

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

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Tillandsia 'Derek' (Photo J. Batty)

MEETING & SALES 2015 DATES: 19/4/2015 (3rd SUNDAY) Artistic arrangements, 3/5/2015 (1st SUNDAY) Australian made hybrids. 14/6/2015 (Patterned leaf Vrieseas), 12/7/2015 (Slideshow), 2/8/2015 (1st SUNDAY) Winter brag, 6/9/2015 (1st SUNDAY) Workshop, 11/10/2015 ("Show & tell"), [24/10/2015 & 25/10/2015 Sales](#), 8/11/2015 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

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.**

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Roving Reporter Jan 2015

Years ago, George Rudolph made a 4 ft long wooden spoon on his lathe , painted it gold and presented it to me as the Golden Spoon award because he considered I was a great stirrer when I was Secretary. We decided that it should be perpetuated. We had a problem in that such awards generally follow the male line in Germanic custom so, although Bev is doing such a great job as Secretary, it was decided that Ron Masters should act as her locum. This custom was refuted by at least by one member as being sexist. Apparently Ron was too shy to have his photo taken at the presentation but we leave it for the Committee to decide if this is to be a permanent award and to whom it should we awarded.

A bit of nostalgia. I just found out that Ella Perriam recently died. Many of you will not know her but she was on the committee in the early 1980’s and will go down in history with *Billbergia* ‘Perriam’s Pride’ – a variegated Sport of *B. distachia*. I was present at the birth of this offset. She was also instrumental in us obtaining the black cloths. Those who think they are a bit worn looking, at over 30 years old they should be!

Just a comment about the raffle table plants where naming can be wrong or missing. Keen members are generally advised to check on the internet because my memory is not as good as it used to be. This may be daunting to the newbie and as a suggestion you may like to email me at tillands@bigpond.com with a photo of the plant you are worried about.

Adam again led the plant discussion. Although the main topic was ‘Growing perfect Tillandsias’ there were a few non-tillandsias. One plant that nearly won a prize was one we think should have had *Neoregelia* ‘Green Bands’ on the label. This dates back to the Olwen Ferris vintage some 50 years ago and it is interesting how some names persist and others don’t. Olwen got neoregelia hybrid seed from a Dr Oeser in Germany with the whole batch having a fond name of ‘Beefsteak’. Seedling number 47 was called ‘Green Bands’ which was a bit mundane for Olwen so she changed it to ‘Happy Thoughts’. It was just that all seedlings that had leaves that looked like beefsteak and one had leaves that sometimes had green bands. For some reason ‘Green Bands’ persists – perhaps it is easier to remember. As Bill Treloar said, these old hybrids must be on their last legs, which is worth considering. Dolly the cloned sheep was never a lamb and each of us have a certain lifespan and trees do not last forever. Perhaps it is another reason why new hybrids are popular and don’t have that jaded look!

I was really impressed with a flowering *Canistrum triangulare*, possibly because we have had it for years and never flowered it. Perhaps we have the rare non-flowering form.

Older members will remember the dilemma that Harry Bamford had with the offsetting Bromelia where the offsets kept coming out of the drainage holes in the pot. It was called Harry’s problem. Well now we have Jack’s problem (it isn’t Rose) which revolves about white stuff in the centre of his variegated *Neoregelia*. I thought it was Yuk but Adam thought it was spent flowers. On returning home I have been shown similar happenings by the better half so now I know it is not Yuk but happens soon after you have had a mass of flowering of a *Neoregelia* (not the normal one or two flowers) and what you see is coiled up spent petals.

Roving Reporter Jan 2015 cont: 2

Adam is getting like me! A lovely looking *Guzmania* 'Amaranth' and Adam said quite succinctly – Wrong name, wrong colour, should be amaranth colour. This comment reminded me of a similar happening in a Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group NSW meeting. Details follow:

“Vriesea 'Cathy' or 'Christiane'

Links between the two discovered by the FNCSB Group in NSW. See their Newsletter Jan 2015 page 7

Another eagle eyed observer Peter Bak from Holland also informed me of our error and came to the rescue with an explanation:

Vriesea 'Christiane' has been reproduced in the lab for many years now with a red inflorescence, however at a growers place a purple one showed up and was offered back for further propagation, this is the plant known as Vr. 'Cathy'.

During the propagation process approximately 50% turn up as Vr. 'Christiane' with a red inflorescence again. Thank you for this information Peter as this helps answer why we often see Vr. 'Cathy' red and purple forms confusing growers.”

Butcher's note. With tissue culture flasks being used it is highly probable that those who grow from these do not select. So beware! In theory it is possible for 'Christiane' to do the same thing.

The most popular plant was Adam's *Tillandsia capitata* 'Large Scarlet' which he had got from Chris Larson. We hope that if this form is registered it is given a more impressive name because most *T. capitata* blush when flowering and how large is large?



Tillandsia capitata 'Large Scarlet' (Photo J. Batty)

What I like about our members is that they like challenges. I would have thought a subject like 'Growing perfect Tillandsias' would have scared them off but the number of plants brought in must have exceeded attendance by 3 to 1. We did not even have to specify grey leaved tillandsias because they are the only ones we grow in dry old Adelaide. Just what is the ideal way to grow a Tillandsia? If tillandsias could think they must be considered the most stupid of plants. Why try to grow in the harshest of conditions up a tree or on rocks. I have tried to grow other so called epiphytic plants stuck on a twig in Adelaide, forget to water for a couple of days and they are gone. But many of the grey leaved Tillandsias will survive. Aren't we lazy gardeners lucky to have tillandsias to play with? Yes, you can resort to pot culture but you lose that challenge. You may get bigger, more symmetrical plants but somehow they lose their ruggedness.

