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

September 2017

Dates	COMPETITION PLANT			MAIN FEATURE
	Open section (For all members)	**Novice section** (Membership 5 yrs &under)	**FFF** (For all)	
Sep 21	**Euphorbia**	**Euphorbia**	Flowers Foliage Form	**Short Talk Martin & Ballot Sale**
Oct 19	**Cristate or Monstrose Cactus or Succulent**	**Cristate or Monstrose Cactus or Succulent**	Flowers Foliage Form	**Talk by Martin Walker**

A sale of larger plants By Ballot selection

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

DATE: Thursday 17 Aug 2017
TIME: 7:30pm
LOCATION: : AHC Hall,
990 Great North Road,
Western Springs, Auckland
IN ATTENDANCE:
Approximately 33 members.

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

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS:
There were 7 New Members joined. They all received a complimentary plant for joining.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
Minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2017, having been circulated in the newsletter, were taken as read.
Moved: Max
Seconded: Trevor Cheeseman
Carried.

MATTERS ARISING: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE INWARD:
Wellington Newsletter
Email from Karl Johnson letting us know that Nancy had passed away.

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD:
Monthly Newsletter
Emailed Wellington Newsletter
Emailed Notice of Nancy Passing

MATTERS ARISING - Nil.

GENERAL BUSINESS:
Members were reminded that the AHC had a special General Meeting to elect officers to keep running the AHC. Saturday 19 August 2.00pm.

For the benefit of the new members, Max Explained what the competition plants were about on the tables.
There are 3 sections,(as listed above)
Open, & FFF - Anyone can enter these, even novice people.

Novice, Is for those newer people who have only been in the society 5 years & under.
The competition is voted for by you the members, there's no official judge.

FFF you can enter any cactus or succulent plant.
The Open & Novice Competition Plants for August were:-
Oreocereus, Espostoa, Cleistocactus

FFF discussion took place.
Had Supper
Competition winners announced.
Raffle was drawn

Talk by Martin Walker

Meeting Closed 9.20pm

Max

Nancy Johnson

Karl & Nancy were originally from America, and lived in blockhouse bay for some time. Karl was a lecturer I think, in Algae at Auckland university. He did his doctorate in algae, sea weeds etc. They were extremely keen on cacti & succulents, even in America before they came out here to NZ. A year or two after Martin Walker joined (1982), Karl was President & Nancy was Treasurer, Nancy probably did about 20 years on the trot as Treasurer. They had the potting mix bagging at there place among other things like potting demos etc. They had such a keen interest that every 2 years the would go to the American Convention which was in rotating cities in USA. They would go for 2 or 3 weeks, and visit nurseries and field collecting trips to places like Baja California, then come back to NZ with a lot of plants. It was a lot easier then to get plants across the boarder even though they had to declare them and put them in quarantine, of which they had there own.
On one of their trips they came

back with 3000 plants of 800 species. So this was a regular influx of plants into the pool of NZ plants. Especially plants that were hard to grow from imported seed. They were the only ones that were bringing in actual plants, and this is the only way to bring in cultivars. Example Echeveria Topsy Turvey was one of there very successful imports. You will here me talk about plants quite often that this was a Karl and Nancy import.
They had a huge range of Epiphyllums, so were also in the Hoya & Epiphyllum Society, which doesn't exist anymore.

After seeing the Shows in California they then changed our bi-annual show to a similar basis to America, and we still follow the same basic principal today.
They were always at the AGM's at the National level, taking there best and rarest plants for the sales tables. Karl did lots of talks, as well as Nancy doing quite a few.
Karl left his job at the university and got a job at the sewerage treatment plant in Mangere as a Micro biologist.
They then moved from Blockhouse Bay and bought a block of land at Tuakau, which was an ex poultry farm with a large poultry house that had rows & rows of cages on benches, and rows & rows of concrete paths in between. So this was converted into a huge glasshouse (Plastic). They did completely fill this glasshouse from end to end, (45x25 mitre).
But sadly all the plants are gone now, too many other things in life to do, Cats & Dogs, Goats and calves, and some bad health.

Karl & Nancy, Both wonderful people always helpful, and inspiring to be around.

