S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!'

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Pots, Labels & Hangers - Small quantities available all meetings.
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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 March May, & August & no meeting in December or unless advised otherwise

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.


Puya humilis as butcheriana

MEETING & SALES 2014 DATES:
4/5/2014 1st Sunday (Bromelioideae) 8/6/2014 (Society PowerPoint presentation), 13/7/2014 (Pitcairnioideae & Vriesea PowerPoint presentation), 3/8/2014 1st Sunday,(winter brag) 14/9/2014 (short meeting during visit to Ron & Bev's garden), 12/10/2014 (Bi generic hybrids) 25/10/2014 & 26/10/2014 Sales, 9/11/2014 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

Applications for membership always welcome.
Subscriptions $10.00 per year Feb to Feb

Roving Reporter April Festival of Flowers

I thought I had to invest my $6 (Margaret came along for the ride) to see how the workers were getting on and what sort of display they could muster. First up I nearly missed the hall even though there was sufficient signage but did park fairly close and within slow walking distance. There were lots of plants and we saw some people we knew, some we thought we knew, and strangers but talking plant talk. We saw lots of stalls on our way to the back and left the best to last because we found Bromeliads on the back wall with several smiley faced workers. They all seemed happy so they must have been getting their message over to the general public that Bromeliads can be colourful, and worth growing. I may be biased but I thought it was the best stand there with a good display of plants, plenty of information leaflets and plants for sale. We did not stay long but long enough to see our Secretary disappearing behind a door marked 'kitchen'

And we did enjoy our hot sausage and onions on our way out. Derek

Both days were well attended by the general public, with several comments from visitors to the stall that our display & plant quality was the best there.

It is a great 2 day event to promote Bromeliads & network with other garden enthusiasts.

2 more Bromeliad presentations were booked for this year.

It was great to see our members support the event and thanks to the volunteers who assisted both days.

2015 venue is still to be confirmed. Bev

Festival of Flowers Bromeliad display*(Photo B Masters)*

Tillandsia 'Corky' by Butcher Apl 2014

In the 1980's Len Cork of Adelaide imported a few Tillandsias with Len Colgan. A few years later one flowered and we thought it was *T. rotundata*. Maureen Hick obtained an offset and when her plant flowered I took its photo. The inflorescence seemed too big and the wrong shape. So I wrote to Harry Luther with photo and asked his help. He agreed with me that it was unlikely to be a *T. rotundata* and had more links to *T. fasciculata* var. *densispica*. This was enough for me. My records were noted accordingly. In Apl 2014 Adam Bodzioch flowered an offset obtained from Len Cork. It had affinities with the very variable *T. fasciculata*. We assume it was the same plant! However, this time the inflorescence was smaller than usual and could well have flowered too early. This is often a complaint by Len Colgan where the offset flowers when too small and the inflorescence is correspondingly smaller than before. Adam put his photo on to Tillnuts forum. One suggestion was that it could be *T. polita* to which the photo did have some affinity. So we could get 'a plant from Corky' having different names. The plant offsets freely so there must be quite a few still surviving in the Adelaide area. If you are the sort of grower who likes plants to have some identity and you have a Tillandsia 'from Corky' take note when it flowers. The rest of us who have this plant now call it 'Corky' to link with other photos on record. You may like to do the same.

T Corky as rotundata
(Photo L Colgan)

BOB POOLE

Early in May we lost Bob Poole after a short illness. He was a quiet Gentleman - A good sort who loved his Bromeliads. Bob was the Maintenance Officer at Dunbar Rest Homes where his Wife Lesley worked as a Senior Aged Carer. They have been married 27 years. Lesley and Bob bought a high powered motorbike in June last year as you do in your 50s or is it 60s and they went riding high. Sadly Bob could not ride it anymore this year as his sickness prevented them from heading to the Hills.
Lesley and Bob loved each other's company and both enjoyed music especially strong upbeat country music.
In May 2011 the Society visited Bill at Bute. On the way home the coach stopped near Bob & Lesley's home. Bob was seen carrying several boxes of plants home. Even though they live in Virginia Residential Park, a permanent caravan park they have plants everywhere including copious Bromeliads where Bob was the main gardener. Lesley has had to reduce the garden as she cannot give the TLC that they deserve. Bob and Lesley together embraced their passion in growing exotic plants and Lesley vows to continue that passion.
We will miss Bob - a good bloke gone too soon


