

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

Vol 41

Number 1

January, February & March 2017

PUBLISHED BY:

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!

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Cultivar Register <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php>

List for species names <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>

<http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/brom-1/> altern site <http://imperialis.com.br/>

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

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Adam during workshop (Photo J.Batty)

MEETING & SALES 2017 DATES

19/3/2017 (3rd Sunday), [25/3/2017](#) & [26/3/2017](#) Sales, 09/4/2017 Pattern leaf Vrieseas 07/5/2017 (1st Sunday) M. Paterson plants, 04/6/2017, (1st Sunday). Guest speaker-Amgrov Fertilizers, 09/7/2017 Christmas in July. 40 year celebration, 13/8/2017 Winter brag, 17/9/2017, (3rd Sunday) guest speaker,- Dr Randall Robinson. Dykias 15/10/2017, (3rd Sunday) Getting ready for Spring, [21/10/2017](#) & [22/10/2017](#) Sales, 12/11/2017 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual : Now Due 2017

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions – 1st Sunday in May, June
& 3rd Sunday January, March,
September-, October no meeting in
December or unless advised
otherwise

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME.**

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LEN’S CROSSWORD solutions

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Roving Reporter January 2017

Lots of attendees who must have made a NY resolution to come to meetings. May it continue. First we had a plaintive plea via Email with graphic images from a non-member about how not to grow Bromeliads and yet if such grower had been at the meeting she would have got the full Monty. Such are the advantages of belonging to a Society and discuss than to be at home to learn your mistakes by yourself. If said plants had been brought to a meeting my first reaction would have been to take the plant out of the pot and check its roots. I have a hunch that offsets were taken in the winter expecting to plant to grow which it would do valiantly but not happily. Alas, all you could do was to ask questions via Email! Remember that Bromeliads have very few natural enemies, at least in Adelaide, but they do not like our winters. They are not too happy with our water which is why I always recommend shade houses so they do get rain when it comes.

The main part of the meeting was involved with a workshop as to how to dismantle old plants and re-pot offsets. We saw Adam, Ron and Peter in action with a bit of comment now and again from Bill. Thanks must also go to the volunteers called on to show their ability with the sharp weapons! They were compensated by taking home an offset or two. Growing Bromeliads successfully is an art where no one person does the right thing all the time. So we heard differing advice which has to be digested and modified to suit the individual.

I was especially pleased to see labels being written before each action started. If you only have say 5 plants in your collection you are smug in saying, "I will remember them." When you have 10 you start to wonder but at 50 you throw your hands in the air. So it is best to start properly! The next thing to remember is "Never trust the name on the label" This can be great fun as well as helping you to get to know the plant. The front of the Gazette gives you details of websites to search. If you are not IT literate you can always ask another member and have a note book handy. As far as soils to use and all the other paraphernalia associated with gardening we do have a booklet that can be studied at length and modifications made. Perhaps one important thing to remember is that removing offsets from *Vrieseas* and *Guzmanias* is different to the others and where you try to lever off the offset to give you some roots at the base. If you do not get emerging roots at the base of your offset do not despair because the plant will still grow but be about 6 months behind in its growing. Some of our newer members were lucky to take home *Guzmania* offsets. There are some of our older members like Adam and Peter who can successfully grow this genus which does not like our winters or summers and in the summer months should have a cool humid area. If you fail, do not despair because you have joined the ranks of the writer of this article and many others. If you succeed just brag!

As for writing labels the choice is yours, after all it is you who will have to read it but then if you are selling it is up to the buyer to understand what is written. In any event it will be different to what you see in this Gazette because we will follow the normal protocol such as italics for species names. Take care with spelling which can be checked against the listings you find in the websites as referred to at the front of the Gazette.

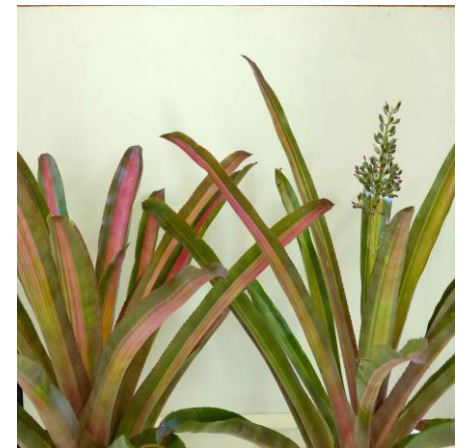
The most popular plant

This went to Julie Batty with her *Aechmea* 'Kiwi' which is not an easy plant to grow properly without damaging the leaves. Such is her prowess with growing plants I gave her a clump of *Tillandsia esseriana* that I had not flowered after 20 years of trying. She reports that it was in spike when she got home. Is this a record for inducing flowering?



