

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Editor- Derek Butcher. Assist Editor – Bev Masters



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.**

MEETING & SALES 2013 DATES: 13/1/2013 (Judging clinic), 10/2/13, **23/2/2013 & 24/2/2013**

SALES 10/3/13 (Summer Brag), 14/4/13 (Uncommon Genera), 5/5/13 -**1st Sunday**, 9/6/13, 14/7/13,

4/8/13 -**1st Sunday**, (Winter brag), 8/9/13, 13/10/13, **26/10/13 & 27/10/13 SALES**, 10/11/13 (Pup auction,
special afternoon tea- bring plate of finger food to share, **earlier start** Committee 1230PM, General meeting
130PM

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb to Feb

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Roving Reporter Jan 2013

I cannot remember much about the Jan meeting but will rely on the notes that Margaret takes of plants brought to the meeting. I do remember that Peter Hall and Adam Bodzioch were trying to show us how we should prepare our plants for Show competitions. I am different to most, including my better half, and believe that plants don't like to be closely looked at, and get embarrassed. Do you speak to plants? Anyway, Confucius says, when 3 or more Yankee Bromeliad growers get together they say - Let's have a competition, what are the rules? When 3 or more Aussie growers are in the same situation they say – I bet that one wins – what are rules anyway?

So I will look at plants as plants and not tissued up!

One such plant was a Neoregelia ‘Margaret’ which was brought in by Peter Hall, and funnily a name like this tends to ring bells. It had got to Adelaide via Adam Bodzioch about the time of the October 2012 Sales. Anyway, it caused a flurry of activity and the production of the following article Neoregelia ‘Bullis’s Margaret’ by Butcher Jan 2013

The word ‘homonym’ is a rude word to a botanist. In fact he/she ignores it. It relates to a situation that sometimes occurs when a plant found in the wild is given the same name as a previously named plant. The new name is illegitimate under the ICBN (International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) rules and is ignored.

Cultivars (including hybrids) are governed by the ICNCP (International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants) rules and they blithely follow the ICBN rules where first in, wins the prize. Regrettably, they do not allow for the fact that there are professional botanists who are sticklers for accuracy compared to gardeners and nurserymen.

Prior to 1998 there was some excuse for duplicate names because the Bromeliad Society International had no real source of reference. This was the year that the Bromeliad Cultivar Register was published and since that time reference could be made to the online Bromeliad Cultivar Register by those interested. Regrettably, many bromeliad growers only pay lip service to the needs for the existence of a Register. Many plants hit the market named but unregistered.

Let us now look at *Neoregelia* ‘Margaret’ which was a hybrid registered by Mulford Foster in 1956. While we have no photograph we would assume it would be vaguely like a *Neoregelia carolinae*. So it was somewhat a surprise to me in early 2011 when I heard about a variegated *Neoregelia* ‘Margaret’ winning prizes in Florida Shows. When I did get a photo of the plant concerned it was certainly not a variegated sport of Foster’s N. ‘Margaret’.

Roving Reporter Jan 13 - Neoregelia 'Margaret' cont:

Further investigation revealed it had been named by Bullis Company who would not reveal its parentage but assured us all that it was unique. We knew that Bullis and others would continue marketing the plant as 'Margaret' and at least we could warn the various local societies of the problem AND put the details on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register as 'Bullis's Margaret'. Any inquisitive grower who always likes to check up on names on labels – like myself – can enquire on Margaret in the search machine on <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php> to get several tantalising clues that can be investigated.

I had thought that the problem would stay in Florida but alas we know that 'Margaret' migrated to Queensland so is being grown in Queensland and South Australia. If you do have a *Neoregelia* 'Margaret' that is variegated I recommend you change the label to 'Bullis's Margaret'. It has been suggested by other astute Australian growers, this plant looks very similar to that Skotak hybrid called 'Pemiento' which has been in Australia at least 20 years.

I wonder what 'Pemiento' grows like in Florida or don't they grow 'OLD' hybrids there.

Have you ever looked forward to some special event only to be bitterly disappointed? We got a plant called *Vriesea* 'Tristram's Shandy' that Peter Huddy had got for Olive Trevor in 1995. Peter gave it to us because he could not flower it. Now its name is a play on words referring to Tristram Shandy – Gentleman. As we all know this was a novel written in the 1700's in 5 volumes. In our case the Tristram was Peter Tristram from Coff's Harbour area and with a plant with such an illustrious name it MUST be a beauty! It took 18 years to flower and you all saw its beauty. If you missed it its photo is included here. Treasure it because the plant has been culled and there are no progeny.

These days all small vrieseas seem to come with paddles for inflorescences so when my various *Vriesea* 'Pinegrove Candles' came into flower it seemed I should bring them in. We had 4 different colours although Ross Little has more to pick from if you like these dainty form. Mother was a somewhat promiscuous *Vriesea delicatula* and various fathers to give the differing colours.



Neoregelia 'Bird Rock' (Photo J Batty)

And what about the *Neoregelia* that was wiggly and a turn off for our two judges. In fact it looks better from the bottom looking up which is unusual for a *Neoregelia*. I refer to 'Bird Rock' which was named after the California nursery called Birdrock – no space between the bird and the rock! This plant was acquired and named by Pam Koide in the late 1980's. Apparently her friend Doug Laglan, who was in the landscape business, had found it in a Los Angeles garden! I feel it was a miraculous find with such odd variegations and which only got to Australia shores in the last 10 years

Our big Len is a man with at least two personalities. When dealing with tillandsias he is keen to know where they are found in the wild and thus species. When dealing with Other Broms he seeks out the unusual without history or where they came from! He ventures into Ebay. It must be his gambling instinct! Anyway, he brought in a flowering *Vriesea* (*fosteriana* x *sucrei*) which looked like a *Vr. sucrei* on steroids, complete with bicolor leaves. We know that with primary crosses you get hybrid vigour but this was ridiculous!



