

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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September, October & November 2012

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!'

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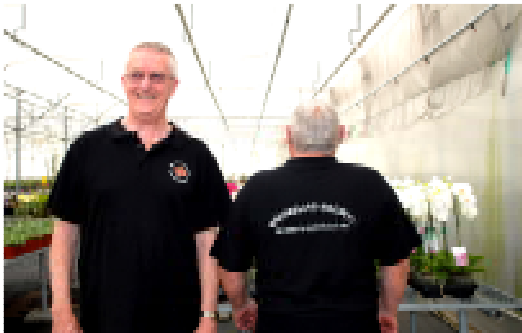


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Meetings Venue:

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

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME.**

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876

MEETING & SALES 2013 DATES: 13/1/2013 (Judging clinic), 10/2/13, **23/2/2013 & 24/2/2013**
SALES 10/3/13 (Summer Brag), 14/4/13 (Rare Genera), 5/5/13 **-1st Sunday**, 9/6/13, 14/7/13, 4/8/13 **-1st**
Sunday, (Winter brag), 8/9/13, 13/10/13, **26/10/13 & 27/10/13 SALES**, 10/11/13 (Pup auction, special
afternoon tea- bring plate of finger food to share, **earlier start** Committee 1230PM, General meeting 130PM

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb to Feb

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Bunnings Fathers Day evening

Several organisations participated in the Fathers day evening at Bunnings Woodville including Fern Society, Cymbidium Orchid club, Neutrog & Bromeliad Society of South Australia.

The display area was isolated in the building supplies area consequently the interest was very slow & disappointing, in contrast to the earlier Mothers day that was adjacent to the Gardening area and ideal as a promotional event.



Roving Reporter Sept 2012

Before the meeting I had a phone call from Colin Waterman who had this beaut *Billbergia* in flower. “What was its name because granddaughter had been helping with labels?” As you know, Colin does a lot of hand waving when describing things which is a great help on the phone. Anyway, I worked out that it was either *Billbergia vittata* or a hybrid of it. Colin promised to take its photo and this duly arrived with Colin at our meeting

Problem! It seemed to have influence of *B. amoena* in its make-up and the dense white powdery coating on the leaves suggested *B. ‘Silver Sheen’* or even *B. Platinum* but it did not seem right. We were allowed to take home one photograph for further investigations! Alas all the registered *B. vittata* x *B. amoena* hybrids have blue petals and yet here the petals are predominantly green with a blue tip just as you expect in the species *B. amoena*. So whatever name was on the lost tag would have been the wrong one because all we can say that it is a *Billbergia* hybrid with a bit of flavour from *B. vittata* and a bit from *B. amoena*. There is a moral to this story – somewhere!



Billbergia vittata or a hybrid of it.
(Photo by C. Waterman)

Roving Reporter Sept 2012 cont:

We had John Paynter from Neutrog telling about the range of products that are available. This company has been with us for many years now, out there at Kanmantoo, always experimenting with organic fertilizers. It would seem many members are joining the Pooh Bah Club from the interest shown in wanting entry forms. There is nothing specific designed for Bromeliads and we know that Peter Hall recommends Seamungus. This may be one of the reasons why he keeps winning prizes at our shows. This time, John gave us a challenge by handing out test samples where members are supposed to be guinea pigs and report on success or otherwise on the GoGo Juice and Kahoona pellets. Read the instructions well and do not go overboard with volumes because Bromeliads are known to grow well with the least help of manures. While the Kahoona pellets are recommended for acid loving plants adding them to a bromeliad potting mix may not be out of order especially if you rely on Adelaide tap water.

There was a smaller display of plants but varied enough to keep Adam and Derek busy in discussions. First I must mention that when Ray Clark does get the time to get to meetings that fit in with his shifts, he brings in some interesting gear. I still cannot understand how a big bloke like him can get his tillandsias to flower so small. More on this later.

First we must mention the popular stars that this meeting numbered three. First was *Vriesea* 'Tawi' which Margaret originally got from Chris Larson from a shipment from the Philippines. Chris said he had no idea of parentage but felt it was the same as 'Charlotte' which itself is a bag of worms with lots of tenuous links to similar looking plants but different names. Is knowing alleged parents a help in identification? Many of our non-Glyph *Vriesea* hybrids link to the European market where parentage is rarely divulged. On the other hand you rarely see *Neoregelia* hybrids in this market but are still produced by the hundreds where some sort of parentage is provided. When you analyse these parents you realise how much inbreeding is involved making identification by this method somewhat daunting. The motto is don't lose the label! Back to 'Tawi'. The plant we have does not look like 'Charlotte' but as I have said before, there is no quality control in Australia compared the markets in Europe.



