

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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April, May & June 2020

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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/>

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley S.A.

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday

of each month. Exceptions –2020

3rd Sunday in March, April May

& October- or unless advised

otherwise (see dates below).

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW

MEMBERS WELCOME.



Dyckia 'Arizona' (Photo Julie)



MEETING & SALES 2020 DATES SUBJECT TO COVID-19 DIRECTIONS

2020 Meeting dates & events. 19/4/2020 CANCELLED (3rd Sunday- Workshop, Genera: Tillandsia), 17/5/2020 CANCELLED (3rd Sunday- Genera: Billbergia), 14/6/2020 CANCELLED 12/7/2020 (Xmas in July, Catered Peter Hall memorial lunch POSTPONED, 9/8/2020 CANCELLED . 13/9/2020 (Clones & seed batches. Genera: Broms in flower) 18/10/2020 (3rd Sunday – Workshop, Genera: Pattern leaf Vriesea & Goudeaa), 23/10/2020 set up sales, 24/10 & 25/10/2020 sales, 8/11/2020. (Break-up: No display or raffle 1200 start Committee, 130PM start main meeting, Pup exchange, Special Afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, Auction

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual NOW DUE

1. April, May & June 2020 BSSA Gazette

Page	Details
1	Cover page – Photo: Committee: Meeting & sales dates - Please note changes, Membership Subs now due
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6	Gazette error: Covid-19 & BSSA calendar: celebrations: Useful tips: Membership: Xams in July & Peter Hall memorial lunch 2021
7	S A Bushfire garden revival
8	BSSA Code of conduct

REMINDER

We aim to have the correct spelling on plant names but some errors creep through. We try to use cultivar register and the BSI list of names for consistency sake. If you pick up an anomaly please check these resources.

Tillandsia usneoides



Hans & Derek showing 'old man's beard'



Spanish moss in a garden setting

The term air plant is often used when the general public enquire about Tillandsia usneoides.

This Bromeliad has a very nice perfume when in flower.

Tillandsia usneoides should not be left to dry out too often because it slows the growth rate.

Water every (drench) day during the warm to hot weather.

Keeping the plant hydrated encourages vigorous growth.

The plant should be spread out on wire or a frame enabling light and water to the centre of the mass. If left in a thick clump the centre dies off.

As the plant bulks up we should then thin it out again.

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia is one of the best places to learn about these plants, and source new ones. The members make plants available for purchase at meetings and shows.

General Care Tillandsias

This is meant as a few notes for taking care of Tillandsias (from here on called Tills). The Bromeliad Society "Growing Bromeliads in S.A." is full of great information and inexpensive. "THE" Tillandsia book Paul Isley's "Tillandsia II" is a great resource.

Firstly, not all Tills are best mounted. In general most silver plants grow well mounted, some may grow better in pots, & some may perish in pots - if you don't know which your plant prefers, it is usually better to try them mounted. Green tills generally grow better in pots, but may be grown mounted. Beware of the exceptions - keep an eye on your newly acquired plants.

Few tills thrive in a fully exposed position in the warmer months. Some require overhead coverage in winter, so they don't stay cold & wet in winter. It is best to grow a newly acquired plant in shade, under a fixed roof so that you can regulate the watering until you can find how this plant performs in your climate. (Always remember that books usually give information particular to the area of the grower, and so cannot always be trusted for your location.) While most tills are OK to grow outside, there are some which are tropical. If unsure when acquiring new plants, ask the owner of the plant for further information on how he/she has grown the plant.

When hanging tillis always watch the drip from treated pine or galvanized iron - the drip from these will kill or severely damage bromeliads (including tillis).

Mounting

1. Use a mount which is free of oils, or chemicals - or salt (leach driftwood of salts before using).
2. Most tillis like to be mounted upright. Many tolerate being upside down, and some are happy any way you put them.

If in doubt point the vase, or the centre of the plant, upwards.

3. Use plastic coated wire or strips of elastic material (eg. strips of stockings) to fasten your plant to the mount.
4. It is best to use a glue to adhere your plant to the mount. Beware some glues, such as some silicones, will kill some tillis. We recommend Selley's all clear, Gelgrip, Selley's Acrylic, any PVA recommended for external situations - such as Liquid Nails. Hot glue guns adhere at first, but the glue has a short life, and the plants fall off. Make sure the glue contacts the stem of the plant, and allows water to run away.

