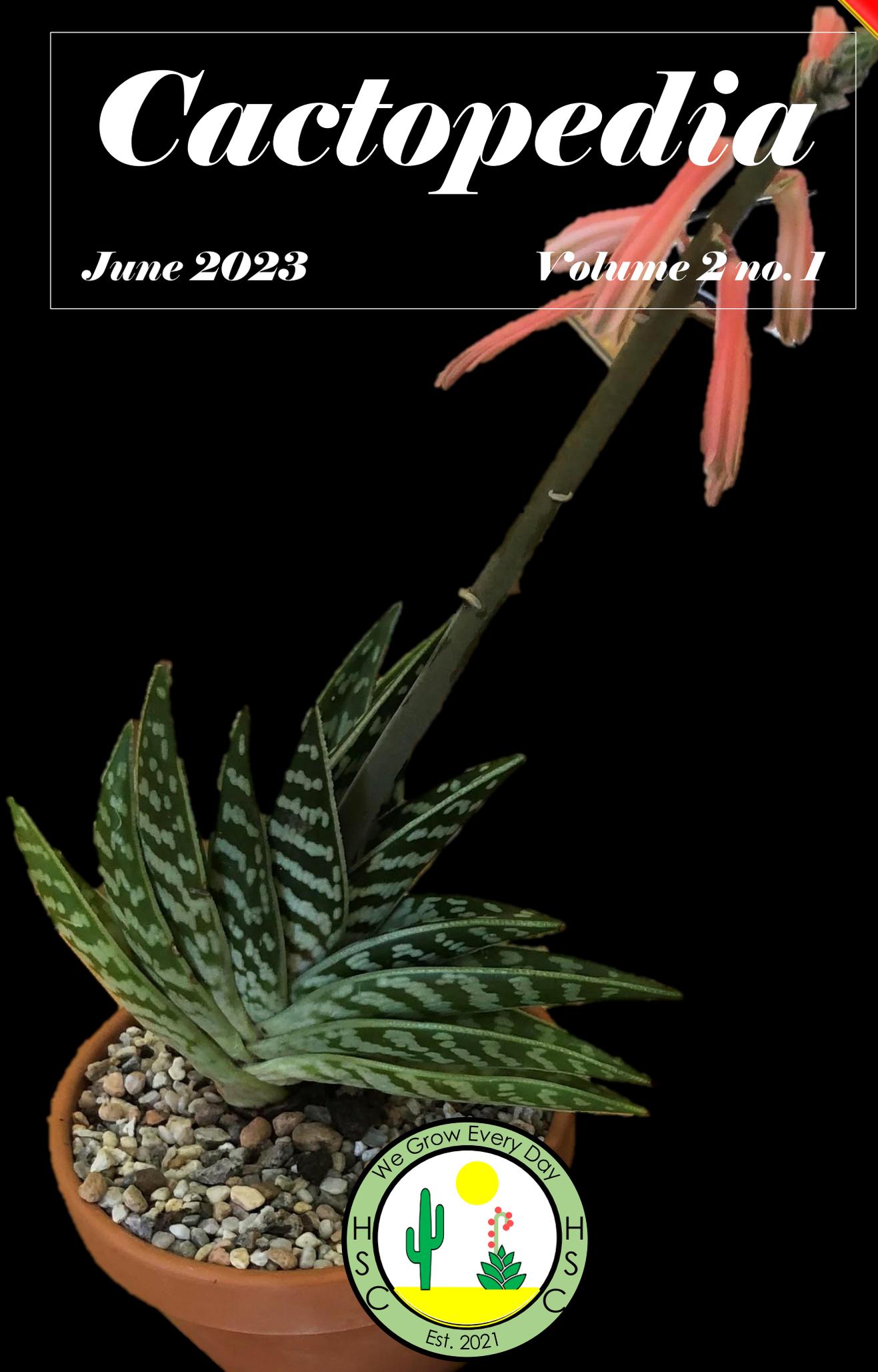


£1

# *Cactopedia*

*June 2023*

*Volume 2 no. 1*



# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Editor's Notes .....                        | 3  |
| On my windowsill In my greenhouse.....      | 4  |
| Succulent of the Season .....               | 5  |
| Cactus of the Quarter.....                  | 6  |
| A Gallery of Succulents.....                | 7  |
| My Grandma's Garden.....                    | 8  |
| Dragonfruit.....                            | 10 |
| The Star of the Greenhouse – Astrophytum... | 11 |
| A Book Review of The Night Flower.....      | 12 |
| Puzzle Pages.....                           | 13 |
| HSC News .....                              | 15 |