BOB POOLE

Roving Reporter May 2014

Ever since I read Padilla's book 'Bromeliads' in the 1970's I have shuddered on how the Americans pronounce their botanical Latin. I even shuddered when Len Cork used to write his labels phonetically! Understanding Botanical Latin interpretation of Corky's labels was a challenge. You may have noticed my comment in our last issue on Carnivorous plants about Yanks' pronunciation. I had thought they were consistent but Herb Plever from New York was able to straighten me out. Here is his Email
Derek
In your Editors comment in the middle of John Yates letter, you say you certainly wouldn't use the Yanks pronunciation. There are two schools for English pronunciation of Latin words: Traditionalist and Reformed Academic. Surprisingly, British botanists used the traditionalist pronunciation, so that the letter 'a' is pronounced as the 'a' in fate, whereas the academic pronunciation of 'a' is as in the word father. We Yanks prefer to use the latter sound when saying fahsciahta instead of faysciayta. Unfortunately our own George Kalmbacher (Butcher's comment -from New York too and known for *Tillandsia kalmbacheri*) went along the Brits, and we razzed him a lot by insisting on saying fahsciahta. When I met Mulford Foster for the first time in 1962 I noted that he pronounced Aechmea as Echmea, and asked him about it. He replied with a twinkle in this eye: Well if you go to Harvard you will say Eeechmea as Lyman does.
Herb

Dear Herb
Thanks. I can now tell our readers that others do read what I write about! Another problem as I see it is that there is Latin AND Botanical Latin and as W T Stearn says Botanical Latin was designed to be read not spoken. Thus you would expect Botanical Latin to be pronounced differently by a Kiwi and an Aussie. If we understand each other, who cares!
Derek.

And so to the meeting where Adam introduced us to the sub-family Bromelioideae
But first I will advise the winner of the month's popular plant. Tillandsias may take a long time to mature and flower but they also stay a long while in flower. Proof was seeing Adam's *T. xerographica* again after it had won prizes at the Annual Show in March.

Bromelioideae is known for its prickly leaves and its fruit as a berry which would be edible to humans if they are so inclined After all we do eat pineapples even though not that many are grown in Adelaide.

First off the blocks was *Acanthostachys*. *A. strobilacea* is called 'Poor man's pineapple' but you would have to be very poor and enjoy crunchy things. Adam did speak as though he has tried AND liked the sensation. The other species *A. pitcairnifolia* is a bit on an enigma being quite common in Australia due to Bill Morris growing it from imported seed some years ago.

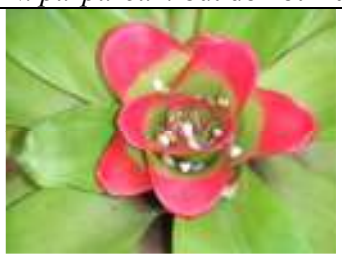
Roving Reporter May 2014 cont:

In fact close after it was considered to be an *Acanthostachys* and not an *Aechmea.* It was originally described as an *Aechmea* by Mez in 1896 and it stayed an *Aechmea* for 86 years! As the name implies, it is a genus known for its spines which brings me to an interesting point. My Margaret gets a skin rash if she gets too close to *A. strobilacea*!

