

BROMELETTER

**THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

Issue: Volume 51 Number 1- January/February, 2013.

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**The Secretary, Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.,
P.O. Box 340, RYDE NSW 2112.**

Please Note

**BROMELIAD plants will be on sale at the Club
from 12.30 p.m. before the monthly meeting.**

MEETING VENUE AND TIME

**SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE
BURWOOD R. S. L. CLUB,**

Cnr. Shaftesbury Road and Clifton Avenue, Burwood.

**Meetings commence at 1.00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Rooms/
Auditorium.**

MEETINGS PROGRAM

January 12, 2013

**Show and Tell - Members
Talk:**

February 09, 2013

**Show and Tell - Members
Annual General Meeting**

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 15-18, 2013

'Cool Broms' NZ Bromeliad Conference, Auckland,
New Zealand..

Register your interest now at coolbroms@bsnz.org

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President Ian's Mobile:
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- Payment details (membership renewal, book purchase, postage, etc.) with \$A amounts for each item.



**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
2013.**

REMINDER!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

FEBRUARY 09, 2013.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Annual General Meeting of

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.

will be held on Saturday, February 09, 2013 at the Burwood RSL Club at 1.00 p.m.

At each Annual General Meeting "all elected office bearers..... shall retire and the meeting shall elect members to fill the positions (Rule 25) as set out in Rule 17".

{Rule 17 states that the Management Committee of the Society shall be not less than seven (7) and not more than twelve (12) members (called Office Bearers).

The President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Candidates for each position on the Committee must be nominated and seconded, such nominations to be signed by each nominator and nominee and to be in the hands of the Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting. The last date for the receipt of nominations by mail will be

Friday, January 19th, 2013.

Only members whose subscriptions are paid up for 2013 will be eligible to vote (Rule 32).

Members wishing to stand for positions on the Executive Committee and other Offices within the Society should obtain the relevant form from the Secretary. They should ensure that the form is completed appropriately and in the hands of the Secretary not later than Friday, January 19th, 2013 if delivered by post or Saturday, January 20th, 2013 if delivered by hand.

AGENDA:

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

President's Annual Report.

Treasurer's Annual Financial Report.

Election of Officers.

Matters arising from the above.

General Business will be discussed at the General Meeting held on the same day as the A.G.M

CHANGE TO SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the October Meeting it was decided change the Annual Subscription for the 2013 year and onwards, effective immediately

This change is the first for some years.

The new rates are as follows:

Joining Fee \$ 5.00

Membership \$ 20.00

Overseas Members:

Asia/Pacific Zone:

\$ 30.00 New Zealand, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines.

Rest of World Zone

\$ 35.00 Europe, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA.

All the above rates include postage.

Please note that Members who join between October 1st and December 31st are covered for the next calendar year.

What a relief to learn this...

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was?

Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.

It's not aging, it's the door!

Thank goodness for studies like these....

Auckland, New Zealand
Friday, March 15 – Monday March 18, 2013

• **World class presenters** already confirmed: Elton Leme, Brazil; Jose Manzanares, Ecuador; Michael Kiehl, USA; Nigel Thomson, Australia; Andrew Maloy, NZ and Hawi Winter, NZ.

• **Garden tours** on both the conference Saturday and Sunday afternoons...see our 'cool broms' at their very best.

• **Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre.** 4 star accommodation in a relaxing garden setting just 15 minutes from Auckland International Airport and the same distance from Auckland CBD. To enquire or book special conference accommodation rates go to www.waipunahotel.co.nz and click on 'Enquiries'.

• **Conference rates and 'Early Bird' offer.**

• Registration

includes conference breakfast on Saturday, conference banquet on Sunday night, morning teas and lunches and garden tours.

• **'Early Bird' – before March 31, 2012 NZ\$260pp**

• **April 1– December 31, 2012 NZ\$280pp**

• **After December 31, 2012 NZ\$300pp**

• **Do it online!** It's easy, go to www.bsnz.org and click on 'CoolBroms Earlybird' or email us: coolbroms@bsnz.org

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Months

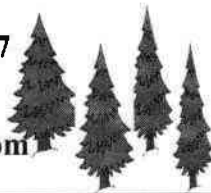
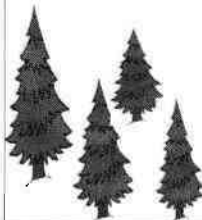
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SHOW & TELL
NOVEMBER, 2012.