And so we had differences of opinion and different ways of planting, attaching, mounting and nobody really won.

Perhaps we should talk about roots. This really showed out in the plant I brought it in to primarily enquire whether the twisted aluminium wire was really a form of mounting and which was affirmed. It was commented that said wire spirals could restrict growth but these are easily eased by a slight untwist. But it had lots of roots. Why were they there? It is interesting how some growers think Tillandsias need roots for the plant to grow. We are told by Benzing and others that tillandsias have evolved to such an extent that roots are only there so the seedling plant can attach itself to some substrate and are not there for feeding purposes. One does wonder if the roots change their purpose just a little bit in pot culture or is the increased growth caused by higher humidity. Humans may be able to think but do not always come up with the right answers.

Roving Reporter Jan 2015 cont: 3

So, in the wild Tillandsias start off life as seedlings and attach themselves by their roots to whatever is not moving. But it is not an ideal way to grow Tillandsias in Adelaide. As Adam pointed out he has been growing *T. ericii* since 1999 but still no flower. Unless he has been chopping and changing them they would still be attached by their roots. At least, mine are attached by their roots and I still await flowers too. We got the seed from Renate Ehlers and it is a very choice Tillandsia to have.

Some tillandsias can be attached directly to the mount with most of us using Selley's All Clear Sealant. There are many 'glues' that can be used but why experiment! We saw two examples of this and both were labelled *T. aizoides*. Both were attached to the base by their own roots having been temporarily attached with sealant. One had been received 30 years ago as a clump of seedlings which have grown larger to show they are not *T. aizoides* but still a mystery because none have flowered



T. aizoides (Photo J. Batty)

Some tillandsias need a hole drilled into the substrate to help in the attachment with 'glue' and for drainage.

Julie Batty was worried about her *T. straminea* having a bald band on the leaves. Bromeliads are monocotyledons which mean they grow from the base upwards, so early on, this part of the leaf was its base and becomes evident as it grows into the light. I have had it happen to my plants too and put it down to Adelaide winters.



T. straminea (Photo J. Batty)

We saw how big a small flowering *T. secunda* can grow in a pot compared to the optimist who had 10 mounted on a totem pole. Noel did say that this were being steadily reduced as different people asked for a plant but we all pondered what the final result might be!

All I can say is that Mallee roots are very popular for mounting Tillandsias in Adelaide but we are conserving them rather than burning them so if we do get into trouble with the authorities we can always call them Gum wood or if you are really sophisticated – ligno- tubers!

Courtesy of Noel we had a special stand with seashells of different sorts mounted with Tillandsias of different sorts to show you did not need to be restricted to using wood. The oyster shells did remind some of past achievements from eating the contents. As far as rocks go we had examples of limestone and sandstone although I would suggest a softer rock is preferable if only for easy drilling of holes should they be desired.

We even saw a 'planting' in a loooooong ceramic pig but here you have to make sure you have decent drainage. If you don't want to attach a hook to hang up your piece of wood you can attach to all manner of ornaments. You can even set it in concrete.

The purist in me says it is better to have the same species if doing a multiple planting but I was proved wrong by the artistic ones. On the artistic side there was a mounted *T. streptophylla* where the ancient rather tatty 'mother' was allowed to remain together with coloured leaved offset.



T. streptophylla (Photo J. Batty)

Roving Reporter Jan 2015 cont: 4 & Roving Reporter February 2015

Finally, I must mention *T. colganii* that I brought in specially to show you a plant named after our previous President – Big Len. He had always wanted a large spectacular flowered plant named after him but had to make do with a small rare one instead. To think I brought the plants in because I expected him to be present and I could have a stir. On checking up on his excuse for non-attendance I find he forgot and his excuse was senility.



How to be World famous

Just write an erudite article for the Gazette. This is what Geoff Edwards did and it got re-published in Herb Plever's New York Magazine. This must be read around the world because we got an Email from Holland giving details of how Geoff could solve his flowering problems - Give his non-flowering plant to someone else! Or, more realistically try to find a good spot in your garden by moving the plant around

Derek.



Roving Reporter Feb 2015

Annual General Meetings are usually ones where members have some excuse for not attending – they worry they may get a job – but we got a good roll up. We even had some remembered faces but not names because they are not in Latin although the Secretary will know who I mean. It was great seeing their smiling faces. You will see elsewhere in this edition of the Gazette who were the lucky volunteers. I say lucky because the more you put in the more you get out.

First up, I am sure you would have seen the I-PAD that Bill Treloar was showing to all and sundry. He was justly proud of flowering a species *Aechmea*. Bill shares with me the interest in species rather than the myriad of hybrids. Anyway, he was able to prove that his *Aechmea perforata* was actually producing its blue petalled flowers. The following should be of interest.



Aechmea perforata (Photo J. Treloar)

Look what happened in Bute in Feb 2015 by Derek Butcher

I got this excited phone call from Bill from Bute claiming his *Aechmea perforata* was producing a flower. I said I did not believe him but when he started on about a white cone I changed my mind. It appeared that his wife, Josie had taken its photo on her telephone which on the one hand was good news but on the other was how to get it from the phone to me by Email. Luckily, one of Bill's IT mates was calling round and I now have the photo of this emerging white cone. Neither of the Treloar's was watching how this was done but I have been assured that when flowers emerge I will get further telephone photographs. I am told that the clump was huge, some 2 metres across even though the pot was only 20 cm diam and has already been tidied up and offsets removed for some lucky recipients. I say 'lucky' because it is a rare plant in Australia. 'Not so lucky' because we don't know what triggers its flowering. It can be a long wait too. You see, Bill got his offset from Len Cork about ten years ago! Let us look at a bit of history.