Vriesea 'Tawi' (Photo by J. Batty)

Next was Julie Batty's *Neoregelia* 'Amazing Grace' which started its life as long ago as 1974. Grace Goode crossed 'Vulkan', a hybrid of unknown parentage but with some *N. concentrica* flavour that had originated behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany, and a *N. carolinae* hybrid that was close handy. Needless to say she got a motley crew where the main one was 'Sheer Joy' BUT there was one that was really odd with red stripes. It must have been in the 1980's that Len Colgan grew a beauty, never to be duplicated, but we just bragged to the 'Easterners' what South Aussie could do, So we show what has been done and what is currently on the menu.



Neoregelia 'Amazing Grace' (Photo by J. Batty)



Neoregelia 'Amazing Grace' (Photo by L. Colgan)

***Tillandsia* ‘Eureka’** from an article by Derek Butcher

Next was my *Tillandsia* ‘Eureka’ which is another hybrid that goes back quite a few years.



Tillandsia ‘Eureka’ (Photo by J. Batty)

This is what I wrote in 1996

***Tillandsia* ‘Eureka’** from an article by Derek Butcher in *Bromeletter*34 (3):12. 1996

I was not in my bath tub when I had this great inspiration but feel I should still share it with you. It all started with my getting correspondence from Renate Ehlers regarding a plant that had been collected in Minas Gerais, Brazil which was neither a *Tillandsia pohliana* nor a *T. recurvifolia* (alias *meridionalis*). You could roughly call it a *T. pohliana* with pink floral bracts or a *T. recurvifolia* with totally lepidote pink floral bracts. In any case it looks like this could be another new species named by Renate. Namely *T. minasgeraisensis* BUT that's another story.

This surge of interest in these pretty Brazilian Tillandsias with white petals had me resurrecting the *T. ‘Bergeranthus’* problem (see *Bromeletter* Sept/Oct 1994 page 14 where I reported having got a plant from Margaret Paterson in Queensland with this name.) and out came the photographs. I had just flowered a plant called *T. aeranthos* obtained from an Adelaidean but originally from Queensland, and from thence unknown. Could there be a link between these names, because the plant itself & the leaf structure are reminiscent of either *T. bergeri* or *T. aeranthos*. Here the similarity ends because I felt that the *T. ‘Bergeranthus’* inflorescence looked like a depauperate *T. stricta* with white petals and the latest *T. aeranthos* looked like a *T. recurvifolia*! In comparing the detail on the worksheets I had written up on both plants I was convinced they were the same.

I know there has been hybridizing in Queensland as early as the mid 1970's between *T. stricta* and *T. recurvifolia* (and vice versa) and there have been similar happenings in the U.S.A. with *T. ‘Houston’*. It is inherently dangerous to continue the labelling with *T. bergeranthus?* or *T. aeranthos?* and I suggest we call both these plants with "aeranthos" type leaves *T. ‘Eureka’*. Now this name does suggest a solution has been found and it also has "stockade" links with the Australian hybrid *T. ‘Southern Cross’*. By the way, whenever I'm after a name I always ask the spouse and you can thank Margaret for this one!

I had the job of introducing the many tillandsias that had been brought in. Some no doubt had a scent but our champion sniffer, Len, was an apology.

Not many of us have access to stainless steel wire but as we all saw, Ray Clark is a handy wire-man. He makes hooks which are reminiscent of what George Rudolph used to make so you could hang one plant below the other, saving space. Nothing like Butcher's hooks at all! Apparently, Ray goes that extra mile in using swivels that fishermen use, so your tillandsias can be in a perpetual spin. Because tillandsias in the wild like to stay orientated to the same direction I have a gut feeling that they prefer to stay that way rather than growing in perfect symmetry! But then there are those who prefer pot culture and they are always turning their pots. I believe in the RSPCT (Republican Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Tillandsias) as you will remember I was more interested in the name so here goes

“*Tillandsia* ‘Enano’ by Butcher Oct 2005

This plant was imported by Maurice Kellett in Victoria AU from Werner Krauspe in the 1980's. See advertisement in *J. Brom. Soc* 34(2): 89. 1984 which shows *Tillandsia tectorum enanum minor*. This plant breeds true from seed and many of us grow it in Australia.

First let us look at the name where 'enanum' in Latin means NOT dwarf and then there is 'minor' that means small. It is a confusion of terms. Someone may have been trying to latinise 'Enano' the Spanish for dwarf and Spanish is spoken in Peru where this plant is supposed to originate - according to Werner Krauspe. We know that Werner did import from Karel Knize in Peru but despite many other names being used by Knize in his catalogues in this period this is not mentioned! We know that Knize thought up many latinised names without even wondering if the plants would be properly described. It appears that Werner Krauspe was of a similar frame of mind!