Werner Raff commenced the Show and Tell segment with an unnamed plant but it was not long before a chorus of voices proclaimed it as a *Dyckia*, *Dyckia* 323, from Gordon Ramsay's collection. It has orange-colored flowers.

Werner then produced a CD on a wire hook. These he hangs up among his broms and, by swivelling around in the breeze and reflecting flashes of light, he has found that it is an excellent method of keeping birds away from his plants. In reply to a question, he stated quite emphatically that it is not designed to keep rabbits away! Next he mentioned that some older members who, while bringing along beautiful flowering broms to our competitions over the years, now have found it necessary to reduce their collections considerably, due to advancing years and/or to moving into units or similar accommodation much smaller than they had in the past. Werner asked other members who have good flowering plants, to bring them along to our meetings, not to show off but to share their beauty with the other members of the Society. He held up a *Tillandsia imperialis* which he likes very much, plus some other plants which he did not enter in the competition because they are too damaged to win prizes but which are worthy of being seen. He urged members not to be shy about bringing in beautiful flowering plants for showing; it does not matter if they don't win prizes, they really should be shared.

Debbie Martin was next, with a *Tillandsia iolantha* which is just coming into flower.

This reminded **President Ian** of something which has cropped up in our Shows recently. It is a problem regarding the practical definition of what sort of plant represents a 'Colony' in certain classes in our Shows. In the Rules we need to define exactly what a 'Colony' means and what it means is a shoot coming from a single plant and all the others in that pot are connected to the original plant. Quite often we see plants that we know grow on stolons 15 cms. long; in a large pot, you may have one in the centre and two opposite, and each of them might have two more pups and you have a lovely big pot. But what is really going on?

When we see that plant coming in to the competition and the three shoots in the centre are only 5cms. apart, they are obviously not connected and equally obviously, they are not from the original intention of what we mean by a 'Colony'.

A 'Colony' is when the shoots are still connected; they are growing naturally, still connected, all from the one parent to the children and the grand-children and so on. It makes it harder; it is a lovely plant and it is a lovely pot when you arrange a lot of pots together, but it does not fit our definition of 'Colony', which is a lot harder to achieve

(Continued on Page 8)

Show and Tell, November, 2012.

Continued from Page 7)

and be judged accordingly. So we are going to have to pass on the message to our judges that if people start coming up with things which obviously do not ring true, they will either be disqualified or we will make sure that they don't win. They might be lovely plants but we only have 20 groups. They could try putting the plant in the Artistic Competition, even giving it a fancy name; that is where it probably belongs, rather than in a 'Colony' class.

It is the same when we say 'Specimen'. A 'Specimen' means one plant of one species. If it has a small pup which obviously can't be taken off yet, that doesn't worry us. But if you have one pot, one specimen plant with one species in the middle and you decorate it with mulch and usenoides, it might perhaps look really lovely and might have great 'wow!' factor, but it is not a specimen which a judge should be asked to consider on the quality of the plant basis. So watch out for that rule on the 'Colony' in particular, as we will be asking the judges to be tough on it.

Ron Farrugia showed a plant, *Aechmea filicaulis*, which he had brought in to our October meeting. It had produced a long inflorescence with lots of flower buds but they had not opened and are still not open a month later. although they have become bigger and swelled up. If they have opened up and are still looking good by the December meeting, he will bring it in again. It looks to be very weak, but it is a tough plant, doesn't like the cold and is grown in Ron's hothouse. He bought it from Michael Ferenczi in February, 2009.

Secretary Marilyn Heaps reported that she has been having trouble with birds which are ripping plants out of their pots. Recently she potted up some broms and in next to no time they had all been taken apart. President Ian has had similar problems with a Currawong which lives nearby and, by watching his plants, he found out what was going on. The bird would remove the labels and throw them around the place, then it would attack the plants. In some cases, the whole pot was gone, he would take it over the fence. Ian selected one pot to act as a sacrifice; he would always put it on the side of the path. The bird would always attack that one if it did not like the color of the label which was in it.

