



Cactus Country, As Far as the Eye Can See

Jim Hall, Photography by Emma Perry  Strathmerton, Australia



— In a small country town in Victoria, Australia, one man's fascination with cacti and succulents has grown far beyond its envisioned proportions. Jim Hall and his wife Julie took over Cactus Country when Hall's father was in search of a suitable bidder for his unique collection in 1979. With no gardening experience up their sleeves, the couple decided to take the leap and approach the garden as a business opportunity. Nonetheless, Cactus Country is a collection grown from love; from the beginning, Jim was fascinated by visitors' reactions

to the varied cacti—their odd shapes, and their shades of green, yellow, and pink dotting the landscape. The couple propagated new seeds and planted a variety of larger species over four years, taking on side jobs at local orchards, and growing strawberries and tomatoes to finance their dream of turning the garden into a tourist attraction. In 1984 the couple purchased an additional cactus collection. Today, Cactus Country covers over 40,000-square-meters of land with over 3,000 different plant species. —