

**Record for proceedings of CSSA Monthly Meeting:
27th June 2017 at Mt Waverley Community Centre**

Meeting Chaired by: Pres. Wayne Robinson Commenced: 8.00pm

Welcome to all members and visitors. (66 members and 7 visitors)

Apologies: Trevor, Wes & Elizabeth Roebuck-Jones {apologies forwarded by Tony Alston}

Reminders:

- a) Mobile phones - please either off or on to silent mode
- b) Sign in at the 'red-book' members and visitors - still looking for volunteers to assist on the front table, even for half hour or so, to spread the work around, enable Logan, Dan etc to also buy plants and look around.
- c) "Freebie" - plant cuttings etc at the front door for members and members guests. Many thanks to all those who bring 'freebies' but please take home any that are not taken by members
- d) Library books are available for borrowing tonight– see Noelene
- e) Copies of all correspondence since last meeting is on the table along with journals, newsletters and magazines: -.
- f) We hope all our members and visitors will enjoy our evening tonight.
Prior to the break, we have Attila giving a short presentation - "My favourite cacti"

Please stay after the break to hear our guest speaker:

Our guest speaker is Ron Lycette, feature with his feature presentation, titled "Plants, People, Places"

Plant of the Month: - Aeoniums:

(No comment /discussion on plant of the month)

Please vote for the POM, each person can place one vote /one glass bead, for their choice of best plant for "open" or "novice". Also the same for the photo competition.

This month we also have the 2 prize vouchers of \$25- (a total of \$50) for "Plant of the month - Presidents Choice Award", as selected by the President. (This may be awarded to Novice and Open, or depending on quality and number of entries, either/or).

Winners will be announced at the end of the evening, following our main presentation.

Novice winner, Open winner , Photo comp, Presidents Choice Award:

Wayne advised the members that the number of plants on display was poor, and dwindling all the time. There were 3 or 4 people who regularly displayed, more people needed to participate and get involved and to compete if the Society are going to continue with the POM. In the past there used to be beginner, novice, intermediate and open sections, filling four tables, now struggling to fill one.

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Information for Members

- 1) New book donated to Library by Joylene Sutherland - thank you Joylene. Wayne advised he is borrowing the book for this month.
- 2) Cactus/Succulent thief caught - Article from the Herald Sun newspaper (provided by Don Reed), of Brett Hopkins recent spate of thefts from his garden. Finally CCTV and the facebook social media caught up with this person who is now being charged by the police. A woman with prior criminal history had stolen up to 5 times from Brett's garden, and was selling the plants on ebay. Apparently there was also a segment on "A Current Affair" TV program tonight. According to Wayne, the police were not too interested initially, however due to the overwhelming support of the public, and the media interest it generated, the issue could not be overlooked.
- 3) **Supper** - hope you all remembered to bring your reusable coffee cup!
- 4) **2017 Annual Show and Huge Sale: Will be on at this venue October 28th/29th 2017.**

- So put it into your diaries, start planning ahead with your plants, sellers etc. Let your neighbours, friends etc know.

Val Stevenson looking after volunteers for the show, please see Val to register your availability to Help. Wayne advised members, obviously the more volunteers the better, as everyone has a lighter load. The less volunteers then people necessarily have to put in more, so please everyone get involved.

Competition Schedule: - Wayne advised that he and Andrew are reviewing and amending the classes, based on previous competition numbers, hoped to have this available soon. Members to start thinking about their competition plants.

Sellers: - Wayne advised a good number of non- members have contacted him about selling at the show, so Members need to start thinking about this, and registering their intentions.

Show Flyers - we have show flyers for distribution. If members would like to take some to distribute please, the more people assisting the better.

Upcoming Events: (more about these in Spine /Spinette). - small take home notice at the front table.

- 1) **Proposed Garden visit and bbq lunch:** at our member Sue Davis' garden (Geelong Area) approximately 1 hr 10 min from the Waverley Hall (89 klms) via the Geelong Fwy, then on to see the garden of her friends , Earl and Judy. We will be following along with the Ballarat Cactus & Succulent Society.
Date: Sat 26th August 2017 - 10.30am ish.

Looking to get an idea of numbers, if there is sufficient interest we will look at organising a bus, alternatively it could be by car, car pooling with friends etc.

A sheet at the front entrance table to register your interest to attend.

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2) Proposed visit to Melbourne University 'System Gardens'; Melbourne University

Management of "The System Gardens" have agreed to allow/provide a tour of the gardens for our Society, on Saturday 16th of September 2017. For approximately 20 - 25 people. (Bromeliad Society visited about 1 month ago)

This has been organised for us by Tim Uebergang, who is a horticultural curator officer of the System Gardens, he was a member of our Society for a number of years.