Aechmea 'Kiwi' (Photo J.Batty)

Much was said about micro-climates in your back yard. If you are one with green fingers you plants will 'tell' you where they are happiest. If you have 2 of the same plant then grow them in different parts of the yard. This reminds me of Bill Treloar's experience with his two *Aechmea lueddemanniana* 'Mend' plants which were only a few metres apart in his shadehouse at Bute. One got more wind whereas the other was more shaded and in less wind. Bill hypothesised that the windy one decided to flower because it was less happy whereas the more contented plant made offsets. Is it that simple? A plant's primary urge is the same as humans – reproduce. But a plant has had a few million years to 'think' about it. It can produce a flower and hope the weather is right and the pollinators are about. After conception does the seed fall on stony ground, is there rain to help germinate? A lot of if's there and to succeed there must be strategies in place to maximise the chances of survival. If the plant 'guessed' correctly and the weather was right then flowering would be best. But if the conditions were wrong then offsetting may be the better option because it could have 3 or more offsets to flower and set seed when conditions could well be better (or worse). It is great to ponder over such things because it gives your grey matter exercise.



Aechmea lueddemanniana 'Mend'
(Photo J. Batty)

I was more interested in the label on Bill's plant. If you look at the Bromeliad Cultivar Register you will see this has white stripes on the outside of the leaves but on Bill's plant the white bits are in the middle. Let us go back to the 1960's when this variegated first appeared. First the name is unique because it is made up from people's initials as MEND or even M.E.N.D. Be that as it may, it was a commercial success with other nurseries wanting to become involved. So you had 'Alvarez', 'Blanca Alvarez', 'Pinkie', 'Rodco', and 'Rodco Inverta' to pick from. Variegation is a mutation that occurs and dies out in the wild with seed production.

In cultivation variegation stays alive because of offsets and nurturing by growers. Growers noticed that there were some 5 different sorts of variegation but these are not stable and the sort can change with each offset. In theory you could have 5 different names and you would be expected to change the name as each offset appeared. When I was Registrar in 2008 I spat the dummy and made a ruling. Only one name for a variegated plant and you could add the name of the variegation when it appeared. It went over like a lead balloon!

After all this, dare I suggest the Bill keeps 'MEND' on his plant and not try to suggest he find another name! While on names did you see that beautiful plant with equally beautifully written label of *Aechmea nudicaulis* var Tiger. The problem was they had the wrong animal and it should have been *Aechmea nudicaulis* 'Zebra'. On the same theme we saw *Neoregelia* 'Brian Webber' which should have been 'Brian Weber'.

Regrettably time was against us to refer to all the plants on display but you must have looked at them to make the popular plant vote. I was especially interested in the *Guzmania monostachia* with the purple bracts because these are normally red. This colour is not recorded by Botanists, so whether it was found in the wild or cropped up in cultivation is unknown. Now, if I were the owner of such a plant I would have great fun in tracking down its origins and even consider the use of a cultivar name to record its existence.



Tillandsia yunckeri (Photo J.Batty)

It was good to see *Tillandsia yunckeri* in the flesh because I had seen its photo on the internet. You may have noticed that Adam had Guatemala on the label. Why so? I also have a photo from Adam that he took at Pam Koide-Hyatt's place in California. The plants look very different but do not despair because Walter Till tells us there are two forms. It is these sorts of situations that makes me ask which plant gets used for any DNA analysis!

It was good to see *Catopsis subulata* in flower on display AND not in a pot. Did anyone check if it were a boy or girl. Does Peter know? It is easier than sexing chicks! Keen members get sent via Internet, copies of Newsletters from around the world. If you are keen to be added to the list let me know. Anyway, a favourite is one I get from Herb Plever in New York. It is always a great read and recently he looked at *Catopsis subulata* but as Peter Bak pointed out he had used the wrong photo! So we saw rows and rows of 'subulata' as grown in Holland. Sex was not mentioned. Herb gets our Gazette so he will be able to comment if necessary.