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Continued from Page 8)

After he did some reading up on this behaviour and took to watching what was going on, it turned out that the bird would tap the pot with its beak. If there were curl grubs in the pot and they wriggled around, or worms or lizards that made a noise, the bird would attack the pot. Ian actually watched the bird while it was going around tapping the pots and when it heard a noise, it would smash open that pot and there would be curl grubs everywhere. Ron Farrugia came back into the conversation and said that with potting mix, there could already be eggs in it and when you use it in a pot, the eggs will hatch out and within a week you will have mature grubs. A low fence, about 20 cms. high will usually restrict the birds.

Keith Ryde mentioned that a small engraving tool from Jaycars does a good job with names on old Venetian blind slats. The names last much longer than most permanent pens or pencils. HB Stabilo pencils are good too.

The session concluded with President Ian presenting the trophies to the winners of the main awards at our Spring Show.

Some dates of upcoming events to go to...

13 July 2013 - Special 50th Anniversary of the BSA celebrations.
Please start contacting all of our respected older Bromeliad heroes and invite them along.

Ian.

Treasurer's Report – (1):

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our
Operating Account to September 30 2012:

Brought Forward	\$15,144.92
Plus Income:	656.86
Less expenses	67.25
Bank Statement as at 30/09/2012:	\$15,734.53

NEOREGELIA CARCHARODON NOW 'BLUE SHARK'

02/08

DD0208

1996 was a vintage year because it was when Len Colgan and myself went to Orlando to the World Bromeliad Conference. I was especially after a true *Neoregelia fosteriana* and a true *N. carcharodon* and Harry Luther had written that both were in Florida, admittedly side by side with wrongly named ones - it depended where you looked! At Pineapple Place I saw both species but when nobody was looking I poked around the inflorescence of *N. fosteriana* and convinced myself it was not compound and was thus incorrectly named. The *N. carcharodon* was the 'Rubra' that Harry said was true and it looked so good I just had to have one. I bought a *N. carcharodon* which was an offset (not a seedling) and it survived quarantine but took lots of years to acclimatise. It would not flower but each offset did look as if it was getting used to Adelaide. In 2006 an offset went to Peter Tristram in NSW and in 2007 another offset went to Mick Romanowski in Melbourne.

I was somewhat surprised when, in Jan 2008, Peter Tristram sent me photos of the plant in flower and with blue petals. Panic! Petals are supposed to be white!

Off to Harry Luther for advice. Plant not *N. carcharodon* but he did say *N. carcharodon* was on the BSI seed list in the 1990's. As Bill Morris instilled in me years ago, "Seed-raisers must always analyse their results!" Alas few do so!

This plant with the blue flowers needs a cultivar name and what better than 'Blue Shark', the 'blue' to cover the error as well as the colour of the petals and 'Shark' to link it to 'carcharodon'.

Even though I got my offset so long ago, there is a great chance that plants called *Neoregelia carcharodon* are still lurking in Florida 'waters' waiting to catch the unwary. It is possible that it could also have been imported to Queensland.

So when next your *N. carcharodon* flowers, please check the petal colour which should be white.

by Derek Butcher

PUYA BERTERONIANA

On Sunday 4th November about 20 members headed up to Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens in search of the *Puya berteroniana* which was in flower (it was easier to find than the BBQ). Among the beautiful Proteas and other plants in flower, the Puya was the star attraction with its hundreds of blue/green flowers on large stalks. Overall the plants are about two metres high. A sausage sizzle and various delicious cakes were enjoyed before everyone went off to enjoy the rest of the gardens or back to marvel at the beauty of the Puya.

Anne Bray

See Photos taken by Anne on Page 12.

Plants of the Month November, 2012

Open

First
Second
Third

Judge's Choice.

Robyn Firth	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Ro Ro'
David Scott	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Apricot Nectar'
Robyn Firth	<i>Canistrum triangulare</i>

Open

First
Second
=Second
Third

Members' Choice

Robyn Firth	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Ro Ro'
David Scott	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Apricot Nectar'
Werner Raff	<i>Tillandsia schiedeana</i>
Michael Ferenczi	<i>Vriesea ospinae</i>

Novice

First.
Second
Third

Judge's Choice

Joy Clark	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Pacific Blue'
Joy Clark	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Simplex Rubra'
Julie Evans	<i>Canistrum triangulare</i>

Novice

First.
Second
Third

Members' Choice

John Campbell	<i>Billbergia amoena</i>
Joy Clark	<i>Tillandsia</i> 'Pacific Blue'
Joy Clark	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Simplex Rubra'

Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition

First	Robyn Firth	Hummingbirds.
-------	-------------	---------------

Anne Bray's Photos of Puya berteroniana at Mt. Tomah on November 4th.