An assortment of cacti in the editor's collection

## EDITORIAL

EDITOR: Lara Doorduyn

## DESIGN

ARTWORK: James Waldek

COMPILATION: Jonty Peevor

## PRINTING

PRINTERS: youloveprint.co.uk

## CONTACT US

Contact us at:

CactopediaMagazine@gmail.com

## SUPPORT US

To make a donation towards printing costs or other running costs of the HSC, please contact us on the above email address.

## NOTICES

Nomenclature:

Calling the HSC "Cactus Club" in any Cactopedia content is now banned.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting content for the September 2023 issue of Cactopedia is 1st August. Only submissions before this date will be inserted.

Please send your contributions for the next issue to:

CactopediaMagazine@gmail.com

## FRONT COVER PHOTO:

*Aloe variegata*

## BACK COVER PHOTO:

*Haworthia truncata*

# Editor's Notes

Lara Doorduyn

---

With the new year, Cactopedia has a new look – and a new team! I've stepped into my new role as editor, while James is now the art director, in charge of the overall look and feel of the journal. Jonty is the compiler, making sure everything is exactly where it should be.

As most of you know I am 10 years old and I love succulents! I also enjoy playing chess, designing Lego constructions, climbing trees, and eating ice cream. I have been growing succulents for about 4 years and have just planted my third year's batch of succulent seeds (mostly mesembs). This year I was able to harvest *Lithops* seeds from my own pollinated plant, and the seedlings I planted seem to be coming along nicely.

I hope you are all enjoying 2023. It is always amazing to see your plants grow and flower again, after the dormancy period for many of them. By now January's 'great freeze' is hopefully a very distant memory, and you have all recovered from seeing your succulents under (thankfully warm)

blankets of snow. My outdoor *Sempervivums* and *Sedums* currently have lovely colouring, partly due to the harshness of the winter snow, and partly due to the lovely sunshine we have recently been enjoying.

In May many of us bought plants at the BCSS sale at RHS Wisley, and enjoyed talking to other succulent enthusiasts. There was a large old *Gasteria* that I bought for £1, and a lovely *Haworthia* that I was given for free by a kind seller! My dad bought an aged *Euphorbia obesa* from him too. There are some super events lined up over the summer months – be sure to visit some of them. Some of the ones in my diary are the Croydon branch show (22 July) and Cactus at the Castle (16 - 17 September). Visit the BCSS website for more details.

Apologies for the March issue of Cactopedia being cancelled while we did behind-the-scenes work. We hope our future editions will be timely and according to schedule. Submissions should now go to: [CactopediaMagazine@gmail.com](mailto:CactopediaMagazine@gmail.com).

# On my windowsill In my greenhouse

James Waldek

---

Two years ago, I had a general interest in keeping houseplants, but quickly developed an interest in cacti and succulents specifically.



1. My collection in July 2021

In the first few months I kept my plants on my windowsill, but it very quickly overflowed so I upgraded to a small greenhouse, and it also got full quite quickly (not surprisingly!).



2. My old greenhouse in May 2022

Due to the cold British winters, it was necessary to install a paraffin heater, however,

a few of my plants sadly died in the winter of 2021. (*Matucana nowus deadus*, *Melocactus deceasedii* and a few others.)

In summer 2022 the greenhouse reached a scorching 61°C! These temperatures also brought some deaths from dehydration.



3. My new greenhouse in May 2022

Now for some happy stories! In winter 2022, I received an email from the BCSS to say that somebody was generously giving away an entire collection! We promptly got into the car, went to collect the plants, and returned with over a hundred specimen cacti. I was able to share many of these with friends. Some were sold, with the proceeds going towards Cactopedia printing costs. I also entered in the BCSS Croydon branch summer show with my *Lophophora williamsii*.

