

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!

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Tillandsia chlorophylla (Photo J. Batty)

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Time: 2.00pm.

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

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME.**

MEETING & SALES 2014 DATES:

12/1/2014 (Tillandsioideae-Guzmania, Vriesea & Tillandsia species), 9/2/2014 (AGM Guest Speaker Carnivorous plants), 2/3/2014 1st Sunday (Summer brag) 8/3/2014 & 9/3/2014 Sales, 13/4/2014, 4/5/2014 1st Sunday 8/6/2014, 13/7/2014, 3/8/2014 1st Sunday, 14/9/2014, 12/10/2014, 25/10/2014 & 26/10/2014 Sales, 9/11/2014 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb to Feb

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Roving Reporter October 2013

Yes the roving reporter was out roving at a great grandchild's 3rd birthday. Yes, at that age kids don't seem to mind the oldies attending. This keenness seems to wear off with age. BUT he has his spies and it was nice to know that our smiling faces were missed. Apparently the meeting was a success – again- and not many members fell asleep. There are couple of things I should mention from comments I received. Our Door prize and raffle tables were swamped with plants. Is this good or bad? Many are not identified but many are also not in good condition and appear to be a misguided attempt to help new members get plants at a minimum cost. So some are clearly plants unwanted by their owners and should have been PUTITINABIN because the recipient of such a plant would need to wait for an offset to grow it to its potential. I had the same problem when I was Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar where the hybridist registered the best from a seed batch but also sold or gave away the rest rather than the recommended 'Destroy the Rest!' The answer for their action was invariably but you cannot destroy a good plant but failing to define a good plant. As I tried to point out, Bromeliads make great compost. So please think twice about plants you want to donate to the Society and ask yourself if they would sell at our Sales days.

I got swamped with photos so I have something to talk about. I am hoping that the talkers at the 3 corners will have a bit of a say too but I did get some feed-back. I understand that the speakers found it very hard to quickly get over their spiel in the time allowed. In years past as Secretary, I used to worry when we had a scheduled talk as well as a display bench. Time was at an essence and you easily ran out of time. BUT this is the most important part of a meeting – talking about plants rather than minutes. We have usually 40 or so at a meeting which is a bit large to have a sort of tete-a-tete discussion but 20 could be ideal. So why not have 2 topics at a meeting and the same two topics at the next meeting. Those who missed out at one meeting could face up to the other presentation at the following meeting. Furthermore, the main convenor for a session could have a trainee assistant where such trainee assistant may have the courage the next meeting. Why all this trainee business? Regrettably speakers on Broms are getting fewer and fewer and many have the ability but not the courage to lead a discussion.

After all that pontificating I must mention Goo or a colourless gel that Julie Batty worried about that happened on the inside of the leaf sheath of her Neoregelia hybrid. Was it dangerous? First up I thought laterally and considered it might be unfertilized frog spawn. This meant getting Dave off Wasp watch (remember the unsolved case of the missing trichomes) on to frog watch. Julie tried to convince me it was not the answer. So I called in the cavalry and asked others on the 'NET' for a solution. Ross Little from the far north of NSW had already reported such a happening in a previous newsletter which he religiously sends us a copy. My excuse was that I only look for spelling mistakes and mis-identity. Anyway, he referred us to the following:

'Goo' as mentioned by Richter in Bromeliads 1977 page 32

Epiphytic Bromels constitute an immense swamp in which animal and vegetable waste products are dissolved by the enzymes in the leaves. The process involves the jelly-like substance exuded by the inner faces of the sheaths. As a rule, putrefaction occurs only when there is too much pollution.

Roving Reporter October 2013cont:

Normally the leaves absorb the end product of the organic waste by way of their scales. The water in the funnels remains fairly clean and in dire need, potable. (drinkable)

Ross hinted it could be excess fertilizer which could be why I had never seen such a thing! Julie poo-pooed the idea.

Answers coming back from the Eastern States, who admittedly have more rain than we do and who seem to fertilize more than we do (except Adam and Peter), suggest this is not a rare event and is easily washed off with no damage to the plant. Still being the inquisitive one I wonder why David Benzing, the Bromeliad Biology Guru does not seem to refer to this happening. Perhaps nobody has seen it in the wild. In any event, I now have this data in the Health and Welfare section of my Computer!