Catopsis subulata (Photo J. Batty)

We saw lots of *Tillandsia cacticola* in flower brought in of various shapes and sizes with narry a *T. purpurea* in sight to compare. You would think that all flowering at the same time must mean something but why the differences? We think of these species as coming from the dry areas of Peru and thus should like it in Adelaide. Things started in 1802 when *T. purpurea* came to the notice of Botanists and there were collections of similar plants but given different names in the 1800's. We saw *T. straminea* come into being in 1815 and again collections of similar looking plants. In 1977 in Smith & Downs we read "Recent field observations by Rauh indicate that *Tillandsia straminea* and *T. purpurea* merge in all characters that were formerly used to separate them. Apparently *T. straminea* is the primitive inland epiphytic form and *T. purpurea* the highly adapted sea beach form of a single species."

In 1990 Harry Luther split them into separate species but did not itemise the differences so I for one did not follow Harry.

Now let us look at *T. cacticola*. This was found over a hundred years later in 1943 but not described until 1954. It was said to differ from *T. straminea* with lepidote inflorescence, floral bracts exceeding the sepals and petals yellow. Petals turn partially blue in drying and are a good match for faded ones of *T. straminea* in the herbarium. What happened to the collection other than being made a dried specimen at Kew? Are we growing the true *T. cacticola* because the petals were not truly yellow but plants did have cream petals with bluish tips. Who noticed if the floral bracts exceeded the sepals? In my experience with plants I grew under this name some flowers had this but some flowers on the same inflorescence had the reverse. Interesting – at least to me! Finally there was *Vriesea* that had got its leaves in a tangle by gluing themselves together. As Bill said, you can rip them apart but you get an unsightly plant. It is best to provide a little water pressure and slowly twist them apart. What Bill did not say is that sometimes this ‘quilling’ persists in the next offset and the time has come to PUTITINABIN.

PS. To those who use the library? We have just received the final edition of the Journal of the Brom Soc International for 2013. It was just that there were editorial problems in that year and this is a catch-up.

Words of wisdom from Derek.

‘Remember you get more enjoyment out of being involved than just being entertained’.

Name Changes from Barfuss 2016 by Butcher Jan 2017

In 2016 we saw a paper of some 96 pages published by Barfuss et al affecting *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea* names. There were 7 co-authors specialising in Bromeliaceae so it would be hard to refute their findings. While the changes are based on findings in DNA these were tempered by what the plant looks like to the naked eye! Where necessary they split 2 genera names into 11 new genus names THINK. If they had split at subgenera level we would not have had to change our labels! If you are really keen you can follow all the changes on the Bromeliaceae listing on the BSI website. Many of the species affected are not grown or cannot be grown in Adelaide so you should be able to follow the changes as listed below and change your labels. Remember this does not include hybrids which is a huge task for the Registrar and includes new bigeneric combinations like *xVriesgoudaea* and you will need to watch the BCR carefully

FROM TILLANDSIA

<i>Barfussia</i>	<i>Pseudalcantarea</i>	<i>Wallisia</i>
<i>wagneriana</i>	<i>grandis</i>	<i>anceps</i>
<i>Lemeltonia</i>	<i>macropetala</i>	<i>cyanea</i>
<i>acostasolisii</i>	<i>viridiflora</i>	<i>x duvalii</i> treat as ‘Duvalii’
<i>cornuta</i>	<i>Racinaea</i>	<i>lindeniana</i> (new, was <i>umbellata</i>) Note NO <i>lindenii</i>
<i>dodsonii</i>	<i>dyeriana</i>	<i>pretiosa</i>
<i>monadelphina</i>	<i>hamaleana</i>	
<i>narthecioides</i>	<i>venusta</i>	
<i>scaligera</i>		
<i>triglochmoides</i>		

FROM VRIESEA

<i>Goudaea</i>	<i>Tillandsia</i>
<i>ospinae</i>	<i>heliconioides</i>
<i>ospinae</i> var <i>gruberi</i>	<i>malzinei</i>
<i>Lutheria</i>	
<i>glutinosa</i>	
<i>splendens</i>	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2017
BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Firstly, I wish to thank all the members of my Committee for their hard work, sound advice and sense of humour in helping me manage all the important issues on behalf of the Society during the year. I am grateful for their individual and collective support. I would also like to mention the contribution of an out-going member of the Committee, namely Glenda Lee, who had to retire this past year due to ill-health. She was an enthusiastic committee member and we appreciated her resolve.

