

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 2018

Dates	COMPETITION PLANT			MAIN FEATURE
	Open section (For all members)	Novice section (Membership 5 yrs & under)	FFF (For all)	
Aug 16	Echinocereus	Echinocereus	Flowers Foliage Form	Talk or Demonstration
Sept 20	Sedum or Sempervivum	Sedum or Sempervivum	Flowers Foliage Form	Talk or Demonstration

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

DATE: Thursday 19 Jul 2018
TIME: 7:30pm
LOCATION: : AHC Hall,
 990 Great North Road,
 Western Springs, Auckland
IN ATTENDANCE:
 Approximately 29 members.

President Max Croft welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 7:45pm.

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS:
 2 New Members.
 1 Full Member, 1 Junior Associate
 They each received a complimentary plant.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 Jun 2017, having been circulated in the newsletter, were taken as read.
 Moved: Max
 Seconded: Gorakh
 Carried.

MATTERS ARISING: nil

CORRESPONDENCE INWARD:
 Flower & Garden Show 28 Nov to 2 Dec, at Trusts Arena
 AHC sent there July Newsletter

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD:
 Auckland Monthly Newsletter
 Just emailed AHC Newsletter

MATTERS ARISING - Nil.

GENERAL BUSINESS:
 FFF discussion was done by Liam as Martin was away.

Had Supper
 Competition winners announced.
 Raffle was drawn

Video Talk by Gideon Smith
 Succulents of Africa.

Meeting Closed 9.30pm

Max



Articles for future newsletters are welcome from any member.
 Deadline next month 8 Sep 2018

Subscriptions:

There is still a number of members who have not paid their Subs for this year. We do need some funds to be able to run the club. So please pay.

Competition Results



Open 1st - Roy Plckett
Lapidaria margaretae



Open 2nd - Dave Dawson
Gibbaeum pubescens
ssp *Shandii*



Open 3rd - Gorakh & Anne
Lapidaria margaretae shortii



Novice 1st - Mona Tang
Haworthia obtusa variegated

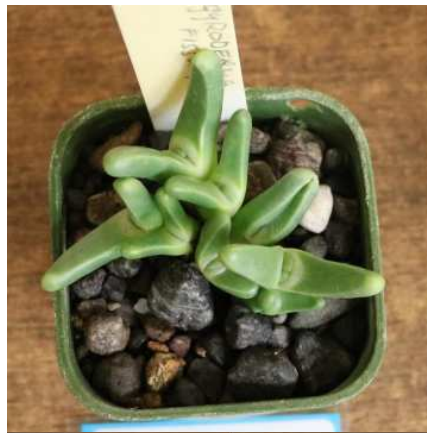
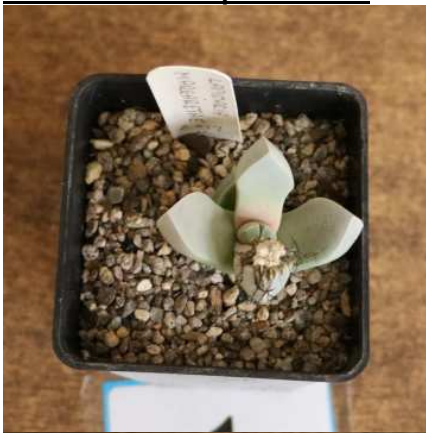


Novice 2nd - Billie Liu
Haworthia cooperi



Novice 3rd - Mona Tang
Haworthia maughanii

Other Plants in Open section



Other Open



Other Novice Plants



FFF (Flowers, Foliage, Form)



FFF 1st - Max Croft
Mammillaria geminisplina



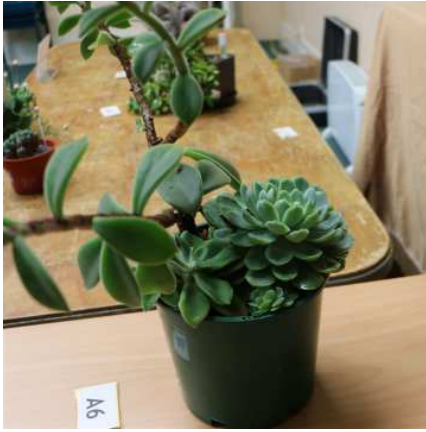
FFF 2nd - Sue Kirkby
Orthophytum gurrenii



FFF 3rd - Liam O'Meara
Conophytum frutescens

Other FFF Plants





Flower of plant above (P3)



Flower of plant above (P3)



Haworthias

This large genus of dwarf succulents seems to change yearly, the names and numbers of species being endlessly shuffled. From South Africa and south-west Africa, many of these species are quite variable, leading to much of the nomenclatural confusion. Some authors have suggested that this is due to the ease of hybridisation within the genus, but most species offset readily and were, historically, propagated asexually. Until recently, many of the plants in cultivation were propagated from clones collected long ago, their lineage long lost.

