



# EPIFLORA

Volume 15 No. 1

March 2006

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office for National Statistics 2000). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase to 17.5 million by 2020, and the number of people aged 75 and over to 8.5 million (Office for National Statistics 2000). The increase in the number of people aged 65 and over is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in the birth rate, a decline in the death rate, and a decline in the age at which people retire. The increase in the number of people aged 75 and over is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in the death rate, a decline in the age at which people retire, and a decline in the age at which people become disabled (Office for National Statistics 2000).

## 2. THE POLICY CONTEXT

The UK government has a long history of providing social security for its citizens. The first social security law was passed in 1911, and since then the system has expanded to cover a wide range of risks, including unemployment, sickness, and old age. The system is financed through a combination of general taxation and contributions from employers and employees. The system is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

In the 1990s, the UK government introduced a series of reforms to the social security system. These reforms included the introduction of a new state pension scheme, the introduction of a new unemployment benefit scheme, and the introduction of a new sickness benefit scheme. The reforms were aimed at reducing the cost of the social security system and making it more sustainable in the long term. The reforms have been controversial, and there has been a lot of public and political opposition to them.

The reforms have had a significant impact on the lives of many people. The new state pension scheme has reduced the amount of money that people aged 65 and over receive, and the new unemployment benefit scheme has reduced the amount of money that people who are unemployed receive. The new sickness benefit scheme has reduced the amount of money that people who are sick receive. The reforms have also led to a reduction in the number of people who are in receipt of social security benefits.

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## **The Programme for 2006**

*Meetings are at Johnsonville Union Church (Dr. Taylor Terrace) and start at 2.00 pm. Library books etc. are available at 1.30 pm.*

*Those on duty are responsible for preparing the room, assisting with tea and tidying the room at the end of the meeting and bringing a plant or other item for the raffle. If for any reason you are unable to do your allocated duty please arrange for someone else to do it.*

<b>March 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Pruning Plants ( <i>BYO plant for this workshop</i> ) <b>On Duty:</b> Kaye and Merv Keighley, Penny Luckens
<b>April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Ceropegias <b>On Duty:</b> Phyllis and Bruce Purdie, Mary Hardgrave.
<b>May 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Visiting speaker <b>On Duty:</b> Jane and Roy Griffith, Anne Goble.
<b>June 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Schlumbergeras
<b>July 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Midwinter celebration (and visiting speaker)
<b>August 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>details to be confirmed</i>
<b>September 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>details to be confirmed</i>
<b>October 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>details to be confirmed</i>
<b>November 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Visits to gardens and collections
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	AGM and Christmas function

## **The AGM**

*This is always the highlight of any society's year. When we met in December we received a report from our treasurer which indicated our finances remain in a satisfactory state. We received a report from our out-going president and we elected the committee for the coming year. We bragged about the plants and pictures we had brought, we shared gifts and then had afternoon tea.*

## **President's Report for 2005**

It gives me great pleasure to present this report for the fifteenth year of our Society. Fifteen years is a good length of time for a small society to be in existence and it is thanks to you as a member that we have thrived in this time.

Once again we have had a good variety of programmes during the year and hopefully each one of us has learned more about growing our specialist plants as well as learning more about other gardening subjects. It has become quite a tradition that we start the year with visits to members collections and a barbeque in Waikanae – this gives us an opportunity to catch up with each other after the festive season and enjoy something I always feel we do well at, namely eating!

Two highlights of the year were activities which took us outdoors – firstly to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and later in the year to Cross Hills Rhododendron Gardens and Nursery. For some the visit to the Sanctuary was a first and one that is now on "must take visitors to Wellington to see this amazing place" list.

Our quarterly magazine, *Epiflora*, has yet again been of superb quality and on behalf of members I thank Roy for his work in providing this informative magazine for local, national and international members.

Thanks also to the 2005 Committee – Kaye Keighley, our Secretary, Alice Hannam, Treasurer, Robyn Gibson, Roy Griffith, Rex Hannam and Nola Roser. It has been a delight to work with these people who have scratched their heads, put on their thinking caps and used their powers of persuasion to provide the monthly programmes and arrange other activities. As I step down from the Committee, along with Roy, we know that the future of the society is in good hands especially if we all continue to do our part in ensuring things happen and our knowledge of epiphytes continues to grow.