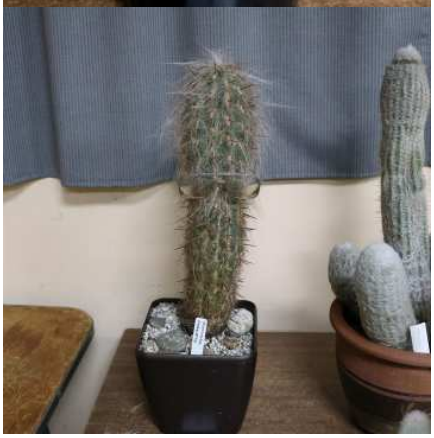
Competition Results

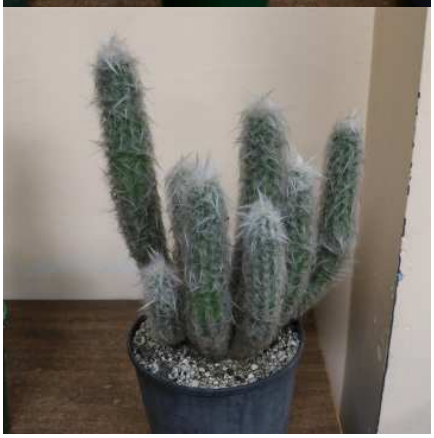
Open 1st Gorakh & Anne
Espostopsis dybkowskii

Open 2nd Val Parkinson
Oreocereus fossulatus

Open 3rd Max Croft
Espostoa melanostele

Other plants in Open Section.





Espostoa is a genus of columnar cacti, comprising 16 species known from the Andes of southern Ecuador and Peru. It usually lives at an altitude of between 800m and 2500m. Its fruit is edible, sweet, and juicy. The genus is named after Nicolas E. Esposto, a renowned botanist from Lima.

These candle-like cacti are covered with thorns and white hair. Only the older specimens can divide.

In adulthood, a cephalium sometimes appears, similar to the Mexican genus Cephalocereus.

They were discovered by Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland in the early nineteenth century.

They are appreciated for their decorative qualities due to their white fleece. They can be propagated by seed. For full development they must be planted in the ground. The cultivated specimens very rarely flourish.

Like all cacti, Espostoa requires a sunny location and well-drained soil. But in summer, it appreciates fertilizer and wetter conditions. In winter, it needs a rest, but the temperature must not drop below 12 ℃.

FFF (Flowers, Foliage, Form)

FFF 1st Dave Dawson
Orthophytum gurkerii

Orthophytum gurkerii

Terrestrial almost-succulent bromeliad. Beautifully patterned rosette extends into curious 40 cm inflorescence with small white flowers and green leafy rosettes. Indoors best perhaps, in bright light.

Indoors OK, Outdoors OK only if protected from winter rain.

FFF 2nd Val Parkinson
Kalanchoe rhombopilosa

Kalanchoe rhombopilosa is a succulent plant species in the *Crassulaceae* family. This species of plant is endemic to southwest Itampolo, Madagascar. The species was described by Mannoni & Boiteau in 1947. The plant is a herbaceous perennial that grows to 10–20 cm in height.
This is a great specimen for this plant. The leaves will fall off extremely easy, and then the leaves will root very easily as well.

FFF 3rd Kate Moss-Mason
Echeveria agavoides

Echeveria agavoides ('Lipstick') is a rosette-forming succulent plant that forms clumps of individual plants, up to 6 inches (15 cm) tall and up to 12 inches (30 cm) wide. The leaves are apple-green with vivid red-pink edges and a terminal spine reminiscent of an Agave (hence the name). The inflorescences in summer appear on slender, single-sided racemes up to 20 inches (50 cm) long. The flowers are pinkish-red with petals tipped with dark yellow.

Other Plants FFF








Its Bulky Trunk A Water Storage "Tank"

The saguaro is the product of severe and conditions where the plants have been forced to develop water storage organs and reduce to a minimum the loss of moisture from their bodies. This the saguaro has done by the ingenious procedure of doing away with leaves and transferring their duties to the tough green skin. The heavy growth of spines, protecting the plant from animals which would eat it for its moisture, also serves to shade the outer skin and aid it in reducing such water loss by evaporation.

