

B.S.S.A. QUARTERLY

Vol 45

Number 4

October, November 2021

PUBLISHED BY:

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Born 1977 and still offsetting!'

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Web site: <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

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.

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876



Aechmea 'Rakete'

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of

each month. Exceptions –2021

3rd Sunday in May, June &

September- or unless advised

otherwise (see dates below). No

meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME.



MEETING & SALES 2022 DATES SUBJECT TO COVID-19 DIRECTIONS

09/01/2022 (Tillandsia- Len's presentation), 13/02/2022 (AGM Creative display), 13/03/2022 (Summer brag- Any Bromeliad -Judging criteria), 25/3/2022 setup @ 1PM, 26/3/2022 -Sales, 27/3/2022- Sales, 10/04/2022(Workshop - different growing methods) , 15/5/2022 3rd Sunday (Pattern leaf Vriesea), 19/06/2022 3rd Sunday (Uncommon Genera & hybrids), 10/07/2022 (Pricklies-Workshop- Problem solving) 14/08/2022(Winter brag- Any Bromeliad, Judging criteria), 18/9/2022 3rd Sunday (Non variegated Neoreglia & Nidularium), 09/10/2022(Billbergia), 28/10/2022 Setup @ 1PM, 29/10/2022 Sales, 30/10/2022 Sales, 13/11/2022(To be advised: Breakup – pup/plant exchange & auction)

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

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Rosie Proctor Kelly, the new editor for Bromlink, asked Adam to do a short article on growing broms in South Australia

Challenges, Frustrations and the Sheer Joy of growing bromeliads in South Australia

By Adam Bodzioch

Bromeliads generally, prefer tropical and sub-tropical conditions in which to flourish. Here they receive abundant rainfall, warmer temperatures and ample daylight.

Queensland and Northern New South Wales fit these requirements well. Conversely, Adelaide does not naturally provide these conditions.

To illustrate those differences we can compare Brisbane’s conditions with Adelaide’s conditions.

Rainfall:

Mean rainfall for Brisbane is about 1186 mm per year while Adelaide has about 546mm. More importantly Brisbane receives much of its rainfall in the warmer active growing months of bromeliads while Adelaide gets rain predominately in the winter months when plants are dormant.

Temperature:

Mean maximum temperatures for Brisbane over the year are about 25 degrees while Adelaide receives about 23 degrees. Also, minimum mean temperatures are about 16 degrees for Brisbane and Adelaide about 12 degrees with many spells of very cold weather.

Sunshine:

Brisbane gets about 124 clear days over a year while Adelaide gets about 87 and most of those are in the brutal heat-wave months.

So with these widely contrasting cultural conditions it is easy to see why growers in Adelaide have some difficulty in growing bromeliads as well as they would like. I am sure that growers in tropical regions also have different challenges but I will limit my comments to Adelaide. Many of the different bromeliad species and hybrids struggle to flower in Adelaide’s conditions while the same plants grow like weeds and flower regularly in cultures such as Brisbane.

I have had some success in applying ethrel to mature plants in order to induce flowering. It is common knowledge that the release of ethylene gas stimulates the flowering hormones rather than the growth hormones in a plant. An end result is that the actual plant will not grow any larger but all energies will go into flower production.

My first success was with *Aechmea perforata*. In 1989 Elton Leme had provided the Bromeliad Society of SA with some seeds. I planted some seeds and they germinated well and grew into healthy plants. After 18 years, however, not one of them had spiked. Mick Romanowski who was visiting me at the time showed me how and when to apply the ethrel.

Within a matter of weeks I was rewarded with beautiful white inflorescences with rows of coral blue flowers.

I have had some success with other genera, by using ethrel but I prefer these days to explore different parts, or microcosms, of my garden and shade houses to maximise the healthy growth of my plants.

An example is *Guzmania sanguinea*. I had grown 4 different forms without any success. Some had died, some survived but never flowered and generally I put them into my “too hard basket”.