In 1989 Elton Leme on one of his many expeditions into the wilds of Brazil looking for Bromeliads found seed on *Aechmea multiflora*, *A. castanea* and *A. perforata* and collected some. He sent some to me in Australia with the laconic note 'Only for those with large shade houses'! One of my other Brazilian contacts, Oscar, tells me many of these large *Aechmea* are easy to find in the wild but are up stout trees and you cannot easily see if they are flowering and thus which species they are. You don't poke them with a stick to dislodge them either for fear of what fauna is in the water filled centre. Luckily this particular species is found on the ground so you only have to worry about its clumping habit. If you know anything about the subgenus *Chevaliera* you will realise that we were in for a prickly experience with large plants. The seed was distributed to the keener growers in Australia with the request to let me know when flowering occurred. It was a long wait!

In February, 2004 in Adelaide I was astounded to get a telephone call that one was coming into flower. The call was from Len Cork who was surprised that his plant was doing something after so many years and he had never seen a Bromeliad like it! A white ball had burst through the centre leaves and what he took for scape bracts were a pale brown colour. The ball elongated and a week later blue flowers started to emerge from this cone in sharp contrast to the white. These flowers continued to emerge at regular intervals for weeks and Len was able to take the plant into our Annual Show. Needless to say, it was put in a corner well away from hands and feet of inquisitive on-lookers. We still do not know what triggered the flowering but Len had recently removed the offsets and repotted 'Mother' in well fertilised soil mix. It could even have been the extra hot summer. The flowering plant was some 2 metres in diameter but can reach up to 2.5 m in the wild. Originally found by Mulford Foster in 1939 and published by Lyman Smith in 1941.

Although the seed came to us in 1989, little had been seen of articles in the various newsletters around Australia reporting flowering. Did the growers get dismayed with lack of flowers and the plants die from neglect? It does seem strange that only South Aussies are bragging about it.

Bill was a very busy boy at the meeting, not only did he supervise the election of officers but he looked after the raffle table AND talked on the plants on display.

The popular plant was Julie's big thing by the name of *Edmundoa lindenii* var *rosea*. On Bill's prompting it seems that several members grow this species. If Kew Gardens had their way this would be called *Canistrum fragrans* because 1. They do not recognise the genus *Edmundoa* and 2. They found the 1862 catalogue from Linden's nursery. In this catalogue is described a *Guzmannia fragrans*. Don't get confused with the *Guzmannia* name because things were different in 1862 but the description does not link to OUR *Edmundoa lindenii* but more a *Hohenbergia*. Eric Gouda agrees with this finding so the Bromeliad fraternity are going to maintain the name *Edmundoa lindenii* but what Kew Gardens does is anyone's guess.

Who looked carefully at Rose & Jack's *Aechmea fasciata* and saw it had a fasciated head to the inflorescence. If you are scratching your head over this the fasciata means banded as in the leaves but fasciated means crested. Luckily we had a true *A. fasciata* on display and if you looked closely there was a difference. Damned hybridists at it again, thinking they can improve on Mother Nature. This one is a real beauty from the point of view of complexity. The Chap from Bunnings had asked me a question as to why some plants had more stars than others which to me was a complicated question and I moved the conversation towards our two 'fasciatas' where I felt more comfortable. Oh, by the way, the Chap from Bunnings was at his first Bromeliad meeting and I call him that because he had apparently been at the Bunnings Bromeliad workshop organised by our indefatigable Bev. By meeting me, he was truly in the deep end but no different to the Carnivorous man who was around a year ago. Anyway, we had a learned discussion on the differences between compound and simple inflorescences, floral bracts, crested flowers etc. we were really getting into it when the Chairman of the meeting called me to order, quite rightly, because his agenda was more important than my agenda

In 2005 I noticed that Deroose were selling an *Aechmea* 'Stefanie' to the European market so I added it to the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. No parentage quoted! Chester Skotak has now revealed that it was *Aechmea mariae-reginae* as mother crossed with *A. fasciata* (spineless). Back in 2011 Peter Hall had a plant he called *Aechmea* 'Felicia' which caused discussion because it had not been recorded and yet there seemed to be hundreds being grown in Australia. Investigation revealed that it was from a batch of tissue cultured plants presumably from Deroose who have a reputation of giving different names to plants to whichever country they are exporting to. We could find no difference between 'Felicia' and 'Stefanie' and because 'Stefanie' has been registered that is the name to use.



Aechmea 'Stefanie' (Photo J. Batty)

Roving Reporter Feb 2015 cont: 3

This is what is recorded:

“Mature, large, broad-leaved rosette to 90cms. diameter x 70cms, high in flower. Spineless, scurfed, grey-green leaves. Erect compound spike of large, shell pink bracts and purple flowers. Sometimes the inflorescence appears distorted. Parentage added 1/2015 on breeder's advice, Appears to be similar to (or from same grex) in Australia as a tissue-cultured clone which acquired the number 491, as released by the Olive Branch Nursery, Brisbane, circa 2004.”

And what about the very dark leaved plant that Ron had lost the label. Bill thought it was ‘Hannibal Lecter’ that had been grown in strong light and I thought it was an *Aechmea* hybrid. Hands up for those who noted the different spelling of Lecter not Lector. The correct ENGLISH spelling is Lecter but the Yanks spelt it as Lector when the name was registered. I tell Geoff Lawn he is a brave man to correct the Yanks! Anyway, Auntie Margaret had quietly written ‘Try Tunisia’ in her notes. I think she could well be right so I challenge Bev as the IT expert in the house to check it out on the BCR.

