

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Born 1977 and still offsetting!



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Web site: <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions – 1st Sunday in May, &
August & no meeting in December or
unless advised otherwise



Neoregelia Little Debbie (Skotak)

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME**

Pots, Labels & Hangers - Small quantities available all meetings.

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876

Meeting dates:-

2011 dates:- Jan 16th (Cannot get in on Jan 9th!!!), Feb 13, Mar 13, Apl 10, May 1 (Bus trip to Bute),
June 12, July 10, Aug 7, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13

Special Events:- Mar 26 & 27 Show, Sat. October 29 Sales day

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb to Feb.



November Show and Sales from the Secretary's desk

There was a small display but mainly it was Sales day

What is a worse catastrophe than global warning? Colin Waterman buying tickets for the raffle and not winning a prize. I was advised to break this news to you by one of the 4 musketeers who waited so patiently throughout the opening hours of 9am to 2pm and a bit. Only once or twice were they seriously challenged with work and this was in the morning. You see they were placed there to take money from those who bought plants. I sat opposite with the Jarretts encouraging people to buy raffle tickets. How did we go, well, we sold over \$70 of bits of paper whereas the Musketeers sold almost 100 times that amount. So financially our sales day was a success. But there was the perennial problem – too many plants for too few buyers. It is certainly a buyers market.

You would expect that the keenest buyers would be Society members but I am sure they must be satiated by plants available at meetings, so the only ones we saw were those who attended to lend a hand but only a few actually landed a job. Even if you did not get a Guernsey I would like to thank you for coming along if only to give us moral support.

The next keenest buyers should be those on our direct mailing list. I can't remember who thought up the idea but Adam has for years now administered the system where we now direct-mail over 600 people. We know they grow Bromeliads because they put their names down on a list at one of our shows and we know they are the first come through the doors at opening time WITH their obligatory pre-planned cardboard box. What we forgot was that these people are the same as us and you soon have more Bromeliads than you bargained for. So we should have warned those on the list that they needed to re-enlist or they would be automatically removed. No different I suppose to us only keeping tabs on our financial members! Anyway, 90% failed to roll up this November. How can you find out the keen ones and the lesser keen ones? One idea being mooted is to give a discount on sales if they produce their letter which means attendance could be noted. This would be self-defeating in the long run because everyone would want to be on the mailing list! It does mean that lateral thinking is going on with your committee.

The next keenest are those gardeners who read the gardening pages in the Messenger and we try to do this only once a year for our main March Show. I would include here, those who use the Internet to find us. We used to send invitations to the various plant clubs around Adelaide but went cold on the idea when we realised that similar invitations from other plants groups inevitably found their way back to the Sec's wpb. The next are those who actually listen to Gardening Shows on the Radio.

Finally we have the plebs out there somewhere who may be thinking of something to do that weekend. In other words general advertising, which is very hard to judge success-wise. It is very hit and miss. The cost does not matter but it is frustrating to whoever goes to the trouble to organise an advertisement only to find nothing happened!

Availability of good quality bromeliads in Adelaide outside the Society is poor and we are always warning of the pitfalls to be watched for, in importing plants from Queensland and Ebay. The only nursery in Adelaide that does supply a few bromeliads is Precision Nurseries but they haven't changed their stock for 20 years. You may pick up plants at high prices from the likes of Bunnings especially when they are in flower. Remember here that these plants are cheaper than a bunch of flowers and last longer. If you want offsets then you must replant and **continue** with some fertilizing routine. The plant has used up the entire nutrient in flowering!! Those of us who use a minimum of fertilizer know our plants take longer to flower and longer to die!

Sellers can, of course, branch out on their own, knowing there is little competition IF there is a demand for Bromeliads. In reality, we cannot expect Bromeliads to always be flavour of the month.

For 2011 we do have some changes including a new Secretary and a new slant to publicity but something you must remember is that we will have our Sales day scheduled on Sat. October 29th.

We had planned to stay open until 3pm but such was the dearth of customers that we closed shop at 2.30. Some even left plants behind ready for the Christmas break-up the following day.



November meeting from the Secretary's desk

Starting 30 minutes early is a good idea for this last meeting for the year because we must have extra time to eat afternoon tea. Phyllis Rudolph's cream puffs were up to her usual standard. There was a rumour that the first batch was not up to scratch and George had to finish them off at home. Even so, the exotic did attract some. It was said to be a fruit but nobody would tell me its exotic name, so it goes unrecorded.



There were a few plants on display notably a male *Hechtia tillandsioides*, well we think it is this species because we like to believe we are clever in realising that if it is like a Tillandsia then it has no teeth on the leaves. In reality there are 3 or 4 species with this attribute and which the Mexican Botanists are currently reviewing. For those with tender skin this is a species worth growing. Len was able to show us some examples of what Chester Skotak has been up to. Remember that he was at the last World Brom Conference in New Orleans. It is now over 20 years ago when the avalanche of large variegated Neoregelias started to emerge from Costa Rica. Now it seems we can expect the same only with miniatures. 30 years ago variegated Neoregelias were rare but are almost commonplace these days. As Bill Treloar points out that if you grow all your variegates together, it can easily become boring, but grow them amongst your greens, reds, spotted's and they really stand out. So be selective in your buying.

Many had brought in two offsets and had been handed their tickets for the big draw that went off without a hitch. AND so to the Grand auction where the emphasis is fun AND getting a good plant at a bargain price – unless you had a determined someone bidding against you! From what I could see the final prices were fair. It was also interesting that so many of our newer members took advantage of the opportunities. All they have to remember with their offsets is that at this time of the year you treat them as you would a rooted plant only with a little less water.

Sample of Neoregelia variegates- remember that offsets will be slightly different



Neoregelia 'Absolutely Fabulous'



Neoregelia 'Aeon Flux' photo by Michael Andreas

Sample of Neoregelia variegates cont:



Neoregelia 'Baby Skotak' photo by Ray Coleman



Neoregelia 'Bevie Bee'



Neoregelia Bill Morris variegated



Neoregelia 'Bird Rock'



Neoregelia Blast



Neoregelia 'Cherry Ripe'



© Michael Andreas

Neoregelia 'Harvey's Jewel'

Entered by John Anderson

13th World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas July 1-5, 1998



Neoregelia 'Iris'
photo by R. Smythe

Neoregelia 'Iris'