The stem of the giant cactus is composed of a skeleton of 12 to 30 tender vertical ribs supporting a mass of spongy tissues.

Following soaking rains, the widespread root system draws up immense quantities of water which are absorbed by the spongelike pulp. A mature plant, weighing from six to ten tons, may take up as much as a ton of water following a rain.

During extended dry spells, the saguaro gradually uses its stored water, shrinking in girth and weight and developing a wrinkled appearance due to drawing together of the vertical ridges or "pleats" in the stem. When the rains come, water is absorbed, and the stem, like an extending accordion, swells to assume a swollen, puffy form. Following seasons of excessive precipitation, such as the winter of 1940-41, occasional saguaros may take up so much water as to split open.

How Old Is Saguaro?

Careful studies indicate that 200 years is probably a maximum. During its "childhood" a saguaro grows very slowly, a 30year-old plant being not more than three or four feet tall. After that, growth is more rapid and a 75-year-old sapling may be 15 or 20 feet in height. About this time the tree begins to develop branches. Few saguaros have been recorded more than 50 feet in height.

It Provides Food And Lodging For Animals

Fruits of the saguaro, which mature in mid-summer, split open, revealing the bright red pulp filled with glistening black seeds, and are often mistaken for flowers. The blossoms, however, are creamy white and appear in clusters at the extremities of the branches in May and early June. It is the official State flower of Arizona.

In early days, Pima and Papago Indians derived much of their subsistence from the fruits, consuming some of them fresh, and storing quantities in the form of pressed, dried cakes, or as syrup resulting from the boiled juice. An intoxicating beverage was, and still is, made from the fermented juice of fresh saguaro fruits, which are sometimes called pitahayas.

The ripe fruits are eagerly eaten also by several varieties of birds, particularly the white-winged dove, an important game bird of the Southwest. Some small mammals, such as chipmunks and ground squirrels, are able to scale the spined armour of the stems and reach the fruits at the extremities of the branches.

The Golden Flicker, whose range is practically identical with that of the saguaro, and the Gila woodpecker drill their nests (holes) in the fleshy side of the saguaros. Sap oozing from the tissues forms a hard varnished lining for the deep pocket in the bottom of which the eggs are laid. After being used and abandoned by their owners, these neat pockets are appropriated by other birds such as the tiny elf owl or the desert sparrow hawk. Several species of larger birds, including the red-tailed hawk and the great horned owl, build bulky nests in the forks provided by the branches.

Journal March 1953

Articles for future newsletters are very welcome from any member. Deadline next issue **6th Oct 2017**

A few more flowers

Malcolm A Grant

Even in the depths of winter, some *Mammillaria* and *Turbinicarpus* are flowering.

Figure 1. Mammillaria plumose pink form.

This is not a new seedling, in fact it's quite old. I sowed Kohres seed in 2007. I gave a plant to Ed Mroczek. Later I lost all of mine and Ed gave me back one, which is now this plant, flowering for the first time. And here is a genuine first flower:

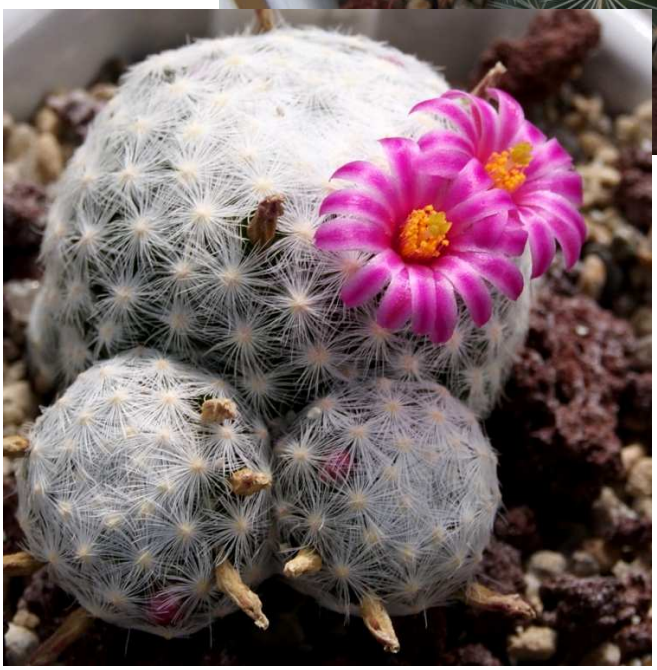


Figure 2. Mammillaria humboldtii 11 months

Figure 3. Ariocarpus x agavoides 18 months

One of the others in this batch had already flowered but this is the first time for this plant. The seed was labelled "*agavoides*" but the tubercles are quite short so I think it's a random hybrid, *agavoides* was the mother plant but the pollen was some unknown *Ariocarpus.* So I'm calling it "*x agavoides*".