So for the last 20 years this plant has been happily growing and being reproduced faithfully from seed as well as offset, throughout Australia. Enquiries on the Internet in 2005 suggest that this plant is not alive in the USA.

We knew that Die Bromelie intended to publish in 2005 a Special edition for the *Tillandsia tectorum* complex written by Lieselotte Hromradnik. Here was a chance to find out about OUR plant. It looked like a smallish *T. tectorum* but had totally blue flowers not bicolored blue and white. It rang no bells for Lieselotte and we had no provenance to help her.

Perhaps this plant may be found again in the wild but in the meantime we intend to give it the cultivar name of *Tillandsia tectorum* 'Enano' not to be confused with the *T. latifolia* 'Enano' of Paul Isley.

The plant can be described as being acaulescent, about 20cm diameter with a scape 7.5cm long. The inflorescence is compound, almost capitate, about 3cm long with lepidote primary and floral bracts as well as sepals. The petals are totally blue/violet. It is interesting that Baker in 1889, Mez in 1935 and Smith in 1977 refer to *T. tectorum* as having bicolour petals but Gilmartin in *The Bromeliaceae of Ecuador* in 1972 refers to petals as being violet (we presume totally)! It is perhaps with tongue in cheek that we continue with the name 'Enano' because the plant is not dwarf! However, it is much smaller and fluffier than the large *T. tectorum* usually associated with Ecuador."

Wasn't that small flowering *T. tenuifolia* somewhat cute and the one next door that could well have been another form of *T. tenuifolia* but luckily had a tag denoting hybrid. 20 years ago you were fairly safe in trying to identify a *Tillandsia* without a label and in flower. 50 years ago I can understand the philosophy of Nez Misso in hybridising because there were only 5 or 6 species in Australia and he wanted to increase his collection! When a hybrid is produced that is inferior to either parent it should be destroyed but alas, such is the ego of homo sapiens. Nature creates a species in say a few hundred years and man breaks the barrier with the flick of a brush.

My aim is to try to get someone to think the same way as myself – a doubting Thomas. I was a pest to Bromeliad Botanists around the world by keeping on asking questions as to plant identity and I learnt a lot. What happens when I fall off the twig? I need a replacement! You must have gathered that Ray Clark is in the firing line. Why else would I have queried the *T. rodrigueziana* just because Chris Larson said so? Or why the *T. tricolor* var *melanocrater* looked a bit on the large side? Mind you he had *T. geminiflora* in flower and his *T. mallemontii* looked healthier than mine which stayed at home! I do hope that attendees took the trouble to look at this collection that had been brought in to show you how tillandsias can be grown in Adelaide. BUT, Ray was not the only one who received 'Butcher' advice. George Rudolph had apparently brought in a non flowering *Tillandsia* at a previous meeting where Len had guessed at it being possibly a *T. streptocarpa*. I like to see a flower and these clearly had petals that were creamish with blue tips. This means you have 3 names to pick from *T. cacticola*, *T. purpurea*, or *T. straminea*. If the petals are totally blue you can think of *T. paleacea*, *T. streptocarpa* and several more. That problem solved we moved to George's next worry as to why his *T. latifolia* seems to prefer to produce offsets at the top of the inflorescence rather than actually flowering. As far as we know, plants can't think but this is the scenario in the wild. You are growing in a dry area where you get sea mists in the morning. You decide to flower and put up a peduncle only to find that the sand has swallowed you up and the only thing in open air is the flower. Wouldn't you panic and change your mind from flower first, plant second to plant first, flower second!

Finally to George's unknown *Tillandsia* which I had a feeling was a 'Mystic' hybrid but with larger flowers than usual so I got our photographer to do her deed. After investigation we got some sort of agreement that it was probably 'Mystic Albert' but as Julie pointed out the petals were much darker than normal. This took me back to 2002 when I was discussing with Mark Dimmitt on a range of hybrids he had done with *T. albertiana*. Although they were supposed primary hybrids odd things were happening, hence the word 'Mystic'

And so to the other plants where Adam had most of the say! Geoff Edwards had brought in a mounting of 3 aechmeas and he wanted a name. Adam suggested A. 'Fosters Favorite' and I suggested *A. victoriana*. Geoff now has homework when it flowers to check the online BCR for the hybrid or fcbs.org for the species.