Now, what about the surprise in the form of a species *Neoregelia*? We see so many *Neoregelia* hybrids that it is a surprise to see a species AND one with a fascinating history. It had *N. burle-marxii* subsp *meeana* on the label. When in flower it has a rather unique bluish colour to the centre leaves. I say ‘bluish’ because I always get into trouble with the likes of Julie Batty and other females on the nuances of colour. They fail to realise that so many males are colour blind to some extent



N. burle-marxii subsp *meeana* (Photo J. Batty)

From Bromeleetter 32(3):12. 1994 by D Butcher (This is before Neoregelia burle-marxii was published in 1996)

“Another interesting problem revolves around a *Neoregelia burle-marxii* which has been growing for years in Marie Selby Gardens but not yet officially named. We cannot blame Harry for the delay because another botanist is involved. The reason I want to get hold of this official description is that *N. burle-marxii* seedlings are being grown in Adelaide from B.S.I. seed bank seed and no doubt are being grown elsewhere in Australia. The *N. burle-marxii* I saw in flower at Marie Selby’s was red in the centre and which seem to tally with our seedlings. However, we do have a plant which was collected at Angra-dos-Reis which turns blue in the centre and which Elton says is *N. burle-marxii* too. I believe there are crossed wires somewhere but only time will tell. Both are worthy additions to a collection.

Date: Mon, 08 Jun 2009

To: Elton Leme

From: derek butcher <tillands@senet.com.au>

Subject: Neo burle-marxii

Hi Elton

Have you been able to find the subspecies *burlemarxii* in the wild? I know that the subspecies *meeana* is known and I feel has strong links to the plant you sent to us as from Agra dos Reis so many years ago. Subspecies *burle-marxii* is in Australia having been grown from seed from Marie Selby but is very variable and I guess is an F2 hybrid

Derek

Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2009

From: "Des. Elton Martinez Carvalho Leme"

***Neoregelia burle-marxii* article cont:**

To: "derek butcher" <tillands@senet.com.au>

Dear Derek,

Yes, I have collected *N. burle-marxii* typical in the south of Rio de Janeiro state, forming a very nice population along a river, in low altitude atlantic forest, which was documented in slides. All plants look to me very typical. Step by step, I am progressing in the revision of the genus, but need to recollect some key historical species to more confident taxonomically speaking, concerning some of the problems we are facing now. In the meantime, I am proposing few new species I am sure are not in conflict with any of the unsolved problems.

Best, Elton”

So anyone growing this wild collected plant may like to note ‘Agra dos Reis’ on the label somewhere.

And what about that magnificent specimen of *Vriesea* ‘Galaxy’ which is a variegated form of *V. glutinosa* which is found in the wild in Trinidad. Look it up on an Atlas and ponder on the expected climate. I would expect problems in growing in our winter AND Summer and thus odd markings on the leaves but even so, our perfectionist Julie feels she has failed in growing the perfect plant. She even asked for cultural advice from us plebs! From my point of view I find the plant interesting because it has red petalled flowers which you cannot see against the red of the spike. You would think that such a stunning variegated plant would have a registered name and yet has been in cultivation for many years. It was grown in Brazil as *V. glutinosa variegata*, in the USA as ‘Splendide’ (unregistered) and in Australia as ‘Galaxy’ from 2002. The Aussie plant can be traced to Hungary of all places.

We must mention the Tillandsia stand which had Tillandsias destined for Ray Clark’s shadehouse from my collection. As Bill went through them, all were reminded of the challenges that lay ahead for Ray in flowering and analysing.

To finish up, Bill spoke most eruditely on the problems of watering and not watering throughout the year. So much so I had asked him to commit his thoughts to paper. One thing I did agree with him in that we do seem to over water at the wrong times. How many of you listen to Jon Lamb on ABC gardening on Saturday mornings? He loves his tomatoes but the way he talks about watering makes me think about water lilies whereas I grow epiphytes which need little water in comparison. I am reminded of 25 years ago when I used to present myself at the ABC studio to be the resident ‘expert’ and promote Bromeliads. I even gave Jon a tillandia but must have over-stressed the watering bit because he killed it by not watering. As the ‘expert’ the questions were invariably about overgrown pots of *Billbergia*. If plants were small they were *B. nutans* and if large, *B. vittata* hybrid.

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Adam Bodzioch VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Hall

SECRETARY: Bev Masters ASSISTANT SECRETARY: To be nominated by Committee

TREASURER: Jeffrey Hollinshead ASSISTANT TREASURER: To be nominated by Committee

AUDITOR:

COMMITTEE: Penny Seekamp, Trevor Seekamp, Julie Batty, Dave Batty, Glenda Lee, Sue Skrabei (New)

POSTAL CLERK: Bev Masters

ASSISTANT POSTAL CLERK:

LIBRARIAN: Trevor Seekamp

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: Penny Seekamp,

AFTERNOON TEA ORGANISER: Bev Masters

AFTERNOON TEA HELPERS: Rhonda Jarrett, Bev Masters, Sue Skrabei, Penny Seekamp & others on the day.

RAFFLE TABLES COORDINATOR: Bill Treloar

DOOR TICKETS: Margaret Goodwin, Rhonda Jarrett

RAFFLE TICKETS: Rhonda Jarrett and other helpers on the day.

HOST/ESS: Sue Skrabei, Bill Treloar

POTS & LABELS: Ron Masters

NAME TAG MAKER: Ron and Bev Masters

GAZETTE: Roving reporter: Derek Butcher.

EDITORS: Derek & Margaret Butcher. ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bev Masters

FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR’S: Adam Bodzioch & Glenda Lee

Ellen's Bromeliads in her garden settings.

We are often asked about growing Bromeliads in the garden and Ellen's photos show that this method can be very colourful and satisfying given the appropriate environment.



(Photo Ellen)



(Photo Ellen)

Vale

Farewell Trevor Seekamp, the quiet Achiever. A gentle soul, great listener, well liked & respected Bromeliad Society member, committeeman, and a conscientious librarian with Penny's support.