Vriesea (*fosteriana* x *sucrei*) (Photo J Batty)

Roving Reporter Jan 13 cont:

Usually when *V. fosteriana* is used in a hybrid there are strong indicators that it is involved either in leaf markings or flower shape. Here there were no such indicators. Such are the foibles of hybridising where the hybridist should analyse his/her results. What is all the more intriguing is that when quoting parents, mother should always come first and you should know where you got the ripe seed. The main aim of any good hybridist is to plan what sort of hybrid you are after. In this case you wonder what was the aim in crossing *V. fosteriana* with *V. sucrei*.

Tillandsia fasciculata is a botanical nightmare. It comes in so many shapes and sizes and in so many different countries in northern America and the West Indies. So when you come across a real beauty you tend to hang on to it. I refer here to *Tillandsia* 'Beauty' which seems to have originated in the 1950's with Nez Misso in Queensland. You only get about 5 small branches to the inflorescence, but each branch has bright red floral bracts in the bottom half which contrast with the green floral bracts in the upper half

I have a feeling that most of you are dying to find out my tribulations over that last month. On Jan 14th I was feeling a bit odd – what's different, you may say! Anyway, when I woke on the Tuesday morning, my right side was decidedly weak and I spoke funny, so it was an ambulance trip to the QEH. After lots of tests they confirmed it was a stroke and I was lucky it was a slight one. I can't remember much about my stay in QEH other than to find out I would be back on Warfarin with its obligatory blood tests AND insulin where I would have to learn how to inject myself! After 4 days I was transferred to Griffith Rehab hospital. Lots of people must have enquired about my health because Margaret had filled an A4 sheet with names. I never realised I had so many friends.

When at Griffith I had hydro-therapy to strengthen my right side. No swimming allowed! To help my slurry speech, I can thank cryptic crosswords (much simpler ones than those by Big Len!) for my recovery. I read the clues out loud (and answers!) so the other two patient patients in my room got used to my mumbles. To increase my motor skills I then had to write in the answers in the right squares! You take for granted your finger and wrist skills which you have to re-learn. The two other patient patients were real cards so the three of us were known as the 3 Musketeers by all the nursing staff. There were lots of laughs. The best one being when the physiotherapist asked, "Are you ready for your bed exercises now?" I have never seen a redder blush when we all said, Yes, Please!"

Adam had told everybody – it seems – my telephone number at Griffith. First was Eileen Killingley from Illawarra area just when I had just returned from hydro-therapy. There was me speaking to Eileen and a nurse trying to remove my wet bathers. Luckily it was an old fashioned phone so Eileen was unaware of the happenings. Then there was 'Bertie' Flower from New Zealand and then Peter Tristram from Coffs Harbour giving me a first hand idea of the FLOODS. We can't forget Ross Little who luckily lives on sand near Ballina in northern NSW. Maurice Kellett from Victoria did call during lunch but it was sandwiches so nothing went cold! Interesting with sandwiches because they are great when you have no power or dexterity in your right hand and it is embarrassing to ask nurse to cut things up into reasonable sized chunks. Luckily they made beaut sandwiches! There was also a call from Eric Gouda in Holland at about 2am which thankfully the night staff didn't put through. All these calls helped me practice my speaking.

As for visitors these came in all shapes and sizes as well as my immediate family. I think the first was big Len who stuck his head around the curtains and wanted me as part of rehab to be taken for a walk around his garden. To think I had just been promoted from a red label to a green label. This promotion is sought after because next to the toilet is a big sign. It says "When you have finished, red labels must press for a nurse!" I didn't dare get demoted to a red label so Len's help was declined. Peter Hall called in twice as too did Bev & Ron, and Vee and Ray Clark. I think that those who called in twice saw an improvement in my speech where I was not biting my tongue (literally) quite so much. When Vee and Ray were there for the second time who should make a second appearance but big Len with a BOX. It had flowering Tillandsias in it and Len wanted to know their names. The physiotherapist, who was passing, said it was just what her patient needed! With Len you cannot cheat because his labels are so old and so faded you have no hope in reading them. I considered I had 9 out of 10 but Len rated 5 out of 10. As I said, I did not have access to my personal files to prove him wrong! Others to call in were Bill and Josie Treloar but the greatest surprise was Bob and Pam Whisson. You may recall that Bob had a massive brain haemorrhage in 2011 but survived to tell the tale, and here he was cheering me on! I felt somewhat humbled.

Roving Reporter Jan 13 cont:

In all, I was lucky to have survived and able to read the long list of my friends and read the 'Get Well' cards which I would not have been able if I had fallen off the twig.

Meeting Sunday 13th January 2013 Judging Clinic by Peter Hall

I am always nervous being out the front and having to talk to our members. I was glad that Adam was my co- presenter! I think it went ok.

Judging plants is mainly common sense when judging flowering and/or foliage plants. We also need a basic knowledge of the plants being judged.

Most of what we talked about is covered in the club's judging manual but I guess talking about how to present plants for judging and how and why we reach a verdict is perhaps a little more informative and clarifies certain points which were illustrated by some of the questions put forward by members.