I was pleased to see a photo of *Aechmea pineliana* because I have always found it reluctant to flower. There is a small form called *minuta* but those who wander in the wild say that big and small appear scattered around in no apparent pattern making them wonder whether this needs to be a variety. While we have been quite consistent as to what *Aechmea pineliana* looks like the taxonomists have been having fun comparing it to others especially if it has white flowers whereas we all know it must have yellow flowers. Perhaps it might be because it is hard to pick out colour of petals in a herbarium specimen.



Aechmea pineliana (Photo J. Hall)

One plant that would have had me poking around was the one with *Tillandsia seideliana* on the label. You see, in 1962 Reitz described *Tillandsia montana* and believed that Pereira in naming *T. seideliana* in 1979 was unnecessary because they were the same! Yes, I grow both plants with these names but cannot really tell them apart other than the labels. So here it is a great help if you know the source of your plant. Very recently I have found out that *T. seideliana* has been hybridised and only now is known as 'Purple Razz'.

So for the last 20 years we have had a hybrid that looks like *T. seideliana* circulating in Australia. So what, some may say but the purist in me says I would rather have a plant with a pedigree than one without. Ever since my childhood I have been interested in plant species and on arrival in Australia over 50 years ago it was invariably exotic prickly things and Margaret was into living stones like *Lithops* and *Conophytum*. Whenever I wanted a plant on the cheap I was into growing from seed. It first started with Cactaceae and always species not trying to improve on what nature has provided us with. When we moved into Bromeliads it was the same, getting seed from mainly Brazil. With seed raising like this you still had to investigate your progeny to see that if any foreign pollen had caused problems. Hybridists should of course do the same checking to see if their crossing was a success but in many cases forget to do so. I am pleased in a way that hybridising is far from the minds of current members.



Tillandsia seideliana
(Photo J. Batty)

This leads to one of our old hybridisers by the name of Keith Bradtberg who 25 years ago created *Aechmea* 'Golden Comet' by crossing *Aechmea lindenii* (was called *A. comata* hence the Comet!) with *Aechmea recurvata* v. *recurvata*. He was repeating a cross done by Hummel in California some 20 years earlier but somehow his progeny looked different. So it was useless using the same as Hummel, namely *Aechmea* 'Covata'. Mind you there was a problem with A. 'Covata' and there is an A. 'Covata Too' but that is another story!



Aechmea 'Golden Comet' (Photo J. Batty)

Roving Reporter October 2013 cont:

If my interpretation is correct, under the Orchid system they would all have the same name because they have the same parents. Recent work in Orchids has Orchid people scratching their heads because remakes at basic F1 level have produced different looking plants to those created some 100 years ago. At least with our system we acknowledge that hybridists make mistakes in identifying parents. Back to *Aechmea* 'Golden Comet' where Keith also had progeny that flowered with purplish petals and these he called 'Keith's Comet'. So I am pleased that some of these old home grown hybrids are still around.

Workshops October 2013

Tillandsias'

The feature of the October meeting was 3 separate workshops that were held all at the same time.

The Tillandsia workshop was hosted by Bill Treloar and Ray Clark, Bill looked like an old stager from way back and Ray was a fill in for a bloke called Derek.

Bill was the relaxed one with a cuppa in his hand and apparently the son of a nurseryman who knew plenty. The other fella, Ray was a newbie filling in for the grand master of Tillandsias who was allegedly away on family commitments. (Rumor has it he was up all night playing poker, smoking cigars and drinking brandy, half his luck!). Ray looked a bit edgy and by his own admission would never learn what the Grand Master had already forgotten.

Talk about the odd couple, the one thing that these two had in common apart from the plant thing was that they both sounded as if they could talk under water with a mouth full of marbles.

Bill was well clued up on the art of sticking these little plants into bits of wood, it all seems a bit rough to the uninitiated but they both claimed that these plants didn't need dirt to grow in!

There were many different methods of mounting these little plants onto wood, cork and whatever you choose to use it seems. These plants no matter how they are displayed and are grown have 3 things in common with all other plants, they need air, water & food we were told.

There were also crowds of people gathered around at two other tables listening to some others but there were no shortage of bodies with plenty of questions for the two Till men. Interestingly most of the women had pen & paper in hand taking notes, not so for the men folk!