Tillis prefer a light, shaded position. Most will not tolerate growing in a dark position - &, at the least, will not thrive. These plants are usually more exposed to the elements than most other plants being hung up. They have nowhere, externally, to keep the water while they absorb it like a potted plant does (ie. in the soil). The plant dries out with air movement - especially hot dry air. It is necessary to replace this water - they are not "air plants". The foliage will take up water, and in the warmer months it is necessary to water the plant thoroughly - light misting is likely to not be sufficient. Many people use a misting bottle, but we recommend using a hose or running the till under the tap. In colder weather (when not placed near a heater) winter watering is usually every 2-4 weeks depending on the weather & plant. After Fathers Day watering should be increased until summer when watering should be at least twice a week (more or less depending on the species/hybrid). Then around Mothers Day it is time to start backing off to a winter watering regime. Remember that instructions on watering are very conditional - every location is different, even within the same property.

Growing Tillandsias can provide many years of enjoyment. The culture and care of plants varies a lot due to the conditions you grow them under. Any person giving you advice is doing so as the result of their experience, in their own conditions

It is worth listening to this advice but never treat it as gospel. Always watch how your plant is growing in your conditions, and react accordingly. There is an immense amount of pleasure to be gained by watching your plant grow to its full potential in your own care. Happy Growing



Mass planting by the very creative George.



T. cajamarcensis planted in orchid style pot



T. streptophylla

Billbergia (excerpts from "Blooming Bromeliads" by Baensch and other general comments)

A majority of the about 60 species of this genus are native to Brazil. Their entire distribution ranges from Mexico south to northern Argentina. They are predominately epiphytes and grow comfortably attached to trees and shrubs. Billbergias grow naturally attached to a substrate but will also grow terrestrially and some grow among rocks.

In comparison to most other bromeliads billbergia species are usually tall, slender plants. Their vase or cup-shaped funnels are formed from only a few stiff leaves (4 to 10 at the most). The funnel, fairly narrow but high, is a waterproof reservoir and big enough to supply the plant with water over a long period of time.

The deep tubular shape of the rosette prevents water from evaporating and allows the plants to survive long droughts.

Billbergias are medium-sized to large plants with tough, stiff leaves which range from green or metallic gray to reddish brown. Often they display cross-bands which are a result of the accumulation of scales. Some of the recent created hybrids have very colourful mottled markings which are strikingly beautiful and enhanced when grown in very good light.

Most billbergias develop stunningly beautiful large inflorescences which range from reds and pinks to purple and blue. Most are often pendulous but some are also sometimes erect. Undoubtedly they can compare with the most beautiful bromeliads but, unfortunately, their blossoms are short-lived.

Billbergias thrive with good air movement around them and are ideal for landscaping although shade will be necessary in extreme conditions as the leaves will burn in hot, direct sun. Generally, though, they are able to tolerate a wider range of temperatures than most other bromeliads. Billbergias will enhance any bromeliad collection with their height, colour and tubular shapes.

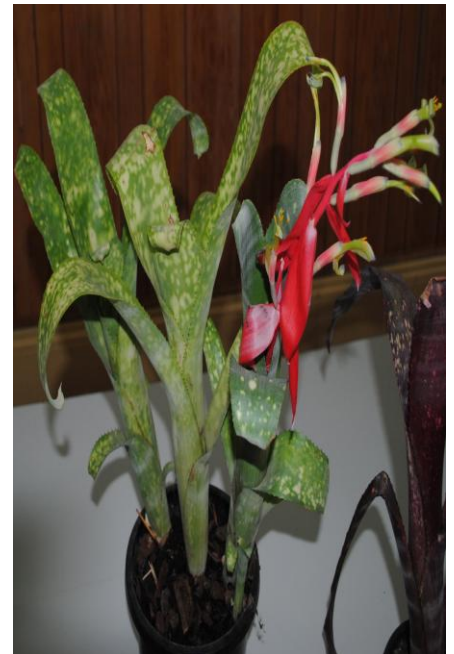
Care should be taken in fertilising the plants. Too much nitrogen will result in long strappy, green leaves and the loss of mottled markings, stripes and cross-bands. It is recommended to provide slow-release fertiliser to newly potted pups but to not fertilise again for the life of the plant. Billbergias are attractive when grown in clumps but pups can easily be removed with the use of a sharp knife or secateurs. With all bromeliads let the wound heal for a few days before potting up.



Billbergia sanderiana (Photo: Julie)



Billbergia "Strawberry Cream" (Photo: Julie)



Billbergia "Curly Top" (Photo: Julie)

Bromeliad Society of South Australia -Caring for bromeliad pups

Many people find that the cheapest, and sometimes the only way, to buy a bromeliad is to buy a cutting, often called pups. There are a few tricks to ensuring that you get the maximum from your pup, and that is what we will address here. Firstly, always make sure that your pup is at least 1/3 of the size of a normal sized plant of that species/hybrid. A pup that has been removed smaller than this is often more difficult to establish than a plant which is closer to maturity.

