitely not be good – and I am upright with my back straight all the time. I planted all the available crevices at or near the top, so that if I source any more plants they will go in positions easily reachable while standing on the ground.

Now to stand back at await growth.



Figures 2-4, clockwise from top left: *Cleistocactus winteri colademononis*, *Mammillaria (spinosissima v) pilcayensis*, *Notocactus magnificus*



Figure 5. Planting

As a footnote, if Figure 1 you can see what happened when the sun finally came out. Some plants got sunburnt, including *Euphorbia trigona* at the top, one-third from the left of the picture. As a further footnote, other plants that do well in the wall are *Ferocactus*, and *Gymnocalycium* (in the lower part of the wall only).

Coromandel Cacti

Cactus & Succulent Mix

No expense spared in this premium formulation. Controls root bugs, fertiliser 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.

30 Litre bag for \$20

For seed raising, and cacti in small pots, and fine rooted plants such as Lithops, Crassula and Echeveria we recommend sieving our mix to remove larger particles.

NURSERY HOURS **Very limited opening hours**

Check the Website for days & times, & rain cancellations.

170 Mt Wellington Highway, Panmure.

Phone **09 527 4052** **027-287-4287**

Email info@cacti.co.nz

Website www.cacti.co.nz

THE CENTURY PLANT

It seems that nearly every plant on the desert is forever being mistaken for some other plant. The Century Plant is confused with the Yucca, though it's easy to tell 'em apart. The Century Plant rosette grows right on the ground - the leaves are broad as your hand, with vicious jagged edged. It looks like an artichoke bud magnified to fill the whole table.

The principal reason for confusing the Century Plant with the Yucca is that they both send up blossoms on a stalk. The Century Plant lives 10 to 75 years (not a century) and blooms only once in its life time. After spending its life getting ready to bloom, the plant wastes no time once it gets started. It sends up the stalk, which starts out looking like an overgrown shoot of asparagus, and grows as much as a foot a day until it is 15 to 30 feet high. You can almost SEE th' dern thing grow. The pale-yellow flowers form in clusters on short stems branching from the top of the enormous stalk. The Century Plant pours everything into this one splurge in the "stalk market" Its reserve supply of sap is all used up - and the plant shrivels and expires.



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Newsletter of the Auckland Branch

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