I then thought about the conditions that the *Guzmanias* were growing in and came to the conclusion that I had been growing them all wrong. Imagine me admitting this to myself let alone anyone else. Instead of the shady, protected part of my garden with no humidity I put them into a bright part of the garden, with much increased daylight and the plants were placed in trays of small pebbles which caught the mist during the day from my newly installed misting system. The increased humidity worked wonders and I had almost instant success. Below are pictures of two *Guzmania sanguinea*. The first flowering in February/March this year and the second picture is of *Guzmania sanguinea tricolor* coming into colour now. First time it has ever flowered in Spring rather than Summer but perhaps this will become its new habit.



Picture 1 – *Guzmania sanguinea*



Picture 2 – *Guzmania sanguinea tricolor*

Nonetheless, it says much about re-thinking optimum positions for bromeliads and always being prepared to try something new. If the culture is not quite right think about different options. In recent years I have systematically re-arranged my bromeliads at end of autumn and the start of Spring.

The cold months in Adelaide tend to cause much browning to the tips of bromeliads, particularly the patterned *Vrieseas*. I tend to minimise that by elevating as many as I can to higher shelves in my larger shadehouse where the air is not as cold as on the floor. However, I like to grow my *Tillandsias* and *Neoregelias* in this shadehouse as well as it captures more light during the day. There is a constant tension in giving best positions to various plants to the detriment of others but this is part of the challenge, frustration and sheer joy in growing these plants.



Picture 3 is a small section of patterned Vrieseas starting to colour up in the Spring weather.

Picture 4 provides an example of different genera vying for the best position with some patterned Vrieseas on the ground, xVrieslandsia Spiralling Flame (Arden) (courtesy of George Stamatis) on one of the benches and tillandsias hanging from up above.

Picture 4



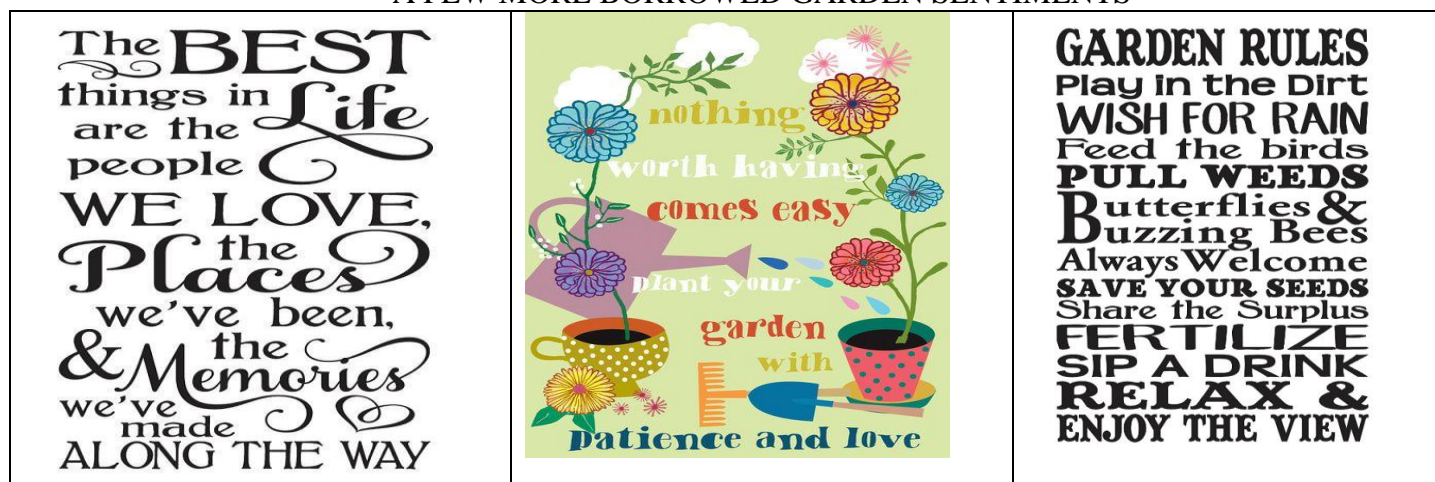
Picture 5



Picture 5 shows Tillandsia Roy Ford hybrid (courtesy of Greg Aizlewood) currently in spike. This massive tillandsia is well over a metre wide. **Picture 6** shows blending some bromeliads with my wife's Buddha



I hope that readers will get some pleasure from my article and pictures from Adelaide.