Winter 2022 was a cold one, with temperatures dropping to -7°C! A lot of my plants froze, and I woke up to find little succulent shaped ice-cubes!

My collection mainly consists of small, slow-growing Mexican cacti and mesembs, mainly *Lithops*. My favourite genus is *Astrophytum*.

# Succulent of the Season

James Waldek

---

## *Echeveria*

*Echeveria* is a large genus of rosette forming succulents from Mexico. They are easily propagated by leaves, but it can take a while. They can also be grown from seed. Their sizes range from very big to very small. Their leaves are very fleshy, as are the flower stems. The flowers range from red to yellow, and sometimes almost green. These plants also have beautiful winter colouration.

### How to care for *Echeveria*

**Water:** whenever the leaves become wrinkly. Not in winter, or else your plant will die.

**Sunlight:** LOTS, although too much will scorch the plant making it go brownish-red.

**Temperature:** cannot tolerate temperatures below 0° Celsius without severe damage, possibly even death.

**Feeding:** once every 2 weeks in summer.



*Echeveria Chihuahuaensis* winning first prize at an HSC show (Photo: James Charlwood)

# Cactus of the Quarter

Lara Doorduyn

---

## *Echinocactus grusonii*

*Echinocactus grusonii* is a slow-growing succulent plant in the *Cactaceae* family with stiff, yellow spines. Common names: “Golden barrel cactus”, “Mother in law’s cushion”.



A 30-year-old *Echinocactus grusonii* (Photo: James Waldek)

## *Echinocactus grusonii* care

**Watering:** Once a week in summer, only ever water it in winter if it is really dry and clearly needs water. Do not water it if its soil is damp. Key signs of overwatering include browning or blackening stems, browning or blackening at the base of the plant, mushy or leaking plants, and plants literally rotting before your eyes.

**Dormancy:** Winter.

**Sunlight:** Prefers bright but indirect light. Signs of too much sun: If they start to get too much sun the stem will actually burn. You may notice white or pale patches on the stem. This damage cannot be reversed. Instead, try to move your plant to an area with less hot, direct sunlight and wait for new growth.

**Temperature:** Will not tolerate frost and should never go outside in the UK unless it's summer, but can survive temperatures up to 30° Celsius.

**Flowering:** Flowers once a year in summer.

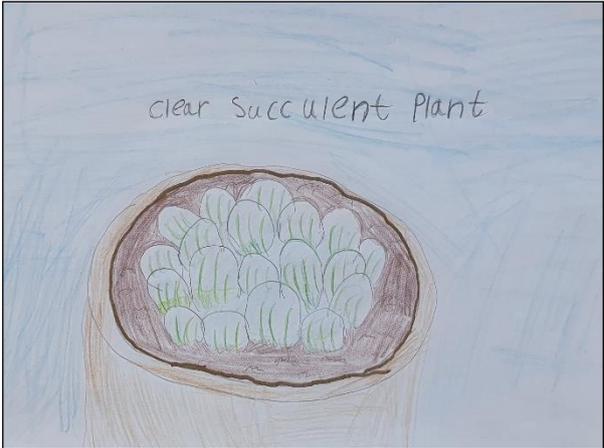
# A Gallery of Succulents

Multiple authors

---



"Desert" by Lukas Doorduyn



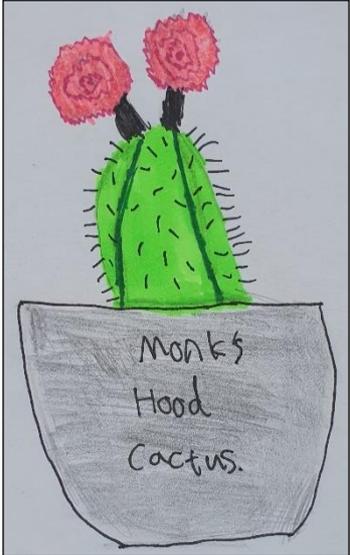
"Clear Succulent Plant" by Issy Esser



"Spiky Cactus" by Emma Esser



Issy Esser



"Monks Hood Cactus" by Tessa Schoonraad

# My Grandma's Garden

Reuben Roelofse

---

Come on a journey with me through my grandma's garden and see her succulents.

