

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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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-l/> altern site <http://imperialis.com.br/>

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876



Adam presenting certificate to Bev(Photo Julie)

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley S.A.

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of each month. Exceptions –2021

3rd Sunday in May & September- or unless advised otherwise (see dates below).

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME.



MEETING & SALES 2021 DATES SUBJECT TO COVID-19 DIRECTIONS

10/1/2021 Topic & Display Inter generic, 14/2/2021 AGM: Broms in the garden & Creative display, 14/3/2021, Summer brag –any brom. 26/3/2021 sales setup, 27/3/2021 Sales, 28/3/2021 Sales, 11/4/2021 Workshop: Display Tillandsia, 16/5/2021 (3rd Sunday) Topic & Display Billbergia. 13/6/2021 Guest speaker (TBA) Display Pricklies, 11/7/2021 Xmas in July, Kris Kringle, 8/8/2021, Winter brag .Display Any Brom. 19/9/2021 (3rd Sunday) Clones & seed batches, Display any brom in flower. 10/10/2021, Topic & Display :Aechmea. 22/10/2021 sales setup, 23/10/2021 Sales, 24/10/2021 Sales, 14/11/2021 Breakup

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

Please refer to article page 6 from our Treasurer

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1	Cover page – Photo: Committee: Meeting & sales dates
2	Correct spelling reminder: Uncle Derek comment 10 th Oct: Corrigenda- Ray
3	Useful tips request: Report Oct : Tillandsia bergeri article
4	Tillandsia bergeri article cont: Julie reports Oct: Billbegia euphemiae article
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CORRECT SPELLING 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.



UNCLE DEREK comment 10th Oct 2020

It must be many years when I conjured up my Motto ‘Never trust the name on the label, I realised that the name was 99% correct but I was trying to encourage owners of plants to find out how their plant fitted in to the general scheme of Bromeliads before finding out their unique growing conditions we have in Adelaide. Here the Gazette comes in handy as do our meetings. Yes, we do discuss plant names but there is no computer handy to enquire in depth. You are never too old to learn and I still suggest you use the BSI website and look under BROMELIADS then TAXONOMY then THE NEW BROMEIAD TAXON LIST The last Gazette was a bit different because we asked Ray Clark to write about his experiences and I thought it went very well but I did not edit the names on the photos as is my usual custom. An Email from Ray follows “Uncle, for the record my records were correct, my mistake was that I jumped the gun and assumed But you raise a very important point, how many and who is paying attention ☐ I appreciated that I was challenged 😊 Ray Clark”

So you now know that some of the names are incorrect but leave it to you to decide which ones you feel are incorrect. Depending on how pedantic you feel you can send me an Email.

Plant names are intriguing. First we have those named by Taxonomists for plants found in the wild and these are under scrutiny. For example you can have those declared ‘invalid’ or ‘illegitimate’ according to the Code. I stay away from such discussions. A plant named under these rules has precedence over a plant named as cultivar under the BCR (Bromeliad Cultiar Register). Needless to say it is easier to register a Cultivar provided you have a good photo.

You are urged to register a cultivar because if given a nickname this is unrecorded and only adds to confusion in plant identification.

Corrigenda

Dear readers of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia Gazette, there are two errors contained within issue 3, 2020 and the errors are mine; please accept my apologies for any confusion that I may have caused. Why a corrigenda and not errata, because the mistakes are mine and not of the Society or its members who compile our wonderful Gazette. Thank you to Eric Gouda who alerted me to my mix-up.

On page eight is a photograph of T.orepezana which I incorrectly named T.orezepana, a simple typographical error.

On page ten is a photograph of T.roseascapa which I incorrectly named as T.roseacea.

For the record, my master data collection records are actually correct as are the labels on my plants, I simply rushed this article in the middle of the night and should have cross checked instead of assuming.

Ray Clark



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



Report of Oct 18 2020 meeting by Julie

The topic of our display and discussion for this month's meeting was patterned leaf Vrieseas – possibly one of the most visually attractive groups of Bromeliad. The display plants showed no sign of the variable weather during the year with Kallam's big and beautiful Vriesea 'Snows of Mauna Kea' winning the most popular plant award. Adam led the discussion with Kallam, covering a range of points such as differences between clones, the main hybridists both in Australia and overseas and the influences of 'Snows of Mauna Kea' and platynema in hybridising. Adam explained the lengthy process of back-crossing involved for a hybridist to achieve the desired outcome.



