



## Chairperson's Report

*Thank goodness for the recent rains and slightly cooler weather!*

We certainly experienced searing heat and very dry conditions at the start of summer and I think this highlighted how necessary it is for each and every one of us to conserve water. This should become part of our daily lives, as we tend to live in what can only be described as a hot, dry part of the world.

We no longer supply organics for sale to residents. We did approach Culterra directly, but with no success. Loxtons in Remblok Street (off CR Swart Road) in Strijdom Park sell 30dm bags of Culterra compost at R20 per bag. I have spoken to Paul, the Manager of Loxtons, and he said that, for certain products, they will give our residents a 5% discount. Please speak to Paul directly when you shop at Loxtons.

The Garden Committee is hoping to start planting more trees again in the new year. We are still wary of creating more rockeries etc. in common areas, until we are al-

lowed to use our irrigation system. Obviously, water restrictions remain in place and when we do plant more trees, we will rely heavily on residents to give these trees a bucket of water twice a week. Many residents have submitted plans to develop "Own gardens" in common areas adjacent to their units. This will certainly help to beautify our Village and we continue to encourage this. Please remember, we do have the services of a private gardener 4 days a week at a cost of R40 per hour. You need to book this gardener at Reception. This is of huge benefit to the residents. Only the private gardener may do work for a resident in his/her private garden – kindly do not approach any other gardeners to do any private work for you – this is strictly prohibited by our Service Provider. There is a book at Reception which is reviewed by Benny (the garden service provider's on-site Manager) on a regular basis. Please record anything which you would like to bring to their attention relating to the garden service, in this book. Positive comments and suggestions will also be greatly appreciated!!

The recycling initiative is going well – if you are not yet participating in recycling, please join in. All recyclable items should be placed in a clear plastic bag and placed next to your wheelie bin on Tuesdays.

Tracy-Lynne Daling has submitted the "My Village" forms completed by residents – the last two being submitted last week. We needed 50 completed forms before we were eligible for registration. This is an easy way to generate funds for the Village. It costs the residents nothing to get a "My Village" card – merely present the card at the till of participating retailers, a list of which will be given to you with your card. This will result in a percentage of your purchase being deposited into the Village's bank account.

The cards should be available soon and to the many residents who have not yet filled in a form, please collect one from Reception, fill it in and return to Reception and start earning cash for our Village. All funds generated by this initiative will be used by any of the working committees in the Village.

Happy gardening over the next few months and safe travels if you are going away. May Christmas be a happy family time and every good wish for 2017. As always, sincere thanks to our fabulous Garden Committee members. Di Main (unit 57), is joining our Committee. Welcome, Di – we look forward to having you on board and part of our team!

Doreen

### Important information

The cutting team will not be here between Christmas and New Year. Gardeners and Cleaning Staff will be here throughout December, but will be off on all public holidays.

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### Committee Contacts

Doreen Dennehy	Unit 41	5243
Tracy-Lee Daling	Admin	5500
Louise (Lu) Penberthy	Unit 163	5389
Margie Lockwood	Unit 133	5451
Beryl Taylor	Unit 161	5388
Jim Taylor	Unit 161	5388
Thersia Tait	Unit 47	5227
Di Main	Unit 57	5125
Monica Hall	Unit 436	5209
Sidney Roodt	Unit 386	5150



# Plant of the Quarter

## Bulbs, Rhizomes and Corms for a Summer Garden.



**Amaryllis belladonna:** March lilies are the first bulbs to announce Autumn. Plant the bulbs in full sun or semi shade in well-drained soil where they can flourish undisturbed for many years. Water only once the leaves appear after the long stems with pale to dark pink flowers died. The bulbs multiply rapidly and after a few years the clumps can be divided. Low maintenance, needing no feeding and very little watering.

**Aristea ecklonii:** This is one of only a few indigenous plants with pure blue



flowers. A much branched stem bearing beautiful blue flowers tops a fan of sword-

shaped evergreen leaves. Plant in dappled light under shrubs and enjoy the flowers in spring. Allow the plants to grow undisturbed for as long as possible before dividing the clumps.