## *Aloe*

- Commonly known as Aalwyn in South Africa.
- It has beautiful flowers and can store water in its leaves.
- My grandma lives in Port Elizabeth in South Africa, which is hot and mostly dry so it's an ideal place for succulents.
- This plant is so popular that it is grown in probably every place in the world where the climate is right for it.



## *Echeveria agavoides*

- This succulent is also named lipstick Echeveria because sometimes the tips turn pink.
- It is a small stemless succulent plant.
- It may be harmed by moisture and prefers mineral soils.

## *Euphorbia enlopa*

- This is a beautiful plant but its sap is toxic to pets and people.
- It is often confused with *Euphorbia ferox* because of the similar appearance.
- Male flowers are vibrant yellow in colour and female flowers are deep shades of red.





### *Echeveria* “Topsy Turvy”

- The plant is stemless and beautiful.
- The leaves are waxy and a tiny bit hairy.
- It is a fast-growing and award-winning succulent.

### *Pachypodium lamerei* (Madagascar Palm)

- This plant is a stem succulent, which means it photosynthesizes through its stem and not its leaves.
- It stores water in its fleshy stem.
- The plant’s flowers are beautiful and white.



### *Echinocereus scheeri*

- This plant’s flowers can be pink or orange.
- Its flowers open in the late afternoon.
- This one is my favourite plant.

I hope you enjoyed visiting my grandma’s garden with me.

# Dragonfruit

Isobel Rose Smallwood

---

Dragonfruit grows on the *Hylocereus* cactus which can also be referred to as the Honolulu queen.

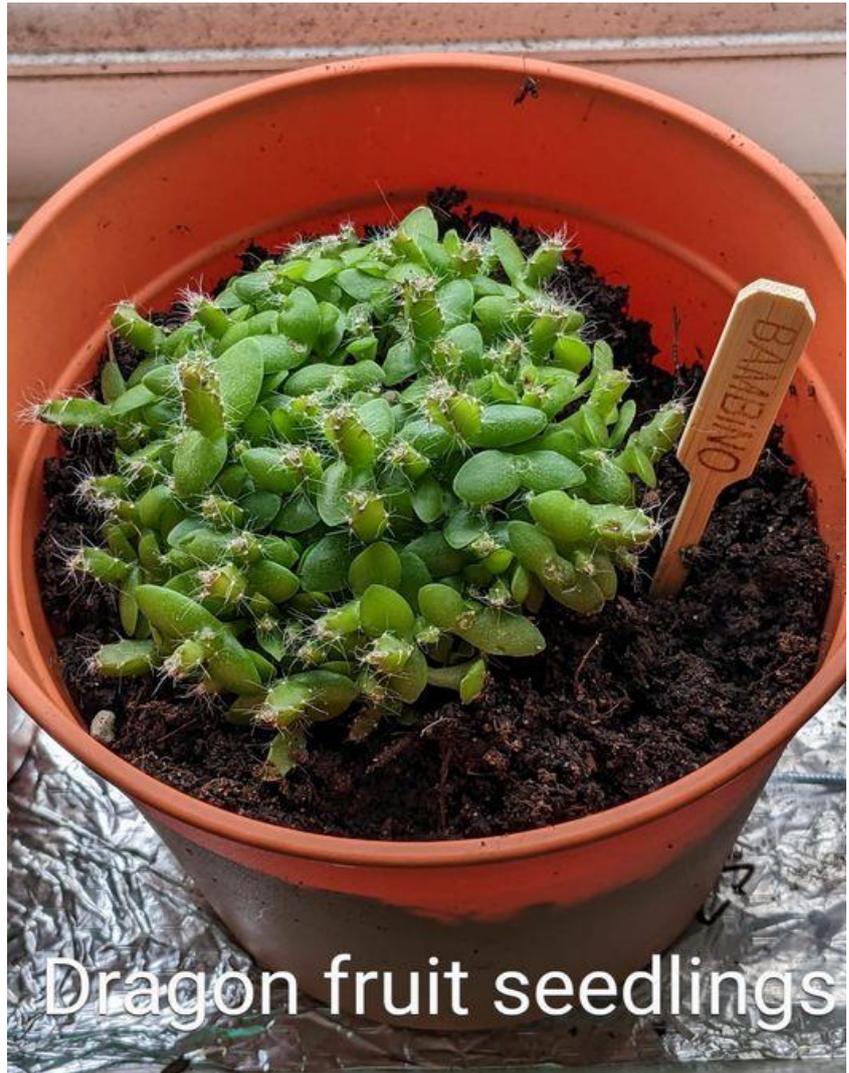
The plant is native to South Mexico and Central America. It's a climbing cactus and doesn't like to climb up smooth surfaces. It prefers nutrient rich soil that drains well.