John had brought in his N. 'Hannibal Lector' as promised so those of us interested in seed raising could get their own berry. Remember that the seedlings will be a motley crew – some big, some little; some with lots of leaf marking, some with fewer. None can be called 'Hannibal Lector' and if you have to put anything on the label try 'Sons of Hannibal Lector'

We were able to see an example of how *Orthophytum* offsets go straight into flowering mode and the usual whinge of why is it so? In the wild *Orthophytum* prefer to set seed but if they don't do this they have another survival technique up their sleeve – try to flower again as soon as possible. I have yet to see seed on an *Orthophytum* in captivity in Adelaide. What happens in the wild is that the inflorescence falls over so the seed is dropped in a different area to 'mother'. The inflorescence also has what we call adventitious offsets as part of the inflorescence. So why not leave the inflorescence still attached to mother and allow it to be in contact with soil by using another pot as a 'form' of layering. These new plants will eventually root and will take much longer to flower.



Orthophytum

Finally there was a small plant called *Aechmea recurvata* that Adam had got as a bonus on Ebay. The problem was that it did not look like a typical *A. recurvata*, having very few spines on the leaves. I have always stressed the principle of Caveat Emptor – Let the buyer beware, even more so on Ebay but if they are genuine I would hope they would try to be as accurate as they can be. Was this a hybrid or grown from seed obtained recently from Brazil. I thought it had links to 'Blue Bonnet' which got to us from NSW. Bill thought it might have links to 'Grace's Blue' from Queensland. And lately there is 'Bonfire' that Bill is nurturing from Victoria. On the species front there is also *Hohenbergia legrelliana* which is considered by Botanists to be a synonym of *Aechmea recurvata*



Aechmea recurvata as *Hohenbergia legrelliana*

Yongs Nursery visit & BBQ.

Firstly, I have plenty of reasons for not providing a mud map, but all the reasons don't make an excuse. My apologies for not providing a map.

The meeting and the tour of the nursery was due start at 11.00am. I started to get a little worried at 11.15am because Jeanne and I were the only club members there. I walked down to the main road entrance to the nursery to help direct the stragglers to the entrance. Whilst waiting for some time I noticed in the distance a white car that I knew belonged to one of our members so I waved but it kept on going. I knew that it must come back again so I waited ... and waited and finally the white car approached and once again I waved and guess what, the car kept on going. Nico's eldest son Peter came down to give me a lift back to the meeting place. I just have to tell you that the car belonged to Colin Waterman and his passenger was Sue Skrabei.

There was a lot of confusion as to how to get to the nursery because the listed address is Yundi Road. Nico has made submissions to the council to have the address changed to Victor Harbor Road but the council would not agree to the change.

A lot of members turned up late after becoming lost. Some members turned into Yundi Road and were told that the nursery was on the right, which is true but there is no entry to the nursery from Yundi Road. I guess if you did look to the right you must have noticed the rather large hothouse and greenhouse.

Ron Masters, Colin Waterman and Warren Thompson did a great job cooking up all the chops, snags and rissoles and there was a good selection of salads and sweets. The guided tour of the nursery was a little disjointed due to the spasmodic arrivals but in the end it all worked out OK.

I think our members had a great time. I have only had positive feedback so far and members bought a lot of good quality plants at very reasonable prices.

Jeanne and I enjoyed the day because it gives everyone a chance to get to know each other a little better in a pleasant environment.

How lucky were we with the weather? Early in the week it was awful, cold, wet and windy and it even snowed in the hills and the Flinders Ranges, but on the Sunday it was a perfect 27°. We couldn't have timed it better if we tried!

We were sorry that Derek and Margaret couldn't make it. Margaret needs a new hip and the day would have been too long. Anyone that suffers with arthritis will know what it is like to be in constant pain. We wish Margaret success in getting a new hip and hope it will be sooner rather later.

Peter Hall

Roving Reporter October 27 & 28 Sales days

Did anyone hear Len Colgan spend 15 minutes on the Mike Keelan Garden Show promoting our Sales days? Well, Mike Keelan got quite interested when Len pointed out that a pineapple was a Bromeliad but alas, as Len pointed out, our new cultural booklet says we have never seen a pineapple plantation near Adelaide. However, the challenge was out there for anyone to bring one to our Sales weekend or any unnamed Bromeliad they may have, that needed identification. Needless to say, Len was not around when things happened.

Early on the Saturday morning Charlie and Shirley Hale from Semaphore Park rolled up with a surprise on the back seat of their car. Yes, it was *Ananas comosus* with a full sized pineapple on the top. Luckily our resident photographer was present and we got a photo. They told me that a Queenslander told them to expect a fruit in a year from a Pineapple top. After 3 years they were ready to throw the plant out but this Spring they saw happenings in the centre and decided to wait a bit longer. Their next wait is for the fruit to ripen. This goes to show that a Bromeliad grower must have patience. This fruiting is not a common event in Adelaide and we will not accept other claims of this happening without a photo duly certified by the local JP!