Is this because the men do not need instructions or were they just relying on good memory?

All in all, most people seemed very eager to learn more and there were lots of murmurs about "doing this again". To be honest, the 10 minutes allowed for each session almost seemed too short.

From a Fly on the Wall

Taking off pups, potting up of those pups presentation

Adam provided a presentation on taking off pups, potting up of those pups, various potting mixes and the various options in respect to the application of fertilizers.

Firstly, Adam demonstrated the different techniques of removing pups growing at the base of the mother plant as opposed to those growing on stolons. He showed the different tools that can be used in the removal of the pups and minimising any damage to both the pup and mother plant. He then demonstrated the art of removal of *Guzmania* and *Vriesea* pups by firmly but gently tearing the pups off in order to maximise the roots showing at the base of the plants. This will speed up the growing of the roots and accelerate the growth of the pups in the potting mix.

Adam then discussed the various potting mixes that are available and his own choices of blending of mix and bark. He said it was very important to vary the ratio of potting mix and bark in order to have regard to the genera of the pups but also to take into account whether the plants will be grown in bright conditions or shaded spots and how much water they were likely to receive in both summer and winter. Some plants will require wet but free-draining conditions as opposed to those that can tolerate little water but require water to be retained rather than free-draining. He then demonstrated the potting of pups and the use of paddle pop sticks, skewers and strips of panty hose to maintain the position of the pups in the pot particularly in windy conditions. Being stable in the pot will aid the quick development of roots and allow the plants to flourish. Adam then discussed the application of granular, liquid and foliar fertilisers and highlighted the fact that some genera like *Billbergias* and *Neoregelias* don't require much or any added fertiliser to that which is already in the potting mix. Any added fertilizer is likely to make for long, strappy leaves and also bleach the plants of colour. On the contrary, plants like *Vrieseas* and *Guzmanias* are hungry for the right kinds of fertilizers which needed to be added during the growing life of the plants.

Workshops October 2013 cont:

These plants will also benefit from the application of foliar fertilizers as soon as they show signs of a flower spike as this will make for bigger and more colourful flower spikes. Adam also indicated that the balance of NPK is important in determining the right fertilizer with more Nitrogen for growing plants and a greater ratio of potassium and phosphorus for the plants about to flower.

How do I choose the best shade-cloth for my greenhouse? Peter Hall

I shall have to shower more than once a month because no one came near me. No one wanted to know about shade houses or shade cloth.

Derek wanted a report from all the workshop presenters so mine was easy- the following is the information for the presentation.

The most important features for greenhouse shade-cloth are the shade densities, the level of ultraviolet (UV) protection and colour.

The percentage of shade densities varies from 30% to 90%, so you have to choose the density applicable to the plants that you wish to grow and the location of your greenhouse. The shade-cloth must provide UV protection and be UV stabilised.

Most shade-cloth is made from UV stabilised polyethylene and it comes in woven and knitted varieties.

Knitted shade-cloth is much better to use than woven because the knitted will not fray when cut.

Shade-cloth comes in a variety of colours; black is the most common used.

Black shade-cloth absorbs heat and protects against harmful UV rays, but can also cause a rise in temperature by transferring heat and holding it inside the shade house.

White shade-cloth reflects and diffuses the sun's heat and UV rays. It does not hold heat in and lowers greenhouse temperatures.

The history of shade-cloth in Australia

Shade-cloth was developed over 30 years ago to provide protection for plants from the harsh Australian climate. Shade-cloth is used in a variety of ways -domestic, horticulture, commercial, industrial, sport, leisure and agriculture.

Shade-cloth can control shade, temperature, and evaporation and minimise wind, hail and frost damage.

The majority of shade-cloth in all colours is supplied in

- Two standard widths - 1.83 metres (6 ft) and 3.66 metres (12 ft)
- Shade densities - 30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90% There are several grades of shade-

cloth

- Commercial heavy monofilament cloth 80% has 306 gsm (grams per square metre) weight to
- Lightest 30% monofilament cloth at 90gsm weight.

Shade-cloth comes in a variety of colours - beige, white, navy, blue, black, dark green, light green, sandstone and terracotta.