The cactus also prefers a little shade instead of direct sunlight.

Temperature wise the *Hylocereus* cactus is a subtropical cactus that thrives in 26 degrees Celsius to 29 degrees Celsius (roughly 80 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit).

It can survive a light frost, not preferable. The *Hylocereus* cactus needs lots of water. Although it doesn't like to have its

roots soaked in water, it has aerial roots that get nutrients from the air. It's best to water it when the top of the soil is dry.



# The Star of the Greenhouse – *Astrophytum*

James Waldek

---

*Astrophytum* is a genus of small slow growing Mexican cacti. Most of them will flower quite easily. It has been said that they cannot tolerate temperatures below 5 - 10°C, but all of mine survived -7°C. But don't freeze your cacti! If you want to start growing Astros then *A. myriostigma* is a good one to start with.

***A. myriostigma*** has many variants and cultivars. It usually has 5 ribs but there is a cultivar that has 4. Ideally it should be kept above 0°C. It should not be watered in winter, or it will rot.

1. *A. myriostigma*



Feed once every two weeks from mid-April to September.



2. *A. myriostigma* cv. *fukuryu*



1. *A. myriostigma* "Harlequin"

Another species worth noting is ***A. asterias***.

*A. asterias* has a varied number of ribs and looks like a sea urchin. It has the same care requirements as *A. myriostigma*.



It also has tons of cultivars – so many that I don't have the original species, just two different varieties!

# A Book Review of *The Night Flower*

Emma Doorduyn

---

*The Night Flower* by Lara Hawthorne is a picture book about a flowering saguaro cactus. It describes what happens when the flower attracts pollinators at night. The text rhymes and the pictures are funny and full of interesting details.

I liked that the author includes the Latin names of all the plants and animals in the book, and not just the common names.

I also enjoyed the section at the back where they tell you fun facts about the desert animals in the pictures.

Some interesting facts I learned:

- It is pronounced SA-WAH-RO (/sə'waɪrɔʊ/).
- Its botanical name is *Carnegiea gigantea*.
- The saguaro grows its first arm at around 100 years old!

- Its pollinators include flying bats, moths and even doves.
- It takes 10 years to grow 2.5 cm tall.
- It flowers for only one night a year.

I liked reading this book and recommend it to anyone who likes learning about succulents.



# Puzzle Pages

Jonty Peevor

Q1: Are all succulents also cacti?

Yes, succulents and cacti are different names for the same thing

No, all cacti are succulents but there are some succulents that aren't cacti

Yes, all succulents are cacti but there are some cacti that aren't succulents

Q2: Does the *Plantae* kingdom include cacti and succulents?

Yes

No, just cacti

No, just succulents

Q3: Which of these are real plants?

*Graptoveria*

*Notocactus*

*Carnegiea*

*Brassica*

*Epillaria*

*Echinocactus grusonii*

Q4: True or false?

A *Carnegiea gigantea* held the record for most arms on a cactus.