I hope that Adam and I got the message across about how to choose and present plants that are worthy to put on the show bench at our monthly meetings and our shows.

If we take the time to choose our best plants and put the effort of cleaning up the pot by wiping them down and removing the salt stains around the drain holes, and if the pot has faded using black shoe polish or as one member suggested using baby oil. Also wipe the leaves. Presentation makes a good plant even better.

I personally prefer black pots because they do not detract ones attention from the plant being shown / judged
Adam and Sue liked coloured pots and I guess we can't go wrong if we look at our judging manual on page 1 under the heading pots part A standard pot is a container that will hold potting medium that does not add or detract from the plant being exhibited.

Len Colgan brought up an interesting point during the presentation that there is no provision for hard to grow plants in South Australia and that it is virtually impossible to win a prize for such plants when judged against other easy to grow plants. I know that the same thing happens in the orchid world and that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I think that we should discuss the point further and perhaps make a decision on the matter.

The only problem that I have with this suggestion is: Who decides what plants are hard to grow? Plants that are hard to grow for some may be easy for others depending on our geographical location and growing culture. I don't have a problem with the suggestion, but like I said, who will decide on the type of plant plus the plant may be butt ugly to the majority of members but a thing of beauty to the grower. The suggestion does have merit and we shall discuss it at our next committee meeting.

I find it interesting with our popular voting segment (the placing of stars on the plant that we like best) because if you listen to the comments from our long term expert growers they do not agree with the outcome most times. The same thing happens in the orchid world.

What prompted Len to put his point of view on the matter was a beautiful plant brought in by Julie Batty Nidularium Ruby Lee and as usual a well grown and presented plant. The plant according to Len is hard to grow in South Australia although some will disagree.

Julie and a couple of other members say that it isn't hard to grow

Julie never brings in a bad plant she is a very good bromeliad grower. Julie also has according to Adam a magic tree that she grows some of her plants under. The tree possesses adjustable climate control summer and winter!

Bill Treloar caught me on the hop with his question that blooming plants are at a disadvantage because of the point scoring system quoted in the judging manual.

I had a look at his complaint and have spoken to our committee and at this point in time we do not wish to change the guidelines.

There were three drafts of the judging manual over a nine week period presented to the committee and selected expert members before all agreeing that we should then send it to be published.

I did miss one important rule on page 2 Show Rules. I should have included the ownership of plants being judged. See amendment number 1. add All plants to be eligible for show and award judging must have been owned, grown and housed at the growers residents and /or nursery at least (6) six months by the exhibitor. The question about ownership was brought to my attention by one of our members.

I do not profess to be an expert at anything and I make heaps of mistakes.

I grow cymbidium orchids and bromeliads for pleasure and not for any intrinsic rewards. Jeanne and I enjoy the club atmosphere and the company of our members and we have also forged some lifelong friends. We are members of three garden clubs and by far the Bromeliad Society is favourite.

Peter hall

Our thoughts go out to Derek and Margaret and wish Derek a speedy recovery

The Rough end of the Pineapple Or the thoughts of Ruffy, continued;

I was sitting down watching the idiot box with the good lady wife one evening recently. We were enduring a mindless documentary highlighting the ramblings of a nutter who managed to con the BBC to fund a junket to South America. He took it upon himself to unearth native tribes people previously not exposed to modern civilization, (until now!). One of the film crew was struck down with suspected meningitis and the nearest help was 24 hours away.

I got to thinking, why on earth would you willingly put yourself in this situation? Think about the botanists, pseudo-botanists and the regular run of the mill explorers who have scoured the remote jungles and mountainsides just for the satisfaction of discovering a new plant! You most likely owe some of these individuals' thanks for a few of the plants in your collection.

Ehlers, Smith, Hromadnik, Leme, Luther to name a few, even here in Australia, the intrepid Chris Larson (he even visits Adelaide from time to time!) and of course a local by the name of Colgan! What makes these people want to expose themselves to the dangers?

It's not enough to go trekking in the wilds and be set upon by unnamed biting poisonous critters, you could be confronted with a man eating tribe, maybe you've interrupted the operations of the local drug cartel or maybe it's just another over enthusiastic rebel government flexing their authority again.

Just when you think that you've got a handle on everything, some mongrel disease flattens you. That would be bad enough for most of us with the convenience of modern medicine and all it affords, but in the wilds of Peru or Ecuador hours and days away from help, these everyday issues turn into major dramas! It's not that Ruffy isn't the adventurous type, fixing a recalcitrant hire vehicle or living on churros & beer for days on end I could deal with, but I can't fathom why you would willingly put yourself in this situation.

The next time you are told that the million-dollar plant you must have is a rare as rocking horse poop species, stop and think for a minute.

Who went through what ordeal to get this plant home, (quarantine is another story)!

Ray Clark



Roving Reporter's better half Feb 2013

One idea from the Suggestions box was to have a Questions and Answers panel at a meeting and it was decided to hold it as entertainment for the AGM. The panel was Adam, Len, Bill, and myself. It had been planned that we would have Derek but he was indisposed and I took his place. Thanks to Bill I was able to get to the meeting.

The questions were many and varied, but identification and culture of plants were most asked.

A *Cryptanthus* with leaves drying off was assessed as due to lack of humidity and winter cold. This genus will always be a challenge to growers in South Australia but worth it if that extra care is taken. In the winter, if you are the lazy sort you can put your plant and pot on the floor of your shadehouse UNDER the bench. This seems to get humidity, shade, warmer than other areas and the plant seems to be dormant. The trick is not forgetting where you put it AND the right time to take it out!