About 8 years ago when we first started growing cymbidium orchids and then built a shade house, I was faced with a variety of questions about the colour and density of shade-cloth and also the height of the structure. I received lots of advice and the majority of people advised me to use 50% knitted black shade-cloth.

Armed with this information I went to a supplier and he changed my mind to 50% white knitted shade-cloth. I am now pleased with this decision because the shade house is down in the south east corner of our property and it also has 1.83 metre metal fences on two sides and a garage on the north end, plus the neighbours have erected 4 metre high sheds, so I need the white shade-cloth to get as much light into the structure as possible.

Some growers also told me that black shade-cloth is best because the plants will never get burnt even under extreme weather conditions. Also they said that cymbidium orchids will not flower as well under green shade-cloth and that under white shade-cloth the flower spikes will be much shorter.

Workshops October 2013 cont:

All this advice was indeed a load of rubbish. I know some pretty good cymbidium orchid growers that grow under all those colours and they grow and flower their plants very well.

Important Facts

- Density
- Colour
- Knitted

Height of greenhouse should be a minimum of 2.4 metres - 3 metres is better.

The orientation of the shade-house - if rectangular or square - east and west is ideal as well as the direction of the knitted fabric to gain the most light required to grow your selection of plants.

The direction of the knitted shade-cloth applies to the top and sides of the shade-house.

The shape of the shade-house roof also affects the amount of light (UV), for example a tunnel house greatly affects the amount of light especially if the orientation is north and south, because there is no flat surface area, and the sun's rays are at a greater angle. Then there is flat and gable roof.

All these factors - orientation, shape, size and direction of shade-cloth are important for optimal performance.

Plants will still grow well even if we don't achieve all these factors.

The areas that we live in are the most obvious differences in the way our plants perform.

Probably the most important aspects are choosing the density of the knitted shade-cloth applicable to the area that we live, and have the ability to mist or fog at regular intervals during extreme hot weather. The use of misters or foggers drops the temperature in the shade-house, increases the humidity and greatly decreases transpiration. More moisture is lost by plant leaf transpiration than any other factor. .



Roving Reporter October sales 2013

Friday afternoon was the usual hive of activity as I sat and watched. Something different! Well, Ron produced a tarpaulin for the Billiard table because we had so many Raffle prizes and extra space was needed. What would the Secretary do without him? Sue Sckrabei had certainly been busy with her baskets of miniature Neoregelias. Anyway, I was provided with two tables to be used for Raffle tickets and book sales. On the opposite side of the walkway was THE new machine which is marvellous for the Treasurer because it can separate individual sellers and give lots of subtotals. Penny Seekamp 'volunteered' to be the operator and was definitely scared of the THING at the beginning but it did not take long before she could operate it blindfolded (well almost). So an especial 'Thank You' to her for having the courage. I noticed there were very few back-up operators (none)

Visitors were expected to run the gauntlet to get past me or my relief delegates as they made their way to the main hall. There was one amusing incident where Mother was having trouble in getting her 5 year old daughter into the hall. The OTHERS said it was because she had never seen Father Christmas with a proper beard before. Anyway she solved the problem by racing past into the hall proper. After Mother had finished with her purchases the little girl had lost her inhibitions and was quite happy filling in name and phone number on the raffle tickets.

We don't often see Ray Clark because he is shift worker but we were lucky to have him over the weekend. He hovered over the Tillandsia stand where he had brought in several specimens and I am sure that most would have been shown his *T. xiphioides*. To the uninitiated the 'x' is pronounced as a 'z'! In fact I was so impressed with the display that most of my ramblings will be on this genus. Chris Larson knows that a plant in flower, sells and I have to mention *T. chlorophylla*.

Roving Reporter October sales 2013 cont:

The plants for sale and I noticed that several members did buy, were on the smaller scale because normally you would expect up to 10 branches not 5. It is not an easy species to grow in Adelaide coming from the more humid parts of Guatemala but perhaps the smaller version may be more accommodating. The name means 'green leaves' which suggests you do not mount but rely on pot culture with the inherent danger of over watering. In other words you have a challenge to get it to next flowering. BUT every Tillandsia grower will tell you – they like challenges.