Your Committee continues to endeavour to manage the many aspects of the work of the Society within budget. The 2016 calendar year saw an increase in the available funds, against 2015, of about \$2,400 which almost reversed the deficit of \$3,000 from the previous year. I thank all of you for your compulsive bidding during our Pup Exchange and auction at the end of the year because that session realised \$1983 for the coffers. Fortunately, the Society is still in a very good financial situation with funds of \$11,890 available for our activities. Like all responsible organisations we continue to manage our funds in a prudent manner but always have an eye to providing benefits to ensure that our members are happy and satisfied with being part of the Society. I sense that most, if not all of you, feel that way and thoroughly enjoy attending our monthly meetings and other events. In addition to our two major Shows and Sales the Society has been involved in the following:

- Festival of Flowers
- Sunday Mail Garden Expo
- Presentations to other Garden Groups
- Setting up a display at the Royal Show

I would also like to thank Jon Lamb and the ABC for their support in marketing our activities as well as providing a forum for the expanding of knowledge about bromeliads to the general public.

I, personally, continue in my two other roles associated with the world of bromeliads. They are:

- International Director (Australia) to Bromeliad Society International
- Inaugural Chair, Australasian Bromeliad Council

finally, the past year has seen a number of people not able renew their memberships because of illness and other difficulties. This is consistent with most garden clubs because of the age profile of members.

On a more positive note, we have been able to attract new members, who have joined the Society in the past year, and a feature of their feedback to me is how much they feel welcome in attending the Society meetings. Well done to all of you in making them feel so welcome.

I am confident that the Society will continue to flourish and provide a forum for the enjoyment of bromeliads well in to the future. Thank you for having confidence in me as your President.

Adam Bodzioch

AGM - 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
ALL POSITIONS WERE DECLARED VACANT: BILL TRELOAR CONVENER

PRESIDENT: Adam Bodzioch VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Hall

SECRETARY: Bev Masters ASSISTANT SECRETARY: To be nominated by Committee

TREASURER: Trudy Hollinshead (New) ASSISTANT TREASURER: To be nominated by Committee

AUDITOR: Dave Batty

COMMITTEE: Penny Seekamp, Julie Batty, Dave Batty, Kallam Sharman (new), Sue Sckrabei, Jeffrey Hollinshead

POSTAL CLERK: Bev Masters

LIBRARIAN: Penny Seekamp,

AFTERNOON TEA ORGANISER: Bev Masters

AFTERNOON TEA HELPERS: Bev Masters, Sue Sckrabei, Penny Seekamp & others on the day.

RAFFLE TABLES COORDINATOR: Bill Treloar

DOOR TICKETS: helpers on the day

RAFFLE TICKETS: helpers on the day

HOST/ESS: Bill Treloar, Sarka Annie & Mike Griffin

POTS & LABELS: Ron Masters

NAME TAG MAKER: Ron and Bev Masters

GAZETTE: Roving reporter: Derek Butcher.

EDITORS: Derek & Margaret Butcher. ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bev Masters

FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR'S: Adam Bodzioch, Ian Cook, Kallam Sharman



Roving Reporter Feb 2017

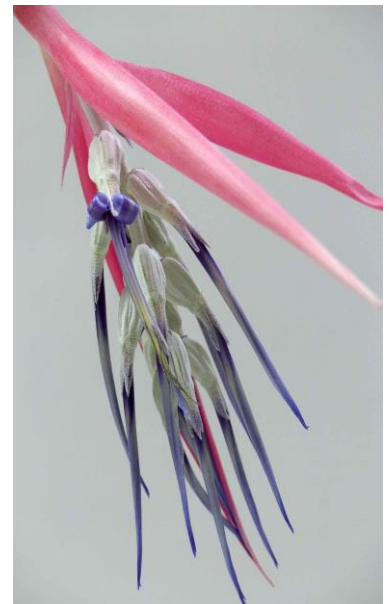
When you are old the months fly past and to think it was our AGM that has come and gone. What I like about our AGM's is the formal proceedings are so quick. No soon as the committee is out then it is back in. Bill Treloar convened the proceedings and we saw very little change. Our President said that past year had been a happy one with all committee members working together. It was sad to lose Glenda due to ill health but we got young blood, Kallam as a replacement. There was almost a fight as to who should be hostesses or is it hosts. But then you can never get too many of these.