Vriesea 'Snows of Mauna Kea' (Photo Julie)

A 12 year old robust Vr. *hieroglyphica* grown by Geoff Hollinshead prompted the warning that these 'hate being moved', (Aunty Margaret would say that applies to most Broms), and to find the right position and leave it there.

Of interest on the Tillandsia stand was an apparently different form of *T. bergeri* 'with purple tips' on one side of the label, and on the reverse side a reference to the leaves.

***Tillandsia bergeri*, a Many Splendored Species** by Robert W. Read in J. Brom. Soc. 38(4):147-9. 1988

A sizeable collection of plants of *Tillandsia bergeri* was imported from Argentina during the summer of 1981 (December and January in Argentina). The variation observed as they came into flower effectively illustrated a point that I have often stressed: variability among individuals of a single species over the range of population. This condition is clearly illustrated in the accompanying photograph (fig. 1). These three plants represent a cross section at selected points in the variation, with numerous intermediates blending form and color throughout the collection. They also represent a random sampling of the population, since the plants were not in flower when originally collected. Large clumps of *T. bergeri* were found growing on and between granitic rocks protruding from a dusty, reddish soil 400 km northeast of Buenos Aires. Although *T. bergeri* is reportedly from Argentina only, *T. aeranthos* is widely known through southeastern Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and northeastern Argentina.

Tillandsia bergeri is a member of the subgenus *Anoplophytum* in a group of species distinguished by the fact that the stamens are included deep in the throat of the flower, with the style slender and much longer than the ovary; the stamens about equaling the claw of the petal, and the filaments strongly plicate in many species. *T. bergeri* keys out next to *T. aeranthos* (Loiseleur) L.B. Smith on page 689 of Smith and Downs (1977) where it is distinguished solely on the color of the floral bracts ("pale rose" in the former, "dark red" in the latter) and the petals ("dull blue to white" in the former, "dark blue" in the latter).



T. bergeri different form purple tips (Photo Julie)

However, in the text description, *T. bergeri* (p. 837) is said to have stamen "filaments faintly plicate," while *T. aeranthos* with its nine synonyms of species and varieties has stamen "filaments plicate."

In the three specimens illustrated here I found no indication of plications immediately after full anthesis, with only a suggestion of plications in a couple of buds. In his new book on tillandsias, Paul Isley (1987) also makes a point of stressing how indistinguishable these two species are in the vegetative or nonblooming state.

Of particular interest here is the extreme variability of *Tillandsia aeranthos* and *T. bergeri* whose ranges overlap. Plants with pale bracts, narrow white petals and nonplicate stamen-filaments show one extreme; plants with dark red bracts, deep blue, broad-bladed petals and faintly plicate stamen filaments display another. Could this represent another case of putative hybridization and resultant hybrid swarm over a large area? Are *T. aeranthos* and *T. bergeri* really distinct species, or does the former merely extend the range of variability of the latter? These questions might be answered best by someone living in the region where they grow so that random collections and measurements could be made and perhaps other more sophisticated research could be undertaken.

Michael Rothenberg, who supplied the plants for this study, suggested that a comparison of the wavy versus rigid character of the petals of the two species might provide some useful information.

Both *T. aeranthos* and *T. bergeri* are illustrated in the book of Alberto Castellanos (1945) (fig. 2).

Adaptations of these marvelous paintings were reproduced in Smith and Downs (1977) in fig. 264, along with an example from Botanical Register (pl. 1338) (fig. 3).

A small mounted clump of *T. argentina* in flower was also on display along with *T. 'Noosa'*, in spike – a Margaret Paterson cross between *T. aeranthos* and *T. ionantha*.

After a social distancing shuffle of chairs, Adam and Kallam demonstrated pup removal from a number of different forms of Bromeliads provided for this purpose. Once again club members participated and clearly gain a lot from these popular sessions.

The demo included differences between removing stoloniferous pups, 'upper' pups, thumb pressure for *Guzmania* and *Vriesea* (if possible) and a feel around within a clump of tillandsias to break apart where appropriate. A handy tip which was demonstrated with a soft leafed bromeliad was to remove all old mother leaves leaving a good specimen clump of three pups.