Roving Reporter October sales cont:

About 2pm we had an inflorescence brought in for identification where the petals had all dried off but was reminiscent of *Aechmea warasii* but was it a hybrid? The 'experts' present including Sue, Ron, Chris, David, Derek and Geoff (an abstainer with other noncommittals in the background) almost unanimously agreed it was *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite'. This certainly is the most likely but perhaps the following is pertinent when trying identify.

This all started in 1945 when Mulford Foster crossed *Aechmea racinae* with *Aechmea victoriana* var. *discolor* to produce *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' which was patented in 1949. The interesting thing is that much trouble was spent in describing the plant but not the inflorescence and we do not know what it is supposed to look like unless we look at Foster's plant catalogue which refers to midnight blue flowers! It is accepted that the inflorescence is pendant and is like *Aechmea racinae* but with a darker red ovary with dark purplish petals edged in white that we generally associate with *Aechmea victoriana* var. *discolor*. To add to the confusion Padilla says (Bromeliads 1973 page 123) petals are coral tipped blue, and Bromeliad Treasury (1983) as yellow! Baensch in Blooming Bromeliads (1994) page 79 shows dark purplish edged white.

Since that time I am sure that others have repeated the cross using different clones or have grown self-set seed from *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' while still calling them *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' or giving them a new name. 'Black Jack' and 'Perez' are just two examples.

Furthermore the Patent said "This new hybrid *Aechmea* more nearly resembles in form and color one of its parents, the *Aechmea victoriana*. However, it is much more vigorous in growth and larger in size, and the most outstandingly distinguishing character is the rich coloring of the leaves. These leaf colorings according to the (British) Horticultural Colour Chart are shown as follows:

"Small basal leaves are Fern Green No. 0862. The few succeeding leaves: Currant Red No. 821 with shots of Fern Green near tips of leaves. Balance of leaves: Currant Red No. 821 with shots of Spanish Orange No. 010 and Burnt Orange No. 014.

These basic colors vary in tones and hues according to the light exposure in which the plants have been grown."

Anyway, we had this plant with leaves almost black on both sides and dead flowers. Others may have wondered why I dithered as to identity and I still don't know if I should have sat on the same fence as Geoff from Strath!

By Sunday afternoon things caught up with big Len because we had a chap roll up with a 10 inch tub full of Bromeliad. Yes, Len was having a snooze and a well-deserved rest – he thought. Out to the carpark because said pot was too heavy to carry too far. It must have contained 50 plants with leaves over 1m long which suggested that the plant did not know what ANY sunshine meant. There were 5 dead flower stalks that looked like *Aechmea gamosepala* but the owner remembered yellow petals. This led us to *A. kertesziae*. The owner was reluctant to take home his plant which caused concern until another customer of ours showed interested in a FREE plant. Len explained it would be better (when the recipient got home) to remove the plant/s from said pot and look for 2 or 3 plants that had not flowered and try to find them with a bit of root, chop off the top 50cm of the leaf. Pot them up, water, and hope for the best. It is a great plant to grow as long as you remember to give it a LITTLE shade and take the time to look after the plant after it had flowered.

WHERE DO FLIES GO TO IN THE WINTERTIME? It has been suggested to me that plants on the raffle table go the same place and only emerge in the warmer weather but never return to our hall. It was even suggested that we could have a special table at a meeting where members could brag about plants they had 'rescued' from the raffle table. My view was that such plants go where the flies go but my enthusiastic friend disagreed with me. Who was right? Who is prepared to start the ball rolling? If it keeps rolling it could even be a regular event like those Gold star thingies.

Roving Reporter October sales cont:

While wandering around the display Julie and I discussed plants that could spark a story and here goes. I had not seen *Neoregelia* 'Devroe' around for ages and pondered as to where it had been hiding. Oddly enough it agreed roughly with the description in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register but there was no photo, so Julie is now on the world stage with her photography. We know that it is a variegated form of *N. carolinae* and we also know that the botanists lumped *N. meyerendorffii* and *N. marechalii* under the umbrella of *N. carolinae*. In other words you can get small plants, those with wide leaves and narrow leaves and those slightly different centre colouring at flowering. But the gardeners of this world think differently and there are 100 registered names said to be forms of *N. carolinae* without said intervention of pollen from another species.



Neoregelia 'Devroe' (photo J. Batty)

Let us now go back to 1929 when the first variegated plant occurred in a seed batch in Belgium and at least on one other occasion it occurred in another nursery up to World War 1. All had nurseryman's names but none described under the ICBN rules. To me this was correct because there was nowhere to register Cultivar names AND this variegation was only occurring by mutation or sport NOT by seed as you expect any plant named under the ICBN rules for species. In 1953 Mulford Foster decided to name a plant that had European origins as *N. carolinae* var *tricolor* but which one was it? We will never know!