## **Committee for 2006**

Kaye Keighley - Secretary,  
Alice Hannam - Treasurer,  
Lois Bond,  
Robyn Gibson,  
Rex Hannam,  
Dianne O'Neill,  
Nola Roser

## ***Kapiti Coast Visits***

*Our January meeting again took the form of visits to a number of Kapiti gardens and collections followed by a barbeque. **Kaye Keighley** reports*

Saturday 14 January 2006 was another brilliant sunny Wellington day when Merv and I set out for the Kapiti Coast via Khandallah. Our first stop was to pick up our passenger, Penny Luckens and then on to Newlands on a round about route to pick up our second passenger, Judith. I had sent out a map showing everyone where to meet – at the Reikorangi Pottery. Those of us who were early were able to nosy about the pottery and Brian had a look at the animals. Once we were all assembled it was on a little way up the country road, over the bridge and up the lovely tree-lined driveway to the Coles' estate. This driveway swept in a loop around the house and there was plenty of parking. Janine and Steve were there to welcome us and said we had free run to roam around the garden. The garden was a picture - large trees of many types surrounded the area which sloped down the lawn expanse where an orchard is being established. The garden contained all sorts of plants – dahlias, chrysanthemums, carpet roses, hydrangeas – one a brilliant blue – hostas, violets, to name but a few. The trees included elms, oaks, magnolias. One tree at the back that drew a lot of attention and Penny has since phoned me to say that after her investigation she thought it was a variety of ash.

From Reikorangi we went down to Waikanae and called at Rex and Alice Hannams. It is always a treat to visit their garden as it is so crammed full with such a variety of plants. Fuchsias, hostas, moonflowers, bromeliads, arisaemas, red begonia borders, muscaris purple and white, kaka beak, magnolia, deutzia, several colours of jockey caps, sauromatum, hoyas, epiphyllums, penstemons pink and purple, zantedeschias deep purple, dietes – delicate lemon

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with orange and brown speckles. What colour! And the vegetable garden! Enough veges to feed the whole of Waikanae – spuds, pumpkins, beans, tomatoes as well as currants, feijoas, apples. Dahlias of all shapes and colours surround the vegetable garden and irises everywhere. And it must be noted that every plant is labelled. What a full time labour of love.

It was on across the railway line to our next destination, to Anne and Neville Goble's. Another garden that is always a pleasure to visit. I love the way that Anne has her hostas planted in pots and placed among her other plants which include roses, peppinos, leopard lilies, lancewoods. The Goble's garden surrounds the house in a "U" shape and central of the "U" is the verandah of the house itself. This contains small areas of shelving with specific plants displayed – cacti in one area and succulents in another as well as particular specimen plants.

Next we made our way to Roy and Jane Griffith's being careful not to be composted in the rose garden as we parked under the trees at the front of the house. This garden, too, is always a pleasure to visit. Crammed with many different plants and featuring some beautiful garden art work – not just common garden gnomes. The mirror that has been framed with a painted tile border and placed on the shed across the lawn from the house makes the garden look as if it is extended a long way back. (I have since managed to obtain a mirror and some recycled tiles to have a go at this myself – sometime.) Roy and Jane have done a splendid job in developing this garden in the relatively short time they have been on the Coast. Their epiphyllum house and hoyas hot house are always so neat and tidy. The epi house also includes a good collection of cacti. To end the day, the barbeque was fired up and we shared in a lovely meal which everyone had contributed to. The trip back to Wellington was into the setting sun, the beautiful view of the South Island, and then after we had dropped our passengers safely home we drove back to Miramar with a full moon shining across the harbour from the Hutt Valley. The end of a perfect day.

## ***Discussion on Hoyas***

*Kaye Keighley reports on the February meeting.*

A select group consisting of 9 met at the Johnsonville rooms as many members were making the most of the summer and taking holidays. . As the topic for the day was "Hoyas" several

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plants were displayed and a general discussion took place. Dianne's Hoya "Grey Ghost" was looking speckled and yellow and had some rather long growths. Dianne wanted to know if she should cut these off and as there seemed to be healthy looking leaves at the segments before the long shooting bits it was decided to leave as is. She could, if she wants to, prune a piece off and start a new plant. The speckles seemed to be just part of the plant's life. Robyn had two lovely looking Hoyas – *H. serpens* and *H. fungii*. Both of these had tremendous growth. The *H. serpens* had one tiny flower node appearing and the other had no sign of flowers. Other plants displayed included Hoya "Red Buttons" with its spectacular flowers, *H. sheperdell*, *H. globulosa* and Hoya "Black Knight".