Julie Reports for October 2020

There were a couple of plants on the display table over the weekend that you may be interested in.

Firstly the *Billbergia euphemiae* var. *purpurea* which showed scurfy banding, unlike the photos of it on fcbs. - Derek's comments. First I must comment that fcbs.org has some suspect photo names relying on the name supplied by the photographer and not checked. This is different to the photos in the BCR that are checked. This sort of name means that it was described by a Taxonomist. As Harry Luther used to tell me many years ago, "Check your plant against the description In most cases it will not be an exact match. Near enough is good enough but he did not tell me how much. As Lyman Smith said," Botany is as much an Art as it is a Science!"



Billbergia euphemiae var. *purpurea*

Description follows

Billbergia euphemiae E. Morren, Belg. Hort. 22: 11, pls. 1,2. 1872.

Desc from S&D

Plant propagating by short stout ascending rhizomes.

Leaves few in a tubular rosette, the inner 3-6 dm long;

Sheaths large, narrowly elliptic, entire;

Blades ligulate, broadly acute, apiculate, 3-6 cm wide, laxly dentate or denticulate.

Scape decurved, slender, red, densely white-farinose;

Scape-bracts suberect, large, lance-elliptic, acute, whitish red, the upper massed beneath the inflorescence.

Inflorescence pendulous, simple, 5-15 cm long, lax to subdense, densely white-farinose; rhachis usually strongly geniculate.

Floral bracts the 3 or 4 lowest mostly like the scape-bracts and exceeding the flowers, at least the upper minute and nearly hidden in the indument;

Flowers spreading, very short-pedicellate, 5-6 cm long.

Sepals asymmetric, narrowly elliptic, rounded and minutely apiculate, 12-18 mm long; Petals never spiral, linear, obtuse, purple or dark blue toward apex, elsewhere pale green, exceeding the stamens, bearing 2 fimbriate scales at base;

Ovary sub cylindric, the epigynous tube evident.

Key to Varieties of *Billbergia euphemiae*

1. Leaves green, wholly or in part.

2. Leaves with pale cross-bands or nearly concolorous.

3. Inflorescence lax or sublax; rhachis geniculate; lower floral bracts like the scape-bracts. **var *euphemiae*.**

3. Inflorescence subdense; rhachis nearly straight; floral bracts all minute or only the lowest large. **var *nudiflora*.**

2. Leaves pale-spotted but not banded.

var *saundersioides*.

1. Leaves purple.

var *purpurea*.

You will see that banding is optional for var *purpurea* so I will accept the name on Julie's photo

Another was labeled *Neoregelia* Dr Oeser variegated but the BCR lists a Dr Oeser Striated and a Dr Oeser Median - no 'variegated'. I don't know what 'median' refers to regarding plants but I'm sure you do!. –Derek Now, this did bring back memories in the instability of whitish stripes on leaves in Bromeliads. When I was Registrar in 1998 I decided to treat all as variegated and the owner of the plant could decide on what of the 6 forms of variegation it was by just looking at said plant offset. I even came up with 'NoVar' for those that had lost the variegation

These days the name given to such variegate is for the type of variegate which means changing the label every time there is a change in such variegation. By the way, Median is another name for middle stripe

The photo of the *Orthophytum gurkenii* I have included only because it has been around for so long we rather take it for granted but the buyers/visitors, and even newer members of the club, were interested in the different look of this bromeliad. –Derek, Again, this brought back memories. It is interesting that this species is now so common and yet its variant Cultivar 'Warren Loose' is not mentioned by Julie



Orthophytum gurkenii

October sales overview (Photos: Julie)

As many have stated 2020 has been a year like no other, after due consideration to government directions along with BSSA members & customers our sales went ahead within the covid-safe plan requirements. There was a much smaller yet colourful showing of the variety of Bromeliad genera on display, which as usual generated a lot of interest & comments from our customers.