We then touched on the Chileans *Fascicularia* and *Ochagavia* which brings us to problems of naming. They grow well in SW England and Ireland and I have a feeling that because of this we had lots of gardener type identification rather than botanist. Lots of these problems could easily have arisen in the 100 years or so when they first got introduced to the UK. Plants were getting to Australia from England rather than Chile. It all started around 2000 when Georg Zizka from Frankfurt started working with Chilean botanists and found lots of anomalies. These days we have mainly *Ochagavia litoralis* and *Fascicularia bicolor* growing and flowering in the cooler parts of Australia. *Fascicularia* with its reddening of the centre leaves to announce flowering is not that much of a naming problem although years ago I had a discussion (I never argue!) with the Hobart Bot Garden trying to convince them that their *Puya* was really a *Fascicularia bicolor. Ochagavia* has problems stemming from prior to 2000 when we were growing the gardener identified O. *carnea* whereas it should be called *O. litoralis.* I do recommend you change your labels now in case the true *O. carnea* reaches our shores in the future.

Now to the unidentified Neoregelia hybrid which Bill saw as being possibly N. 'Quandong' which Margaret had a name for an errant seedling from Qld, years ago. Margaret had her doubts because growing conditions do confuse matters. Years ago Grace Goode was steadfast in not identifying hybrids which had been brought back to her minus the label and claimed to be a GG hybrid! There seems to be just as many Neo hybrids in circulation that have not been registered as there are that have been registered. However, in either case a lost label means 'just another Neo hybrid'. To my mind they make ideal compost. However the plant did have an interesting offset that looked different to mother, was it a Sport? Let us hark back to the old days when Len Cork would claim a different plant. We pointed out to wait for the offset to mature and then bring the plant in. Funny thing – but he never did. A Sport is a vegetative mutation which must be stable and grow different to 'mother'. Stable is if you still keep getting offsets with this same trait. Glenda did say that she could be called a Sport and she may have inadvertently got herself a nickname. When you get run over by her conveyance you can at least shout "Watch it - Sport?"

The two *Nidularium* on display showed typical flowers for the genus. They just do not open fully however long you wait. The *N. procerum* var *kermesianum* with its blue flowers has the name of the old days where the current thinking is that you do not need the varietal name – just *N. procerum.* The other with the white flowers is a different matter. 30 years ago we used to grow *N. innocentii* var *wittmackianum* and in 2000 Elton Leme transferred this name to *N. longiflorum.* Easy – change the label! NO because what we were growing as var *wittmackianum* should have had var *paxianum* on the label. Look at the painting. Compare this with Adam's photo. Just for me, Adam measured the white petals for me and came up with 3cm. *N. longiflorum* has 7 cm long petals as the name suggests. Var *paxianum* became just a plain *N. innocentii*. Do not be confused but this species can have either purplish red leaves OR totally green leaves. The purplish leaves may make you think of *N. amazonicum* or *N. purpureum* but do not make hasty decisions!



Nid innocentii

innocentii as paxianum

***Nidularium innocentii* versus *longiflorum* by Butcher Apl 2013**

Or, more thoughts on 'Derek the hybrid detective' DD1112, Nov 2012 in Bromeliads in Australia website

You can blame this on Eileen Killingley trying to work out how I linked the plant we had been growing for years as *N. innocentii* var *wittmackianum* to be really *N. innocentii* var *paxianum* because of an error in Flora Neotropica, and thus it is just a *Nidularium innocentii* sensu Elton Leme.

***Nidularium innocentii* versus *longiflorum* cont:**

I did get carried away by the fact that *N. innocentii* var *wittmackianum* was considered a synonym of *N. longiflorum* and *N. longiflorum* had an uni-utriculate inflorescence.

Uni-utriculate is a word coined by Elton Leme and I wonder if it has botanical significance. In Leme's description of *N. longiflorum* we see 'INFLORESCENCE subumbellate, bipinnate, obconic-subtubular, uniutriculate,' and 'uniutriculate' can easily be taken out of context. Leme uses two terms, multi-utriculate; flower fascicles more or less evenly distributed along the short inflorescence axis, and uni-utriculate; fascicles concentrated in the central part of the inflorescence. If you are looking at many Nidularium inflorescences you can discern the differences but not if you are only examining one inflorescence. BUT it is clear that uniutriculate does not equate with a simple inflorescence so common in Neoregelia.