On the "interest table" Phyllis had brought in a bromeliad with beautiful deep red bracts and the mauve flower about to appear. Merv, as usual, had several plants for 'show and tell'. These included Mammillaria – cristate (this looked like a human brain!), *Matelea cyclophylla*, *Crassula sarcocaulis*, and *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*.

Then came afternoon tea – even though the Birthday Girl did not make an appearance, our small group sang, Happy Birthday Nola, and partook of the birthday cake!!

### **Small Flowered Epis**

*This article, by Dick Kohlschreiber and Eckhard Meier, was originally published in the Cactus and Succulent Journal, volume 76 no 6 (November- December 2004) it is reprinted with permission....*

Miniature epicacti, often called "Mini-hybrids" or "Minis" by epi lovers, have experienced an increasing popularity during the past 15 to 20 years. In contrast to their "big brothers", the large flowering epis, the Minis are known for their smaller growth and blossoms reaching diameters which generally do not exceed 10-12 cm (4-5 inches) and in some cases barely reach 5 cm (2 inches).

The growing of the Mini-hybrids marks a very clear turning point away from the traditional ideals of hybridising for large flowers. As admirable as these successes were and are, the goal

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"Eve" (group 3) has extra small flowers, suggesting *Disocactus eichlamii* was involved in the cross. Its extra compact growth is an additional bonus





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of blossoms 30 cm (12 inches) or larger, has been reached and flowers around 25 cm (10 inches) in diameter are readily available. It is no wonder that plants with such large blooms, especially when young, will seldom sustain more than a few giant blossoms. Then the plant will need many months to prepare for the next "power act" of this kind of blooming. This is one of the drawbacks of the hybrid epis that prevents them from gaining greater popularity. Apart from the short spectacular blossoming in the Spring, when the beautiful flowers are so admired, the large flowered epis spend too much time as kind of a "Sleeping Beauty" – they sit around more or less uselessly so that the average grower would seldom want to bother with them.

This is exactly the point where the Mini-hybrids, as a new breed, can gain popularity. They are in a position to deal with some of the supposed or real shortcomings of the large-flowered hybrids. Here are some of the advantages of growing the Mini-hybrids:

- They produce rather small, often only miniature blossoms but they appear in such masses that one never ceases to be amazed.
- Since the small blossoms draw less substance from the plants, they are ready to blossom earlier. Decades ago, the German hybridisers Knebel and Haage tried to create "early blooming" hybrids. But their creations turned out to be mostly just normal epis with normal sized flowers appearing somewhat earlier in Spring/ late Winter than most of the other cultivars. The early blooming of the Minis, however, also means that seedlings or cuttings blossom at least a year earlier than the large flowered cultivars.
- Nearly all Mini-hybrids bloom several times annually, not only during the main blooming period in Spring/early Summer but also in the Fall and even Winter months, when hardly anything else is in bloom. If you are knowledgeable and choose your plants, it is possible to see blossoms in any month during the year. This is an advantage over the large flowered epis that cannot be valued highly enough. The duration of inflorescence is comparable to those of other epis but with cooler weather, single blooms may last considerably longer than the usual 2 or 3 days during warmer periods.
- Some Mini-hybrids display a phenomenon somewhat rare in cacti. They will develop several blossoms either simultaneously or staggered (time wise) from a single areole. In most of the large flowered epis and in other cacti, only a single flower or branch will develop at each areole. Thereafter, the areole is "dead". Stems that have blossoms often become useless after a time and need to be trimmed back so that new shoots can develop better. For Minis with proliferous areoles, such trimming back is not recommended since they will continue to flower anyhow. That is another plus in their favour. Later blossoms from the same areole can be spotted by the odd angle of the blooms to the stem, but this does not detract from their beauty.