In 1968 a patent was taken out on 'Perfecta Tricolor' for another mutation but said to be different to all that had gone before.

In the 1970's we saw 'Flandria' which by 1982 had sported 'Devroe'

In the 1980's we saw 'Perfecta Tricolor' sporting 'Wango Tango'

In the 1990's we saw 'Gruvroe' hit the market.

Isn't it marvellous how one species can spawn such a variation and variegation and alleged stability? If you lost the labels I challenge any of the astute sellers to differentiate between them.

About ten years ago a worker at Gardenworld had a flowering *T. imperialis* and looked around for another plant in flower and happened to pick *Vriesea* 'Favorite' and conception took place. When Chris Larson saw the first flower he was mightily impressed and decided to call it after his daughter. This plant is now known as *xVrieslandsia* 'Marichelle' We know that *Tillandsia imperialis* is not easy to grow but this hybrid is, as both Margaret & I can vouch. You must have noticed this plant on display and you may also have noticed Chris Larson and his better half, Lap. Yes, Chris is a migratory bird who sometimes visits Adelaide especially in Plant sales season.



xVrieslandsia 'Marichelle'

Vriesea 'Kiwi Cream'. Can you remember that over 3 years ago we attracted Bromeliad buffs to an Adelaide Australian Bromeliad Conference? Some of the visitors brought plants which is where Julie Batty snapped up this plant. She does not want it to flower because she wants to enjoy it just as it is, but perhaps a bit bigger as it ages SLOWLY. It is interesting that her plant still retains some of the cream whereas my plant has not.

Roving Reporter October sales cont:

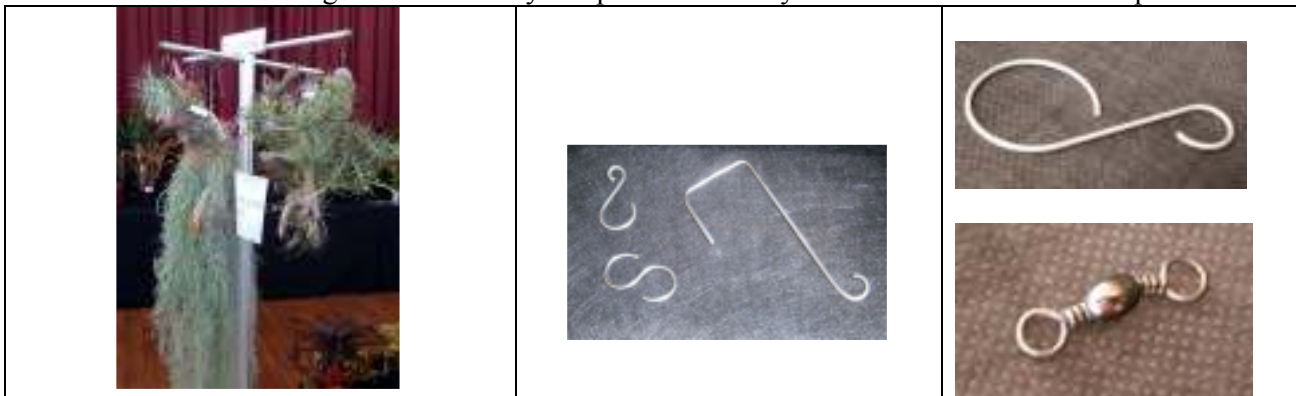
One plant that impressed me but perhaps not others was *Billbergia* 'Hoelscheriana'. You see I like those with pedigree and a Latin name gives you a sort of tingle. It has the flower of a *B. nutans* and gets the influence of father, *B. saundersii* in its leaves. First let us look at the parents where mother is said to be *B. nutans*. As you may know I informally call the three forms I grow as 'Pommie', 'Yankee', & 'Aussie' which denote their source! Now to *B. saundersii* which for years had me sending photographs or bits to Harry Luther for checking. Everytime the answer was 'NO' which persuaded me we did not know what this species was in Australia, even the famed 'German clone-
Now to history:



Billbergia 'Hoelscheriana'

In 1898 we saw *Billbergia Hoelscheriana* created in Europe and we do not know if it migrated to other parts of the world. If not it would have had to survived WW1 and WW2 in Europe!
In 1926 or thereabouts we know that Theodore L Mead in Florida, USA, did the same cross. We do not know if he gave it a name other than Nu-sau as in his notes. Because it was the convention at that time a remake could have acquired the name 'xHoelscheriana'
In 1945 we saw 'Rubro-Cyanea' by Atkinson in California with same quoted parents.
In 1960 we had 'Ivey Meyer' in Florida
In 1968 we had 'Pixie' by persons unknown.
How different are these? Nobody knows! What do you do when someone loses the name tag as in this case? Give it the name of the first named plant as I did about a year ago!

