



Next General Meeting of Cereus: Sunday 1st November 2009 at 1.30 pm.
Palmerston North **Leisure Centre**, 569 Ferguson Street, **Palmerston North**

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*The miracle of summertime,
Is with us everywhere,
The fragrance of flowers,
Permeates the air.*

Next Meeting: **Sunday 1st November 2009**

- Agenda:**
- Business for discussion
 - Bus trip to Hawkes Bay 6th Dec, 2009
 - Guest speaker: **Andrew Broome.**

Members of the Carnivorous Plant Group have been invited. It will be fascinating to hear about this wide range of interesting and unusual plants. Also there will be a chance to purchase specimens. If you have any questions (and plants) please bring them along.

This month 8-9 members from the Tararua Branch will be attending our club meeting, supporting our mission statement to build relationships and to share knowledge. Let's show them a warm welcome and our hospitality. Please bring something for afternoon tea.
Bring plants of choice for our display and interest table. Also this is a good opportunity for sales. So please bring anything you wish for the sales table.

CEREUS Executive & Committee November 2009

President: Elvira 06 3580516
Treasurer: Anne 06 3582826 edscribeatxtra.co.nz
Secretary: M. 06 3248009 m.k.atclear.net.nz
<http://www.cssnz.org> national web <http://www.cactus-mall.com/>
Our Web site <http://manawatucacti.Ocatch.com>

Mailing Address of Cereus

Submissions for the Newsletter: If there is anything any member would like to put in the newsletter, the date for submission is **20th** of each month prior. Material can be emailed or sent to Maureen, PO Box 215, Rongotea, 4865 Phone 06 324 8009 or **m.k.d@clear.net.nz**.

MINUTES OF MEETING OCTOBER 4TH 2009

President for the month: Maureen

Apologies: Elvira , Anne and Eddie , Mandy , Lyall , Gethan

Previous Minutes: September 2009 minutes passed as read and correct.
Unanimous

Finance: The treasurer was absent. Maureen reported the \$100 cheque for booking the Manawatu Garden Show had been receipted.

Correspondence: Newsletters from other branches accepted.

Discussion:

Dale motioned that the hall booking officer to be advised and a letter forwarded to the officer advising that we would not require the room for our meeting on the 6th December 2009.

Unanimous

Maureen raised the issue that some members were unable to go on the planned bus trip and therefore would miss the Christmas function. An alternative to be discussed further was to dinner at Cleverly Tavern on the evening of the 6th December.

This matter is unresolved

Confirmation of numbers for the up coming bus trip to Hawkesbay was discussed. The 15 members present confirmed. We are awaiting confirmation from absent members. The secretary is to book a bus and advise costs.

Dale won the raffle

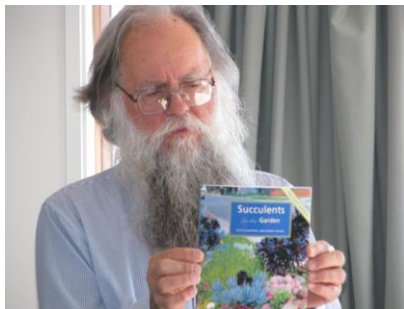
Guest Speaker: In September Elvira welcomed our guest speaker Rudolf Schulz and his partner Christine. We were delighted to meet Rudolf who is a major contributor of modern literature on many species. We have several of his books in our club library.

He shared with us his hands-on experience in research on plants in their natural environment. Rudolf explained that the cultural guidelines of species can be demonstrated by observing wild populations through their wide variation, habitat distribution, and endangerment.

He spoke about his travels through the northern coastline of Chile researching Copiapoa in the Atacama Desert for his book *Copiapoa* (2006), a follow-up to *Copiapoa in the Environment* (1996,) co authored with Attila Kapitany. Rudolf talked of the environment of Copiapoa and how they survive in the heavy, dense fogs, which descend on them and how the environment is very harsh and the increasing arid conditions are making them endangered. He noted that many of the populations had completely disappeared.

Rudolf also touched on his writing career. We learnt of the trials and errors as a novice writer and publisher, including what is involved in the research and publishing of literature. To date he has been the author and co author of at least 12 books. We look forward to his soon to be released publication on *Haworthia*.

Rudolf Schulz



Copiapoa



THINGS TO TAKE NOTE OF

In September Maureen gave a brief outline and report of the Mid-Year Executive Meeting held in New Plymouth on the 22nd August 2009 which she attended with Elvira (President). Brief notes of that meeting follow.

2010 Convention: The 2010 Convention to be held on weekend 26th -28th February will be hosted by the Auckland branch. The theme will be “City of Sails”. The registration fee is \$140 and the BBQ is \$40- extra. A bus tour of local collections is available for \$10. Parking is free. Accommodation is \$150 a night for a double room but organisers are hoping to find a selection of something more economical for those that require The competition is cacti and succulents in a nautical container.