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- \* As the last important point, it should be emphasized that many of the Mini cultivars remain dimensionally small compared with their "big brothers". But in all fairness, it should be mentioned that part of this advantage may be lost, since most hybrids have hanging growth and nearly all of them have to be kept as basket plants. However, most of us can usually find room for hanging plants in places otherwise unsuitable for more "upright" growing cultivars.

With so many advantages, it would seem that it would be only a matter of time until the Minis would replace the more traditional epi hybrids. However, this may not happen because the Minis, in comparison to the large flowered epis, do have some disadvantages that should be mentioned:

- \* There are over 7000 to 8000 registered hybrid epi cultivars with all possible flower sizes, forms and colours, with the exception of pure green and blue. The variety is immeasurable. The abundance of different coloured cultivars has not been reached by a long shot amongst the Minis. Some multicoloured and also yellow flowering forms do exist but many of the cultivars are somewhat singular flowers in red, pink or orange colours. The attraction of these plants is the wonderful mass of blooms rather than the appearance of the individual flowers.
- \* Many of the Mini-hybrids are more sensitive to over-watering than the large flowered forms particularly in connection with cooler temperatures. Most are not difficult to grow but there are some cultivars that will not tolerate cold temperatures and require minimums of 12-14 C. (54-57 F.). With temperatures like these, careful watering is of great importance since they don't like soggy soil and tend to lose their roots more readily than other epis. At the same time, many of the Mini-hybrids are sensitive to high temperatures and low humidity and excessive die-back is often a problem.
- \* Many of the small flowered hybrids still lack the compact growth to be accepted as "pure" miniatures. There is a need for hybridisers to aim for plants with small foliage. We are convinced that when the small flowered epis have small foliage, the Mini-hybrids will achieve much greater popularity.

The Mini-hybrids are not completely new. Kurt Knebel introduced small flowered hybrids like 'Harold Knebel', 'Erich Matthes', 'Frau Maria Ruehl', and a few others. Theresa Monmonnier, one of the best known American hybridisers after WWII, successfully used *Disocactus phyllanthoides* (De Candolle) Barthlott (syn. *Nopalxochia phyllanthoides* (De Candolle) Br.&R.) as well as *Disocactus nelsonii* (Br.&R.) Lindinger (syn. *Chiapasiasia nelsonii* (Br.&R.)

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Br.&R.see note 1) to produce a new small growing, multi-blooded race, which at that time were not called "Mini-Hybrids". A few of these hybrids are still available today which shows how far ahead of her time Theresa Monmonnier was.

The new "Mini Wave" only became popular some 15-20 years ago when a new well-planned approach was taken to selective breeding (see note 2). *Disocactus phyllanthoides* (De Candolle) Barthlott, particularly the slightly larger blossoming form 'Deutsche Kaiserin' was once again used as starting material (see note 3). *Disocactus nelsonii* (Br.&R.) Br.R. as well as *Disocactus macranthus* (Alexander) Kimmach & Hutchison (syn. *Pseudorhipsalis macrantha* Alexander), *Disocactus biformis* (Lindley) Lindley, *Disocactus eichlamii* (Weingart) Br.&R., were important because they brought small growth habits and repeated flowering throughout the year, so noticeable in the new hybrids. To further widen the palette of colours, species of *Helicocereus* (Berger) Br.&R., (now *Disocactus* subg. *Ackermannia* (K. Schumann) Barthlott), *Aporocactus* Lemaire (now *Disocactus* subg. *Aporocactus* (Lemaire) Barthlott) as well as other hybrid epis were incrossed enriching these new cultivars with a greater variety and more robust growth. The fragrance of many blossoms must be credited mainly to *Disocactus macranthus* but it may also be traced back to some of the fragrant larger epis.

All in all, the miniature hybrids provide an ideal supplement to the large flowered hybrids and should not be missing in any collection. The development of these Minis is not completed. By means of further targeted cross breeding of the existing types, it should be possible to produce a vast array of attractively coloured blossoms with more and more flowering outside the main Spring blooming period combined with more compact growth.

After many years of collecting these plants, we would divide them into 5 groups. It must be mentioned however, that our proposed classification, while based on prevailing dominant characteristics of one of the stock species, may not always be identical with the varieties genealogical origin due to lack of reliable records.