The discussion was on species plants and Adam had done a lot of homework to show photos of what to expect from plants on display. Yes, you can get great beauty in a plant that nature has produced by evolution and selection. Manmade hybrids are produced by the thousand and have not really been selected although this happens over time as growers select what they see are the best

A species is the basic building block in Biology and when you get several similar species they are joined under a common genus. This is Linnaeus's binomial system. A surname and a given name (Christian name!). To a taxonomist a published species is a taxon and should cover plants found in the wild. Since 1950 we have had a naming system to cover plants originating in Cultivation and these are cultons with a Cultonomist to take a keen interest in them. I am mainly a self proclaimed Cultonomist but I do sometimes delve into taxonomy! A cultivar name in cultonomy has the same rank as a species name in taxonomy. In Bromeliads we have the BCR (Bromeliad Cultivar Register) to refer to for cultons and the New Bromeliad Taxon list which is on the BSI website.

Back to the display where we had *Billbergia* 'Domingos martins' which Adam said was really a species. Let us go back to 1988 when Elvira Gross from Germany published the startling *Billbergia domingosmartinsis* and soon afterwards Harry Luther the taxonomist said it was the same as *Billbergia vittata* and the name being superfluous. Don Beadle was growing the plant and was worried about its name disappearing. At this time he was working on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register which was published in 1998. Because this register included Aussie hybrids that I had been working on since the 1980's we were working with each other and I was able to push the concept of using 'Domingos martins' as a cultivar name and this has been with us ever since. Rarely if ever do you see a label mentioning 'vittata'!

In the same category we had our popular plant winner *Billbergia mohammadii* (please note correct spelling) owned by Kallam. In 2000 this was published in Die Bromelie and almost immediately Harry Luther said it was the same as *B. kuhlmannii*. As a further twist in my own adventures into taxonomy there is an article in press that I wrote with Eric Gouda pointing out that *B. kuhlmannii* is the same as *B. brasiliensis*. How did Adelaide get involved? Well in 2003 Len Colgan brought back one seed pod of this plant direct from Bolivia so we know it is intimately linked to the original description. The seed germinated and his plants flowered. I got one of the seedlings but it never flowered for me. Meanwhile Len's plants flourished and offsets flowered regularly. Because this species is self fertile you are guaranteed an abundance of seed and this was available to members at a meeting in May 2012. The only one to report success was Hans Wallfried which is why we saw plants on display. I'll bet that Hans got a warm fuzzy feeling that his seedlings had done so well. I am not pushing for 'Mohammadii' for the BCR because this to be only grown in Adelaide and not what I would call in general cultivation. Seed has gone interstate but nobody has reported success or failure.



Billbergia mohammadii
(Photo J.Batty)

On the same theme we had *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal' which is a tissue culture variegated sport of an *Aechmea chantinii*. Here the taxonomist does not like variegation but the Cultonomist loves them. You also must have noticed the fine red offset on what we used to call *Aechmea comata* var *makoyana* which we now call *Aechmea* 'Makoyana'

Talking of labels how long would take you to write *Hohenbergia membranostrobilis* with correct spelling and then to find out it is the wrong name! It has a pretty flower but is not easy to grow which was why I was surprised to see it growing in Adelaide. I first came across the name in 1995 growing in Queensland but it did not agree with the description. 12 years later I got a clue from Germany and its correct name is *Aechmea disjuncta*. It does pay to persevere!



Aechmea disjuncta

(Photo J.Batty)

I do have short term memory loss and it would appear to be selective long term memory loss too and this includes members too. If you were awake at the May 2014 meeting you would remember us fixing the name on Adam's *Nidularium*. Yes we went through the fact we used to grow it years ago as *Nidularium innocentii* var *wittmackianum* only that was wrong! These days, if we follow Elton Leme you only need to put *Nidularium innocentii* on the label. So Ron only needs one word to add – *innocentii* to his *Nidularium*. You too can search electronically for the 'innocent' one by looking at old SA Gazettes featured on the Bromeliads in Australia website!