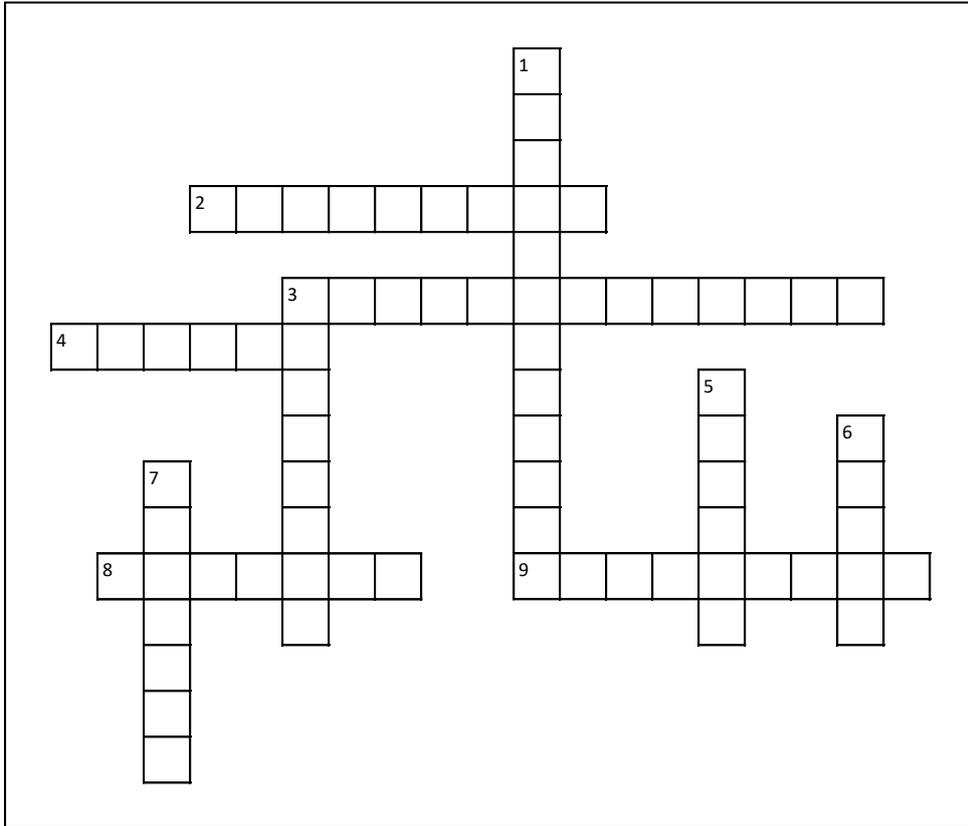
The tallest homegrown cactus is 3.5m tall

atacama  
succulent  
haworthia  
bud  
winter  
spring  
hibernate  
flower  
echinocactus  
spine  
water

spidermite  
fungus  
cacti  
growth  
gnat  
root  
rot  
grusonii  
gigantea  
graptoveria

Anagrams

DUB  
FLEA  
PINES  
UNCLE CUTS  
HEAVE RICE  
BREATHE IN  
MERITED SIP



- 1 genus of cactus whose name means spiny cactus (12)
- 2 rosette-forming succulent from Central and South America (9)
- 3 succulent with pale speckled leaves and star shaped flowers (13 across)
- 3 the last name of a golden barrel cactus (8 down)
- 4 part of a cactus that looks pretty (6)
- 5 a plant with spines and a stem adapted to store water (6)
- 6 part of a cactus that reduces air flow to reduce water loss (5)
- 7 succulent found on Mexico's coat of arms (7)
- 8 the thing that emerges from a plant just before a flower (7)
- 9 a plant with thickened, fleshy parts designed to store water (5)

Q1: No, all cacti are succulents but there are some succulents that aren't cacti. Q2: Yes. Q3: All of them except Euphorbia. Q4: A) T B) F. The tallest homegrown cactus according to the Guinness Book of Records is 33.5m tall and grows in India.

# HSC News

## The Production Team

Since the start of 2023, the HSC has opened a new branch at NorMonday Group. Below are some pictures taken from the first meeting – a show! It was put on because the show that should have happened the previous term didn't get around to happening.



## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

Reuben Roelofse

Lukas Doorduyn

Emma Doorduyn

Tessa Schoonraad

Emma Esser

Issy Esser

Isobel Rose Smallwood



The Journal of the Home ed Succulent Club