- \* The first group are *Disocactus* (syn. *Nopalxochia*) *phyllanthoides* crosses where the shape of the blossoms resembles the daffodil-shaped blooms of 'Deutsche Kaiserin'. The flowers, as a rule, have a diameter of 10-13 cm (4-5 inches) or more. The willingness to bloom, as well as the tendency to bloom again in Autumn are found in these hybrids. Unfortunately, they have also inherited the *phyllanthoides* tendency to develop spots. The spots appear on older stems especially when the plants are under stress, e.g. when they have to endure long periods of moisture and cold in the summer as it may often occur in the more northerly climates, or when they suffer from great heat. There is no cure for the spotting but it may be lessened if the plants are placed in a shaded and protected area outdoors. It does not affect the plants to any great measure but it does ruin the appearance of the plant. Badly spotted

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foliage can be removed by pruning. Most of the members of this group have comparably large and thick foliage and take up more room than many of the Minis. They are more cold tolerant as a rule and can be kept in Winter at or slightly below 10 C. (50 F.) if they are watered carefully. The hybrids of this group are predominantly Monmonier originations the therefore of older parentage. This group includes hybrids like 'Rosetta', 'Bambi', 'Gay Senorita', 'Sea Breeze', 'Dragonet', 'Grand Duchess', 'Petite Rose', 'Joyce', 'Mormor', 'Shirley and many others. The newer *Disocactus* hybrids are, at the moment, considered better Minis.

The second group are the *Disocactus* (syn. *Chiapasiasia*) *nelsonii* hybrids. The blossoms are bell-shaped and bear a faint resemblance of lily blossoms. Many of them have foliage that is smaller and thinner than any of the phyllanthoides hybrids. The *nelsonii* crosses are relatively compact basket plants. They are good growers and sufficiently insensitive against cooler Winter temperatures even if they do not quite match the hardiness of the first group. They bloom well – many in Fall and Winter, but do not reach the legendary mass of flowers of the phyllanthoides group. It is worth mentioning that amongst these hybrids, you will find some with proliferous areole that is in their favour. Included in this group are the Monmonier hybrids 'Monmonieri', 'Nayada', 'Pinky', 'Rubiet', 'Marionette', and 'Angel's Trumpet'. Also included are Knebel's very tender 'Fruehling' as well as the newer variety 'Elberta Kipp' (a much tougher version of 'Fruehling'), plus 'Fern LaBorde', 'Diana Inglese', 'Cheerfulness' (with the darkest red known to us), 'Petite Pink', 'Apricot Sensation', 'Raspberry Ice', 'Sweet Kisses', 'Rhodamine', 'Natalia', 'Satin Doll', 'Ivory Bells', 'Innisfree' and others.

- The third group includes the *Disocactus bififormis* and *Disocactus eichlamii* hybrids that differ but little from one another (see note 4). The *Disocactus bififormis* offsprings tend towards strongly formed regular bell-shaped blossoms with strongly recurving outer petals. The *Disocactus eichlamii* crosses often open less and appear less bell-shaped. In this group we find the smallest plants, with the smallest, almost filigree-like blooms. The blossoms sometimes give the impression of miniature versions of the *nelsonii* hybrids and may appear in large numbers at any time during the year. Both *Disocactus bififormis* and *Disocactus eichlamii* are less succulent and in need of more warmth and most of the offspring are the same way. They are easy enough to cultivate but will not be happy at temperatures under 10 C. (50 F.). If the intervals between watering are too long, some can dry up like any green plant. If they receive too much water, they may lose their roots. Thus regular but moderate watering is advisable, especially in cloudy and cool spells. Some of these hybrids have multiple

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areoles. They are ideal houseplants just like the following *D. macranthus* hybrids and are quite happy hanging above the windowsill in the house. They demand similar conditions to the Christmas cacti (*Schlumbergera*) and Easter cacti (*Hatiora*), Bromeliads, Orchids, Poinsettias, Monstera, etc. – bright light but not direct sun except in Winter.