An inventive Engineer, he worked on Submarines with Subcorp and designed many of their specialist tools. For a pastime he was interested in the plants that like it on the dry side – something like his sense of humour. Margaret & I knew Trevor and Penny some 40 years ago in our 'Cactus' days. But Trevor and Penny stayed with the Cactus cause longer than we did and we were pleased they were converted some 10 years ago. As with Cactus, Trevor was only really interested in species and this lead him towards Tillandsia. He will be remembered for his long thingie that made us all wonder where on earth would you hang such a thing. We should have tried harder to get him on to the internet where Australian and one Kiwi are Tillnuts and chat (and argue) about Tillandsias. But it seemed to be that the family only needed one IT expert and that was Penny. As it was, his inventive mind meant he provided that backup necessary to urge Penny to greater heights in her new-found interest in making unique cards.

His leisure time was not totally cards and tillandsias because he also hand built from scratch fully working model steam locomotives.

I do know that before we were aware of his battle with pancreatic cancer I gave him a set of tillandsia cards produced by Birdrock Tropicals with a challenge that he would have a test in a month's time. But alas, it was not to be, but I am sure he would have passed!

Derek Butcher



Trevor's long thingie with attached many tillandsias

Thank you Trevor

There are no words that take away the immense sadness & loss we experience when someone we care for passes but it may be comforting to think of Trevor's life as a precious book we have borrowed and then had to return, the book has gone but his story & its influence on us remains to be shared & treasured.

Trevor was friendly & easy going, a quiet achiever, a good listener and a well liked & respected Bromeliad Society member.

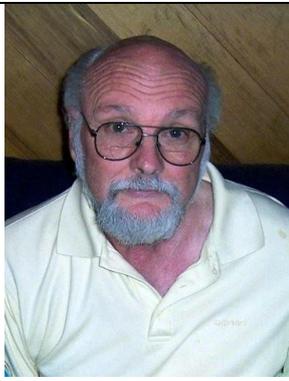
He jumped at the chance to become our Librarian to get his hands on the books; This valuable resource was quickly put in order and enthusiastically promoted. Also utilizing Penny's craft-skills an easy-to-use card borrowing system was implemented.

Trevor's drive promoting our Society was tireless especially weeks before our bi annual sales. He became almost a familiar face to various businesses, Community centre's, shopping centres & council's delivering flyers etc In fact it was a challenge for me keeping up the supply as Trevor ran out of stock several times prior to each event.

Penny shared with me recently that he was as pleased as punch when asked to join the Committee. Trevor quickly became a valuable & energetic member who was always keen to be involved in activities advancing interest in Bromeliads especially functions such as Sunday Mail Home & Garden Expo & the garden fair at Findon Community centre.

He always seemed to be helping being among the 1st to arrive to assist setting up for the meeting or function then the last to leave staying back to clean up.

At our February meeting already quite frail, at Penny's insistence Trevor reluctantly sat down but conveyed to her feelings of guilt at not continuing to help with the chores as there was still work to do!.



Trevor
(Photo P. Seekamp)

He was good at finding pieces of wood in all shapes & sizes and will be remembered for his creativity as was evident in March 2012 when he was awarded the “Artistic Merit Trophy” for a group of well grown Tillandsias imaginatively mounted on a mallee root, then in 2013 a 2nd prize in the same category for a log & wire fence that had a variety of Tillandsias hanging from it.

We will remember you..... Bev



Log & wire fence
(Photo P. Seekamp)



Roving Reporter March Meeting

Summer brag. This did not have much significance this year because we did not have any long periods of prolonged 40C days just lack of rainfall which is easily overcome. Yes, we were overwhelmed with plants. It was good to see the return of Lainie and Darryl complete with plants to brag about. Adam again took over the job of MC. To win the popular plant award you must put that little extra effort in plant presentation and Ron must have put some effort in moving an Aechmea ‘Ensign’ from pot to mounted on a mallee stump, Very effective.

It has taken some time for Len Colgan to brag about his Tillandsia ‘Acultzinea’ that he purchased from Werner Krauspe some 30 years ago to start to flower. Not only is it a large plant but it had a long emerging peduncle – so long it got bent in the car getting it in to the meeting – and the fertile portion had still not emerged. It does show similarities to a *T. roseoscapa* that we flowered in 1998 and the following will show we had fun.

“*Tillandsia roseoscapa* by D Butcher in Bromeleter 4/1998, p7

This plant seems quite rare on the international scene but is fairly common in Australian collections, comparatively speaking. When Len Colgan put a query to users of the Internet he received one reply only and one note of encouragement.

Tillandsia roseoscapa was named in 1972 by Matuda but was not noted by Smith & Downs (1977). However it does appear in Pamela Koide's Bird Rock catalogue in California.

A similar plant. *T. roseospicata* was named in 1975 by Matuda and is described in Smith & Downs. But as far as is known. is not held in any collection world-wide. The name has been bandied around in Australia but I believe this is because *T. roseospicata* is included in Smith & Downs while *T. roseoscapa* is not.

Access to the Mexican Cactus & Succulent Journals for 1972 and 1975. where the original descriptions were published. would be helpful but these are elusive in Australia. These descriptions would probably detail where Matuda originally collected *T. roseoscapa*. The published description may include a drawing or photograph of the original plant and this would be helpful also as I suspect there are problems with the description of this species

This would not be the first problem with a description by Matuda You may recall me ‘jumping up and down’ about the description of *T. beutelspacheri* not matching the plants we had in Australia. Eventually Harry Luther amended the description in the B.S.I Journal (1994). page 117

In 1984 Wulfinghoff brought a plant to Werner Rauh's attention. As a result of Werner's investigation Matuda's original description of *T. roseoscapa* was updated and published in the B.S.I. Journal (1986). pages 66-68 This article forms the basis of my investigations

The one internet reply, apart from the encouragement, suggested that Len's plant was a hybrid. Len then asked me to CAREFULLY take his plant to bits.