If the plant is smaller than 1/3 of a mature plant, make sure it is fed with a weak solution of a suitable liquid fertilizer (such as an orchid flowering fertilizer), and put in a bright filtered light. If the pup is in flower, many growers will remove that flower. This enables the plant to devote more energy to establishing roots, and sending out more pups, rather than having its' energy used in the flowering process. Many, growers leave their plants for a couple of days for the wound to callous over before planting. The plant is then placed in a potting mix (unless it is to be mounted). The potting mix must be free draining.

There are many recipes for potting mediums, as different locations, and different plants change the nature of what is required. I recommend 2/3 general purpose potting mix & 1/3 small to medium orchid bark as a mix that I find suits most plants, in most circumstances - though many can be grown in a good quality potting mix - there will be exceptions.

A fertilizer, such as Osmocote, can be added to the mix. Most bromeliads can be fed at -recommended strength, but most growers feed billbergias and neoregelias very sparingly.

Do not plant your pup too deep in the mix. The plant should be planted just deep enough to support the plant. Stakes can be placed around the plant, until it is established, if it keeps falling over.

Make sure that smaller pups are placed in a protected position until they are properly established.



Uncle Derek Reports for May 2020

Dyckia species. These are very rare in Australian collections but hybrids abound so the following has an especial interest

Oscar Ribeiro, (my Mate in Brazil) advises that back in 2009 “I was in a field trip to Diamantina ready to return to Rio when I saw on the map how close I was to Buenopolis, headquarters of the Serra do Cabral National Park. Instinctively I decided to visit it. The next day the administration assigned a guard of the park to accompany me during the only day I had to inspect the vicinity. Beautiful scenery, extra dry soil in August and lots of bromeliads. That very first morning I found Dyckia oscari! It was later identified as *D. marnier-lapostollei* which I always doubted. I collected a few seed for Derek Butcher. After years of searching for guidance, I heard of Elidio a taxonomist specialized in Bromeliaceae - specially Dyckias!!! I immediately called him and arranged to send my clone for his inspection. Coincidentally, he had also visited Serra do Cabral in 2012 and seen the same Dyckia (*oscari*) on another area. In 2020 the eleven years of waiting is over! Happy end!”

I grew the seed and got germination and when downsizing my bromeliad collection gave several plants away to what I considered to be worthy causes. I think I am like many of you where I list plants obtained from others but take no notes of departures. I sent an Email to our members who are on Email. I found out that at least one specimen was alive in the collection of George Nieuwenhoven. So, many of you now have a contact. Now that meetings are few and far between due to the virus, Emails may be one solution and I am as close as your computer. What is more interesting is that it was published as *Dyckia oscari* in 2020 but it seems likely this will become *Dyckia oscarii*

I also got a short note from Jess Schinella who said, “I haven't got any plants off of you before. I won one of your plants at our club Auction last year -*Tillandsia botteri*. I hope to see you soon in the not too distant future.” This is just a start where you can mention plants to me instead of taking them to meetings. It is nice to know that this plant is in a good home and just like every Brom I had, has a message to tell. I grew this plant as *Tillandsia tricolor* just like everyone else in Australia until we got the advice that it was really *Tillandsia botterii*. See following.

TILLANDSIA BOTTERI E. Morren ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 183. 1889. Treated as a synonym of *T. tricolor* in S&D but resurrected here as *T. botterii* (incorrect suffix!) by Espejo-Serna et al in Flora de Vera Cruz , fasc136, Bromeliaceae, 147-50. Aug 2005 and Selbyana 25(1): 54. 2004.

You may notice that here that it is now agreed that Espejo was correct with suffix ‘ii’ Check the BSI New taxon list at <http://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist>



Dyckia oscarii



Dyckia oscarii

ERROR!

BSSA 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS- error convener Peter Nelson.

COVID -19 & BSSA CALENDAR

Covid19 has changed all of our lives and stopped Bromeliad groups and societies from having their regular meetings.

S.A. has been very successful & a leader in not merely flattening the curve but many days of zero infections however there is no room for complacency during this unprecedented health challenge, we need to be vigilant to prevent a second wave of infection in S.A. in line with all federal and state government policy and directives.

As these are uncertain and changing times, outside our control & ability to predict next week let alone next month how this pandemic will impact on our daily lives we're unable to confirm our scheduled meeting dates & sales.

At this stage it is anticipated that when our meetings resume there will be significant changes to the meeting format in line with the health & Govt regulations relating to physical distancing & hygiene.