Many of the cultivars in this group are creations of one of the most productive hybridisers of our day, the late Wressey Cocke from Redondo Beach, California. We have Mr. Cocke to thank for hundred of epi hybrids in all categories. In this third group are hybrids such as 'Delicate Jewels', 'Pete's Snowflake', 'Small Talk', 'Christmas Red', 'So Nice', 'Cupid's Dart', 'Razzleberry', 'Eve' (the tiniest Mini-hybrid with the smallest blossoms we know), 'Clair Paetz and many others.

- \* In the fourth group we can include all plants that stem from *Disocactus macranthus*, a small flowering species with a flower of 4-6 cm (around 2 inches) in diameter and a few cream to yellowish coloured tepals. They open wide and often have a "web-like" appearance (see note 5). The blossoms appear in large numbers and are strongly fragrant. The plants are not too big and easy to keep in hanging baskets. *D. macranthus* and many of its hybrids, too prefer even temperatures – not too cold during the Winter (54 F. minimum) and not too warm throughout the Summer. A cool and shady place in a tree at about 20-22 C. would be ideal. The cultivars of this group have larger flowers, but the size of the blossoms is not uniform and varies from 7-12cm (3-5 inches) in diameter. They are distinguished by their typical wheel-like shape.
- Amongst the representatives of the group of which a large number are Wressey Cocke hybrids again, we find many that are Winter bloomers with the added bonus that many are fragrant. The following list once more includes many plants with multiple areoles: 'Tiny Flame', 'George's Favorite', 'Solis Glow', 'Sand Pebbles', 'Wild Honey', 'Naranja', 'Lollipop', 'Confetti', 'Happy Face', 'Fruehlingsanfang', 'Sugar Baby', 'Petey Kelley', 'Fred Boutin', 'Fluid Gold' (the latter three have yellow flowers that is still fairly rare in Minis), and many others.
- The fifth and last group is even more diverse. It includes all of those plants that cannot be fitted into any of the above four categories. It includes hybrids that might be the result of crosses with large epicacti that have inherited their blossom shapes and colours combined with the characteristics of the Mini-hybrids. Or they may be blended forms that do not show any detectable domination of the botanical stock species and so their parentage becomes guess work. They are often products of cross breeding of parents that belong to different stock species and the characteristics in the filial generation have been "washed out". In accordance with these heterogenous origins, there are no common characteristics in this group. The plants are not uniform in habit and in regards to the blossoms, there are clear differences in size, shape and colour. Those Minis that

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have some parentage in the large epicacti show some intensive colours. These cultivars are fairly robust but not the most compact plants and many of them can be trained upright on stakes as well as grown in hanging baskets. To this group belong: 'Bella Vista', 'Charming Beauty', 'Ice Crystal', 'Piland's Pride', 'Snowflake', 'Lady Luck', 'Sugar Plum Fairy', 'Lilliput', 'Orange Bouquet', 'Destiny', 'Wedding Bells', 'Pink Parasol', 'Friend Parker', 'Equator' (not to be confused with the Haage hybrid 'Aequator') and others. It may be pertinent to mention that this group, through further hybridisation with one another, could be expected to increase in volume in the future.

It is not practical to give special cultural hints for Mini-hybrids since these plants are altogether variable and the growing conditions differ with every grower. In general, they are not difficult to grow if you consider that all of these hybrids are epiphytes and have to be treated as such. They do like shade conditions or morning sun. They like a soil mix that is on the acid side and drains well. They like to be damp but not too wet and should not be allowed to dry out completely. They respond to fertilizer especially during the warmer months. Through daily interaction with them, one learns what the plant expects and needs.

Unless you are a collector whose passion is devoted solely to the spine-armed plants, you can get much enjoyment from the miniature epi-hybrids and the abundance of blooms at different times of the year are especially valued.