Our plant differs from Rauh' s amendment as follows:

- 1 Plant is long-stemmed. not short-stemmed:
- 2 Floral bracts almost equalling sepals, not exceeding:
- 3 Sepals anterior free. posterior joined 5 mm, **not** high connate:
- 4 Petals citron at top 1.5 cm, mauve 1 cm. white 2 cm to base, **not** 4 cm long, pale yellow-green white at base:
5. Filaments and anthers exceed the flower tube **not** just the anthers;
- 6 Anthers have a mauve flush (colour absent from Rauh's description).

Roving Reporter March cont: 2

All in all. I think our plant is correctly named as *T. roseoscapa* but the 1 cm mauve section in the petal intrigues me as it did Len Colgan. This was the reason for his international S.O.S.

Certainly the hybrid *Tillandsia* 'Jack Staub'. or the wild x *rectifolia* or the formula *ionantha* x *schiedeana* (call it what you will) does have bicoloured petals. The description says upper 2 cm cream or white, bottom 3 cm pinkish-violet to purple but sometimes you come across just a pinkish-violet band in the vicinity of the sepal which is visible at flowering. Here we have a known violet petalled flower crossed with a yellow or greenish-yellow petalled flower.

In the case of our *T. roseoscapa*, does the mauve section occur because of the stronger light here than in Germany? Is ours a one-off situation? Would the owners of *T. roseoscapa* carefully inspect and note the colours of the flowers of their plants when they next flower?"

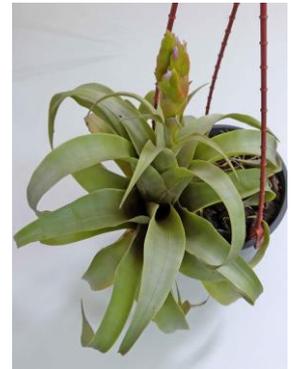
So we had fun and we seem set for more fun when Len's plant finally flowers. Now for a bit about 'Acultzinea' which sounds like a place name and there is an Acultzingo in Vera Cruz which is a State where Renate Ehlers has found this species. So no more carrying into meetings because I would hate the inflorescence to fall off after such a long wait.

Len had brought in several of *Tillandsias* to challenge because he has plants we others don't have. For example a flowering *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* x *calothyrsus* which is a hybrid done by John Arden. Perhaps we can get Len to register this because the last thing I heard was that John was selling up because his collection was getting too big for him to handle (It happens to us all at some time or another) Anyway, *T. calothyrsus* in the wild has vivid red inflorescence axis and primary bracts but alas in captivity it tends to lose these traits.

Another was entitled *Tillandsia huarazensis* and Len went to great lengths to explain why it was lopsided in its pot but did not advise its source – perhaps to send me off in a wild goose chase. Anyway, I now know that it came from Mick Romanowski and probably originated in the 2003 expedition to northern Peru where Mick was often left behind by his Aussie mates to get that important photograph. We still do not know if it is a 'true' *T. huarazensis*. You see, this species was described by Renate Ehlers and Walter Till in 1988.

In Sept 2008 Renate Ehlers was writing to the Head Gardener at Heidelberg Bot Garden. This follows: Dear Mr. Stolten, you are in a wasp-nest.

I have identified your plant as *T. dudleyi* because all details actually fitted. But I have not seen the Type, and on no account am I quite sure.



Tillandsia huarazensis
(Photo J. Batty)

The plant from Jan Claus, that he has as *T. dudleyi* has a certain similarity. But the inflorescence is ellipsoid, 13-18 cm long. The plant of Jan Claus has a long inflorescence that you cannot treat as more than ellipsoid. It could still have the same name (with some good will). I have another plant in my collection from Rauh 1983: R33049 with the name *T. kuntzeana*. This flowered for the first time in Dec 2006. Photo enclosed. Since then I have not seen any *T. kuntzeana*, I don't know what that looks like. But Smith says it is 1 m high. My plant is growing like your " *T. dudleyi* ". The spikes should be 20 cm long, but they were not that.

What now concerns me are the plants of Knize-Dotterer, where all these are on no account *T. huarazensis*." When you see discussions like these about similar looking plants, I at least wonder about the name on Len's plant.

Do you often get that surprise when you think something has been lost for good just appears. This happened to me on seeing *Tillandsia* 'Eric Beltrame' coming into flower. But just like every other Bromeliad, it has a story behind it, however mundane are its looks. The year was 1997 when we had marvellous time exploring the northern part of Queensland. Our main reason was a trip to Townville and Robert Smythe. He was an expert on Orchid hybridising at the time and we had great discussions on the differences in Orchid system and the Bromeliad system. He has since been converted to mainly growing Bromeliads. Anyway, we were driven around the area looking at Brom collections. In sugar cane country Broms are grown on trees or in small pots with scoria bits instead of soil mix. I did notice Eric Beltrame had several *Tillandsias* all looking alike but without name and which I did not recognise.



Tillandsia 'Eric Beltrame'
(Photo J. Batty)

Roving Reporter March cont: 3

On enquiry, it seemed they had been grown from seed whose origin was unknown. Why not give them a name so it can be recorded and we settled on the name 'Eric Beltrame' because this would identify them and their source at the same time. This also meant I was given a plant to take home with me. But alas, despite all good intentions the name was never recorded until now! We do know that the plant is still living in Adelaide.

