

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!

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Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions – 1st Sunday in May, &
August & no meeting in December or
unless advised otherwise

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME.**



Tillandsia. 'Creation' flower

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

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Meeting dates:-

2011 dates:- Sep 11(Adams presentation), Oct 9 (Garden visit),

Nov 13 Plant exchange, Special Afternoon tea, Auction & display plants.

Special Events:- Sat. **October 29** Bromeliad extravaganza –Show & Sales

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb to Feb.



Roving Reporter July 2011

Another great roll up despite the cold weather. Because Big Len was going to talk to us about ALL the genera in Bromeliaceae, Adam had to quickly go through the plants brought in for us all to look at. Even with the smallish amount there is still sufficient to talk about!

First up was a nice bowl of *Aechmea recurvata* var *benrathii* which must have been grown in appreciable light to get the dark centre leaves. There is an interesting phenomenon with *Aechmea recurvata*. If you were at the June meeting you would have seen the 3 photos I showed of the 3 varieties and challenged members to tell me the names for each of the photos. The only one prepared to bite the bullet was Bill Treloar. Therefore it seems difficult for most to realise what the 3 varieties of *Aechmea recurvata* look like. BUT did you realise that they are considered to be some 25 cultivar names where the owners saw clear differences – these are forms of the species not hybrids! One of these names is ‘Suave’ which Adam did mention but here we have a quandary because it seems Adam has a different view of what ‘Suave’ should look like. You see, nearly 40 years ago someone in the USA decided on the name ‘Suave’ but nobody was prepared to describe how different it was to *Aechmea recurvata* var. *benrathii*! 39 years later ‘Suave’ turned up at our June meeting via our Julie Batty and we now have a photo in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. Was it the ‘true’ ‘Suave’? We will never know, but at least we have a benchmark to compare with! To me they looked different when I got home and compared photos but then I am not much good at identifying specific clones. Photos are enclosed for you to decide.



Aechmea recurvata var *benrathii*



Aechmea ‘Suave’

So is it better to just casually mention names of a specific form or just generalise by using species names? Another example of this was with my flowering *Tillandsia stricta*. This plant had taken longer than usual to flower so the inflorescence was larger than ‘normal’. Some members may have said “Wow, I want one of those.” Only to find out when they did get a plant and flowered it in say 3 years time the flower was not up to their expectations. Anyway, this plant had darkish leaves but then *T. stricta* comes from Venezuela, Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, northern Argentina. This means that the plant has adapted to lots of different climates and would have leaves to match.



Tillandsia stricta. Photo J Batty

The only constant would be in the make-up of the flower. Adam talked about ‘Nigra’ which also goes by the name ‘Violacea’ and then the Victorian ‘Suave’ but none of these have been officially recorded. What is even more amusing, if that is the word, is that there are 19 forms offered by Tillandsia International – The largest Air plant grower in Northern America. None of the Aussie names get a mention but then none of their 19 are registered either! There is no mention on their list of the 4 officially accepted forms/varieties! I might squeeze in the so called var. *albiflora* which is not official, but as the name suggests has white petals but in other respects is the same as the blue petalled one. The true albino form is called *nivea* with a totally white inflorescence but in nature you always get these in between forms which don’t quite fit. So at the meeting we had Len bemoaning his pale blue petalled *albiflora*! Perhaps Len does not remember Reckitt’s Blue which was a must for every Laundry to make your whites whiter than white.

Now to all things technical. Adam mentioned this word when we discussed the *Cryptanthus* Journal and Len mentioned this when talking Pitcairnioideae to the mob at the World Bromeliad conference in New Orleans. Technical is a term used when the listener thinks it is all too hard (like mobile phones to the ancient!) and that they will not understand. When you are not learning you may as well fall of the proverbial twig as a *Tillandsia* may do. Learning should be FUN! Bob Whisson confided in me that he didn’t like words ending in ioideae either and was getting confused. All I could say was that plants are sorted according to levels of similarity.

Roving Reporter July 2011 cont:

You know the level if they have the same ending however cumbersome it may be! To appease him I related the story of our beloved Len Cork who also hated Latinised names. Instead of the plant name he wrote the name phonetically and even he had problems reading what he had written let alone the rest of us. Perhaps he was inspired by Victoria Padilla who did the same thing in her book in 1973 which is OK if everyone spoke Yank! The good news is that Bob rang me on the Monday morning saying he been on the internet, looking at the problem from different angles and was now fairly happy with the concept. He is now waiting for the next puzzle we can throw at him! On the same vein Jason Grant asked me how I would pronounce his new genus *Werauhia* and I said, "Not like a Swiss/ Alaskan!" but like a German making sure I had guttural sounding 'rauh'. You may have noticed that Len had a different pronunciation but most of us could understand what he was talking about.