### FOOTNOTES:

- 1) The genera *Nopalxochia* Br.&R., *Heliocereus* (Berger) Br.&R., *Aporocactus* Lemaire, *Disocactus* Lindley, *Pseudorhipsalis* Br.&R. and *Wittiocactus* Rauschert (syn. *Wittia* K. Schumann) are closely related and are today varyingly combined into 2-3 genera according to the concepts of authors (cf. Kimnach (1993): The genus *Disocactus*, *Haseltonia* 1:95-139, and (1996): The Species of Epiphytic Cacti, ESA- Directory of Species and Hybrids; Hunt & Taylor (eds.): The Genera of the Cactaceae: towards a new consensus, etc. in *Bradleya* 4 (1986), 8 1990 and 9 (1991); Barthlott & Hunt (1993) in K. Kubitzki (ed.): The Families and Genera of Vascular Plants: Cactaceae: 161-197; Bauer (2003): The Genus *Pseudorhipsalis* Br&R., *Haseltonia* 9: 94-120.
- 2) The breeding of Mini-hybrids as well as the larger epicacti is today happening almost exclusively in Southern California due to its milder climate and the fact that the plants can be kept outdoors the entire year.
- 3) Many have questioned the origin of 'Deutsche Kaiserin', often better known





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under the translated name 'German Empress'. Many think it is a hybrid of *Disocactus* (syn. *Nopalxochia*) *phyllanthoides*. Others feel that it is a selection of *D. phyllanthoides* with slightly larger flowers. Without getting too involved in this question, we definitely do not think that 'Deutsche Kaiserin' is a hybrid. (cf. Tjaden, W. (1994): *Nopalxochia phyllanthoides* or the 'German Epiphytes', *Epiphytes* 18(69): 4-7.

- 4) In some cases *Disocactus* (syn. *Bonifazia*) *quezaltecus* (Standley & Steyermark) Kimmach was also used, mainly by the late Mr. Wressey Cocke. *Disocactus quezaltecus* is closely related and similar to *Disocactus eichlamii* (Weingart) Br.&R.
- 5) Years ago, Alfred Lau found an interesting form of *Disocactus macranthus* with glaucous frosting on the stems and considerably larger fragrant blooms known as Lau 1263. Later this plant was also propagated as *Disocactus macranthus* var. *glaucocladus* hort.. The late Kurt Petersen of Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Germany, crossed this plant with *Disocactus nelsonii* (= 'Fruehlingsanfang') and various *epicacti* resulting in other hybrids of his "Fruehling" Series. They fit well in group 4 although the flowers are somewhat larger. Another cross with *Disocactus phyllanthoides* was called 'Maerzsonne', and that fits best in the *Disocactus biformis/eichlamii* group (group 3) even though neither of these *Disocacti* are involved.

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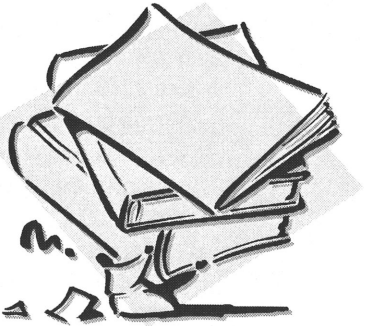
"Lollipop" (group 4), flowers of plants in this group open wide and appear in large numbers. The plants are not too big and are easy to keep in hanging baskets., they prefer even temperatures (not too cold in winter nor hot in summer)

## **Further Reading**

*Our Society receives journals from a number of other societies with similar interests. These journals are all available from our library. In the last couple of months a number of interesting items have been published. Here are some snippets that you might find interesting. (Of course you really should go and read the articles for yourself!)*

The August issue of **SFES Journal** (San Francisco Epiphyllum Society) has a tribute to Gray/Davis Epiphyllums (which closed last year). The article traces the development of the nursery from its inception and accompanied by two superb colour photos.

In the December issue of the Epi-Gram (South Bay Epiphyllum Society) Dick Kohlschreiber writes about *Nopalxochia horichii* (*Disocactus kimmachii*). He also writes at length on using Coir as a planting mix for epis



Finally - the Autumn issue of the **Bulletin** (Epiphyllum Society of America) reprints an article they first published in 1990 - profiling some of the ESA founders. Some of these names are very familiar!