Mainly due to the success of seed sales an increase in club subscriptions is not necessary.

2011 Convention: 2011 Convention will be hosted by Wellington branch and Nelson has volunteered to do the 2012 Convention.

Business:

The Nelson branch thought that new members should pay a \$5 a quarter for the society book printing costs. Most clubs had their own arrangements for members joining in the last quarter. The motion was lost.

Russell agreed to make a standardised form for membership.

Internet banking and publication of the journal electronically were discussed. Russell with others agreed to look into it.

Anne gave a brief report on Lone members.

Nick will draw up a profile for a photo competition.

Anne raised in her seed report the tax liability, as sales are so successful and we’re a non profit organisation. This needs to be clarified.

To expand and meet the demand of sales Anne needs financial help with equipment required for the envelopes and less responsibility for the website. This is linked to the outcome of discussion on tax. Andrew and Keith will follow-up the website.

The secretary and the president are standing down at the next AGM so nominations are being sought for these positions.

The secretary motioned that a letter be drafted to Rodney Hide regarding the importing of plant material. The motion was passed.

A motion was moved by the president that a letter also be sent to IRD to clarify C&SS tax status regarding trade-me sales.

Dayspring Home Educators. Fund Raiser

<u>Fresh Sheep Manure.</u>	1 small bag \$4.00	1 large bag \$8.00
Orders Taken	3 small bags \$12.00	3 large bags \$20.00

Ph.355 0721 Robyn Beals

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- 30 October-8 November Taranaki Rhododendron & garden Festival (0800 746 363)
- 30 October-8 November Garden Trust Fringe Garden Festival. Ph Jo Bublitz
06 757 2290 www.taranakigardens.com
- 31 October-1 November Feilding Pakeke Lions Garden Ramble. Tickets \$15. Feilding Information Center & Pedley's Nurseries.117 Te Rakehou Rd.
- 1 November Our club meeting at the Leisure Centre Palmerston North.

December

- 6 December 2009 **Hawkesbay Trip:** This is our Christmas function for 2009. Please let Maureen know **As Soon As Possible** if you intend to go on the bus so that seats can be booked and costs estimated. Please also let Maureen know if you are taking your own car. The club is subsidising a portion of member's costs.
We will be taking our own finger food for a shared lunch (like we did last year).
The people we visit go to a lot of trouble to present their gardens and preparing plants for sale. It's a good chance to see experienced growers first-hand and get ideas for your own garden. Derek has a wide range of interesting and unusual plants and has planned an interesting itinerary for us. It is good opportunity to ask questions as well as meeting other keen gardeners. Friends and family are welcome to come.

2010

- 26-28 February Convention Auckland.
- 1-2 May Manawatu Garden Festival

Just a reminder to have a look around home and return any library books that may have been overlooked. Susan is our librarian.

MEMBERS CORNER

Mammillaria and Gasteria

Dale gave an impromptu talk to our group on Mammillaria which is one of the largest and most popular groups of the cactus family. 171 species are known currently and are mainly native to Mexico. They are also found in southwest USA, the Caribbean, Venezuela, Guatemala and the Honduras. They are found in open deserts and most love sunshine but some require shade. Most of the species are very easy to grow and cultivate and have long lasting attractive flowers which often bloom repeatedly. Also, they are compact and there are many different species with different spinal patterns. They are so popular that their extinction is threatened by over enthusiastic collectors.

Susan Hansard followed by giving a brief impromptu talk on Gasteria. Gasteria are natives of South Africa and closely related to Aloe and Haworthia. Named for their stomach shaped bulbous flowers which hang like lovely pink bells tinged with green at the bottom on long stems. Sometimes they will produce up to 11 stems. The leaves of the genus are long or short, thick, flat or triangular in sections, dagger or sword shaped. Leaf colour is light green to grey with a wide range of style, some smooth or covered in rough tubercles (almost lizard like warts on a dark green background). There are about 50 species and most are very easy to cultivate in half shade with frequent watering and kept dryer in winter. They generally grow in the dry river valleys which have summer rainfall of Kwa Zulu- Natal. Most will tolerate very light frost only. Recent species have been found high on the cliff faces of the Tugela valley. Gasteria prefer well drained sandy soil.

In their natural environment sunbirds spread the seed, which takes 8-30days to germinate, depending on the species. Broken leaves propagate easily in compost. At the beginning of the growing season mulch, compost, and a little blood and bone should be applied. Repot every 3-4 years. Because they are low light tolerant and easy care they make excellent house plants near or on window sills inside.