I am convinced that *N. longiflorum* is not in Australia but for a different reason to uni-utriculate. A close look at the following key will show that one main difference is in the well-developed callosities present at the base of the petals for *N. longiflorum*. In New Zealand they say you look for an uni-utricular inflorescence and white pointed petals for *N. longiflorum*. I have already pointed out the problem with uniutricular and nowhere in Leme's description does it refer to pointed petals but says 'apex narrowly obtuse-cucullate' for *N. longiflorum* and 'apex broadly obtuse-cucullate' for *N. innocentii.* Do not get too carried away with the name *N. longiflorum* which has petals 60-65mm long compared to up to 60mm. for *N. innocentii.* What I see as the difference to look for is the callosities at the bottom inside of the petals to find your *N. longiflorum.* So if you do not believe me when I suggest you change the name on your old *N. innocentii* var. *wittmackianum* to straight *N. innocentii* then start butchering a flowering plant and look for those callosities.

Mind you I disagree with Elton Leme's decision to retain the variegated varieties of *N. innocentii* because they are only propagated asexually and as such would have been better served as being under the realms of the Bromeliad Cultivar Register

Leme's key in Nidularium, Brom. of Alt. Forest, 37-40. 2000

46a Plant often propagating by short axillary shoots; inflorescence broadly obconic, rosulate-capitate, multi-utriculate; flower fascicles more or less evenly distributed along the short inflorescence axis; petal lobes oblong, without callosities, apex broadly obtuse-cucullate

47a

46b Plant propagating by distinct stolons; inflorescence narrowly obconic to subtubular mainly at base, uni-utriculate; fascicles concentrated in the central part of the inflorescence (except in *N. picinguabense);* petal lobes narrowly ovate, bearing well-developed callosities at base, apex narrowly obtuse-cucullate

51a

47a Leaf sheaths not distinctly nerved; inflorescence tripinnate (basal fascicles 4-to-9-flowered); flowers sessile or subsessile; sepals connate at base for 7 -14 mm **48a**

48b Leaf-blade spines ca 0.5 mm long; sepals elliptic to suborbicular, 8-10 mm wide 49a

49a- Leaves concolorous green or purplish-wine mainly abaxially

innocentii var ***innocentii*** (BA, RJ, SP, PR, SC & RS)

Roving Reporter May 2014 cont:

We had a few Billbergias but no species – all hybrids which means we follow the latest fashion so prevalent in Plant Societies these days. We know that Julie Batty is getting plants down from Queensland. She brought in two which had some members go green. They were called Bill. 'Illuminated' and the other 'Rings of Saturn'(Unregistered). The first one is a Qld creation and the second did cause questions because you needed great imagination to understand the name. The second is a Don Beadle hybrid and these days are slow to get registered.

(Photo J Batty)

N. 'Rings of Saturn'(Unregistered).

We did see one species *Cryptanthus* which is a surprise because hyrids outnumber species by at least 100 to one. It was called *C. bahianus* and has been under this name in Australia since the 1970's. At least with a species, and if you are inclined (like me) you can check on the label. It was originally described as *C. glaziovii* in 1937 but because of homonym problems became *C. bahianus* in 1937. Because so many of our *Cryptanthus* species in Australia can be traced to Foster I feel sure we have at least one species properly named. In an attempt to get audience participation Adam asked about as to what 'Crypt' meant he learnt the full version of the cat that crept into the crypt and crept out again. Those who did not go to the meeting miss out on the full version.