Bee for scale.



Bird for scale



Still to open



Forming a stalk



Opening



The Garden



Puya berteroniana



Billbergia Collevii. See article on Page 17 by Derek Butcher.



President Ian and Joe Micallef with Joe's Grand Champion Trophy for the 2012 Spring Show.



See article on Page 18 by Derek Butcher..



David Scott with the Reserve Champion Trophy for the 2012 Spring Show



Robyn Firth's 'Humming Birds' First in the Margaret Draddy Artistic Competition, November, 2012.



Vriesea simplex rubra Novice 2nd Judges, 3rd Members, Joy Clark.



Tillandsia schiedeana Open Equal 3rd, Members Werner Raff.

**COLLECTING IN BRASIL
WITH SLIDES.**

Ruby's presentation commenced with the following introduction :-

My talk today is a 'pot pourri' of my travels to Brazil, a country very close to my heart. My chance came in 1985, when I was invited to join Brazilian friends, who were going home for Christmas.

As Brazil has the biggest number of bromeliad species and varieties :-

How could I refuse !!!!

We arrived at Rio de Janeiro at night and the famous Christ figure, on the peak of Corcovado mountain, was a sight to behold.

This monument, 120 + feet (40 metres), has a chapel beneath and is accessible by train or road. After landing at the International Airport we settled into our overnight accommodation, then a further flight took us to Belo Horizonte, the capital of the state of Minas Gerais, then by bus to Ipatinga, finally on to Santana de Paraiso, which was to be our base. Over the years this lovely little village has been stripped of many of its natural plant life, but I was able to get a small quantity to bring home.

We had a lot more success on later trips in other areas.

Ruby then turned to her slides, skilfully revealing the delights of Rio :-

- Christ the redeemer figure
- Ipanema beach. The very brief attire of local beach belles certainly spurred the interest of the male members, much to the amusement of the female members present.
- A cable car ride to and from Sugarloaf (a mountain of rock on the edge of Guaranara Bay).

Again Ruby caused amusement when she explained her fear of heights (vertigo), overcome by two of the local white rums at the first level and another at the summit, which enabled her to ride at the very front of the cable car on the down trip.

- A double-decker road, running south from Rio , extinguishing the concept of a '3rd. world country'.
- 'Carnivale', which was good timing to be present at.

Ruby then interspersed with further slides covering :-

- Her base (1985), with her Brazilian friends .
- A visit to Elton Leme's summer home, where she and Keith were guests over Easter, 1996.
- Visits to Renato Belo's home and collection.
- Visit to Roberto Menescal's home and collection.

(Continued on Page 15)

Collecting in Brasil:

(Continued from Page 14)

- A visit to Luis Carlos and Sergio Gurken, finders of *gurkennii* and many other species and their collection.
- A visit to the home of Bishop Sleichman and his collection.
- A visit to the ranch and huge collection of Dr. Jones Calvas da Silva in Porto Alegre in the southern state of Brazil, Rio Grande de Sul.
- A privileged visit to and a one-hundred km. safari with Roberto Kautsky (since deceased),, collecting in the rain forest and a really physically exhausting exercise it turned out to be (now not permitted). Roberto also included a trip up and around his private mountain, where he has stored over 100 thousand bromeliads saved from the relentless push of clearing development.

Keith commented that Roberto Kautsky spoke very little English and Ruby spoke even less Brazilian/Portuguese, but **they both spoke fluent bromeliad!**

Last but not least a highlight :-

- A flight to Manaus and an excursion up-river on the mighty Amazon.
- Elton Leme organised a private trip in Miguel's boat for Ruby and Keith, with their own captain, cook and guide.
- Ruby pointed out that, at Manaus, the Solims joins the Rio Negra to become the Amazon and the colours, black and brown, flow side by side for approximately 10 kms.
- Ruby's interest here was the flooded forest of Margaret Mee fame, where the 100 foot tall trees only have their tops above the water and the Amazon at this point is over 15 kms. Wide

Keith slipped in a couple of slides of him fulfilling his wish of swimming in the Amazon. Ruby again caused laughter with the remark that the piranhas spat him out. On her return to Rio, she presented an astonished Elton Leme with the many species she had collected, explaining that they would not survive in our Sydney climate.