Start at 11 am - tours are typically 45 min to 1 hr - Tim will provide a guided tour. Garden can be open until 2pm.

Sandwiches, take-away food, is available in the surrounding shops (University cafeteria etc not open)
Normally tours are only done during the week.

We are looking for an indication of interest from members to attend, this will be a 'meet you there', public transport or private vehicle.

Looking for an indication of interest - sheet at the front table.

Wayne advised members if they were interested and needed more information, they could see him at the break to read the blurb below.

Tim explains the garden will be of interest to our Society:

The System Garden would be of interest to general garden lovers in the group as well as lovers of interesting plants as it is one of the only systematic gardens left operating in Australia combined with an interesting history, this being its 160th year. The System Garden is a botanic garden that has a fantastic collection and variety of plants combined with an aesthetic quality. Briefly, the system displays plant evolution beginning with lichens and mosses following on to cycads, conifers and then the 11 major subclasses of flowering plants based on the Cronquist system of classification.

As far as our representation of cacti and succulents in our garden it may be of interest for the members to see plants that are familiar to them and the plants that they are related to i.e. pachypodiums being related to daisies in the Asteridae subclass, you will also find euphorbias in the Rosidae subclass and Dioscorea and Calabanus in Lillidae. Interestingly you can find a spiky, succulent form specimen in nearly every subclass.

As well as these representatives I have mentioned of course we have the Caryophylladae subclass where cacti fit in to the system like Golden Barrels, Alaudia species etc. We have some very nice and interesting specimens here but none in the extraordinarily rare category that some members might be accustomed to. I Hope this helps you understand the garden a little better

3) Get Together 2017 - CSS New South Wales.

- a. Date: 29- 30th September, 1st October 2017
- b. Cost: \$225 Registration fee per person; plus travel and accomodation.

Location: Gosford RSL, 26 Central Coast Highway, West Gosford, NSW 2250

Further info: Kim Hamilton ph 0448 249 200, email: kimh330@gmail.com

Possible accomodation: "The Galaxy Motel", located next to the Gosford RSL.

Registration Forms available from Kim, or from our Committee.

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- 4) **Calendar of Speakers for 2018** - Please refer to your new Spinette, for our proposed Calendar for 2017. We are now looking for ideas, and for members who are willing and able to make a presentation at our monthly meetings for 2018. Please give it consideration, and let us know.
- 5) **Journal:** - We are looking for short stories and longer articles, photos etc for our journal, it is becoming more difficult to get articles, and we would really like to include more local content. Stories, photos with text (explanation) of your plants, and cultivating experiences. REALLY asking for people to get involved, the more you can do, sharing information and experiences it is to the benefit of all.

Auction : Auction raised \$ 166.00 (thank you Heinz, Martin, Logan - both assisting Heinz)

Raffle: - five (5) tickets to draw. - Winners - Brett Hopkins, Anton Gusak, Bob Mitchell, Fred Sanstrom, Milan Kordos

Attila Short presentation: 'My favourite cactus'

Attila explained his style of presentation as a 'trailer', like the 'teaser trailers' for the movies. Intended to peak one's interest to investigate and learn more. After being asked the question, did he have a favourite cactus, Attila responded with his 'trailer' presentation that this was the genus "Copiapoa". A fast past presentation and talk of his travels to Chile, with Michelle, and with Rudolph Schulz, and others to study, photograph, learn etc. To finish it off a quick blurb (recommended by Michelle) to mention some cultivation comments - some Copiapoas very easy to grow, others not so. Well worth a try.

Break for interval, supper: (approx 9.00pm -9.15pm) **Vote for POM**

Our guest speaker is the Ron Lycette with his feature presentation, titled "Plants, people, places"
(approx 9.15pm to 10pm)

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After speaker:

Results of Plant of the Month

Novice winner - Sally Kerr Sunburst:

Open winner - : Brett Hopkins Aeonium nubile

Photo comp - Sally Kerr - Aloe yellow flower

Presidents Choice - Brett Hopkins Aeonium nubile, Sally Kerr - Aeonium sp.

Reminder:

Turn mobile phones back on.

Please help with stacking chairs, brushing down, packing away tables, sweeping floor, cleaning up after supper - Thank you.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th July 2017 - look forward to seeing you all there.

Meeting closed : At 10.00pm by Pres. Wayne Robinson.