C. bahianus (Photo J Batty)

Other plants from other genera were also on display.
Of the other other plants we had several genera with one or two deserving of mention.
One being a so called female *Catopsis subulata*. That was on the label but George promised to find out by checking on a flower when he got home. Yes, *Catopsis* can get lonely without a mate and this genus has evolved to have some odd characters. Some species have perfect flowers (active stamens and stigma in the same floral bed) plants with separate male or female parts AND just to confuse the matter some species can include both types. Those species that can supposedly include both types are currently under close scrutiny by Mexican botanists. This anomaly has puzzled me because I could understand that a female flower must produce male and female seedlings for the species to survive. BUT what happens with the species that are supposed to have both qualities where pollen from a perfect flower gets on to the stigma of a truly female plant. What are the odds that you get 50% male and 50% female progeny? I leave you to ponder!

Tillandsia 'Tina' is spectacular and has an interesting story to tell. We know that Gardenworld imports Tillandsias from Guatemala by the crate load and we know that Guatemalan sellers are not really selective in what they send. Therefore there are oddities which importers around the world tend to ignore and never get reported. These plants are not in flower so need a shrewd eye to pick out the unusual. Chris Larson has such an eye and in the 1990's he noticed a *T. punctulata* that looked different. It was different and he named it 'Tina' after one of his daughters. It does look fairly similar to the natural hybrid *T. punctulata* x *standleyi* sold by BirdRock Tropicals but we will never know if there is a link.

Can anyone imagine a person tall enough to find a long enough branch on which to attach tillandsias including T. 'Cotton Candy'. Our photographer was only able to take just a portion of said stick. Who else of our members could be linked to such a long thing but Peter Hall. 'Cotton Candy' is linked to 'Houston', 'Flaming Cascade', 'Flaming Spire' and the Australian 'Southern Cross' so don't lose your label. These hybrids started off life in the 1980's as the following shows "Tillandsia x Houston: A New, Artificial Hybrid by Mark A. Dimmitt in J Brom Soc 37(4): 162. 1987 *Tillandsia* x Houston (grex) (*T. stricta* x *meridionalis*) (and reciprocal) Plant acaulescent, a dense, spreading rosette to 27 cm in diameter. Vegetative reproduction by basal offsets after flowering. Leaves up to 140 in number, many more than either parent, narrow-triangular, erect-spreading or arching in different clones, fairly stiff but less so than those of *T. meridionalis*; leaf blades to 16 cm long, 13 mm wide near base, usually medium green but some clones whitish-lepidote. Most clones conspicuously lepidote only on lower surfaces of leaves.

T. 'Cotton Candy'*(Photo J Batty)*

Roving Reporter May 2014 cont:

Inflorescence usually arching to nodding (straight in a few clones), simple, dense, 15 to 20 cm long. Most clones flower for three to four weeks between December and February . Scape about equalling leaves. Spike 6-9 cm long, 3-5 cm wide, dense, polystichous. Floral bracts 25-30 mm long, 15 -20 mm wide, loosely imbricate, pale pink to deep rose-red, often lepidote at tips. Flowers broadly funnel form, 7-11 mm in diameter, near white to pale blue. Flowers fertile.
This hybrid grex differs from its parent species mainly in size, being much larger, leafier, and bearing much larger spikes. It is intermediate between the two parents in other characters. Because of its size and vigor, it was named in recognition of the very large and active Houston Bromeliad Society.
The best one of the 40 or so plants to flower the first year has been named 'Flaming Spire'. Its long spikes are stiff and straight, and the floral bracts are deep rose-red, almost crimson; the flowers are pale blue. The leaves are more lepidote than those of most clones and are a whitish color.
Tillandsia stricta is an extremely vigorous species; it flowers in only 3½ years from seed, whereas most other species take at least five years to mature. It usually imparts this vigor to its hybrids, making it an excellent parent. Several more *T. stricta* hybrids will be published here in the near future.
Tillandsia X Houston is quite fertile; F2 sibling crosses and backcrosses are growing vigorously."