NEW NAMES. We were warned that we are in for some name changes mainly in *Vriesea* and *Tillandsia* because of DNA work done by a dedicated group of Bromeliad botanists. We cannot complain because we did help with a small contribution to their fund. We must also remember that many of our womenfolk' members changed their names voluntarily! You will slowly get used to the changes. As Adam said we must all be sorry for Geoff Lawn the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar for all the new bigeneric names that will be created. It is better that we leave this to Geoff so we get some continuity and logicity. Heck, we still cannot decide that *xCryptbergia* is wrong and *xBiltanthus* is right and that has been with us for nearly 5 years. When Adam was showing us *Orthophytum burlemarxii* I pointed out that this is in for a genus name change to *Sincoraea*. As I mentioned to my Brazilian mates that does not affect Adelaideans because we can't grow them AND, stack me there was one at the meeting. I hope all of you will appreciate having seen such a rarity in the flesh. I know you all like your *xNeophytum* but this is destined for a change too. Geoff is working on it but Sin will come into it somewhere.

Talking of new names we saw *Goudaea ospinae* and its var. *gruberi* which used to be *Vriesea*. We discussed *Goudaea* and pondered how the Latinised name should be pronounced. We had George Nieuwenhoven in the audience and he only confused us with how it is pronounced in the Netherlands so we resolved to pronounce it with a hard 'G' just like the big cheese! In any event I said that you can recognise the species because of their elongating growth habit just like Eric who is 7 feet tall! Yes, it is named after Eric Gouda and this little anecdote will help you remember the plants name if you believe in mnemonics.

Good news and bad news. Bill Treloar showed us how high temperatures at Bute (47C) can bleach your bromeliads but at least they will recover. I am getting reports from Qld and NSW of actual deaths because of 'abnormal' conditions. To those of you who may be jealous of the weather THEY get remember you can get complacent. It is not the space you have it is the way you USIT!

Finally, years ago we had Harry's problem. You see, Harry Bamford used to grow *Bromelia pinguin* in pots and always complained about offsets emerging from the drainage hole. So when anyone complained about having the same thing we said, "See Harry!" Alas we cannot do it these days because Harry is up with the Bromeliads high in the sky. Please grow your Bromelias in large pots because their propensity to throw out strong runners will soon fill your garden bed! Why grow them? When they do flower you get a vivid splash of red.



Bromelia pinguin

(Photo J.Batty)



Roving Reporter March 2017

Another good roll up. To think that I nearly got us some new members. A couple sat next to me and I even got them a couple of Door tickets. They were keen to see the Bromeliad demonstration and I said they first had to listen to the meeting part before the exciting bit. I always consider our meetings are better than most other plant societies because our committee is the one who argues and makes decisions, leaving the rest of us to get the concise details. We then have more time to talk plants! But, surprise, surprise our visitors disappeared before afternoon tea.

Back to the plot. When getting myself settled down for the meeting I was admiring the new super duper banner and asked Margaret to look at it carefully. She said DON'T YOU DARE! Do it in private. Then Len blurted out the spelling mistake. It interesting that ever since 1977 non Bromeliad growers have said Bromelaidis, The pedant in me said NO No No.

What do you do when you want to find out what word means or how to spell it you refer to a Dictionary, or these days Google. How many of you have Googled for Bromelaid? I will only tell you that the answer is interesting. My rule is that if you cannot find the word it does not exist. We know advertising people deliberately mis-spell to catch your eye. I remember seeing suasages on the Butchers window. I quietly mentioned the mis-spelling and the Butcher said BUT lots of people come in just to tell me and buy sausages.

If you want to check on spelling or meaning of a Bromelaid hybrid (This is here to see if the proof reader is asleep – Bromeliad says Margaret!) you refer to the BCR. Remember that at the meeting there were several who acknowledged they omitted to do so. Others were silent on the matter. If you cannot find the name (plant) then it does not exist but if you are keen you can set wheels in motion to add the name to the Bromeliad dictionary (BCR).

Now for a quiet word on what qualifies as a name because some consider that a formula is as good as a name. A formula is a sentence with its own verb and you will not find it in the BCR so again it does not officially exist. The situation can be solved by setting wheels in motion to give it a name and registering .

And now to the Summer Brag conducted by none other than Adam. These are generally great learning events for us all with the cross banter. This time the most popular plant/s went to Big Len with his Peruvian *Guzmania monostachia*. I say plant/s because typical lazy Len just cut out mother when last it flowered leaving the offsets to grow to maturity. It was good to see Len at his chirpy best and as he explained, it is better to get the Peruvian form if you want an easy plant to grow in Adelaide. *Guzmania monostachia* is widespread in the hot wet areas of central America but it is also found in the drier areas of Peru where its leaves are just a bit stiffer. Not stiff stiff but a little stiffer! One that came a close second was Sue Scrabei's *Neoregelia* 'Persian Tiger' which regrettably is an NN (No name, Nurseryman's name or in Botanic parlance , nomen nudum) because it is not in the BCR, Just as I find dictionaries exciting, so too is the BCR. You never know what information you find there! If I were guessing its family tree I would suggest the *Neoregelia carcharodon* group would feature somewhere. While on the subject of the BCR there was a N 'Luna' that had 'var' on the label presumably to mean variegated but the BCR will tell you it has always been variegated.