There was a slow stream of eager customers both days, (instead of the usual lengthy queue waiting for the door to open) Our covid Marshal's did a great job assisting with the various changes such as sign in, hand sanitising, safe distancing etc. Chris & Lap were unable to come across from Victoria which meant there wasn't the range & quantity of Tillandsias available. The customers attending were down however the majority purchased larger numbers of plants contributing to our sales being better than expected. Many thanks to all who gave up their time to help set up on Friday and especially on Sunday afternoon packing up and cleaning which was completed in record time once again, 'many hands make light work' is very appropriate & **greatly appreciated.** Bev



Sale days photos





Neoregelia 'Hot Embers'



Billbergia 'Kawana Sparkler'



Quesnelia quesneliana

BSSA Facebook post: Report on November breakup & celebration

Sunday 8th November 2020, marked some lovely events for the Bromeliad Society of South Australia, on this day we paid tribute to the memory of a wonderful person Peter Hall, who passed just over 12 months ago. We congratulated Bev and Ron Masters with their Life Membership, this couple have work tirelessly for the last 16 years, a very well deserved award. We also congratulated Jeff Hollinshead on achieving his OBE, Over Blooming Eighty award. All the members enjoyed a lovely luncheon and had some fun with the plant auction. A lovely day had by all. *Betty*



Peter with a colourful brom



Ron & Bev with Life membership certificates (Photos: Betty)



Jeff with belated OBE

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER



On the 13th Sept 2020 at our committee meeting it was discussed and then decided that any new members for 2020 and existing members who have paid their fees for the 2020 financial year will not be required to pay fees again until Feb 2022.

Any members who have yet to pay will not be required to pay fees for 2020 but will be required to pay fees at the beginning of the 2021 financial year. The committee thought this was a fair decision due to covid-19 disrupting 2020.

If any paid up members for 2020 wish to pay fees again in 2021 that will be appreciated making their 2020 payment a donation to the club.

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

2020 Reflections- From your Secretary

This has been another successful yet unusual “Bromaholic” year with the cancellations of so many events & activities due to covid restrictions & concerns e.g. Festival of Flowers, April sales extravaganzas, meetings, display of Bromeliads in Royal show, Sunday Mail Home and Garden show and Christmas in July to mention a few & then the eagerly awaited resumption of meetings & sales.

We continue to welcome new members to our group and we hope the involvement is lengthy, rewarding & informative.

This is an appropriate time to recall those friendships we have lost in the last few years, but memories remain dear & I again acknowledge their contributions to our Society each sadly missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts are with members who have lost loved ones and those who are experiencing ill health or a crisis.

The Peter Hall memorial lunch & pup/plant auction was well attended & enjoyed. It was an opportunity to again acknowledge Peter’s contributions to our Society (Please see article on pages 7 & 8).

Thank you for the recognition and the life memberships, which are very special to both of us, we are fortunate to be involved in such a sociable & supportive group. Ron is remarkable & a lot of what we do is only possible due to his tireless assistance & encouragement.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to all with special appreciation to individual members who assist with the many mundane but necessary chores. Also gratitude is given to those who continue to give me assistance & friendship. It is great to be part of a friendly, inclusive & informative crowd.

Seasons greetings, wishing everyone a safe & prosperous 2021. I look forward to January when we meet again to continue the mutually rewarding yet at times challenging pastime. Safe & rewarding gardening! *Bev*

THANKS PETER

There was a breath of fresh air bringing new ideas, enthusiasm & energy when Jeanne & Peter joined the Bromeliad Society of SA in April 2006. They also brought along the flavour of Orchids which we did not hold against them though it was occasionally a point of conjecture & friendly rivalry.

Peter’s interest in plants was comprehensive and he was generous sharing time & knowledge, encouraging & guiding many of us, however it was nearly impossible to achieve the quality & colour of the plants as he was as successful growing Broms as orchids, in part attributed to the bright and colourful tranquil Brom garden built in memory of Jeanne. In fact it was Jeanne’s interest in Bromeliads that stirred his curiosity in them, & as they say the rest is history. Jeanne & Peter’s drive to promote our Society was inspiring & tireless, their contacts in the horticultural field opened many opportunities such as joining Festival of Flowers & re-involvement in the Royal show etc

There were many initiatives they were both involved in for our Society, including Bromeliads culture in SA book, BromAdelaide conference proceeding book, setting up Facebook, photographing Bromeliads for display & posting on Facebook developing the Judging manual & various promotional items such as our black polar shirts, pull up blind etc. Every year in August Peter & Jeannie headed to Melbourne for the compulsory orchid show with a routine prior to leaving, ensuring that his favourite plants were watered etc, imagine the shock & despair on arriving home days later the Orchid shade houses were water logged, he had turned on the watering system but forgot the timer.