Back to the plants on display. I was pleased to see an *Aechmea orlandiana* subsp. *belloi* in flower and still around the traps. As Adam rightly mentioned, this plant did get to us from the person who described this plant, namely Elton Leme. The problem was that the seedlings did not agree exactly with the description, but at least we know that the relationship between the type species and the subspecies are more complicated than first thought.

I am sure that Peter Hall will not mind me mentioning his *Aechmea purpureo-rosea* because it shows he is human, the same as the rest of us See photo of an inflorescence which is not quite perfect as well as what it looked like in 1833. This is what was said in that same year



Aechmea purpureo-rosea Photo J.Batty



Aechmea purpureo-rosea

Among the remarkable features in a tropical forest are the numerous and beautiful species of plants which attach themselves parasitically to the trunks of trees, investing the stems and branches, and adorning them with adventitious flowers and foliage. The chief of these are the ORCHIS and BROMELIA, or Pine-Apple, families. Our plant belongs to the latter of these, a groupe of vegetables, which not only affords the most richly-coloured blossoms, accompanied by foliage armed with exceedingly annoying spines; but one of the choicest of productions for our desserts:

"Her luscious fruit Ananas rears,
Amidst a coronet of spears;"

and according to the information of our scientific travellers, a truly refreshing beverage in the water that collects in the hollows formed in the inflated leaves, and which is eagerly sought after in times of drought by the natives of those hot countries.

Our present plant will perhaps yield in beauty to few of its tribe. It is a native of Brazil, was introduced by that zealous cultivator, Mrs. Arnold Harrison, and flowered for the first time, I believe, in this country, last year in the Liverpool Botanic Garden; and again in November of the present year (1833), when the specimen here figured was kindly sent by Mr. Henry Shepherd.

We must mention that Warren again brought in his favourite plants – *Billbergia*. With kindly persuasion we will get him on the right track with his names. It seems he wants to reduce the time it takes to write labels because he had one *Billbergia* 'Pinkie' in flower. The only thing different was its name is *Billbergia* 'Meadowie Gift Pinkie' and the leaves do go a pinky colour in the warmer weather.

Finally there was Adam's *xNeophytum* 'Galactic Warrior'. Adam says get it up high in your shadehouse which is good advice if you want the red colour, but remember that *xNeophytum* have brittle leaves. Just try to bend one and you will see what I mean! This means that if you have more than one plant give them space especially if high up in the shadehouse because this is also the windiest area especially if you live an area known for gully winds etc. If you want to learn new swear words speak to Ray!



xNeophytum 'Galactic Warrior'. Photo J.Batty

ERRATA . In the last Gazette I mentioned 'Sari' which as David Kruszewski pointed out, is worn by Hindu women. A 'Sarong' on the other hand is worn by both sexes on the Malay Archipelago

Now to Len's presentation "Genera of the Bromeliaceae"

At the June meeting Len Colgan presented his slide show that he had given at the WBC in New Orleans on the genera we find in Bromeliaceae. His style of presentation meant that most of us were not confused in a difficult subject.

We saw examples of every genus and how each fitted into the 'old' concept of three subfamilies. When we had digested that, Len moved into a more modern concept based on what taxonomists have gleaned by probing the complexities of the DNA world. So we now have eight subgenera. We should not be too worried or consider that evolution is technical. We are part of it and should learn about its intricacies especially in the Bromeliad world. We show two charts as a sort of before and after remembering that the 'after' will never be finished. Many members now have a copy(as a CD) of Len's talk they can spend a couple of hours in front of their computer. The more you learn the more fascinating things become!

| Pitcairnioideae | Tillandsioideae | Bromelioideae |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| †Ayensua † | Alcantarea | †Acanthostachys |
| Brewcaria | Catopsis | Aechmea † |
| Brocchinia | †Glomeropitcairnia | Ananas |
| Connellia | Guzmania | †Androlepis |
| †Cottendorfia | Mezobromelia | Araeococcus |
| Deuterocohnia | Racinaea | Billbergia |
| Dyckia | Tillandsia § | Bromelia |
| Encholirium | Vriesea | Canistropsis |
| Fosterella | Werauhia | Canistrum |
| Hechtia | | Cryptanthus |
| Lindmania | | †Deinacanthos |
| Navia | | †Disteganthus |
| Pitcairnia | | Edmundoa |
| Puya | | †Eduandrea |
| †Sequencia | | †Fascicularia |
| Steyerbromelia | | †Fernseea |
| | | Greigia |
| | | Hohenbergia |
| | | †Hohenbergiopsis |
| | | Lymania |
| | | Neoglaziovia |
| | | Neoregelia |
| | | Nidularium |
| | | Ochagavia |
| | | Orthophytum |
| | | Portea |
| | | †Pseudaechmea Ω |
| | | †Pseudananas |
| | | Quesnelia |
| | | Ronnbergia |
| | | †Ursulaea |
| | | Wittrockia |