The plants form rosettes, a few with long grass-like leaves but most with succulent leaves; some are very thick with windowed upper surfaces. Many have thick contractile roots, which pull the plants into the earth, so that only the upper, windowed leaf surface is exposed.

The flowers, mostly small and white, are borne on single or branched spikes to 30cm long. In their habitat, they grow in rock crevices and among bushes, out of the direct sun. All but the most difficult species make good houseplants, surviving, if not thriving, even in conditions of very low light. Most species, as well as many named hybrids and variegates, are widely available. They are grown from seed, offsets and leaves.



Haworthia cooperi

The form of this popular species pictured is from Bob Reserve. It is smaller than the typical plants found in cultivation, the rosettes only growing 3-4cm wide. Offsetting readily but not excessively, it is fairly easy to grow. It requires shade from hot sun but will tolerate warm, bright light and must be protected from frost. It is grown from seed or offsets.



Haworthia comptoniana

Quite rare only a few years ago, this beautiful species is now readily available. The triangular leaves can grow to 2.5cm wide and long, the upper surface windowed, varying from green with white veins to almost solid, glassy white. It has a dormant period in summer,

particularly when exposed to intense heat. During this time it should be watered sparingly. It is propagated by seed or from leaves.



Haworthia limifolia

This is among the most common species in cultivation. It forms rosettes 8cm across and clusters up to 20cm wide. It can tolerate low light but looks best in a bright, warm exposure. It is grown from seed, offsets or leaves.



Haworthia reinwardtii var. chalumensis

This is the largest of several attractive varieties of *H. reinwardtii*. All of these bear raised white marks arranged in rows. It forms 6cm wide rosettes, which become prostrate in time, offsetting from the base and forming 20cm wide clumps. It is easily grown, tolerating low light, but looks best if grown in a brighter-than-average situation, where the rosettes will grow more tightly and take on a reddish colour. It grows well from cuttings, offsets or seed.

Growing Plants Under Glass

Part 2. Staging.

To be able to stage your plants attractively is half the battle towards being a successful grower under glass. A collection of the commoner types of cacti and succulents beautifully staged is more pleasing to the eye than a rare collection badly staged. It is like putting beautiful clothes on a woman who does not know how to wear them, they, the same as the plants, are wasted on these people because they cannot show them off to advantage. This article may help you if you have any difficulties about arranging your plants to your satisfaction.

There are many different ways of staging your plants. You may like to make a rock garden in your glass house, and set your plants out amongst the rocks; this looks most effective, especially if your garden is raised at the back, but it has two or three big disadvantages. One is that it is hard to find places for new plants, and as your plants grow you will find you will have to be continually altering it, much to the detriment of your plants. Also if a cluster is attacked by mealy bug all your soil will be contaminated, and it will be a terrible job to get it clean again, in fact you will have to re-sterilize all the soil in the house, and start all over again. Also it is very difficult to spray your plants successfully and you will find all the bugs will be on the far side where it is impossible to reach them with your spray gun. Watering will be very difficult too you will find, as some plants need more water than others and their resting periods are not always at the same time. So even though your plants may look better in these more natural surroundings it is not always a desirable way of staging them. Some of these difficulties may be somewhat overcome if you plant pot and all.

If you decide to have your plants on benches, solid benches are much better than slat benches, and do not stand your pots on saucers as this prevents your pots from draining properly. A solidly constructed bench with a two or three inch high beading all round it and filled with fine gravel is ideal,

and if you have painted your pots why not have white gravel? If your glasshouse is painted white or pale green, your nicely painted pots look delightful sitting on the white stones. The gravel is of course to facilitate the drainage.

How to arrange your plants on the benches is the next question. Will you put all your succulents on one bench and all your cacti on another, or mix them up? This of course is a matter of opinion. Don't you think it would be a good idea to group your plants; for instance, arrange all your Echeverias together in one group, starting at one end with the beautiful furry red varieties, such as *E. Pulvinata*, *Manders Hybrid*, *set Oliver*, etc., shade down to the green ones, *E. Setosa*, *scapaphylla*, etc., and then on to the beautiful ones covered with bloom that try to rival the dawn with their lovely colours, *E. metallica gibbiflora*, *fulgens*, *amoeba*, *orpitti*, there are so many of them. Place the larger ones at the back and grade down to the smaller ones, then stand back, and marvel at the wonderful patch of colour you have created.