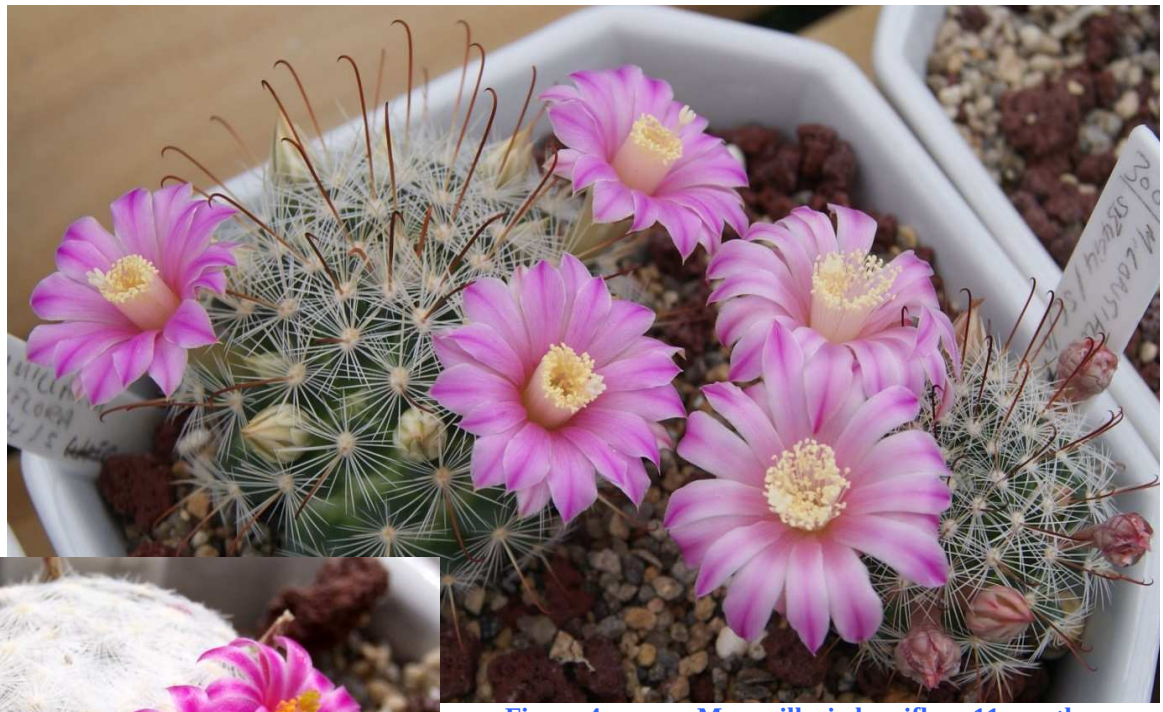


Figure 4. Mammillaria longiflora 11 months.

This was Mesa Garden seed. And an *Ariocarpus:*

There have been a few winter casualties, with plants suddenly rotting at the base. Worst was one of my precious *Aztekium* graftlings. I think I got it in time, and regrafted onto another stock. On the positive side, the upper shelf I added has worked well. I moved onto it the plants that like it really hot and dry, and watered them sparingly. The *Tephrocacti* in particular are looking much better for this treatment.

Now looking ahead to the most exciting part of the cactus year: a trip to Bolivia in November. We are joining a group organised by Plant Expeditions and will spend three weeks looking at cacti and other vegetation. Lots of sulcos I hope.

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"You can have our standard treatment for $150 or, for just $25, you can hug this cactus as hard as possible."

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Newsletter of the Auckland Branch

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