† = genus recently absorbed into Brocchinia
 Ω = genus recently absorbed into Billbergia
 § = includes Viridantha

† = genus with a single species only
 † = genus with two species only
 § = includes Chevaliera and Streptocalyx

Probable new structure

Brocchinioideae

Brocchinia

Hechtioideae

Hechtia

Lindmanioideae

Connellia
Lindmania

Navioideae

Brewcaria
‡*Cottendorfia*
Navia
‡*Sequencia*
Steyerbromelia

Pitcairnioideae

Deuterocohnia
Dyckia
Encholirium
Fosterella
Pitcairnia

‡ = genus with a single species only

† = genus with two species only

Puyoideae

Puya

Tillandsioideae

Alcantarea
Catopsis
†*Glomeropitcairnia*
Guzmania
Mezobromelia †
Racinaea
Tillandsia
Vriesea
Werauhia

Bromelioideae

†*Acanthostachys* Greigia
Aechmea Hohenbergia
Ananas ‡*Hohenbergiopsis*
‡*Androlepis* †*Lapanthus* ‡
Araeococcus Lymania
Billbergia Neoglaziovia
Bromelia Neoregelia
Canistropsis Nidularium
Canistrum Ochagavia
Cryptanthus Orthophytum
‡*Deinacanthos* *Portea*
†*Disteganthus?* ‡*Pseudananas* §
Edmundoa Quesnelia
‡*Eduandrea* Ronnbergia
‡*Fascicularia* †*Ursulaea*
†*Fernseea* Wittrockia

† = likely to vanish

§ = likely to be absorbed by *Ananas*

? = likely to be absorbed by *Aechmea*

‡ = new genus with two species split from *Orthophytum*



Roving Reporter Aug 2011

Either our plants are getting used to the weather or members are getting better at growing them. There were lots of plants brought in for the Winter brag by a wide range of members so it was not a flash in the pan! Adam was the usual compere and remarked it was a pleasure to look at well grown plants and so many showing signs of Spring's awakening. I will only be able to mention a few. First it was good to see so many of Margaret Paterson's *Neoregelia* hybrids brought in.

Although we did not get it in writing, several members made a promise to show us their plants when they eventually flowered. It is so easy to brag when a spike appears but a different matter to actually get flowers with petals visible. One case in point was Ron Masters with his *Tillandsia cyanea*. This has to perform in similar fashion to the T. 'Creation' that Adam had brought in!



Tillandsia cyanea. Photo J Batty

For some reason in the Butcher household we find *Aechmea weilbachii* not easy to flower and yet the variety *pendula* flowers regularly although in the colder months. If it would only do it in the warmer weather so that the primary bracts were really red!

Talking of *pendula* there was Peter Hall's *Neoregelia (eleutheropetala x pendula)* which is still surviving under his tender care. The problem is that it is behaving badly. All the photos I have seen of this hybrid show strong traits toward a small compact plant that could be likened to a 'Fireball' with triangular leaves. Under Glenelg conditions the leaves are long and strappy reminiscent of the 'eleutheropetala' part of the equation. Is it a mutation or cultural condition? The saga continues. Is Peter's plant *Neoregelia* 'Pink Spider'?



Neoregelia 'Pink Spider' photo by Dennis Cathcart

NAMES. I can't get away from that word! I tend to think of names for identification purposes and here correct spelling means you may be able to search lists. One example was in the raffle prize donations called *Ochagavia fascicularia*. This brought back memories when our Society was in its infancy and even then I was asking about names. Anyway, we had one member called Gwen Edwards who maintained her names were always correct and I could not shift her. Here she solved the problem by using '*Ochagavia* or *Fascicularia*' on the label even though I proved to her that she should delete the *Ochagavia* from the name. Both these genera are allied and grow under similar conditions but if you are going to write a label please use a genus name AND a species name not two genera names.

Why do the Scots use Mac or Mc in their names? It seems it means son of in Gaelic, but is confusing. You see Vee Clark brought in a *Cryptanthus* 'McIntosh' which is a plant that was named in the USA before 1988 but got to Australian shores somehow or another. Anyway, a more common spelling is 'mackintosh' and this sometimes appears on labels. Another *Cryptanthus* with an unusual name is 'Strawberries Flambe' which is often seen as 'Strawberry Flambe'.



'McIntosh'
'Grace'

'Glad'
'Strawberries Flambe'

Photo J, Batty

Roving Reporter Aug 11 cont:

You could even use the 'posh' name of *Aechmea* 'Samurai' on your label even though your plant is not variegated. A better name would be *Aechmea chantinii* which in itself is a difficult plant to grow in Adelaide. 30 years ago we quickly learnt not to import this plant from Queensland and decided that seed raising was the way to go. This was great but then an extra cold wet winter would come along and we would start again!