AGM 13th February 2022. (Nomination form page 11)



All Committee & Executive positions will become vacant at the AGM, please give consideration & nominate to join this group or if you know a member who may be interested ask them if you can nominate them. There are several non-committee roles (help setting up and cleaning up for monthly meetings, raffle & door ticket sellers, raffle & door tables coordinator, monthly sales table coordinator(s), Technology support, afternoon tea help, assist with library books, Garden visit coordinator- 2022: Lee, Host/hostess) please give thought and become more involved. *Bev*

Sentiment Analysis



At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At age 40, we don't care what they think of us. At age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." Ann Landers (1918-2002)

Article from 1990 Nov/Dec Gazette- Don't throw away your oldies.

An interesting segment at our last meeting was when Val Tinter displayed two tillandsia. One had been sent down by Rolly Rielly of Queensland and one of Vals (*Till.chiapensis*). Rolly had sent this plant down to show members that, even after many offsets had been removed and it was felt that the parent plant's life was finished, it is not wise to throw them away until completely dead.

Both plants, completely brown and desiccated, had healthy vigorous pup growing from them. So treasure those precious parents til the last!



POSSIBLE HELP FOR BROMAHOLICS (Happily this didn't work for me)

I know if some of you who have a Bromeliad Addiction, try the following steps you may be cured and you won't have to suffer any more.

- Recognise your addiction and admit that you are losing control of the situation. Learn to be disgusted with yourself for loving those wonderful bromeliads
- Water, water, water! Since the majority of bromeliads dislike being overwatered this should eliminate a percentage of your addiction.
- By all means never hang out with other bromaholics as they will infect you again with their tales of great varieties and easy to grow bromeliads that you don't have.
- Don't read anything about bromeliads, you might learn information about how to grow them more successfully, and be enthused to further increase you collection.
- Don't ever, I mean never, try new culture methods. You might discover why you are having trouble growing bromeliads and then you'll be tempted to buy some more.
- This is very important. Never go to any bromeliad society meetings, because that's where other Bromaholics hang out. They'll show you all these beautiful pictures, have inspiring speakers, have great plant Displays and broms for sales - all the things that will suck you right back into those ways that got you hooked in the first place.

- Never visit other bromeliad growers. They'll pass on all that propaganda about how nice bromeliads are. Don't let any of them come to your house either –they're always so friendly & encouraging that your resistance will fail.
 - This is one of the most important. Never, Never, Never, ever go to any bromeliad shows or sales. There will be all those colourful & well grown plants and you'll be impressed and want to have some for yourself (they probably hooked you at a show in the first place) and lose all control. You will never be cured if you fall for the old "just come to the show and look around, you don't have to buy anything".
 - Whatever you do, don't join the Bromeliad Society! Because then it will be too late for you and you'll get their gazettes/quarterlies and learn all about bromeliads and then you'll want more. There will probably be no hope for you then. If you've already succumbed to joining and are receiving the gazettes/quarterlies, then find the willpower to send in a change of address but if you're already reading it, this warning is probably too late!
 - I hope that these steps will help you with your addiction. If you have decided that it is already too late and you are just going to go for all the gusto you can get, you'll be in Bromeliad Bliss, as only a true Bromaholic can be.
- A bromeliad addiction will possibly be as expensive as drugs, alcohol or cigarettes however generally a more healthy hobby which is challenging, rewarding and satisfying. *Bev*



October Meeting 10.10.21

This meeting began with the President's welcome to all and particularly to our guest speaker, a representative from the SA fertiliser company Neutrog. After a general overview of Neutrog's operations and products we heard about the new release of their improved version of the existing 'StrikeBack for Orchids'. Given that Bromeliads have similar growing conditions to most orchids this organic based, chemically boosted, fertiliser with the NPK ratio of 7.70/3.63/9.87, it is worth considering for use with our plants. Members appreciated being involved in the Q&A session that followed, and also being able to take home a generous sample of the product to try. We were shown visible improvement on Bromeliad *Goudea ospinae*, which had been part of a trial at the Botanic Gardens Adelaide.