**Brunsvigia orientalis:**



A large bulb producing an enormous umbel of bright scarlet flowers from February to April. The broad leathery leaves appear in winter and lie flat on the ground. These plants are extremely drought tolerant and will grow in full sun in sandy soils. Plant the bulbs in containers with a diameter of more than 40cm in a very well-draining medium containing coarse river sand.

**Crinum:** These bulbs with their broad strap-shaped leaves and very large lily-like flowers are real show stoppers in the summer garden. Plant the bulbs in well-composted well drained soil and water well in summer.

**Crinum bulbispermum:**



Large white flowers striped with dark pink or red, on long stems are followed by huge interesting seed pods. These plants prefer wet conditions in full sun.

**Crinum macowanii:**

Very large cup shaped white flowers with rose-pink stripes appears in October to December. Plant in a wet position and feed and water well during the summer.

**Crinum moorei:**

This shade loving plant flowers in midsummer. Tall stems bearing striking, heavily scented white or pale pink flowers appear from tufts of fresh green leaves.

**Crocoshmia aurea:** These bulbs produce beautiful



orange star-shaped flowers from January to April, which make excellent cut flowers. They prefer a cool spot in dappled shade and regular watering during summer. The easy to grow bulb multiplies rapidly. The hybrid crocosmiflora is smaller with branched spikes of deep reddish-orange flowers. This hybrid will tolerate full sun and is frost hardy.

**Eucomis:** The well-known and beautiful genus of

deciduous bulbs known as the pineapple lily. These plants prefer full sun and well drained composted soil. Water during the summer growing season and keep dry during the winter dormant season.

**Eucomis autumnalis:**

A robust plant with broad wavy-edged leaves. The long-lasting fragrant yellow green flowers, with a green tuft, are excellent for the vase.

**Eucomis comosa:**

The broad wavy green leaves are edged in purple. The flower stalks are striped or spotted in maroon and the cream and purple flowers are sweetly scented.



**Gladiolus dalenii:** Beautiful orange-red flowers with yellow lower petals are produced on tall stems above sword shaped green leaves. Plant the corms in groups in well composted soil with a sprinkle of bone meal over the compost, mulch and water well.

At the end of the season the leaves will die and the corms can be removed and stored or left in the bed until the next season. Gladiolus rehmannii has beautiful white flowers and a wide range of other cultivars and hybrids in various colours are now available.

**Nerine:** Twenty three species from all the provinces in South Africa are available



for the discerning gardener. Plant the bulbs in full sun in well-drained soil and protect the evergreen plants in winter from frost.

**Nerine filifolia:** An easy



to grow plant for containers and rockeries with fine, grass like leaves and rounded clusters of bright pink blooms.

**Nerine krigei:** A hardy plant with spirally twisted leaves and deep pink flowers.

**Watsonia:** Of the fifty two species in the genus most are deciduous they are winter or summer growing and range in height from 15cm to 2m. The dwarf species lend themselves to containers while the taller plants, planted en masse will make a breathtaking display. Plant in full sun in well composted soil.

**Watsonia angusta:** With grey green leaves and bright red flowers from November to February, this plant will turn a wet site into an asset.

**Watsonia fourcadei:** A large species with bright green leaves and salmon-pink or orange flowers from November to January.

**Watsonia pillansii:** A medium sized species with bright orange flowers from November to January.





# The Geranium

*Geranium Pelargonium graveolens, P. capitatum, P. radens and over 200 hybrids of these.*

The Geranium ( pelargonium ) is not only a beautiful garden plant, doing well in almost any soil and situation, ground or pot, but the extracted essential oil is of immense value.

The evergreen perennial is actually native to the southern regions of Africa but has been exported throughout the world as a popular garden plant, and also as a medicinal herb. Geranium plants have five-petalled flowers and the leaves are

usually pinnate on long stems. The leaves are the main medicinal elements and are primarily used to brew a pleasant tasting tea that has a slight hint of rose.

It is important to remember that only rose-scented geranium can be safely consumed. If in doubt, rather obtain the herb from a Healthcare professional.

Unlike many other herbal remedies, there is not a major culinary application for Geranium, and they are almost exclusively used for either

decoration ( petals look lovely in your summer salad) medicinal teas or aromatherapy oils.