Guzmania monostachia (Photo J.Batty)



Neoregelia 'Persian Tiger' NN (Photo J.Batty)

Now to Julie's pride *Tillandsia esseriana* – in flower. As Len pointed out it is a very rare plant in Australia. Let us go back to the infamous Colgan/Butcher world tour in 1996. First we took the World Conference in Orlando, Florida, by storm by presenting two highly educational papers. We then spent a few days with Renate Ehlers in Germany where I was assigned to the loft. Not only was I top of the house but it was where Renate kept her drying herbarium specimens. I was in heaven not on cloud nine because I had to be careful where I walked! I digress. While there we visited Lydia Koehres who did not speak a word of English but understood Latin and we had Renate to help. In any event *T. esseriana* was one we brought back to Australia. Mine liked Adelaide so much it offsetted well but never flowered. I scared it into flower in 2017 by giving the challenge to Julie!



T. esseriana (Photo J. Batty)

TILLANDSIA ESSERIANA by WERNER RAUH AND L. B. SMITH in Journ Brom Soc 21(1): 3-6 1971
On his trip to Paraguay in 1966 to study the cactus vegetation Gerd Esser, a student of Prof. Dr. Rauh, visited also the Cerro Guazu, an isolated mountain in the Department of Amambay, at a distance of about 30 miles from the Brazilian border. Esser reached this Cerro by horse after a two-week trip from Lima (Department of San Pedro), and he is of the opinion that no botanist had visited this Cerro up to this time. It is situated in the midst of an evergreen tropical rain forest and bears on its steep rocks a remarkable vegetation of Cacti, such as a new, undescribed *Pilosocereus* (Esser 14945), a *Monvillea*, some xerophytic bromeliads, as *Dyckia* spec. (Fig. 2), *Tillandsia lorentziana*, and the new *T. esseriana*, an interesting species with blue-violet flowers. This plant has flowered several times in the collection of the Botanical Garden of the University of Heidelberg, and the authors have dedicated it to its discoverer, Dr. G. Esser.

The flowers are big; they are about 5 cm long and 4,5 cm in diameter; the bright violet plates of the petals are spreading, broad-oval and slightly undulated at their margins, 2- 2,5 cm long, 1,8 cm broad. The stamens are deeply included in the tube; the sepals are connate up to a length of 2 cm, green at the base, white at their tips; the style is 1,5 cm long and shorter than the stamens.

T. esseriana is a striking plant when flowering, for the flowers are as big as those of *T. lindenii*. It is easy to cultivate, needing only a little water and full sunshine.

Date: Thu, 15 Oct 2009

Subject: T.esseriana

From: Mihaly Ferenczi <m.ferenczi@usyd.edu.au>

To: Tilly Nuts <tillnuts@bromeliad.org.au>

Hi all

Some time ago we had a little discussion about this plant. Going through my old emails I found this one, which was sent by Mr Esser to a friend of mine. I hope you will find this information useful. Michael

Jose,

it grows on steep rocks of sandstone (interglacial sandstones of the Tubarao series of upper Carbon), but only on north, northeast or northwest facing rocks. That means (southern hemisphere) towards the sun. On the south-facing walls are no Tillandsias, but Philodendron.

On the natural sites, the plants are about 10 inches high, often branching and forming clumps. I think for a good growth the plants should be kept extremely hot and sunny, in open and rather dry air. No damp atmosphere. Frequent watering over the leaves (that means once every 2-3 days). Dew at night would be good.

The climate at Sydney is much colder than that at the natural sites of *T. esseriana*. In Paraguay, during the growing season, you have 30-40C during the day (at the *T. esseriana*-rocks much more) and 20-25C at night. The coldest month has about 25C during the day and 10-15C during the night. You have precipitation throughout the year, i.e. no dry season. So keep *T. esseriana* at the hottest and sunniest place you have in your garden. Never put it in a greenhouse, except at low temperatures in winter.

I do not know very much about the nutrient requirements of this plant. Since it grows on sandstone rocks their nutrient requirements may be higher than that of other species, but you should test this.