An unnamed plant turned out to be *Tillandsia secunda* and needed a larger pot. This species has an impressive inflorescence with unusual almost black tubular flowers. You can then expect lots of offsets in the inflorescence. Don't be too eager to remove these offsets because as they grow they can make the inflorescence look quite spectacular. What you then do with the offsets is your challenge!

A *Vriesea ospinae* had a long stem with two heads, and was hanging out of the pot. Suggested the two heads be removed, stems left to dry, then repotted. Just think of this species in the rainforest in Colombia growing in competition with other plants for a bit of light. You too would be stretching out your neck! If you look closely at the stem you have cut you will see black ropes or strings. These are the ones that will become roots.

Roving Reporter's better half Feb cont:

A wide leaved *Aechmea* had ribbing or corrugations in its leaves. This caused the most discussion with one suggestion being the drastic solution of killing the meristem by the insertion of a needle or skewer to see if the offsets produced this ribbing or were 'normal'. Then destroy the abnormal! Another suggestion was to leave in a bucket of water for some 3 days to see if the leaves lost the ribbing. This is similar to what you would recommend for the more common quilling. We then have to ask ourselves why we think this corrugation is abnormal because we think it is unsightly. Is it there to give strength to these extra-wide leaves? This phenomenon has only really been noticed with the advent of the spineless *Aechmea fasciata*. How abnormal is this and yet we accept this as being an improvement? Who has worked at great length with the spineless *Aechmea* hybrids with stunning inflorescences? Chester Skotak in Costa Rica. Who first noticed these corrugations which come and go and are not necessarily persistent? Needless to say he is trying to breed out this problem and in future years will no doubt do so. There is no such thing as a perfect plant unless you make a non-living one in plastic. It is just something you will have to live with. Mention has been made about quilling where the leaves get glued together to form a tight tube. Yes, judicious use of water can solve your problem. But sometimes the problem keeps returning and the best solution is puttinabin.

Two vrieseas had been received unnamed from Queensland and the smaller one was deemed to be *V. flammea*. This group of vrieseas is very difficult to identify and you need to have the description next to you to help you check! The other plant seemed related but bigger and with slightly wider leaves. It had only a small flowerhead with pale yellow petals. It seemed to be a hybrid with the variable 'Komet' being the most likely.

A *Tillandsia* had 'acostae' on the label but Len and Adam were doubtful it was the correct name. Derek helped out on this one because it is somewhat complicated. The name *T. acostae* persists in nurseryman's lists despite Harry Luther's decision in 1994 where we read -

'*Tillandsia rhomboidea* is frequently confused in herbaria with the more common *Tillandsia fasciculata*. *Tillandsia rhomboidea* is a smaller plant with less showy inflorescence. It also tends to occur at higher elevations than *T. fasciculata*, usually in humid or cloud forests, while *T. fasciculata* is more commonly a species of lower, drier localities.



T. acostae (Photo J Batty)

Tillandsia rhomboidea ranges from Costa Rica to Venezuela. In Central America it has been known by the synonym *T. acostae* Mez & Tonduz. In Venezuela the species has been collected in the Sierra de San Luis and in Estado Tachira, both in the western sector of the country, and in Parque Nacional Henry Pittier, Estado Aragua, in the central section of the Coastal Range in northern Venezuela. We have also collected and cultivated plants of this species from Parque Nacional Guatopo, Estado Miranda, at 500-600 m.'

Derek has changed his labels to *T. rhomboidea* but is still not sure if they are correctly named because this species can easily be confused with *T. fasciculata* and *T. compressa*. Perhaps Trevor may want to look closer at its identity when next it flowers and we can get out the dissecting equipment.

An *Aechmea comata* var *makoyana* had a beautiful new offset and its owner asked if the colour would stay or go like the parent plant. It was advised that the contrast would fade, so make the most of it.

There was a question about fertilising – how, when and what? Everyone had their own idea so it is up to the individual grower. One thing we did agree on was never add any fertiliser to the cups of Neoregelias

One of the final questions was about plants infected with citrus scale and how to treat it. The answer was that scale affects plants that are over-crowded with little air circulation. Bromeliads enjoy wind, wind, and wind! Treatment- Spray with soapy water.

It was a good session and could be done again at some later date.

Display plants were not discussed due to lack of time.

2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Adam Bodzioch VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Hall
SECRETARY: Bev Masters ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Jeanne Hall
TREASURER: John Murphy ASSISTANT TREASURER: To be nominated by Committee
COMMITTEE: Penny Seekamp (New) Jeanne Hall
 Warren Thompson Jackie Thompson
 Colin Waterman Trevor Seekamp (New)
AUDITOR: Vee Clark
POSTAL CLERK: Bev Masters
ASSISTANT POSTAL CLERK: Jeanne Hall
LIBRARIAN: Colin Waterman
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: Trevor Seekamp

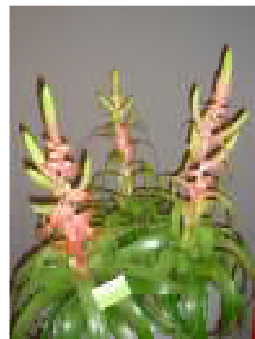
AFTERNOON TEA ORGANISER: Bev Masters
AFTERNOON TEA HELPERS: Jeanne Hall, Eileen Mullins, Rhonda Jarrett
DOOR TICKETS: Sue Scrabei, Rhonda Jarrett
RAFFLE TICKETS: Sue Scrabei, Rhonda Jarrett and other helpers on the day.
HOST/ESS: Colin Waterman/ Sue Scrabei, Bill Treloar
POTS & LABELS: Ron Masters
NAME TAG MAKER: Ron and Bev Masters
GAZETTE: Derek & Margaret Butcher/ Bev Masters