It has been some time since Aechmea's were the topic and at this meeting the more cold sensitive orlandiana types were well represented, for e.g. Aechmeas 'Pickaninny', 'Skid Marks', and 'Ensign'. One of the softer leaved Aechmea's came in with 'an ID please' label and went out with an Ae. Mirlo label (coincidentally pollen parent also Ae. *orlandiana*).



Aechmea 'Pickaninny'



Aechmea 'Skid Marks'



Aechmea Mirlo



Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite'

Have A Go winner- congratulations!

Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite' with its pendulous flower/berry stems won the 'Have a Go' trophy for first time winner Michelle Wood

Please note this segment will not continue in 2022 due to lack of participation.

A young *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal' with *Ae. chantinii* parentage is generally a challenge for most of us in SA because it, too, thrives in warmer conditions. Its beginnings were as a tissue culture sport of *Ae. chantinii* (dark form) from the lab of Rolf Zornig, Brazil, and subsequently named and registered for him by Chester Skotak.



Aechmea 'Roberto Menescal'

Also from the *chantinii* group was *Aechmea* 'Skotak's Spirit', the result of various clonal crossings



Aechmea 'Skotak's Spirit'

Aechmea correia araujoii from Brazil prompted Adam's comment that he has achieved good results by growing his in bark for better drainage.



Aechmea 'Aztec Gold'

Most popular Plant of the month- October

Sarka's robust and colourful *Aechmea* 'Aztec Gold' won the other trophy for the most popular *Aechmea*. The fact that this has been around for some 40 years without subsequent generations losing vigour is an indication of both its qualities and Sarka's good growing. In this case it has been in a pot in full sun but on the coastal side of Adelaide – the latter a plus for Bromeliads.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website gives a good account of grower John Catlan's determination and perseverance in cultivating this sport of *Aechmea recurvate* v. *recurvate*. He has said that *Ae.* 'Aztec Gold' is really the story of trying to produce a desirable plant by swinging the odds in the grower's favour by manipulation of growing conditions.

October sales overview

A Colourful showing of the variety of Bromeliad genera on display, combined with the generous exchange of information, helpful growers, a varied range of quality bromeliads for sale, enthusiastic customers, and plenty of good humour again contributed to our successful weekend 'Extravaganza'. The sales looked terrific this time, as did the display area both areas nice and open and uncluttered which allowed for better viewing of both areas. Well done to members who all brought in quality plants to sell and display.

Unfortunately Covid restrictions prevented Chris & Lap from coming over this year. There was a slow yet steady stream of customers both days, (instead of the usual lengthy queue waiting for the door to open, with fewer customers but in general they purchased more broms.

The sellers who donated the excellent raffle plants provided a real incentive to buy tickets when any one of them would make the winner happy. Also the few remaining children's giveaway plants were handed out as there were not as many attending as usual.

It is evident that a show and sale with a good atmosphere not only boosts the club's finances but appeared to be enjoyed by all.

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



Display plants (Photos: Julie)



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 certificate if given at least a couple of weeks' notice. *Bev*



Summer chores in the shade house from Oct /Nov 2018 & Oct /Nov 2019 Gazettes by Ray Clark

There is a strong likelihood that we will experience an El Nino weather event again this year, certainly for the first two months of summer. This means that temperatures will be hotter than normal and rainfall will most likely lower than normal. We only have to look back as far as 2003 to remember the peak of one of the worst droughts in history when many members lost large portions of their collections due to an extended extremely hot dry summer.

An El Nino event happens when the ocean surface temperatures are above the long-term norms. This phenomenon impacts on our weather, specifically, lower than normal rainfall and above average temperatures. The two combined will likely create extended periods of extremely low humidity levels.

What does this mean for our plant collections?