With this in mind our Committee have a meeting in August when there maybe more understanding and direction of the pandemic & current regulations which should then facilitate implementing recommendations for 'indoor public meetings' thus enabling us to move on and confirm dates to get back together again and share our appreciation & interest in the fascinating Bromeliad family.

An update on this will be either sent via email or 'snail mail' to our members along with information on social media as soon as practicable after the committee meeting.

Celebrations



We rely on our members to let us know when they or a friend in the Society is celebrating a special occasion that then gives us the opportunity to acknowledge & extend best wishes etc.

When it is the significant milestone of 80 we will provide a cake & certificate if given at least a couple of weeks notice.

Bev



Do you have any tips, successes or challenges to share with your fellow bromaholics???
Please let us know

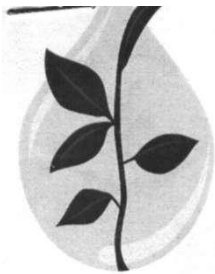
MEMBERSHIP

Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual **NOW DUE**

These can be paid either at meetings or by bank transfer please contact our Treasurer for bank details.



***STOP PRESS! Xmas in July & Peter Hall Memorial Lunch:
TO BE RESCHEDULED IN 2021***



SA Bushfire Garden Revival

SA Bushfire Garden Revival (SABGR) was founded by Kristy Barnes in January 2015. It was created with the sole purpose to help the families affected by bushfire to move through their recovery journey with a mental health focus of garden therapy.

The work SABGR's volunteers achieved helped hundreds of people in rebuilding their farms and gardens in the months after the Sampson Flat and Pinery bushfires by providing free plants and garden equipment. Home and farm gardens are not insured; leaving a fire affected resident completely out of pocket at a time of high stress, trying to rebuild their lives. The proven benefits of garden therapy were utilised to aid in their emotional and physical wellbeing leading to improved mental health.

How does SABGR assist families affected by bushfire?

- ✦ Fundraise to buy much needed plants and garden hardware.
- ✦ Propagate plant cuttings to grow the plants fire affected residents desire.
- ✦ Grow native seedlings for fire affected residents to bring life back to their gardens and farms.
- ✦ Hold open day events where fire affected residents can collect FREE plants and garden hardware.
- ✦ Provides a safe environment for fire affected residents to discuss their trauma.

How can YOU help?

- ✦ Join our team of 250 people which is growing everyday!
- ✦ Become a volunteer by either growing plants, or collecting and storing plants, garden equipment.
- ✦ Become part of the transport and collection points team (see list on our Facebook page).
- ✦ If you own a business we would love to auction off your goods (acknowledged via our Facebook page).
- ✦ Donate any garden related goods, e.g. plants, potting mix, pots, tree guards, wooden stakes or tools.
- ✦ Grow native seedlings for revegetation and wildlife.
- ✦ Approach businesses you know for donations for our fundraising or open days.

We would love to see you over on our Facebook page so you can see what we are up to! Please don't hesitate to message the Facebook page, one of our Admin Team are waiting to answer any queries you have. You can also email us at sabushfiregardenrevival@outlook.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

You can support South Australian's in their rebuild and recovery by

DONATING to SA BUSHFIRE GARDEN REVIVAL

through our Sponsor, Kiwanis Club of Brighton Inc.

Kiwanis Club of Brighton Inc. Projects Account

BSB 105-184 Account number 018967840

In the description you must list SABGR to identify your donation to us.



<https://www.facebook.com/sabushfiregardenrevival>

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc



CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

The code of conduct is designed to uphold our values, ensure our members have a safe and welcoming experience, and to safeguard the reputation of the Society.

All members are expected to conduct themselves according to the Code of Conduct as follows.

The Code of Conduct

Members will

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all members
2. Be fair, considerate and honest in their dealings with all members
3. Show courtesy at all times
4. Respect the personal space of others, being mindful of avoiding invading this space.
5. Have respect for member's personal privacy at home.
6. Be respectful of differing viewpoints, experiences, lifestyles, beliefs.
7. Foster an environment that is safe from any types of harassment; physical, verbal, emotional or sexual
8. Not use 'bullying' behaviour which intimidates, offends, degrades, humiliates, undermines or threatens other members. This includes in person, online or any other form of communication.
9. Not use language that is threatening or abusive towards other members
10. Use no violence of any form against other members, and not be accepting of violent behaviour
11. Encourage all members to participate in meetings and activities
12. Use no behaviour that might bring the Society into disrepute
13. Ensure the activities are conducted within the law at all times

Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to all general and committee meetings, and to all public and private events organised or hosted by The Bromeliad Society of South Australian Inc.

Enforcement

The committee is responsible for clarifying the standards of acceptable behaviour and is expected to take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any instances of unacceptable behaviour.