Show and Sales Feb 2013– Roving Reporter

First I would like to thank Bev for allowing me two mornings of effort at the front desk selling primarily raffle tickets. Mind you, I had oriented myself to the seating arrangement on the Friday afternoon only to find the reverse situation on the Sat morning. As I said in the January epistle, my speech therapist says I must practice, and I was pleased I was able to do so. I would like to thank them lot opposite who corrected me when my tongue was not synchronised with my brain. Those who bought tickets didn't seem to mind! Bev is a glutton for punishment. It was easy to sell tickets at 50c a shot (surely it will be paper saving if we increase this to \$1) with such good raffle prizes. Yes, there were 7 which Bev would have had to control the delivery to the winners. I know that when I had the job I hoped that the winners were in the Hall at the time the Winners were drawn out of the box. If not, you have the job of telephoning the winner hoping they could pick up the prize. If not then it was a delivery to some odd place. One time I remember it was Yorketown! Anyway, Bev did not think 5 prizes was enough and asked Sue Scrabei. Well, two picnic baskets filled with small Neo's were her response, and of course everybody wanted a basket. As an aside, Sue's surname is hard to pronounce AND spell. She rang me when I was at Griffith Rehab Hospital and I was advised that a Sue something or another had rang wishing me the best. I was confused as to who it might be BUT NOW I KNOW!

Did you see what I saw on the Tillandsia sales table from Chris Larson?

It was Tillandsia 'Samantha'. Why the interest? Well, this hybrid won a Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal last year. They were small plants but if you are a connoisseur you don't mind waiting 5 years to get it to flower. If you are into Tillandsias just think about *Tillandsia mooreana* for size and shape of the inflorescence. You won't get many offsets either but who cares. You grow it like a *Vriesea* - in a pot. I show a photo so you can see what you missed.



Tillandsia 'Samantha'

What is so magical about 24.2.42? Big Len would say it has some mathematical significance. What is also significant is that it is a numerical palindrome. In other words is the same back or front like Glenelg. It also coincides with the date of our Show but more important it is/was Trevor Seekamp's birthday! Bob Whisson did a great job on the Saturday morning as guardian of THE step into the main hall. The problem being that he did not realise that people are more aware of such step up but forget the step down when loaded with a box of plants. Next Sales day he will be more prepared!

Vriesea ‘Kiwi’ and all things Glyph by Butcher Feb 2013

In the past I have written about the species *V. platynema* and *V. fosteriana* and pointed out the variations you can get when growing from seed and yet all could be classed as part of the species if you have your ‘species’ hat on. If you have your hybridist or cultivar hat on you get such things as ‘Red Chestnut’. Create a hybrid using these parents and just think of the variation you can get.

Let us go back to the 1980’s when we were creating such hybrids in Australia but there was little marketing as such, so these hybrids spread slowly and generally through older collectors and not the newbies.

Meanwhile in New Zealand they were doing similar things and remember, despite what the Kiwis may say, they have an ideal climate for these sort of vrieseas – they can even grow them in the outside garden with few burnt leaves!

Anyway, in the 1990’s Noel Scotting crossed a *V. platynema* with a *V. fosteriana* and got seed and umpteen seedlings which she did not know what to do with. She gave most, if not all, to Gerry Stansfield who in turn gave a swag to Andrew Maloy. So we had three people growing on these seedlings which as they grew, showed great promise but lots of differences in this supposed one grex. This variation is to be expected. We know it is greener the other side of the fence and Gerry was a bit put out with Andrew’s success. As I pointed out, the horse had bolted and there was nothing that Gerry could do. I did push for a sort of grex name of Kiwi to be used and was successful. This proliferation of hybrids prompted me to coin the phrase ‘Glyph’ vrieseas to cover this group because their main attribute was the squiggly lines on the leaves.

Soon after the ‘Kiwi’ names hit the market in New Zealand they were closely followed by the ‘Tasman’ lot which are just as good but have not been mass marketed in Australia. Since then, creation of even more Glyph vrieseas have occurred in New Zealand where the new ones are said to be better but I am a cagey old dog and remember what the old ones looked like. I am always challenging the hybridist to tell me the difference between their latest creation and those of the past but it is a challenge they never seem to accept, but are guided by the sales reaction.

If you have a Glyph plant and just want it for itself then you hope it does not quickly flower because you want to enjoy the leafy plant as long as you can. You wait for the few offsets it is likely to give and you give away your spares. If you want to sell then you can really mash up its centre growth so that it does produce offsets, and with extra feed you can get many more offsets. But if you really want to market them then you resort to tissue culture. Here, using laboratory techniques you culture tissue pieces as explants to eventually produce plants by the hundreds. This tissue generally comes from the leaf axils (The leaf armpits!) and it would depend if the tissue culture was based on more than one leaf axil – remember the variability already mentioned. Some of the ‘Kiwi’ names were tissue cultured and several were sold at our Australian Brom Convention held in Adelaide in 2009. So you could have got your ‘Kiwi’ from the old method or the new method and plants even with the same name are not necessarily going to look the same. My advice to growers is to hang on to a plant that you like and don’t be tempted with claims that a new better one has been produced at a much higher price.