Chris Larson had brought over a car load of plants from Melbourne which added variety to what had been grown by the locals. Many were in flower which attracted mainly those who were seeing a Bromeliad Show for the first time. Mind you, I also saw seasoned locals making a purchase or two. I am sure that the ball of *Tillandsia ionantha* in flower in the display enhanced the sale of the offsets. In between selling raffle tickets I was often engaged in advising the various options of mounting said options and pointing out they had perhaps a couple of years wait before the next generation flowered. Chris had brought over a supply of plastic coated aluminium wire which was an option other than mounting. This wire had sufficient stiffness so it could be made into a loose spiral into which the plant could be placed. Patience is what is expected by the Tillandsia grower, whether novice or not.



Tillandsia ionantha (Photo J. Batty)

Then to a *T. reichenbachii* which I could recognize as a *T. reichenbachii* but it had long branches to the inflorescence not the normal short stubby ones. Apparently the plants had come from Rainforest Flora in California and I wonder if some chemical had been used to help it on its way – so to speak. I would like to know from any purchaser of these if they get a 'normal' flower when the offsets reach maturity



T. reichenbachii (Photo J. Batty)

One plant that caught Margaret's eye was Aechmea 'Patricia' named after Patricia Bullis of Bullis Nurseries in Florida. As with this nursery you rarely know parentage but it does seem the *A. chantinii* is involved somewhere. It has been around since the 1990's.



Aechmea 'Patricia' (Photo J. Batty)

Sales days- Peter Hall

I was more than a little disappointed with members placing more emphasis on getting all their sales plants in and on to the sales tables than the setting up of the show plants.

Thanks to Ray Clarke for bringing in some bread type crates for the medium to large Neoregelia display. I took about 15 foam boxes in but they are a pain because of the physical size and the fact they shed small pieces that are hard to clean up. Ron, Ray and Penny finished the setting up with the black cloth.

The disappointing part was that there were very few plants to put in the display. Myself and a few others took some more in on Saturday morning: I put in 10 Neoregelias and three Billbergias.

We stress to members that to sell plants we are each required to put in minimum of two plants in the show displays (reasonably medium to large if possible). Also if members have more than a few plants to sell, they should be prepared to spend some time replacing plants that have been sold with the backup plants under the sales tables.

October sales cont:

Help is also needed to man the front desk cash register, EFTPOS machine, packing plants and kitchen, to sell books and raffle tickets and to give the visitors/buyers and potential new members advice on their intended purchasers.

Packing up and cleaning the venue

I keep using the word disappointing but there is no other word to describe my feelings.

It was the first time since joining that I have experienced such lack of help to set up the venue, to help on the sales etc and to pack and clean up at the completion of the show.

It was most noticeable given that we didn't sight many members to even visit the venue over the two days!

I didn't get time to prepare any sales plants myself but many thanks to all the members that did sell plants over the two days because without our sales days we would not be able to successfully run our great club and keep it viable.

We all want to get home early on the last day so it is important to share the responsibility.

It has become of late that it is the usual few that help at club meetings and shows including the Home and Garden Show at Wayville.

The black table cloths have to be washed after use.

Members that have plants on the trading tables are required to take some of these cloths home, wash them and to return them ASAP. This has also become a problem: too few are taking too many. Many thanks to our pay table that stuck with it all weekend, Penny and Trevor Seekamp, Jeanne (Saturday), David Batty, Bev and John Murphy also our resident comedian and raffle ticket seller Uncle Derek.

John Murphy our treasurer works pretty hard all weekend at the venue and at home, he was up till 2.00am on Sunday morning.

Members are always more than ready to collect their proceeds from the sales days on Sunday afternoon but they should spare a thought for John because he has excess sale plants and show plants that he has to load into his vehicle so he needs members to help do that task for him whilst he facilitates the payouts. David Batty always helps but he needs a hand too. Come on members please support our great club.

You only get out what you put in!



Roving Reporter November 2013

First, I must congratulate our photographer Julie Batty in winning a prize in a photographic competition with Garden Clubs of Australia. It was a photograph of bark from a tree. I am not allowed to tell you the prize she won but it will help her Bromeliads grow.