I did mention that *Catopsis* was an 'odd' genus when we saw *Catopsis morreniana* in flower but I did not ask for its sexuality to be checked. Let us digress. You all must know by now that a typical bromeliad flower has 1 female and 6 males in the same floral bed which is normal in the plant world. But then you find there are differences. First in *Cryptanthus* subgenus *Cryptanthus* you have plants with both bisexual flowers and solely male flowers. This makes doubly certain there is enough pollen to go around! Then in *Hechtia* you have male plants and female plants which mean they must live fairly close to each other to get pollinated and set seed. But there is one *Hechtia gayorum* that really hedges its bets by having an inflorescence that has female flowers at the bottom, normal in the middle, and male flowers at the top. I would assume that pollen would be spread further the higher up it was and drop on to the females waiting below. Now back to *Catopsis* which is a genus still puzzling those who are investigating evolution and history via DNA.



Catopsis morreniana
(Photo J. Batty)

It also confusing to me because here you can have plants that are male, female and normal. If pollen from a normal or male plant fertilises a female plant do you get 50% female seedlings and 50% male seedlings or what. I have asked Dr David Benzing this and the impression I got was not to be too worried about what the plant world gets up to, because there is one group of perennials that have female flowers when young but then swap sexes as they age. But I do have something I can hang my hat on. Just last year the Mexicans decided that all plants that had been identified as *Catopsis berteroniana* but were male or female plants should really be called *Catopsis occulta*. I wonder how many growers of *C. berteroniana* go round checking for sexuality. According to the rules *C. morreniana* can be male, female or normal but I think Ron should do a bit of sexing so he will know the answer if there is some name change in the future.

It was nice to see that Julie Batty had brought in a tray of her seedlings. Yes, growing from seed is fun even though it may be time consuming. You can get thousands of seedlings and you have to cull so that there is no overcrowding. You never know what the results will be as to identity. She was growing seed from *Neoregelia* 'Hannibal Lector' (or is it Hannibal Lector?) which we would expect to be varied and will need to be called something different when mature and ready to leave the nest.

Her *Pitcairnia heterophylla* seedlings are even more interesting because she could get different coloured flowers. And finally her own *Billbergia* crossing. Will it be a selfing or a true crossing? Exciting times are ahead.

There were several really outstanding *Neoregelia* hybrids even to the one with *N. concentrica* on the label which looked like *N. concentrica* but had barring on the underside of the leaf suggesting influence of *N. spectabilis*. A name that has always intrigued me is 'The Governor's Plea' which must mean something in American jargon but Google is no help. Anyone who can put me out of my misery will win a prize!

Neoregelia 'Calypso' is a huge plant but if you have the space is worthy of a place in your garden. I didn't check but did it have red berries? Perhaps the owner may like to check for this phenomenon because this is rare in *Neoregelia*. This is a hybrid created by James Elmore in Florida but seems to have got mixed up with a Hummel hybrid called 'Cockabell' which has unknown parents and Hummel did not tell us what it looked like! So if anyone is growing a plant called 'Cockabell' or if you see the name on Ebay remember it is probably 'Calypso' It was pleasing to see a Margaret Paterson hybrid *N.* 'Dear Me' but somewhat puzzled as to what happened to all those hybrids that were sold at our meetings a couple of years ago. The demand was such you had to draw out a lucky number. I would have thought we would be swamped with offsets by now.



Roving reporter March Show

What did you think of the new format of the arrangement in the hall? I thought it was great because it allowed the public to wander around and to view at close range if they so desired. Some excerpts from the report by Peter Hall, the Registrar of Judges, follows:

Roving reporter March Show cont: 2.

Julie Batty's basic layout was adopted and the 4 totem poles supplied by Adam fitted in well. Having the winning plants in the forefront of the display was commendable.

We do need more members to display their best growing abilities as well as volunteering to judge. We keep the number of those actually judging to an odd number to even out 'biased' opinions!

Trophy & Certificate Winners were

Pitcairniodeae Margaret Reppin Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st <i>Dyckia</i> 'Paulsen's Puzzle' 2 nd <i>Deuterocohnia brevifolia</i> HC. <i>Dyckia</i> 'Naked lady'	Winners Name 1 st Peter Hall 2 nd Adam Bodzioch HC. Peter Hall
Bromelioideae President's Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st <i>Aechmea</i> 'Ensign' 2 nd <i>Billbergia</i> 'Afterglow' HC. <i>Quesnelia</i> 'Rafael Oliveira'	Winners Name 1 st Ron & Bev Masters 2 nd Ron & Bev Masters HC. Adam Bodzioch
Specimen plants Gummow Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 <i>Dyckia</i> 'Paulsen's Puzzle' 2 nd <i>Deuterocohnia brevifolia</i> HC. <i>Neoregelia lilliputiana</i>	Winners Name 1 st Peter Hall 2 nd Adam Bodzioch HC. Peter Hall
Tillandsioideae Vriesea Complex Marie Robinson Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st <i>Vriesea</i> Montezuma's Gem' v fenestralis	Winners Name 1 st Adam Bodzioch
Tillandsioideae Josie Tonkin Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st <i>Tillandsia tectorum</i> var <i>giganteum</i> 2 nd <i>Tillandsia xerographica</i> HC. <i>Tillandsia</i> 'Enano'	Winners Name 1 st Derek Butcher 2 nd Peter Hall HC. Derek Butcher
Neoregelia Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Skotak's Dorothy' 2 nd <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Uncle Derek' HC. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Loreta Lector'	Winners Name 1 st Sarka Laznicka 2 nd Margaret Butcher HC. Adam Bodzioch
George (Gerd) Rudolph Artistic Merit Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st 'Candelabra of Bromeliads' 2 nd Bromeliad landscape HC. Arrangement in yellow pot	Winners Name 1 st Teresa Wood 2 nd Pam Whisson HC. Trinette Reichers
Uncle Derek & Auntie Margaret Trophy	2015	Plant Name 1 st Arrangement in yellow pot	Winners Name 1 st Trinette Reichers
Jeanne Hall Trophy Miniature <i>Neoregelia</i> 15cm leaf tip to leaf tip	2015	Plant Name 1 st <i>Neoregelia lilliputiana</i> 2 nd <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Uncle Derek' HC. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Hot Embers'	Winners Name 1 st Peter Hall 2 nd Margaret Butcher HC. Peter Hall
BEST IN SHOW EDE SCHAEFER TROPHY	2015	Plant Name <i>Tillandsia tectorum</i> var <i>giganteum</i>	Winners Name Derek Butcher

N.B.