February Show display plants by Margaret Butcher

The floor display of neoregelias did not have as many plants as usual, but all were well spaced, which gave people a chance to admire each plant. Having the Show a month earlier than usual did mean we were a bit early for this genus to be at their best. The severe heat we have experienced has taken its toll.

Chris Larson always has a striking array of display and sales plants. Outstanding were a *Vriesea erythrodactylon* with a very long inflorescence, a *Guzmania conifera* in flower, and a *Guzmania sanguinea* in brilliant red, with yellow flowers.

Julie and David Batty’s Best in Show *Vriesea* ‘Kiwi Sunset’ stood out amongst the other plants in this area. Unfortunately, not enough space had been left for these display plants and they were all crammed together. It must have been tough for the Judges to make their choices. However, several of the ‘Glyph’ vrieseas were eye catching and we must not forget the *Aechmea fosteriana*, *Aechmea* ‘Pickaniny’ and *Aechmea* ‘Ensign’.

February Show display plants cont:



Margaret Reppin Trophy Hechtia marnier lapostellia
Penny & Trevor Seekamp (Photo J Hall)



Best in show Vriesea 'Kiwi Sunset' Julie Batty
(Photo J Hall)



Basket of mini Neoregelia's 1st prize in raffle.
(Photo J Batty)



Artistic Merit award: My living wreath
Teresa Wood (Photo J Hall)

Two very well grown plants, but not often seen were *Araeococcus flagellifolius* and *Acanthostachys pitcairnioides* from Ron and Bev Masters.

There was a disappointing display of Tillandsias, apart from Ray Clarke's stand of *T. somnians* tucked away in a corner.

Many years ago when we had fewer members we had our hall three quarters full of display plants and a smaller area for Sales. Now the focus is on Sales plants. Surely we can compromise and allow more space for our good display plants and get the newer members involved.

A new feature was a PowerPoint presentation on a continuous loop, produced by Jeanne Hall. This showed photos of some members gardens and selected plants. This was watched by many visitors.

Without our many helpers and organisers there would be no Show. So, Thank you all.

Bromeliad Show and Sales 23 February & 24 February 2013

Judging Matters

The judging panel consisted of Peter Hall, Trevor Seekamp, Ray Clarke, Warren Thompson and our scribe and trainee judge was Pam Whisson. The panel are all judges in training as we are relatively new members with an average of about 5 years growing bromeliads. Ray and Vee were involved in showing cats so Ray knows a little about judging in general. Pam is the registrar of judges at the Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club. I have been involved with judging cymbidium orchids for 10 years. I judge in the open division at club meetings, Winter, Spring and National shows and have been a guest judge at the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria at their Spring Show extravaganza which is the largest cymbidium orchid show other than the national show, so do collectively we have some knowledge of judging criteria.

Ray Clarke has a special interest and a reasonable knowledge of Tillandsias. To me they are the hardest section to judge because they are so diverse and one should have some knowledge of the types and growth habits etc.

Judging Matters cont:

We really need more members to join the judging ranks, especially some of our long term and knowledgeable members. We would really like the more experienced members to be part of the judging panel because we need them to pass on their expertise to us newer members.

Members of the judging panel do not take part if their plants are being judged.

I will list the prize winners and hopefully I'll get all the names right. I seem to leave a letter out now and again and get into big trouble but I do try or some may say I'm 'trying'.

Trophy	Genera	Plant	Winner	Prize
Margaret Reppin	Hectia	Marnier-Lapostollei	Trevor & Penny Seekamp	1 st
	Deuterocohnia	brevifolia	Peter & Jeanne Hall	2 nd
President's	Aechmea	Pickaniny	John Murphy	1 st
	Billbergia	Grand Finale	Ron & Bev Masters	2 nd
	Cryptanthus	Fosterianus	Julie & David Batty	Highly Commended
Marie Robinson	Vriesea	Kiwi Sunset	Julie & David Batty	1 st
	Vriesea	Montesuma's Gem	Adam Bodzioch	2 nd
	Vriesea	Kiwi Cream	Julie & David Batty	Highly Commended
Josie Tonkin	Tillandsia	Fasciculata x schiedeana	Margaret & Derek Butcher	1 st
	Tillandsia	kirchnekii	Margaret & Derek Butcher	2 nd
	Tillandsia	capillaris	Bill Treloar	Highly Commended
Neoregelia	Neoregelia	Gunpowder	Peter & Jeanne Hall	1 st
	Neoregelia	Garnish	Peter & Jeanne Hall	2 nd
	Neoregelia	Blast Furnace	Adam Bodzioch	Highly Commended
Artistic Merit		Living Wreath	Teresa Wood	1 st
		A Fence	Trevor & Penny Seekamp	2 nd
		Let's Have A Picnic	Bob & Pam Whisson	Highly Commended
Ede Schaefer	Vriesea	Kiwi Sunset	Julie & David Batty	Best in Show
Encouragement Award	Neoregelia	Bullis Blue	Rose & Jack Van Gorp	1 st

Congratulations to all winners!

An old favourite... Len Trotman's anti mosquito 'recipe'

500ml Sunlight liquid (dishwashing)
200ml of Household Cloudy Ammonia
100ml of Citronella or Pine-o-Clean disinfectant

Pour the contents into 5 litres of cold water. As this mixture is highly concentrated use only at 2 to 4 tablespoons per litre of water in your sprayer or watering can. It can also be mixed with a liquid fertilizer and can be used weekly if desired. It is **NOT** detrimental to your bromeliads even at the seedling stage. Use it all around the garden.