Hope I could help you.

Regards,
Gerd Esser

Next came the flowering out of season *Aechmea fasciata* and almost in flower *A. flavorosea* which if in flower would have had yellow petals compared to the blue in *A. fasciata*. Now if we had had *A. caesia* there too we could have had a great discussion because Lyman Smith treated *A caesia* and *A. flavorosea* as being the same. But we did talk about the indentation in the leaf between sheath and blade. I said it was Christ's thumb print but Adam did not agree with me. I recall as a child knowing that North Sea Cod (now extinct due to over fishing) could be identified by Christ's fingermarks just behind the gills. I knew about the 6 fishes but nobody explained the distance between Galilee and the North Sea. This was why I remembered vividly when I was told at an early Brom meeting in the late 1970's it was also the cause in the dent in the leaf in *Aechmea nudicaulis* and others (Including sometimes *A. fasciata*!)

What did you think of Billbergia 'Bruddah Iz' ? I had three queries. One was on the evidently misspelled name so popular with advertisers as mentioned earlier in this article. Two it was explained by an erudite Margaret this is the name of the late Hawaiian Tenor. Three why did the offset have no spots? Was is a sport or as Bill Treloar says wait for the spots to come as the plant matures? I think it is that same sort of thing as why we oldies get wrinkles. Anyway, the owner of said plant is asked to bring it in for the next brag for us all to observe developments. Being a cross with the sub-genus *Helicodea* you can expect a spectacular inflorescence



Billbergia 'Bruddah Iz' (Photo J. Batty)

Finally a word on optimism. Geoff was worried that his *Tillandsia butzii* was just sitting after flowering last year and yet it is still alive. Dare I say that *T. butzii* does not always like Adelaide weather!

1977 – 2017celebration & Christmas in July

We are celebrating our 40th birthday with lunch catered for by the 'Texas Bull Machine' at Maltese Society hall on Sunday July 9th at 1PM.

The cost of the meal including sweets for members will be paid with BSSA funds but for non members the cost will be \$25.00. BYO drinks and glasses.

To assist with catering can you please advise Bev of you attendance & any dietary needs as soon as possible or fill in the form at April or May meetings to enable us to notify the caterer numbers.

Membership duration

The Committee has recommended that we recognise length of membership. With intervals of 10 years, 20 years, 30 years etc suggested.

However we need your help in this venture, please either notify Bev, or at meetings fill in the form with date or month and year of joining. This enables us to acknowledge your support to the Bromeliad Society of South Australia.



Help!

Festival of Flowers

Featuring: African Violets, Begonias, Bromeliads, Bonsai, Cactus & Succulent, Carnivorous, Cottage garden, ferns, Orchids & Pelargoniums

22nd & 23rd April 2017. 10.00AM- 4.00PM

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE, 792 GRAND JUNCTION RD, GILLES PLAINS

Come and see the beautiful plants on display, Purchase plants that you will NOT be able to buy at the nursery

Afternoon tea, Raffle, Drinks, Sausage sizzle

Members are encouraged to support this gardening festival & if you have several spare hours to help it will be greatly appreciated and "workers" badges are available - please contact me. *Bev*

March 2017 Trophies – All photos taken by Ian Cook

Presidents Trophy for Bromelioideae



Billbergia 'Dippen Dots' NN **Winner: J. Batty**

Neoregelia Trophy for Best Neoregelia.



Neoregelia 'Wow' **Winner: J. Batty**

Marie Robinson Trophy for Vriesea Complex



Vriesea 'Iced Mocha' NN **Winner: Adam Bodzioch**

**Margarete Reppin Trophy for Pitcairnioideae.
Ede Schaefer Trophy for Best in show**



Dyckia 'Arizona' **Winner: J. Batty**

Josie Tonkin Trophy for best Tillandsias type



Tillandsia Scarlet giant capitata **Winner: P. Hall**

**Gummow Trophy for best specimen multiple plants
Jeanne Hall Trophy Miniature Neoregelia**



Neoregelia 'Mini Skirt' **Winner: S. Sckrabei**

Auntie Margaret & Uncle Derek 'Novice' award



Aechmea correia araujoii **Winner: K. Sharman**

George(Gerd) Rudolph Trophy for Artistic Merit



Tillandsia Caterpillar **Winner: P. Hall**

All Certificates winners will be listed in the next gazette.