Ruby concluded with a slide depicting a scene which upset her a great deal: 'slash and burn' of a whole hillside.

At the conclusion of her talk, many members took the opportunity to congratulate her on her in-depth presentation of the home of bromeliads which are now gathering favour in our community.

Others said that they were in awe of her adventurous spirit.

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Billbergia Collevii
DD0805.

Billbergia Collevii

cv. of *amoena* x *vittata*, Van Geert.

Since the early 1970's I have been trying to get a good photo of a plant called *Billbergia* 'Collevii'. My plant never flowered and yet for 30 years I was hearing reports of flowering but alas no photos for me to examine. It was in the 1980's that I started to look closely at *Billbergia* 'Chas Webb', which had been guessed as a (*amoena* x *vittata*) hybrid, and at what were the real differences between it and *Billbergia* 'Breauteana', a hybrid made in 1884 in France. The parents of *Billbergia* 'Breauteana' are quoted as (*pallescens* x *vittata*) and we know that *Billbergia pallescens* became *Billbergia amoena*. I could find no differences and convinced myself at least, that *Billbergia* 'Breauteana' had come to Australia as an unknown, early in the 1900's.

In my investigations into this saga I bumped into *Billbergia* 'Collevii', which was a hybrid (*amoena* x *leopoldi*) done in the late 1800's using the same parentage, when we realised that *Billbergia leopoldi* is now *Billbergia vittata*! If we follow Chevalier - See Bromeliad Cultivar register - the plants look similar and have blue petals.

In 2000 I got a photo from Ruby Ryde which really had me wondering because here was a plant with clear traits of a *Billbergia amoena* - which is one of the parents of *Billbergia* 'Collevii'. This feeling was confirmed recently when I got a photo from George Rudolph - see on Page 13 - and I decided something must be reported.

I have never seen self-set seed on my various *Billbergia* 'Chas Webb' and wonder if it ever does because, to my mind, what we are growing as *Billbergia* 'Collevii' is really 'Collevii F2'.

I will be making a note in the Cultivar register but making no attempt to give a new name to it as I usually suggest. The name 'Collevii' has been too long associated with the *amoena*-looking plant for it to be willingly altered to a new name by ALL who have the plant.

Just remember the problem if you try to identify a hybrid from the parents listed!

Derek Butcher

Billbergia, Quesnelia, xBillnelia, or Aechmea Pinegrove Lass ?

by Derek Butcher 02/08b

DD0208b

A new broom sweeps clean. Ever since Ross Little took over the reins at Pinegrove I have been peppered with identity problems and this latest is a humdinger! Think of a plant that has been grown for over 125 years and now surfaces!

First, Ross got Bruce Dunstan to take a photo of an odd looking plant that he thought was reminiscent of *Aechmea lasseri*. I agreed with this guess but the plant had blue petals. So I tried it out on the Internet. Walter Till said, "Hybrid!" but Harry Luther stunned me by saying *Billbergia viridiflora x liboniana*. You see he had a copy of a painting done in 1885 for Morren and a copy of the copy is shown here. Investigation was needed! (See photo on P13). In 1885 this was just a *Billbergia* hybrid that Morren didn't even bother to name. This is what I translated from the French in Belg. Hort 35: 251. 1885

"A *Billbergia viridiflora* hybrid by *Billbergia Liboniana* provided the fertile seeds whose progeny has just decorated with flowers at the Liege Botanical Garden. They are interesting in that they combine many of the characters of their parents, but are deprived absolutely of the aesthetic advantages that could make it desired in horticulture.

In 1922 we know that *Billbergia liboniana* became a *Quesnelia*!

In 1942 in Chevalier's Catalogue we find that this plant had been given the name of 'Sebastian Laruelle'.