Then there was a great variegated *Vriesea* with a very vague name quoting tentative parentage. It just had to be V. 'RoRo' but we await flowering for confirmation. Here again 'posh' names can be difficult for some. Peter Huddy called his daughter 'Roxanne' which the poor kid could not pronounce and so called herself 'RoRo'. This nickname stuck and was used by Peter to identify this beautiful *Vriesea*.



V. 'RoRo'

Finally we come to *Aechmea phanerophlebia* whose photo was taken by Julie Batty because she likes the name. I am sure that when she first saw the name it took her several minutes to work out how to pronounce the name and it was this accomplishment that gave her a warm fuzzy feeling. By the way, it means its floral bracts have veins that are clearly visible.



Aechmea phanerophlebia

Photo J, Batty

Len Colgan did mention he was undecided as to whether to grow variegated vrieseas or the Glyph leaved ones with a bias toward the Glyph leaved ones. This comment was sparked by the well grown V. 'Kiwi Sunset'. All I can say is that variegated vrieseas are harder to come across. Glyph leaved *Vriesea* hybrids have been with us for over 30 years and there have been some beauties produced in Queensland and northern NSW but did not get publicity such as on Ebay. Perhaps it is coincidence but I recently had a query about these 'Kiwis' from Western Australia. There are many still over in New Zealand where they made their accidental entry on this earth. It seems that about 20 years ago a casual grower of bromeliads had two glyph leaved vrieseas in flower at the same time so she crossed pollinated 'for a laugh'. Seed was set, but what to do next. The seed was given to a person who knew how to grow seed. Germination was fantastic but too many plants to prick out. So the majority went to yet another person who had more time and space. The third person saw great potential in the way these seedlings were growing but saw lots of differences. I persuaded him to use a simple grex name that could be used to link all the names together and he came up with 'Kiwi'. The rest is history where a few of these originals were tissue cultured for the Australian market.



Vr "Kiwi Sunset"



Vr :Kiwi Dusk"



Vr 'Kiwi cream'

Finally to the Tillandsia stand where we had several plants in flower. Ray Clark's *T. somnians* could only have been photographed in 3 sections because the flower scape (peduncle) was so long. Most of us wondered how he was able to transport it to the meeting!



T. somnians in natural habitat Photo L.Colgan

Roving Reporter Aug 11 cont:

We did see other examples of his handiwork using mallee roots for mounting material.

I still cannot work out how Len Colgan got his *T. capitata* so large, and in flower especially as it was a Cuban form which do not take kindly to Adelaide's hot summers



Tillandsia capitata forms at BirdRock Photo by Len Colgan

"WANTED"



Vriesea Bianca
Vrieseas Ro Ro
Aechmea triangularis
Aechmea caudata (any form);
Billbergia pyramidalis
Billbergia horrida.

Bev
Bev
Pauline & Geoff

83514876



Purchase
Purchase

The easier way to grow Cryptanthus

As a follow up to a previous article, it was suggested that I forward some more thoughts, what you are about to read is not gospel, merely my wife's experiences.

The first of the Crypts arrived here on February 2010 and it was said that Vee had left her run a bit too late in summer to give the little earth starts a fair chance! It was not that easy to begin with, as despite all the best advice, Vee had to find out for herself what worked & what not to worry about. And so it was we built the hot house version 1 as it is now known. Vee got her head around the watering & TLC thing pretty quickly & the first winter passed in the smallest of hot houses without too much fuss.

Last summer the collection grew very quickly through additions from without & also the repotting of offsets which kept appearing at an alarming rate. At the last head count there were 241 individual plants!!!!

It was not until we spoke with a Brom enthusiast last week who said to us that it used to be "common wisdom" amongst those who know, that crypts were impossible to grow in Adelaide without the ubiquitous glass coffin. You do not need to baby them, you do not need to spend a million dollars on a climate controlled hot house, as some keep telling us all, we need to use our own micro climates to the best advantage for our Broms. Like most Bromeliads, time, an understanding of your plants & your environment is all you need.

Keeping up the daytime temperatures & when you chose to water are probably the most important issues to keep in mind. They will always need more love & attention than any other Brom, but the pictures elsewhere in this gazette prove the worth of the efforts, think about this, the plants in the photos arrived here as pups less than 16 months ago! But wait, there's more, the offsets that have grown up here in SA have or will be hardened up to our shocking climate, they will do better than just survive!!!! If you want to import from QLD, be prepared to make the extra effort, the plants do take time to adjust .

Is it all worth it? For sure!

Did we make it easier? You tell us!

Vee & Ray Clark

Remember:

NO MEETING IN OCTOBER- GARDEN VISIT TO STRATHALBYN!

WATCH OUT FOR "MOST POPULAR PLANT" COMING SOON