When our plants endure low humidity conditions they become stressed, one of Mother Nature's inbuilt mechanisms is to close the stomata or pores, which also limits their ability to capture carbon dioxide uptake, in other words, breath!

Simply watering more cannot always overcome the moisture losses from our plants and it is not the author's intention to discuss watering regimes here. Other measures may need to be considered and most collectors would be aware of the pitfalls of watering tank type plants, of which many bromeliads are, the plants will literally boil.

My Tillandsias get misted very early in the morning and sometimes again late in the day after sundown. The misting method of watering usually evaporates very quickly and they cope reasonably well. Agave on the other hand when given too much water suffer in a very different way, the high uptake of water causes the leaves to swell and then they eventually split resulting in permanent damage.

Many succulents do not like being watered from above and perform better when the water is drawn up from below. Placing a saucer under the pot or placing several small pots in a tray can help the excess water that flows out of the bottom of the pot after watering and is captured, then rises up through the soil as the top of the pot dries out. This method works quite well but the grower must be aware of potential salinity increases.

Another task to consider is moving your plants closer to the ground away from the radiant heat that comes from being too close to a shade cloth roof. Grouping plants together to create a micro zone where they will 'share' humidity lost with each other is also very effective, larger hardier plants can protect or shade the more delicate ones.

The addition of a second layer of shade cloth also helps as does laying shade cloth over upper benches to protect the more delicate plants below.

Another technique we use is a misting system that operates on a time clock and sprays water down at the crushed rock on the shade house floor. This event takes place at regular intervals across the day and as the water evaporates the air temperature lower down in the shade house drops and the humidity level rises albeit only a little but it does assist with the more delicate plants.

All of these techniques require observation of your own personal microclimates and you the human will be the best judge of the outcomes, Mother Nature on the other hand will set you the test.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS 2022



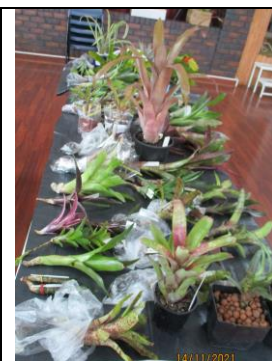
Due to the redevelopment of St Pauls School at Gilles Plains the existing venue could not be booked with any certainty for 2022. Therefore, it had become necessary to look elsewhere. A large number of venue options/costs were explored and/or visited, including: Thebarton Community Centre, Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall, St Claire Community Hall, Fullarton Park Community Centre, Showgrounds & Angle Park Greyhound Racing Facility which in reviewing the overall it is felt the Greyhound Racing Facility at Angle Park was the best option and is booked for 23rd April & 24th April 2022 with setup late on Friday 22nd April- More details when available.



View of Auction plants donated by Dean



Another view of donated plants from Dean



'Swap' plants



Members enjoying lunch

Again our breakup was influenced by Covid limitations, however the tasty & plentiful roast & sweets were enjoyed by the majority, along with the preferred liquid sustenance.

The bottle of wine held up by Sue is 'Butchers' label for members who have been in the Society for some years it is very significant & sentimental as two of our foundation members in 1977 are Margaret & Derek Butcher who were authorities on anything bromeliad now relaxing away from the limelight!. *Bev*



Sue saluting 'Butchers'

2021 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 including our meeting.

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

Sincere appreciation is extended to Dean for his generous Tillandsia collection donation to our Society..

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 2022. I look forward to January 9th 2022 when we meet again to continue the mutually rewarding yet at times challenging pastime. Safe & rewarding gardening! *Bev*



Useful Tips

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

Notice Board

When members are looking for a Bromeliad to purchase or swap we have a board that facilitates informing those at meetings. Please give details to Bev or any Committee member. *Bev*

Dates for your diary



- ✓ BSSA Sales extravaganza 26/3/2022 & 27/3/2022
- ✓ Festival of Flowers 23/4/2022 & 24/4/2022 (New venue)

REMINDERS: January, Feb & March 2022



Our January meeting is Len's presentation, and please bring in Tillandsias for the Topic & Display plants

Our February Topic & Display is creative displays & AGM (see note page 5)