Finally, the Tillandsia stand that Ray Clark said only took a few moments to put together but we found very helpful as a contrast to the floor display. Thanks Ray. It came complete with hooks and swivels. Plants came from far and wide including some help up with aluminium wire the latest fad from Victoria. Said stainless-steel butcher's hooks do help in hanging tillandsias from on high when you are cramped for space. These may well take over from George's hooks from years past. We show you a few of the different shapes he uses.



Plants included the pale blue petalled *T. bergeri* which proved for some reason that 2012 was a good year for flowering this species. *T. usneoides* just hangs around. This *Tillandsia* seems beloved by Orchid growers who sometimes use it as a backdrop for their flowers. Such is their keenness they even spell it correctly. Another to mention is *T. duratii* with its perfumed flowers. Seen in the wild they look quite spectacular growing on the top of low bushes just hanging on by their prehensile bottom leaves.



T. duratii

FAREWELL HARRY

Some of you may not have heard about Harry Luther but if you are not the sort interested in the intricacies of species and things then I will forgive you. Harry died at the age of 60 on October 17th in Singapore. It was certainly a shock for me because I will miss his answering my many questions about Bromeliads. If you can blame anyone for the style of my writing then it would be Harry. It started in the 1980's when I started asking Harry questions by old fashioned mail and I could understand his answers even though some were just photocopies of herbarium specimens with just one of two words in Harry's scrawl. I first met Harry Luther in 1991 when he was the guest speaker at the Australian Bromeliad Conference in Sydney. I even had the honour of being in the selected band of 'Experts' to sit on stage and answer Bromeliad questions. No doubt Harry could have answered the questions without the need of others giving moral support but he allowed us a fair share. At my size I had to look up to him but even so, he was a giant of a man with loads of Bromeliad knowledge.

In 1992 when in the USA with Margaret and son, Robert we called on Harry one Saturday morning and he invited us to his 'Office'. I had a list of questions and Harry kept directing me to the filing cabinet concerned and Robert spent his time at the photocopy machine! Time went so quickly we almost forgot lunch but Harry took us to some deli where we had bagels and things and Harry had his usual diet coke.

Harry took some time to get used to Computers and Emails but over the years Harry answered innumerable questions. Sometimes I resisted and it became a discussion. The score was something like Harry 49 Derek 1. To me Harry became Selby Gardens or was it Selby Botanical Gardens became Harry. We even swapped Christmas cards every year! In the last couple of years when he was at Singapore I sometimes asked him an extra curly question and he had the excuse, "I haven't opened all my luggage and files yet!" This makes me ponder what will happen to all the hard copy that Harry kept.

Questions, Questions is how it all started with HEL and me. UD, and will continue. Now Harry has gone someone else will have to 'endure' my questions, but WHO?

Harry is a huge loss to the Bromeliad World.

SUNDAY MAIL HOME & GARDEN EXPO

This years Expo appeared to have less organizations participating, however there was a steady stream of people on Friday & Saturday with substantially increased numbers on Sunday along with several compliments given on our display. The flyers for our October sales were very popular requiring more to be quickly printed and delivered Sunday afternoon. Several members of the public were enthused by our exhibits & rushed over to the nursery stall opposite where there were a few Bromeliads, a range of Orchids & Ferns for sale.



ROOT ROT & HEART ROT

I read with interest the article by Rob Murray about Root and Heart Rot in Bromeliads, published in the Queensland Bromeliacea Third Quarter 2012 magazine.

Before growing Bromeliads and joining the Bromeliad Society I mainly grew Cymbidium orchids (and still do). Like most growers I built a shade house and quickly found it to be too small after about three years. I extended the shade house and made benches for the plants and for a while it was neat and tidy. I purchased about 30 plants from one source and when I got them home repotted them all and placed them in 2 rows in the middle of the shade house.

ROOT ROT & HEART ROT cont:

Over the next couple of weeks I noticed that all the leaves from the new plants had turned yellow. Not knowing too much about growing cymbidium orchids I thought that it was because I had done something wrong when repotting. Over the third week all the leaves had fallen off and there was a terrible smell in the shade house. The smell turned out to be all the newly purchased plants, the bulbs were mushy and rotten; what a pong!

I unknowingly threw all the plants into the green bin. Over the next 2 years I threw out about 70 plants.

I enquired about my problem at the Cymbidium Club and at first no one could help me they; didn't know anything about the symptoms. I finally got a response from a commercial grower and he said that it was bulb rot but did not know much about how to combat the problem or how it was spread. I did a lot of research on the internet as well as probed people that had the problem to try and find a solution.