You will notice when spraying that foam is generated, but this is not a problem as each of the stages in the life cycle of the mosquito are dependant on the surface tension of the water. The adults rest on the surface of the water to lay eggs and the other forms hang below the surface. If the surface tension is broken then the life cycle is interrupted.



Roving reporter March 2013

March is traditionally summer brag which was more pertinent this year with the sort of weather we had and have – it was a warm meeting. There were sufficient plants brought in but I got the feeling from general comments made, that quite a few members' plants had been caught out by the sun and thus did not make the bench! The advantage here is that with Bromeliads they produce (usually) offsets so the owner can have a second try and hope they have learnt from the experience.

Adam was in charge and as luck would have it, he started off at his end. He was very proud of his *Guzmania sanguinea* which did receive the popular choice. *Guzmania* are not easy at the best of time with species being extra challenging here in Adelaide. Regular misting can keep the heat down and moisture up. If you are really keen with your plants you can modify their growing conditions even in Adelaide's extreme weather. The last time I saw such a species plant in such good condition was at Hal Ellis's in Victoria in the 1970's.

It was interesting to see the return of some oldies and I refer to *Aechmea chantinii* which is a challenge in Adelaide even in its normal form. But, here Adam had succeeded with the variegated forms, 'Samurai' and 'Shogun'. I say oldies because they were around 20 years ago where they were experimented with here in Adelaide! They did not last long and were called 'Annuals'. Can you remember how great baked beans were as a kid? I am sure the same sentiment applies as to how we remembered these plants in years past. Are they as good now as then? Whatever, Adam had done a good job especially with the 'Samurai'.

You may be interested to know that in those days we thought that both these forms had originated in Japan. Only recently did I find out from Japan that they claim 'Samurai' but that 'Shogun' is a sport that occurred sometime later somewhere in the USA or Europe. It seems strange that nobody claimed recognition for introducing this form.

When a botanist finds a plant in the wild he thinks hard about whether it is the same as already described or if it is new. He/she does a differential diagnosis listing the differences before he makes a decision. Now let us move to cultivation where it is known that that a hybrid or species crossed species will mostly produce similar looking offspring from the same seed pod. But if you cross a hybrid or self set a hybrid you get a motley set of offspring. These days there are very few primary hybrids done and hybridists seem to be relying on such diversity. What is the aim of a hybridist or grower of seeds? I would have thought this was to produce a plant better than nature could do but in practice this does not happen. If you are after the best then you cull out the substandard – not sell, CULL. In other words, Quality against Quantity. In the 1980's hybridising in Australia was a mess with names being given but no recording of what had been done. Hybridists were too busy tickling, ignoring the paper work. I have always been a 'species' man in marvelling what nature can produce and there was a certain system that applied to Botanists. Needless to say there was a system (ICNCP) created by botanists for all things created horticulturally but was mainly ignored for many plant families including Bromeliads. A chap called Brian Smith from Texas started stirring up in the USA and I started in Australia. Now we have the Bromeliad Cultivar Register website but this only works if 1. Only the best is grown and, 2. Details are advised to the Registrar.

Roving reporter March cont:

Because I believe in some sort of order I have clashed with hybridists since 1980 and although things have improved in the last 30 years there are still many who ignore the rules. I remember in the early days Olwen Ferris had some 50 names from a single seed pod. All I asked was whether she was after quality or quantity. The number reduced dramatically and as far as I am aware, none are being grown at the current time. But this attitude does not change with Adam showing us hybrids that Olive Trevor had done some years ago – they were apparent at our Conference in 2009. They were ('Hallelujah' x 'Domingos Martins') - note there is a hybrid here in this formula as mentioned earlier. No attempt has made to register this hybrid but 24 different forms have been selected and sold. As I said in my opening comments, no differential diagnosis has been done and culling is left to the consumer not the hybridist.

It was interesting that another *Billbergia* on display with an undecipherable name was felt to be *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' and compared with Adam's plant with the same name. Just to put a fly in the ointment was there anyone else who thought Adam's B. 'Hallelujah' had too wide and too reddish leaves to be this. An alternative of 'After Glow' – another Beadle hybrid- was suggested and I wonder if Adam has checked the flowers.

Neoregelia 'Johanna's Purple' has an interesting history and was one of the 'Species' we brought back from the USA in 1982 as a *N. johannis* 'Purple form'. At that time the Yanks did not know the difference between *N. cruenta* and *N. johannis* until Elton Leme pointed them in the right direction some years later. Anyway, our plant looked OK so we modified the name and registered it. Although we got our plant in California it seems to have had its hybrid origins in Florida.

There was a nice clump of *Billbergia* 'Fantasia' and someone mentioned B. 'Fascinator' but let us look at this objectively. There are at least 3 hybrids that look like this. 1. B. 'Fascinator' – a Richter hybrid from Germany made in 1930- which has petals like *B. nutans*. 2. B. 'Fantasia' – a Foster hybrid from Florida made in 1942 – which has red with violet edged petals like *B. saundersii*. 3. B. 'Fantasy' a Wasley hybrid from Queensland made in 1982 – which has petals like *B. saundersii* but the inflorescence has a hint of *B. euphemiae*.