The next group could be cacti, say a group of *Ferocactus*, then another group of Succulents and so on until your space is all occupied. If a certain group of cacti is small, let some tall succulents meet behind them forming a little bay for your treasures.

Group all your *Mammillarias* together, then when they flower what a feast of colour there will be! A single *Mamm.* when in flower is a little gem, but a group in flower is a never to be forgotten sight. Try and arrange them according to their spine formation, that is, all the long spined ones together, all the fluffy ones, the white ones and the golden ones. If you have a large number of *Mamms.* it will facilitate watering if you arrange them in a half circle. Choose one for the centre front, then arrange a small half circle round it, and continue in that manner, each half circle getting larger. You will be surprised how easy they are to water when so arranged.

A shelf or two adds height to your collection. Place the shelf over low growing plants and arrange something choice to go on it. A group of plants covered with bloom is a good idea, such as the *Dudleyas* and the *Pachyphytums*

and the white *Cotyledons*. Up there they are out of the way of inquisitive fingers. Try a shelf of *Kleinias* and *Senecios* and see what a beautiful patch of blue you have made, or a group of *Sedums*, *stahlia*, *pachysedum nussbaumeranum*, etc. A hanging basket or two also adds height. Plant a *Kleinia articulata* in an ordinary small shopping basket and you will find in a year or two, little candles will shoot out through the wickerwork, all over the basket. Gramophone records warmed in the oven and then shaped as desired also make good hanging baskets, and inverted bakelite lamp shade is also good, so are large coconut shells.

When arranging your plants on your benches if you haven't any plants large enough to give height for the background stand one pot on top of another inverted pot or tin painted to match. Try to arrange your groups so that the colour in one plant will pick up the colour of plants in a near-by group. Put *Bryophyllum fedtschenkoi* in the vicinity of *Aloe brevifolia* and *attenuata* and *Opuntia Santa-rita* and see how the colours draw the groups together, and keep your autumn toning well away from these groups.

The easiest way to deal with trailing plants like *Aporocactus fiagelliformis* is to make a wire ring of heavy gauge wire to fit round the pot, the end of the wire to be bent down at right angles to the circle, this stem should be about six inches long. Put two screw eyes into a glass bar or a centre post about 4 inches apart one under the other, slip the stem of wire through the two screw eyes, and the pot into the circle, and you will find you have an ideal place for your trailer.

If your glasshouse has not given you entire satisfaction in the past perhaps these few suggestions will help you and inspire you to attempt some rearrangement of your treasured plants.

M.E.S. (Journal Oct 1951)

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.

Fine potting mix (L1)

Suits fine rooted plants such as, Lithops Crassula and Echeveria.

Also good for Cacti in small pots and seed raising

5 litre bag = \$7

10 litre bag = \$10

20 litre bag = \$14

Standard Mix (L3)

Suits all Cacti & Succulents

5 litre bag = \$5

10 litre bag = \$7

20 litre bag = \$11

30 litre bag = \$15

NURSERY HOURS

Very limited opening hours

Check the Website for days & times,

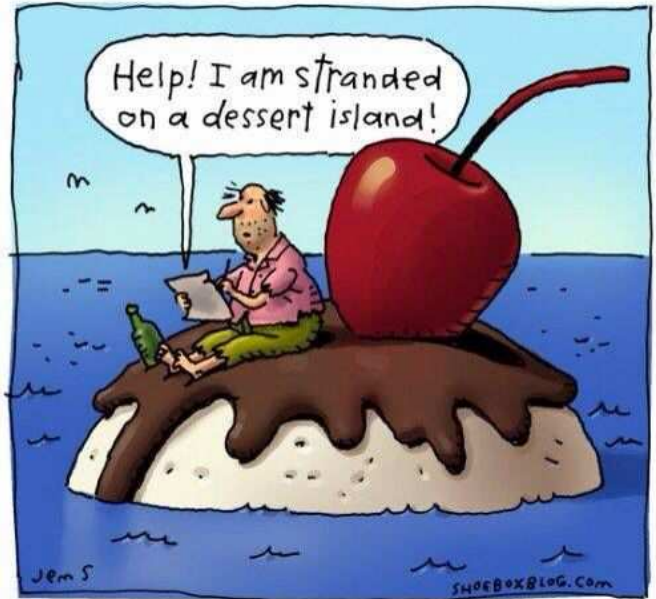
170 Mt Wellington Highway, Panmure.

Phone 09 527 4052

Email info@cacti.co.nz

Order on line at www.cacti.co.nz

Other bits.



Tasty one though.

Cactus and Succulent Society of New Zealand Inc
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