In 1979 the name appears in the 'International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids' as *xBillque* 'Sebastian Laruelle' but nothing else. The name *xBillque* is invalid and has since been replaced by *xBillnelia*.

How had the plant got to Pinegrove in the first place? Harry tells me that early in the 1980's he received an unknown plant from Texas – he thinks! It was not an impressive plant and was not accessioned into Selby Gardens records. However, Ros Buchanan sent a 'chunk' back to Pinegrove Nursery in Australia where it has happily grown since. Apparently the Selby plant died and Harry does not want a replacement. In his words he says, "A dead ringer for the Morren plant. I can only expect this thing is the oldest bad hybrid in existence!"

Here, I have to disagree with Harry in that I would drop the 'existence' because even in 1885 it was considered 'deprived' and I think its origins are more likely to be in the 1970's in the USA. I cannot see this sort of hybrid surviving two World Wars or being a remake with this parentage. Our plant has leaves than can turn reddish in sunlight and has an inflorescence that is compound at the base, in line with *A. lasseri* and I feel is a hybrid of it. I have no idea if offsets from this plant have escaped from Pinegrove in the last 25 years but if they did AND you still have this plant you will know that it will be recorded in the Cultivar Register as *Aechmea* 'Pinegrove Lass'.

In addition, if this plant is still being grown in Texas or elsewhere perhaps someone can tell me its origins!

Vriesea morrenii

OR

Green on Green on Green.

by Derek Butcher .

DD0307

AND another thing, do not confuse this name with the hybrid 'Morreniana'! In the late 1980's Len Colgan imported a *Tillandsia segregata* from Bello's nursery in Brazil for Peter Tristram and which served its quarantine sentence at Peter's place. It survived and a few years later Len got an offset to grow on. However, Len decided it would not be easy to grow and the plant went up to northern Queensland never to be heard of again.

This information was not known to me when in August 2000 we acquired a *Vriesea morrenii* from Genny Vauhkonen. Subsequently we have found out that she got her plant from Peter Tristram. How did it get a name change? I can only assume it was because Peter Tristram saw that in 1994 DeRebus I page 29 the succinct note that *Tillandsia segregata* is now *Vriesea morrenii* according to an unpublished Supplement to Flora Neotropica. If you look at Flora Neotropica 1977 page 1141 under *Vriesea morrenii* you find the note "Edmundo Pereira in Rio de Janeiro has living material with wholly naked petals but otherwise indistinguishable from *Vriesea morrenii*. For the present I am regarding this as a reversion to a more primitive state." You will note that although Smith was aware that Pereira had published in 1971 the name *Tillandsia segregata* was not mentioned! We now know the reason for such statement. More on this later.

Genny commented, "It doesn't flower often!" If they had problems in this regard near Brisbane where it is sunny everyday and raining everynight, what chance did we have in Adelaide where it is sunny every day and dry everynight. But in Feb. 2007 (7 years later!) our plant decided to flower. It seems to be a plant that produces large vigorous offsets before flowering. When you have a plant that is 1m in diameter and flowers to nearly 2m high you need space. Admittedly while you wait for flowering you do have a lovely green leafy plant with dark lines and no prickles on the leaves.

So I was blithely assuming I had a *Vriesea morrenii* to butcher. Ever since I retired, I have been on the search for plant descriptions not in Flora Neotropica. This search increased apace when I got access to the Internet and could get details from little-known published papers. I now have descriptions of virtually all the Bromeliaceae. In the case of *T. segregata* it took a fair bit of fossicking to find that Pereira had described this new species in Rodriguesia in 1971 and thanks to Dr. Walter Till I got hold of a photocopy. Translation of the Latin and the Portuguese helped me understand what was going on.

(Continued on Page 20)

Vriesea morrenii**DD03/07***(continued from Page 19).*

We know that Lyman Smith split *Vriesea* and *Tillandsia* at genus level purely on the basis of petal appendages and yet in this instance he was prepared to forget his own philosophy! Luckily these days emphasis is less strong on the importance of petal appendages although it is said the presence or absence of these could be used to segregate at species level! As such I believe that we should have *T. segregata* resurrected perhaps as *Vriesea segregata* but leave it up to the Brazilian taxonomists. After all, Pereira in 1971 wrote strongly about the casual decision of Lyman Smith to consider his plant to be a *Vriesea*! As is natural, the Brazilians would follow a Brazilian taxonomist so this is why Len Colgan got his plant as *Tillandsia segregata*!