On this occasion I did not get the opportunity to check up on names –Hurrah, I heard someone save. Anyway it was Colin's afternoon where we let him have his say once a year. In his introduction he did say we had to be quick because there were lots of plants to auction. We listened to his words of wisdom but he didn't. First we were treated to a musical rendition of 'Happy Christmas' although I would have preferred Sue to sing solo. And so the fun began with Adam explaining to Colin and the rest of us what he was auctioning. There were big plants and there were small plants. There were bargain basement prices paid and there were ridiculous successful bids where members got carried away. But there were no fights. I will take this opportunity of explaining to Colin that the *Aechmea* 'California Blue' had nothing to do with Roy Orbison, Neil Diamond or whoever. It is a plant that was bought as a rare species in California in 1982 and brought back to Australia with loving care. It flowered and we could find no species it could be linked to. Many questions later it was decided it must have links to a Mulford Foster hybridising campaign in the 1970's when he seemed to have crossed every species from *Portea* and the group of *Aechmea* that had been named after him 'Mulfordia' which can also be linked to *Portea*. AND he never registered one. The plant brought home must have some appeal because it is still around after 30 years. It was called California because it came from there. It was called blue because the flowers were blue BUT really because it was a MISTAKE. Nothing to do with Roy Orbison at all.

Lots of plants changed hands and by the close of play things were really desperate with Colin having to accept a bid of \$1.75

We don't have a photo of Father Christmas but show the nearest thing.

Roving Reporter November cont:

Why do Bill and I look so serious?(see photo below) Well, we were discussing as to whether the plants for auction called *Aechmea orlandiana* ssp *belloi* should have markings on the leaves because when it was described in 1986 as having concolorous leaves (No markings!).

Here there were clear markings on the leaves which Bill said decreased with successive offsets but John Murphy had reverse happenings. So we were at a stalemate. So that Bill and John (and the rest of you) are aware of the seed raising saga the following should be of interest:

“*AECHMEA ORLANDIANA* SSP. *BELLOI* by Butcher 2001

Between 1990 and 1992 Elton Leme sent to us in Australia many different types of seed he had obtained in the wild and in his own collection of species plants. Many turned out true to name and we have increased the breadth of our collections in Australia because of Elton’s efforts. As you may be aware I am forever querying things and *Aechmea orlandiana* ss. *belloi* is one.

The seed in this case gave us two main sorts of plants which was a bit strange because it pointed to *Aechmea orlandiana* ss. *belloi* being a hybrid. If *A. orlandiana* ss. *belloi* had been crossed accidentally with another species in Elton’s garden we would expect an F1 generation where the grex would be fairly constant. Another scenario is that Elton sent two berries of seed each with different fathers.

In 1998 I was discussing my problem with Moyna Prince of Miami who also had *A. orlandiana* ss. *belloi* which had not been grown from seed and could be traced back to Renato Bello of Brazil. Interestingly, Moyna had sent a leaf and inflorescence to Dr. Robert Read in Naples, Florida and I quote from some of the reply.

“ There is an error in Lyman Smith’s monograph where it says the spikes of *Aechmea orlandiana* are distichous whereas in fact they are polystichous. Now to your specimen where the primary bract has very minute serrulations if at all, and the primary bracts are shorter than the spikes, whereas the description for *A. orlandiana* says “primary bracts like the scape-bracts, also serrulate, exceeding the spikes” The monograph also says that floral bracts ...the margins free from the rhachis whereas in fact both *A. orlandiana* and your plant have the floral bracts attached to the rhachis but not like in the sub-genus *Platyachmea*. Further, the Monograph states that sepals are strongly asymmetric...short-mucronulate whereas in my plant of this name the sepals are strongly asymmetric to my eye, sharply mucronate. Your plant on the other hand has sepals strongly asymmetric and inconspicuously mucronulate/apiculate. *A. orlandiana* has broadly rounded ovate scape and primary bracts which are strongly serrate and the primary bracts exceed the spikes, while your specimen has broadly lanceolate scape and primary bracts which are minutely serrulate. This means that a corrected description of *Aechmea orlandiana* is needed, but I guess the lack of bars on the leaves, the open inflorescence and other minutiae would indeed allow your plant the distinction of being a distinct variety if not a natural hybrid. As Lyman always said, “It happens all the time!”