In most cases the plants had more than one of the many pathogens that caused the bulb rot. They are *Erwinia carotova*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Mucor niemalis* f. *SP.hiemalis* and *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

In Rob Murray's article he stated that *Phytophthora* is a fungus. Indeed, most of these pathogens are listed as fungus but in one of the research papers on *Phytophthora* it lists it as a PROTIST (Algae carrier). *Phytophthora* is easily transferred from one location to the next on our shoes and clothing and also through a water source downhill from an infected area.

I had to resort to using some nasties in my shade house such as Sprayphos – phosphorous as mono and DI potassium phosphate a systemic fungicide, Thiram as thiram, which is a Group Y protectorent fungicide and an algaecide Benzalkonium chloride.

In all the research that I did all those years ago stated that there was no cure for bulb rot in cymbidium orchids.

I suppose as Bromeliad growers you don't really want to know about problems with orchids. I guess that Rob's article blew out some of the dust gathering between my ears, mainly because of the reference to *Phytophthora* as a fungus. I suppose because it was listed as a protist in one other scientific paper.

Prevention is always the best option when dealing with viruses and fungus pathogens.

One of the best preventative measures is to wash your hands or use disposable gloves between handling each plant. Pure soap is very good as it destroys the protein in the virus family. I soak all my tools in pure soap and water for about 15 minutes. I then remove them and let them dry before soaking them in pure alcohol for a further 15 minutes in between handling plants. I now know not to put infected plants in the green waste bin. Infected plants should be placed in a plastic bag and placed in the rubbish bin.

I personally would not try to salvage any plants that I deemed to have any kind of a rot problem. I would also recommend taking a plastic bag to the suspect plant rather than picking up the suspect plant and walking through the shade house because you will drip infected water wherever you walk. It is also preferable to grow plants on benches with plenty of space between plants (ha ha). The idea is good but we all tend to have too many plants and not enough room no matter what we grow.

Peter Hall



November Pup auction & Special afternoon tea

The variety of finger food was terrific and all enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of this special festive afternoon tea whilst giving their taste buds & social interactions workouts.

The November meeting was shorter than usual giving extra time for the very popular pup swap & auction. The combination of Adam describing the plants & auctioneer Colin drumming up business maintained keen interest with many members taking advantage of bargains etc.



Auction plants/pups (Photo by J. Hall)



Auctioneer Colin & Adam (Photo by J. Hall)

The Rough end of the Pineapple by Ruffy

Recently during a quiet moment I had the chance to scan through the new Bromeliad culture handbook & the opening paragraph got me thinking. “Take the yellow piece & throw it away, we are interested in the rough end”.

When I was a much younger man, getting the rough end of the pineapple was synonymous with a raw deal, a rough time or the dirty end of the stick! These days I thought to myself, life is generally pretty good but some time back earlier in spring I wasn't quite so happy with my lot.

After another weeklong slog at the house of pain, I ventured into the shade house with a coffee to check out the collection. I'm hoping that the neighbors were still tucked up under the doona because I may have uttered some strong thoughts out loud. The birds had gotten into my *T.usneoides*, (moss) and they had torn some bunches apart, literally! I had tolerated the native wrens stealing some for their nests; they are locals & they're quite sweet.

But the blackbirds had taken things to another level all together, it wasn't a bit here & bit there, it was whole handfuls & more! Now I knew what I wanted to do with the rough end of the pineapple, I only had to catch one of the little bludgers! Instead of resorting to violence, I went down the pacifist route & hung old CD's on swivels in the shade house, the carnage ceased almost immediately! I am not sure if it was the heavy metal rock of Ozzy Osborne or the threat of the mob connections of Frank Sinatra, but they are gone at least until next year.

REMINDERS.

- Just a reminder for our January 13th 2013 meeting is on judging. Please read and bring along your judging handbook
- Please return black cloths Jan or Feb meetings.
- All trophies are needed back before sales in Feb
- 2 day sales February 23 & 24 2013
- Membership renewals due Feb 2013

If you have a Bromeliad on your wish list our "Wanted" section may be able to help, please contact Derek or Bev with details



Message from your Secretary.

Our Society has enjoyed another successful Bromaholic year! and you the members are congratulated. I would like to extend thanks to all with special appreciation to individuals who assist with the many mundane but necessary chores. Also gratitude is given to those who continue to give me support & friendship.

On another level, we are running out of space here at No 6, which does not appear to influence the steady increase in our plant numbers however the time & effort required removing pups & repotting highlights Ron's warnings that enough is enough! But history tells a different story, temptation usually wins the day and back aches are temporality forgotten with the adage "variety is the spice of life" giving me a degree of justification and satisfaction.

I look forward to January 2013 when we meet again to continue the mutually rewarding yet at times challenging pastime.



SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL



Have a safe, healthy & memorable 2013