A copy of a drawing of *T. segregata* is shown here. The plant had been collected in the Organ Mountains in Rio de Janeiro. The description of *T. segregata* says yellow petals, whereas everything else was a variation on green so it must stand out! Alas, we missed the first flowerings with our plant because the petals were dark green. There are a few discrepancies between our plant and the description but nothing to suggest it was another described species. AND I could not find any petal appendages. So there are at least two plants around with this attribute – Pereira 10674 and ours!



Let us now have a quick look at *Vriesea morrenii* which was named in 1880. Alas, the herbarium specimen has been lost. In 1889 Baker treated it as *Tillandsia morreni* with no mention of petal appendages. In 1935 Mez records *Vriesea morrenii* with two appendages and by Flora Neotropica 1977 these appendages had become ovate! I am currently trying to find the protologue in 1880!! We know that Lyman Smith collected *V. morrenii* in 1952 in the Organ Mountains so the shape of the petal appendages could have come from here. The description is otherwise very similar to that of *T. segregata* except that it mentions irregular transverse dark green lines whereas Pereira says *T. segregata* has longitudinal folds. Our plant has both attributes.

This plant will continue to be grown in Australia if only as a non-prickly foliage plant but don't be disappointed with the greenness of the inflorescence! Reports around Australia from the SAME clone reveal an interesting phenomenon about the petal colour. We know that in Adelaide they are totally green but I have proof that in Melbourne at least one flower had totally yellow petals whereas in northern NSW they are yellow with green tips. Dare I ask that, if you are growing a plant of this name from a different source, you check for little appendages at the bottom of the petals to see if you have a TRUE *Vriesea morrenii* !



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We continue to attract new members into the Society and we would like to welcome

Ms Joy Wilson, Kurrajong.
 Mrs. Judith Amos, Cromer.
 Mrs. Donna Cornale, Bossley Park.
 Miss Olivia Cornale, Bossley Park.
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as our latest to come to admire, enjoy and learn about the wonderful world of Bromeliads.

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Treasurer's Report – (2):

Treasurer Alan Mathew gave the following details regarding our
Operating Account to October 31, 2012:

Brought Forward	\$15,734.53
Plus Income:	7,311.07
Less expenses	4,039,78
Bank Statement as at 31/10/2012:	\$19,005.82

LITERATURE

<u>TITLE</u>	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION COST (\$A)	POST/PACK (\$A)
Growing Bromeliads - 3rd. Edition.	Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.	\$10.00	\$6.00
Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden. Completely Revised Edition.	Andrew Steens	\$35.00	\$6.00
Bromeliads, A Cultural Manual.	BSI	\$5.00	\$2.00
Bromeletter Index—Sept/Oct,1979 -Nov/Dec 1989—Vols. 16 to 27.	Geoff Lawn / Derek Butcher	Contact Book Sales	
Bromeliads— The Connoisseur's Guide, 2007.	Andrew Steens	\$31.00	\$6.00



SEED BANK

The Seed Bank provides a service to members of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, supporters of the Seed Bank and other interested enthusiasts, for the collection and distribution of all types of Bromeliad seeds from local and overseas sources.

Seeds cost 50¢ per packet for Members and Seed Bank supporters (plus postage) or \$1 per packet (plus postage) for all other enquiries.

Enquiries for seeds should be directed, for the time being, to
Terry Davis

(02) 9636 6114 Or 0439 343 809 or

At 29 Saxon Place, Constitution Hill NSW 2145

Seeds of *Alcantarea geniculata*, *glaziouana* and *vinicolor*; *Aechmea bromeliifolia* var *albobracteata*; *Tillandsia heterophylla*
Are now available.

Thanks to D. and H. Martin, Laurie Mountford and Ron Farrugia, NSW, for their valuable contributions to the Seed Bank.

Thank you, Supporters of the Seed Bank.

A continued supply of fresh seed is constantly required by the Seed Bank to ensure that the Bromeliad needs of tomorrow will be met.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Renewal due January 1st for membership year January to December.

Membership: Australia A\$20

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