Aechmea orlandiana ss *belloi* (Photo J. Batty)



Derek & Bill pondering leaf markings (Photo J. Batty)

There is a small reference to *Aechmea orlandiana* ss *belloi* in the BSIJ p66 (1989) but my next main step was to obtain a copy of Bradea 4 :34. 266-7 (1986) and Jason Grant helped me in this regard. No reference was made to the difference in teeth on the scape or primary bracts, nor to the polystichous spikes of ss. *belloi* and distichous spikes of ss. *orlandiana*, nor to the strongly asymmetric sepals of ss. *orlandiana*. No information was given as to other Bromeliads found in the vicinity to suggest possible hybridisation. Clearly, some botanist needs to correct the formal description of *Aechmea orlandiana* ss. *orlandiana* in view of Dr Robert Read’s findings so that the relationships between it and ss *belloi* can be properly evaluated.

Roving Reporter November 2013cont:

How is my research progressing? Well, surprisingly, my so called ss. *belloi* has set seed with no prompting from me and no other *Aechmea* in flower in sight. I have sown some seed and sent some back to Brazil (Antonio Miranda of Brasilia) so we can try to get some answer in another 5 years time! It may give results for a better understanding of this complex.”

What has happened in the last 12 years? Well, nothing much at all from the Botanists and we do know that the plant survives from my seed raising efforts so long ago. We do not know if it was from the first lot of germination or the second. I leave that for you to decide!

From your Secretary

2013 has been another successful yet busy “Bromaholic” year involving increased numbers of presentations to Garden clubs, visits to members gardens by garden clubs, sales extravaganzas, meetings, Home and Garden show & Margaret & Derek’s downsize sale yet there was still time to nurture our Bromeliads.

I would like to extend thanks to all with special appreciation to individuals who assist with the many mundane but necessary chores. Also gratitude is given to those who continue to give me support & friendship.

Seasons greetings wishing everyone a safe & prosperous 2014

I look forward to January when we meet again to continue the mutually rewarding yet at times challenging pastime. Bev

Jeanne Hall by Derek Butcher

Affectionately called Jeannie it is sad that she lost her battle with cancer on the 3rd December 2013. In years past those girls that were special had what was called ‘it’ but Jeannie was more known as an IT girl in a more modern sense.

She and Peter joined the Society in 2006 and were a breath of fresh air bringing with them a flavour of Orchids which we will not hold against them. I first learnt of her willingness to help others when I had a notion that I would like to publish a listing I had compiled of Names and synonyms of Bromeliad species since Linnaeus. It was 187 A4 pages long but in no time flat Jeannie had it ready for printing by May 2007. No doubt it was easy for her because I realised that she had gained her expertise at the Education Department designing and printing educational books. I was very lucky to have someone with her ability who was willing to help me turn an idea into reality. Next came the Adelaide Bromeliad Conference proceedings in 2009 but the most exciting was our Booklet on how to grow Bromeliads in South Australia. Jeannie and I spent hours in front of her computer adding, changing, and moving to try to get the best effect. Let it be said here that her computer was a powerful one AND she had an extra-large screen – in fact it was huge to my eyes. Here I was able to ask if something could be done and hey presto everything changed in front of my ancient eyes like magic!

I remember the times when I sat selling raffle tickets at our Sales days and Jeannie would be on the opposite side helping with the plant sales. At meetings she would often be helping with the washing up after our somewhat sumptuous afternoon teas. In fact she always seemed to be helping others sometime somewhere.

Yes, Jeanne, you will never be forgotten

Jeanne by Bev

It is with great sadness & loss that 2013 comes to an end. The unselfish support & encouragement, vitality, empathy & warmth endeared Jeanne to all who had the privilege of knowing her. She was always busy helping and as Peter has commented many times Jeanne could not stand back or say no when there was work to be done.

Jeanne’s drive & energy promoting our Society was tireless and spread globally and the legacy she leaves us is huge including setting up & administering our facebook page, thousands of Bromeliad photographs taken during meetings & special events that she shared worldwide and the booklet “Bromeliad culture in South Australia just to mention a few.

She was an inspiration to each of us, especially me, maintaining strength of purpose and courage particularly during the last months focusing on living the day, not what has been, what is, or what might have been. Jeanne’s cup was full never half empty.

We sincerely thank Jeanne for the gifts of friendship, immeasurable support to our Society & treasured memories – forever with us! Our condolences to Peter, Peter’s family & friends, Jeanne’s sister Susan & family.



Jeanne