The impact of Geranium on the nervous system is well-known. If you brew the leaves, you can produce a tasty tea that has soothing properties, derived from the organic compounds and chemicals that positively impact the endocrine system. It is also an anti-inflammatory, analgesic, aids digestion and builds the immune system.

Aromatherapy oil cold-pressed from the Pelargo-

nium is one of the most valued oils in the perfumery trade and is popular in soaps, creams and candles. Like most other flower oils, it is an anti-depressant and antiseptic. It is also a valuable astringent and haemostatic (stops bleeding), which makes it very useful in treating injuries. It is used in skincare for its delightful perfume, as an astringent, and for its balancing action. It has a marked effect on the adrenal cortex which governs hormones - in particular regulating hormones pre- and post-menopause. Geranium has a stimulating effect on the lymphatic system, aiding the kidneys in elimination and alleviates water retention. A dab of Geranium oil will make chilblains disappear overnight. It is very effective for diabetes, blood disorders, throat infections and as a nerve tonic.

Geranium has many applications, from frostbite to infertility and its antiseptic and astringent properties contribute to its general usefulness. Its delightful floral

fragrance makes it a pleasure to use either on its own or as a contributory oil in blends. Geranium oil can be safely used by most people, but it should be avoided by pregnant women and children younger than 12 years.

## To make a herbal tea.

For dried leaves, use 2 teaspoons and for fresh leaves use a ¼ cup. Pour 1 cup of boiling water over the leaves and seep for 5 minutes, strain and enjoy.

## To make a wound compress.

Pour boiling water over dried leaves, cover tightly and seep for 15 minutes. Strain. Soak a cotton swab



in the infusion, remove excess fluid until only damp and apply compress to wound.

Besides all of the above, a Geranium plant in full flower will bring an uplifting splash of colour into your life.

## References:

- The Encyclopaedia of Essential Oils - by Julia Lawless.*
- The Fragrant Pharmacy - by Valerie Ann Worwood.*
- The Internet.*



# It's the Season for Giving...

Most succulents are easy to grow and propagate. For this reason it is the perfect plant to give as a gift. All you need are some succulents and a bit of imagination. Remember succulents come in various shapes, colours and sizes, so it is easy to create some interesting gifts.

Below you will find some instructions on making a succulent frame. If this seems like too much work, consider using everyday objects as planters for your gifts. Decorating these are just as much fun as planting the new plants!

Use items like food tins, old buckets or even pizza boxes to present your gifts.

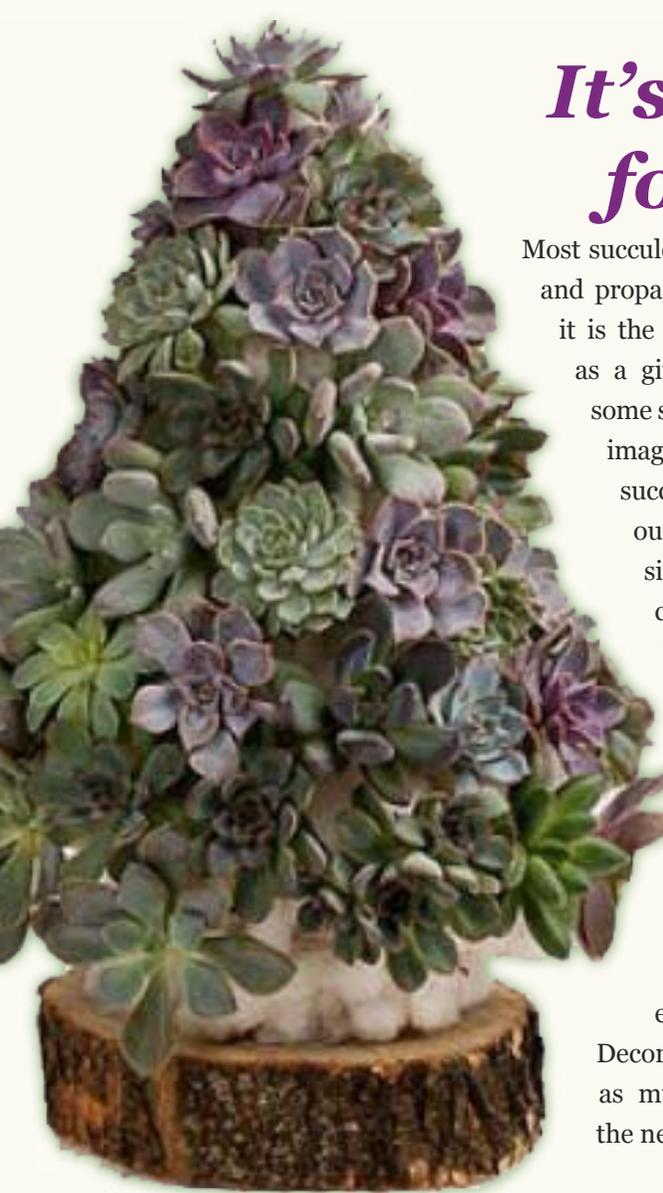
*Top Row: Succulents planted in tiny tins (like tomato paste) and individually wrapped in cupcake cases and presented in a painted basket. Use Food tins wrapped in hessian. You can also spray paint food tins. Small clay pots in a Pizza Box. Middle: Old bucket wrapped in old dictionary pages. You can also decoupage the paper. Frames: Use pallet planks, skirting or even an old frame to create truly unique art.*