Black cloths that members took to launder will need to be back by our March meeting at the latest, also all trophies are to be returned by that meeting as well also its 'Summer brag' any genera & Topic is "Judging criteria"

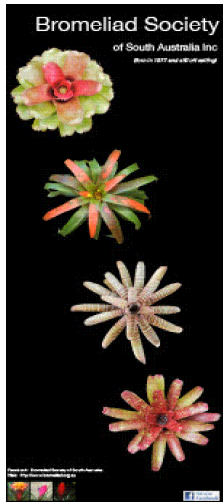
Many thanks. *Bev*

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER



Our subs are due February 2022 and a recommendation for them to remain unchanged to be ratified at Committee meeting in Jan

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



BSSA Membership advantages

- ✓ Low membership subs with 'Welcome pack' on joining
- ✓ Access to a Library of books featuring Bromeliads
- ✓ Friendly group of "Bromaholics" sharing experiences growing Bromeliads
- ✓ Plant identification if possible when bromeliad is in flower.
- ✓ Growing information on various Genera
- ✓ Plant trading table
- ✓ Door prizes
- ✓ Raffle
- ✓ Range of Pots, Labels & pot hangers for sale near cost.
- ✓ Afternoon tea
- ✓ Display & discussion on the plants.
- ✓ "Most popular" plant on display each month & Trophy
- ✓ 3 monthly informative BSSA Quarterly

Please remember that these benefits are reduced when members do not attend meetings however BSSA Quarterly is emailed or posted 3 monthly and members can pick up pots from Plympton by contacting Ron.

DO YOU HAVE FAVOURITE BROMS AND BROM PHOTOS??? PLEASE SHARE THEM!



Tillandsia streptophylla



Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'



Deuterocohnia brevifolia (Photo Bev)



Tillandsia tectorum



Tillandsia duratii

I have a rather lengthy list of favourite broms & photos thereof, too many to display in this 'Quarterly', so these are merely an example. Those at the top of the list have sentimental ties as well as their beauty and /or unusual form- often the latter or a combination.

There is now a much bigger range of genera, along with the wider range of sizes, shapes & colour combinations to choose from that have adapted successfully to our Adelaide conditions. *Bev*



Favourite photo (Hans & Derek in Peter's garden)

Season's greetings.



On behalf your BSSA Committee everyone is wished a happy, healthy & memorable Christmas with a safe & great 2022. *Bev*





The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Incorporated

Club web site: <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

Check us out on Facebook

Secretary: Bev Masters

6 Eric Street, Plympton. 5038 Phone: 83514876

Meetings Venue: Maltese Cultural Centre, 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley.

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of each month

Exceptions – 3rd Sunday May, June & Sept with no meeting in Dec 2022 or unless advised otherwise

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Incorporated AGM NOMINATION FORM 2022

ALL POSITIONS WILL BECOME VACANT.

Being a current registered member of Bromeliad Society of South Australia I nominate the following BSSA member for the position listed:

POSITION:

NOMINEE:

PROPOSER:.....

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER:.....**Date:**.....

ACCEPTED BY NOMINEE:.....**Date:**.....

LIST OF POSITIONS:

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Assistant Treasurer
Secretary	Assistant Secretary
Auditor	Assist Auditor
Committee	Committee
Committee	Committee
Committee	Committee
NON COMMITTEE ROLES	NON COMMITTEE ROLES
Librarian	Assistant Librarian
Postal clerk	Host/hostess
Door tickets	Raffle tickets
Setting up& cleaning up helpers	Name tag makers
Afternoon tea organisers	Registrar of Judges
Pots & labels	Sales-Raffle prize coordinator
Gazette (Editor/ assistant Editor/ Roving reporter, photographer)	Technology
Garden visit coordinator (Lee:2022)	Monthly sales table coordinator

- Each Proposer must seek the permission of the Nominee(s) before putting their name(s) forward at the A.G.M. to be held on the 13th February 2022
- All the aforementioned positions will become vacant at the A.G.M.
- This completed form must be received by the BSSA Secretary at address above by the **8th February 2022** or else presented in person prior to the opening of the A.G.M.