Finally to the orange flowered hybrid made in Germany but not yet formally named *T. caliginosa* x *crocata* which is virtually indistinct from the orange form of *T. crocata* named 'Rutschmann's Orange'. An orange form is said to be very common in Rio Grande do Sul. Bill Treloar who has a great nose says the hybrid smells like *T. caliginosa* rather than *T. crocata*. So if you ever get one of these plants and lose the label, just call in Bill.

June Meeting from the Roving Reporter

Don't forget the B-BOARD – Bev's Bulletin Board. This happened because I pointed out to Bev that it was not the Secretary's job to be the go-between for plants swaps/sales/buys etc. Why not have a Board where she could pin up important announcements AND where members could pin up notices. Hey Presto. At the June meeting a Board appeared. So make it a habit to read what is on the board at each meeting. To think if you want to swap you could well get the answer at the same meeting you pinned your request! I am optimistic it will succeed, what about you?

It was great having our Country members along in force – from Bute, Renmark, Greenock, Nairne and Aldinga Beach.
Popular plant award went to Ron Masters with his *Aechmea* 'Shining Light'
Adam led the discussion on the plants brought in.

It was great to see a well grown *Neoregelia silvomontana.*
It is not often we see a species *Neoregelia*. The spines on the leaves show it is part of the *N. carcharodon* group. This is where the botanists picked a good descriptive name because it means Shark's teeth. The more common one we have in Adelaide is 'Macho' but you can expect *N. silvomontana* to grow much bigger!

Neoregelia silvomontana *(Photo J Batty)*

It is not often I advocate the use of a name to identify a plant that is said to be the synonym of another but if it represents a provenance it should be used. Let me explain. In 2000 *Billbergia mohammadii* (Remember the spelling) was described for a plant from Bolivia that had blue helicoid flowers.

Roving reporter June cont:
It was considered different to other Billbergias with blue helicoid flowers. This group of Billbergias self-set seed readily and when Len Colgan was in Bolivia he was lucky enough to get hold of some seed from 'a' type plant. I say 'a' because the holotype is now a dried specimen in the National Herbarium of Bolivia where it still retains the name *Billbergia mohammadii*. In 2001 Harry Luther decided that *B. mohammadii* was the same as *B. kuhlmannii* but gave no reasons nor changed the description of *B. kuhlmannii* to accommodate the differences. Now, *B. kuhlmannii* is also very close to the ubiquitous *B. brasiliensis* which has a complicated history, but that is another story.
Len Colgan duly grew on his seedlings and some of us were lucky to get a seedling to grow on too. Helicoid flowering Billbergias coming from the tropics are slow growing in Adelaide but a couple of years ago one of Len's plants flowered and he distributed seed pods at a meeting. It would appear that Hans Wallfried was the only one who really tried because he brought in several seedlings but he called them *B. kuhlmannii*. The problem here is that there are many *B. kuhlmannii* in Australia and none have a pedigree.
I still keep the name of *B. mohammadii* on my original gift from Len but it has not yet flowered! Perhaps I am more botanically minded than most but I like to grow a plant that has a history. As Dr Walter Till says, "Synonymising is not a true nomenclaturic matter but a taxonomic judgement." So I treat Harry's judgement with suspicion and feel comfortable with my decision.
We know that the best way to acclimatise a species to Adelaide conditions is to grow it from seed. So the latest seedlings have a great start. Those who were lucky enough to get a seedling should repot when Spring comes around. If they were me I would change the label to *B. mohammadii* because they have something special and a plant with a history.

While I am critical of unnamed plants in the raffles because I feel it is more a case of getting rid of plants rather than others might like to grow them, there is sometimes light at the end of the tunnel. I suppose it is up to the winner to be more inquisitive with the unknown plant because it does give you a warm fuzzy feeling if you solve the problem. One such happy ending revolves around Kay Bryan who grew on such a plant which blushed to attract pollinators and which she felt had to be *Aechmea recurvata*. We were able to confirm her decision and add that it was the variety *benrathii*. How about other hesitant members trying the same game and then challenging us oldies!