However, if you grow all three you can determine differences when not in flower. This problem of identifying hybrids is an example of what we now face with the *Billbergia* hybrids mentioned before with B. 'Hallelujah'. Not only did Beadle consider it his best hybrid but used it as a parent to create even better hybrids – or so he thought! In Australia many 'hybridists' had the same idea and crossed it with any other *Billbergia* available. Many seem to have the 'Hallelujah' look of dark leaves and spots. Some have been culled and registered, some haven't. BUT you do need to grow several to see if they have consistent differences that occur in offsets.

It was good to see that *Aechmea* 'Echidna' is still around – and yes it has spiky leaves. To think that it was in 2000 that we decided at one of our meeting to register it under this name as suggested by Joan Williams. It had been around for some ten years before that and we felt it needed a name – after all, it grew well in Adelaide.



Aechmea 'Echidna' (Photo J Batty)

Bigenerics, we had at least two. One was a well grown x*Biltanthus* 'Topaz' (Remember that this used to be called x*Cryptbergia* 'Topaz') which is a hybrid from Vic Przetocki in WA. There was conjecture as to what the flower would be like. You can find out by checking the BCR data base but a better solution is for the owner to bring it in when in flower. The other one, x*Aechopsis* 'Angeline' has a history. As part of the Butcher down sizing one offset went to the special raffle and the flowering mother went to a new member, who went home proudly clutching it to her bosom.

x*Aechopsis* 'Angeline' Shown in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register as either 'Angeline' or 'Angellina' this came to Australia in the 1980's as *Nidularium billbergioides* 'citrinum angelina' which caused heads to be shaken when it flowered! Clearly it was a bigeneric of sorts and it was eventually discovered from Corn Bak that *Aechmea fasciata* was involved. The name had its origins at Kent's Bromeliad Nursery in California because in their 1979 catalogue we read *Nidularium billbergioides* 'Citrinum' cv. 'Angellina' 'Variegata' at US\$75.



x*Aechopsis* 'Angeline' (Photo J Batty)

Roving reporter March cont

At this price one can only assume there were not many plants in existence! It was then called *xNidumea* 'Angeline'. When *Nidularium billbergioides* became a *Canistropsis* the bigeneric name *xAechopsis* was used.

It was good to see Maurice Kellett over here from Victoria getting intellectually inspired at Womadelaide and our meeting. He did bring over a couple of *Dyckias* for Adam which we were all able to see. They were *D. hebdingii* and *D. delicata*. As Maurice pointed out many of the *Dyckia* so called species in Australia are hybrids of doubtful parentage. So it is difficult to find true species around. The two that he brought had been grown from seed from Brazil. *D. delicata* was only described in 2002 so would be new to Australia. *D. hebdingii* has been in Australia by name only because every one that I have checked does not tally with the description. For the *Dyckia* connoisseur Maurice recommends Brunning's coco-peat.

I did not realise that *Neoregelia* 'The Governor's Plea' was in Australia so you are never too old to learn. This is closely related to the more common 'Hannibal Lector' or less common 'Clarise'. You may not be aware that the true name is Hannibal Lector but it just that the American spelling got in first!

And now to *Neoregelia* 'Kerry' where our man from Strathalbyn - Geoff Jarrett - owned up to using as a nickname for an unidentified *Neoregelia* hybrid. There is nothing wrong about that, because so often you give nicknames or pet names to plants. That is OK as long as the plant stays in your backyard but if it moves out, inquisitive people ask questions. If I were thinking of a name I would have gone to the most likely and think of the popular Grace Goode hybrids based around 'Charm'. You see, in 1975 Grace crossed *N. marmorata* with *N. chlorosticta* and got sufficient differences in her eyes to give us names like 'Charm', 'Bliss', 'Charmian', 'Dazzle', 'Freckle Face', 'Krasny', 'Robust', and 'Beelzebub'. With such a primary cross it is difficult to imagine so many differences. Names that have survived to this day seem to be 1. 'Charm' which at the time was such a winner that many were growing self set seed and calling them 'Charm' as well where only offsets should have had that name. 2. 'Krasny' and 3. 'Beelzebub'. The closest would be 'Beelzebub'! I was pleased that Adam picked that Neo. 'Heat wave' was not a Skotak hybrid but a Frasier one released by Tropiflora. Mind you, one of the alleged parents' *N. fluminensis* is not known in cultivation!

I know I have written before about this before but it is worthwhile saying it again. Nobody has been able to prove that 'Fireball' did sport to produce a well marked variegated form. All seem linked to some hybridising program. In Australia the person who did this extensively in the 1980's was Allan Ladd and the hybrid name 'Fallan' – a combination of Fireball and Allan- was coined.

In the tillandsias you would have seen two forms of *T. capitata* from Cuba. This is a troublesome species which is based on a plant found in Cuba some 150 years ago and completely different to Len's plants. So there are subtle differences just on one island. The species is also found on the mainland in Mexico where every mountain range offers something different! Did you notice similarities with the plants Len was calling *T. sphaerocephala* which come from Bolivia. You would not be alone because plants coming out of Guatemala via nursery sources were wrongly called *T. sphaerocephala*. You should now realise that *T. sphaerocephala* come from Bolivia and have purplish flowers. If we move south into Argentina we have white flowers but still called *T. sphaerocephala* by the Americans but *T. schreiteri* by the Germans. Len follows the Germans.

"WANTED"



Genera	Requested by	Contact details
<i>Vriesea gigantea</i> v <i>seideliana</i>	Geoff Jarrett	Bev

If you have a Bromeliad on your wish list our "Wanted" section may be able to help, please contact Derek or Bev with details

Friendly reminder

Membership renewals are now due (Feb to Feb) \$10 per person – thank you