## To make a succulent frame

Use any wooden box, or construct your own using pallets, off-cuts or even mouldings. Seal the wood with a wood sealer or a product like Tokreen. Staple a wire or plastic mesh onto the wood. Fill the frame with a succulent potting mixture. Plant moss (optional) by pushing it under the wire mesh.

Arrange your succulents on a table until you like the layout. Use a thick dowel to punch holes into the soil for the succulents. Plant the succulents and use a small skewer to move the soil around the roots. Water well and leave it for about a week before hanging it up. To care for the framed plants, spritz the

plants with clean water at least twice a week during summer. If the plants get too big, or are reproducing, break off or remove. Use these plants to create more frames.



# Feature Garden

## Unit 30

## Maurice and Roz



### Water Wise

Maurice and Roz started this Water Wise garden in October 2014. A landscaper removed the lawn and created the raised beds using rocks.

Azaleas and Hibiscus are Roz's favourite plants, but due to the full sun in her garden she struggles to grow them.

"This garden is well protected and to date, never had any frost." says Roz, "My Staghorn Ferns survived the winter hanging in a small tree."

The high loffel wall behind the unit is adorned with air plants (Tillandsia) and makes for an interesting feature.

This small garden is neatly divided into separate areas. The courtyard in the back is very hot, and Roz wants to remove all the pot plants in the alley leading to the courtyard and replace them with aloes. Maurice and Roz say that gardening is very rewarding!



TOP: Roz carried the angel plaque above in her hand luggage from Bristol in the UK back to SA.



This garden is full of hidden surprises! The clever play with blue pots and decorations tie in perfectly with the flowering Agapanthus plants.



ABOVE: Friendly rocks!

BELOW: The bokbaai vygies (*Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*) is a water-wise way to add splashes of colour in areas with full sun.



TOP: The air plants in the loffels



LEFT: This statue was a gift from their daughter and is the only item they brought over from their previous garden.

RIGHT: Beautiful pink bougainvillea in high-gloss blue pots



# Progress so far...

*Here are some photos of our common gardens. This page is dedicated to the following residents for their donations of plants, cash etc.*

Di & John Main	Unit 57
Flo Rowberry	Unit 153
Alan & Lyn Sharp	Unit 37
Margie Hutchison	Unit 91
Jane Hausberger	Unit 114
Yvonne & Bruce	
Magic	Unit 21
Lu & Chris	
Penberthy	Unit 163
Joan Penrose	Unit 131





## From the Garden Couch

### Buy Your Own Gift

Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age, and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead.

In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early.

He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.

### Christmas Spirit

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?' The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.' 'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?' 'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.

### A Sign of the Times

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"



## Christmas gift suggestions:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

## Last Thoughts

### The Good & the Bad

	Jan and other residents that water the common area gardens.
	The inconsiderate pet owners who still leave dog poop all over the common lawns. The mowing team have been instructed to mow around the obstacles, thus spoiling the appearance of the entire village.
	The garden committee who pays the gardener-for-hire to work on common garden projects.

