

# THE AMATEURS' DIGEST

## A one of a kind garden

## A one of a kind gardener

From our January 2010 issue

Photos & Comments: Rosi & Jürgen Lenz, Australia



**At a young 96 years of age, Mr. H tends his cacti & succulents**

We visited a friend in South Australia recently (September 2009). He just had his **96th birthday** this month. He lives by himself in his house in the middle of a magnificent Cactus and Succulent Garden. The property is around 3 acres. He still looks after his plants and has no intention of slowing down. That's where I found the *Pachycereus pringlei* pictured here alongside lots of other giant plants. Unfortunately our friend can't remember how old the plant is. He said that it must be more than 25 years old.

About 12 years ago he decided he was getting too old and had to slow down. So he sold most of his large plants to a landscaping firm. They came all the way from Sydney (1300 km) with a big truck and picked them up. So this is what's left. Still impressive, isn't it?

He still comes every year to our annual Cactus and Succulent Show in Adelaide about 300 km from where he lives. He is always on the lookout for new plants. I have never met anybody like him. He is a very generous person. We never leave his place without being given many new plants for our garden. ❖

*A one of a kind garden ...*



Proud gardener admires his mounds of flowering Lampranthus



A variety of cacti and Aloe



Cleistocactus species



Oreocereus species



A variety of cacti & succulents

*A one of a kind garden ...*



**Espostoa sp. on the far right**



**Polaskia chichipe**  
Large plant in the middle  
of the photo



**Pachycereus marginatus**



*A one of a kind garden ...*



**Aloe species**



**Let's hope the support holds!**



**Pot grown  
Pachycereus pringlei**



**This is the top of the pot plant shown in the picture far left.**

**Jürgen says:**

**Look what I found!** →

Isn't this a fine specimen of a *Pachycereus pringlei*? The upper part is totally free of spines whereas the lower part looks very vicious. It seems that with age only the lower part of the plant has spikes.

You can't really see them in the photo but there are woolly bits which turn into flowers soon. ❖



**Pachycereus pringlei**