## **Now is the time .....**

*We are now supposed to be approaching autumn. However the weather here continues to do as it likes. We have had some very hot nights - and then last Friday the overnight low was 7 °C! So continue to play it safe - water in the mornings - before the sun gets too hot; and be careful about leaving water drops all over your plants. As we always say - what you should be doing right now depends not a little on exactly where you live. Here are some suggestions for the Wellington growers. If you live in Bombay or Balclutha you may need to adjust things a little.*

**Epicacti** - *it is time for work! The flowers are over for the year - so you can prune and repot as necessary. Cut away really old growth as well as any damaged or diseased stems and encourage new growth from the base of the plant. Keep an eye out for pests and spray as necessary. You can still water regularly (preferably early in the day).*

**Hoyas** - *enjoy the flowers, water when dry. Keep a wary eye out for mealy bugs and other pests and deal with them promptly.*

**Schlumbergeras** - *fertilise and water carefully.*

**Rhipsalis** - *reduce watering. Prune and/or repot if you wish.*

**Aporophyllums** - *Water less. Prune lightly - you may also repot (if you are brave - or you have gloves).*

**Ceropegias** - *enjoy the flowers. Water when dry. Check for pests very, very frequently - and deal with them ("Attack" or "Confidor" may be used).*

## ***Odd Cuttings and Seeds***

### *Subscriptions*

Subscriptions for 2006 are now overdue so, if you have not already paid, it is time to act. If our records show that you have not paid, a renewal reminder letter will be included with this issue of your magazine. Alice Hannam (our treasurer) would love to hear from you.

### *Where can you buy plants? ...*

We all know that Craigmyle Epiphyllums have a wonderful range of epiphyllum plants and cuttings - but as we have been travelling recently we heard:

- ▶ there used to be a couple who grew and sold epis in Nelson - but they are not listed now in the phone directory
- ▶ there used to be a grower in Christchurch who had a very large collection - but he has now moved - and has only a few plants left
- ▶ Heather and Keith Greave (Kaitaia) have a good range of hoyas - but also have some epis

does anyone know anything more about these or other sources? (Apart from the society sales table that is).

### *New Books*

Epic ([www.epic.org](http://www.epic.org)) have recently announced the upcoming publication of two new books

**Epiphyllum 2** will be published in February 2006; it contains over 500 colour photos as well as botanical information on epiphyllum species and aporocactus hybrids.

Rhipsalis and Lepismium will be published in November 2006, the book

## *Epiflora*

will cover topics such as "history of the genera", "culture information" and lists of species.

For more information on these books - visit the web-site

## *A new Web-site*

Some of you may have had a chance to look at the other "Epiflora" - the one put out by the Epi-flora society (we have copies in our library .. Ed), the society now has a new web-site [www.epi-flora.org](http://www.epi-flora.org) .

## *Back numbers of "Epiflora"*

The first edition of **Epiflora** appeared in March 1992. We have limited stocks of backnumbers for most issues from Volume 2 (March 1993) onwards. Ask the editor for details.

**Future Publication Dates.**

*EPIFLORA is published quarterly by the Wellington Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.*

*Comments and contributions are most welcome. The society aims to encourage discussion and debate; opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the society. It is the policy of the society to publish corrections of fact but not to comment on matters of opinion expressed in other publications All material in Epiflora may be reprinted by non-profit organisations provided that proper credit is given to WEHS, Epiflora and the author.*

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**Closing dates for contributions:**

**Winter 2006 Edition - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Spring 2006 Edition - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

**Subscriptions:**

*Subscriptions are due on 1st of January and are:*

<i>Members -</i>	<i>\$12.00</i>
<i>(overseas members</i>	<i>\$NZ24.00 or \$US12.00)</i>
<i>Additional Associate Members -</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>
<i>(At same address as a member)</i>	

**Society web address:**

**Find us on the web at : [www.anwyl.com/epihoya](http://www.anwyl.com/epihoya)**

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial statements. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income. The document also highlights the need for regular reconciliation of accounts to identify any discrepancies early on.

In addition, the document provides a detailed breakdown of the accounting cycle, which consists of eight steps: identifying the accounting cycle, journalizing, posting, determining debits and credits, preparing a trial balance, adjusting entries, preparing financial statements, and closing the books. Each step is explained in detail, with examples provided to illustrate the process.

The document also covers the preparation of financial statements, including the balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows. It explains how these statements are derived from the accounting records and how they provide a comprehensive overview of the company's financial performance.

Finally, the document discusses the importance of internal controls and the role of the auditor. It emphasizes that strong internal controls are essential for preventing fraud and ensuring the accuracy of the financial statements. The auditor's role is to provide an independent opinion on the fairness and accuracy of the financial statements.