It was great to see two flowering specimens of *Vriesea elata*. It is surprising that we can grow this species so well with it coming from Colombia. The only difference I can see with our plants is that they have a smaller inflorescence to that found in the wild. Bruce Dunstan from Qld who oft travels in the wild, has photographed some beauties. Len's complaint about the brown primary bract is hardly noticed in the wild.

It is called chartaceous by the botanists. I will leave that name as it is, leaving it to others, including Adam, to check in the Glossary! Len also mentioned that it did not look like a Vriesea and that there are moves afoot to transfer it to another genus because of DNA studies. It is more a case of using DNA to confirm those square plants that do not fit in the round holes allotted to them! I can assure you there are lots of these in our Bromeliads. When checking the history of this plant I found that it was described in 1888 as a Tillandsia by Baker and this move was confirmed by Mez in 1935. In 1946 Foster found a plant which had petal appendages which was the first time it was reported. On the basis of this Lyman Smith in 1955 transferred it to Vriesea. So I got out the razor blade and did some bisecting with my wobbly hands and ancient eyes. I could find NO appendages on my plant just a kink in the petal! However Ross Little of Far North NSW did the same operation and found appendages! So if you have this plant why not sacrifice just one flower?

Vriesea elata (Photo J Batty)

Tillandsia pretiosa flowered for Len after being in his special 'house' and he was quite proud of the event. He said he had difficulties in separating *T. lindenii* and *T. cyanea* – don't we all! All come from Ecuador.

Roving reporter June cont:

One outstanding difference to look for in *T. pretiosa* is that the floral bracts move apart when flowering occurs and I saw nothing of this. Len has been warned about this happening because after all he may just have another *T. cyanea*. The photograph in Birdrock Tropicals under this name does not show this phenomenon either. We ponder.

xVriecantarea 'Inferno' had been brought in by Adam having been induced to flower by using Ethrel and thus smaller than usual. This meant it could at least be brought into a meeting but if you are after a very large plant and outstanding inflorescence this could well be one for you. Len Colgan had imported his plant direct from the hybridist John Arden in California many years ago and I got an offset so can vouch for its size if you do not mind waiting 5 or 6 years for it to perform. Because I had to look up to the flowers I would say about 2 metres. Its *Alcantarea* parent is unknown as the following shows

x*Vriecantarea* 'Inferno' by Butcher 2005

This hybrid made by John Arden in 1983 was registered as *Vriesea* 'Inferno' in 1991 but appeared in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register 1998 as x*Vriecantarea* 'Inferno' based on the fact that the alleged pollen parent was *Vriesea regina*. In 1995 Jason Grant had resurrected the genus *Alcantarea* for the large Vrieseas that among other attributes had long petals that soon wilt after anthesis. We do not know if this trait is transferred to any hybrid. All we find in the Register is that "plant size, leaf colour, shape and branching pattern resemble *Alcantarea regina* ". In 1997 Elton Leme in Bromelia changed the Lyman Smith concept of Vriesea *regina* so we now have *Alcantarea geniculata, glaziouana* , and *regina* to chose from!

It's other parent – *V. ensiformis,* supplies the vivid red floral bracts and typical *Vriesea* flowers

It was great to see plants from Bute looking beaut. No evidence of leaf burn due to cold etc. Bill has to be congratulated even though he puts it down to global warming. One of his plants was a *Nidularium angustifolium*.

Just think, when our Society was formed nobody really knew about *Nidularium angustifolium* because it was treated by Lyman Smith as a synonym of *Nidularium procerum* having been somewhat roughly described by Ule in 1898. In 2000 in his review of this genus Elton Leme was able to show us how *N. angustifolium* was unique. Elton is usually good at advising etymology but alas he was unable to tell us why it was called angustifolium so you will have to rely on my rough translation that it means narrow leaved.