Jeanne’s passing in 2013 was a huge loss to so many but especially Peter leaving a continual emptiness but gradually he picked up some of the pieces, so to speak, and again became very active, tirelessly promoting our Society including many presentations to community groups, the majority of garden clubs around Adelaide & several groups in the country in fact we were sometimes referred to as the 3 amigos.

The purchase of the van facilitated taking significantly more plants to meetings, shows & presentations; he also offered assistance taking various members to these activities.

Penny found these times special & therapeutic as they had both lost loved ones and understood that difficult & lonely journey. However like others who travelled with Peter, she will not miss that woman’s voice persistently saying, “You are over the speed limit.” Which Peter strongly denied!

He was instrumental in adding a new classification sponsoring the trophy for mini Neoregelia in memory of Jeanne as they were her favourite bromeliads, & on several occasions he was the worthy recipient of this trophy..

Peter’s imagination, artistic skills & talent welding provided some amazing creations for mounting Tillandsias usually winning our Artistic merit Trophy. It was evident these were his favourites with the impressive collection on display adjacent to ‘Jeanne’s Memorial garden’.

The easy care & diversity in size & colour combinations available in the Bromeliad family appealed to him; however their names were unimportant, which was sometimes a bone of contention with Uncle Derek & others!

A quiet, modest outstanding achiever who was a well liked respected BSSA member, a conscientious & proactive Vice President for 8 years, Registrar of Judges & friend to so many who was also an inspiration maintaining strength of purpose & courage, focusing on the day, not what has been, what is, or what might have been.



A creation; winner of Artistic merit



Jeanne's memorial garden



Peter with a Till log

Some special & personal memories include: At one of their early Brom meetings Jeanne asked Peter if he knew who the two were sitting nearby, he responded that he didn't but thought they were Father & daughter!. No wonder we became such good friends, however Ron believed his eyes needed urgent attention.

There was a pond in their front yard & Ron often asked Peter how he maintained it the response was he hadn't cleaned it for years, which was true, however we have been reliably told that Jeannie did that task wearing her bathers which Peter happily supervised!

We were both self confessed plantaholics & critteraholics so it wasn't surprising that the van was so well packed on earlier return trips from the Melbourne Orchid Show and Collectors corner that there was only (& I mean only) just enough space left for Ron. It was extremely important to Peter even tho he was very frail the 3 of us along with Pam & Bob attend the Orchid show again in Aug 2019 & in spite of planning to drastically reduce his collections even further he came home with 3 special orchids, but just a week later he died on Fathers Day.

The Peter Hall Trophy is in recognition & acknowledgment of Peter's commitment & immense contribution to BSSA and will be presented yearly usually at our November Xmas break up but has been postponed this year due to the cancellation of so many meetings

A big Thank you to Peter for immeasurable support to our Society, his gifts of friendship, and enriching our lives – He will never be forgotten,

Sincere appreciation is extended to Sue & Mark for supporting the very generous donation of Peter's extensive bromeliad collection to our Society.

Season's greetings.

On behalf your BSSA Committee everyone is wished a happy, healthy & memorable Christmas with a safe & great 2021. *Bev*



Festival of Flowers 2021

A recent Festival of Flowers Committee meeting recommended this event is going ahead for 24th & 25th April 2021, at St Paul's College, Gilles Plains subject to any Covid -19 regulations etc. We will open from 10am – 4pm on Saturday 24 April and open from noon – 4 pm on Sunday 25 April 2021: Anzac day.

Mark the date in your diary as our members are needed to make the day successful.

Apart from plant sales there are many jobs for which you can volunteer – selling raffle tickets at the entrance foyer, helping in the kitchen, setting up the tables, assisting wherever needed and importantly selling bromeliads and giving growing advice then on Sunday packing up and cleaning at the end of the show.

There will be a Roster passed around at the March & April meetings along with a Festival of Flowers volunteer badge that must be worn when setting up, during the event & when cleaning up.

If you are unable to spare time to volunteer do come & enjoy the 'festival of flowers'

Thank you in anticipation of you support. *Bev*