Nidularium angustifolium.
(Photo J Batty)

Some of you may not have realised the significance of the name Vriesea 'Pete's First' although I did hear V. saundersii mentioned. Behind every plant – at least in my backyard – there is a story. 'Pete's First'came into being around 1998 when Peter Huddy, our Treasurer at the time, rose to the bait and really got involved. You see, Peter Huddy was keen on Vrieseas and finally decided that he could take no more of my nagging. He kept importing plants from Qld and I kept telling him the names were wrong or suspect. Yes, it was happening even then. To help him sort out the mess of names he designed a code system based on the shape and colour of the inflorescence. Using this code Pete could work out similarities and differences. If there is anyone serious enough to try the same caper I do have copies. Anyway, Pete had this plant called 'saundersii x 'Grande' which looked like V. saundersii but not quite and even doubted the father but felt the plant needed recording and being very original in his thinking decided on 'Pete's First'. Luckily, he stopped there so it was Pete's first and last on that theme.

In the special Raffle was a pot with two Neoregelia hybrids in it that had been done by Don Pitman in Renmark a few years ago. They are siblings having come from the same seed batch. Don was disappointed when he found that Margaret Paterson had done the cross before and had registered names. As I pointed out to Don this was not really a remake because he had used hybrids as parents and the seedlings could well be something different again. On the downside they could turn out to be just a humdrum hybrid. The problem being you have to grow on the seedlings to maturity to find out and PUTITINABIN if not up to scratch. A one-in-a-million did happen in South Australia once when Maureen Hick luckily produced Neoregelia 'Maggies Pride'.

Roving reporter June cont:

It was not her hybrid but it was her raising it from seed and seeing its potential. So if you do raise from seed keep your eyes open and remember that Quality is much preferable to Quantity! Don is still searching for something special and just think the two he let go for the special raffle could be the one. The winner of the two plants now inherits the responsibility of making the decision of whether to grow it on or PUTITINABIN

Finally we were entertained by a Power Point presentation by our very own Secretary, Bev Masters. Originally created by Jeanne Hall it is constantly being updated. It is used when talks are presented to the various Garden Clubs around the State and makes these easy. I can remember all the preparation that went into talks we used to do in years past.

Finally finally and a bit off topic but worthy of mention - many will remember the part time orchid grower who often wins prizes for his Broms. We found out that after submitting 3 entries at a recent Orchid show he won 2 Champion prizes. Perhaps next time he will lift his game and get 100%. If you still do not know who he is, he sometimes has Peter hanging on his front.

Reminder

We have been unable to coordinate a mutually convenient date with Sophie Thompson to visit her garden this year, but do not worry Peter will arrange a date for 2015 as I am sure we are all looking forward to this trip. The garden visit to Plympton is rescheduled to 14/9/2014. Bev

Tillandsia pretiosa – the latest. By Butcher

Just to show that I do not sit and ponder but ask questions. While you may not be able to obtain and flower a plant with *T. pretiosa* on the label you may like to know how the saga is unfolding. We have traced big Len's plant to Peter Tristram and in turn via seed raising to Harry Luther at Marie Selby. There is a slight problem here because Harry made one of the varieties of *T. cyanea* a synonym of *T. pretiosa* in 1994. We are still investigating this side of the problem. Meanwhile, Andrew Flower in New Zealand reported that he had grown on plants from seed obtained from Germany which only showed up the spaces between the floral bracts when the paddle inflorescence was really dried up. But it did have smooth floral bracts and the sepals were pointed. So the German connection seems to link to Carl Mez's description in 1919. Further proof of the German involvement is a plant that Eric Gouda got from Heidelberg which also confirmed the fact that the floral bracts did not move apart as they did for Mez in 1919. To think that all we have to do is await for big Len or Peter Tristram to check the sex parts so we may have a solution to my problem.

Pictorial Nostalgia from October 2013 sales

Tillandsia ionantha (Photo J Batty)

T.reichenbachii (Photo J Batty)

Keep warm & enjoy you Broms!.