Roving reporter March Show cont: 3

Just one comment on names – that's not like me I hear you say! It is about the use of formulas to supposedly identify a hybrid. I refer to *Vriesea Montezuma's Gem* v *fenestralis*. It must be 20 years now since I first tried to convince the Judges of the Bromeliad Society International that a formula only identified the parents and not the plant on display. AND there was no way to identify the hybridist. Clearly the hybridist did not consider this hybrid worthy of a name.

Just think of the situation in human terms where father is not interested in naming HIS child. What would I do if I got such a plant? I would contact the person I bought it from and start asking questions pointing out I thought my purchase was worthy of its own name. In this case I think the hybridist is J Koning and he has named and registered hundreds of his own hybrids.

And so to the workers who always seemed to have a smile on their faces. So they must have had job satisfaction. There was even one chap from Nairne who was so eager to learn how the cash register worked he came with an 'L' plate attached (see photo page 14). Somehow, without a visible test this changed to a 'P' plate. The Checkout Chick was also from Nairne so this township is to be congratulated in providing such a high percentage of helpers this year. Think, that if we can convince city members that they do not have to be plant sellers to be volunteer workers. Even if there is no job ready for you, you can always have a natter. Now to my favourite subject – talking about names. In between lulls in my role as assistant raffle ticket salesman I did manage to chat with Sarka about her *Billbergia* offset problem. You see, she has an offset that is different to Mother. To me it sounded like a possible 'Sport'. Should she remove said offset and hope the next offset was more normal? As I pointed out if she did remove the offset now she would never know what the offset may have grown into! The other problem is that if she does leave the offset on it may turn into a horror AND the chance of getting more offsets from Mother is diminished. So the ball was in Sarka's court. Let us digress a bit to what happens to plants in the wild where they might 'Sport' but said offset will die eventually with Mother. However, the same sort of mutation can occur in seed production but only if this change aids survival, otherwise it will die out. In cultivation many Sports or mutations are accepted with glee especially variegations and seem to occur more frequently than in the wild. This seems to be because of so many man-made hybrids that weaken barriers that have evolved under 'wild' conditions. A Sport or mutation can appear and equally disappear. I have often had an offset with variegations appear and whatever I did I could not get it to improve or be sustained. You are much more likely to get variegation in seed raising or tissue culture but again it may not be sustained through future offsets. Often you will hear that this is stable but remove said plant to a different environment such as my backyard and strange things happen. Dennis Cathcart of *Tropiflora* in Florida shared my concerns and we came up with the term 'Novar' (No Variegations) for that temporary period when an offset loses its variegation only to appear in some future offsetting! The type of variegation can also change. So in our Show we had an *Aechmea fasciata* 'Kiwi' without stripes which could well be wrongly named or had reverted to an *Aechmea fasciata* var *purpurea*. So, just a word of warning to growers of plants that have mutated to keep a close eye on offsets. A similar situation arises with that *Neoregelia* 'Loreta Lector' of Adam's. His was a magnificent specimen but look on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register and see how varied it can be. With these situations I am always reminded of *Neoregelia* 'Amazing Grace' when Len Colgan's plant had leaves that were half rust and half old gold according to Graf's Colour Chart.

Those in the Eastern States have not produced a photo to prove they grow a more impressive form of variegation of this plant.

On the same vein we had N. 'Medusa' on display trying to flower. If you are one who checks for names in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register you will see 3 but we know the Australian one comes in from Deroose so its full name should be 'Deroose's Medusa'. Deroose never registered the name but in 2005 I found that it was being sold in the USA under this name. All I know is that it was described as a spineless form of N. 'Meyendorffii'. Medusa is an odd name to use because we are reminded of the creature in Greek mythology that had poisonous snakes instead of hair. I think the plant in Australia is just as weird despite the protestations of Chris Larson. I have yet to see it flower and by flower I mean having a flower with 3 petals. I have reason to believe we have here an example of Phyllody which is the abnormal development of floral parts into leafy structures. It is generally caused by phytoplasma or virus infections, though it may also be because of environmental factors that result in an imbalance in plant hormones. Julie decided not to take a photo because it was not in flower and Sue even dug up a plant to bring in and show me on the Sunday. Alas it was not in flower either.

Roving reporter March Show cont: 4

This Summer my plant that I had got from Chris Larson threatened to flower and there was great excitement in the Butcher household waiting for the great event. Then for no apparent reason the centre rotted. I now have two Society members looking for the elusive flowering. You may like to join the fun. I call it fun because of the enjoyment I get from looking closely at what nature challenges us with and am forever asking myself, “Why is it so?” I hope I get photos because at the moment I don’t think plants in Australia with ‘Medusa’ on the label will flower.

Some 23 years ago we experienced the hybridising work of Chester Skotak, and John Catlan in Queensland obtained many plants which he provisionally gave Anna numbers to. Some were given ‘proper’ names and registered. Some no doubt died out but guess what I saw at our Show – Anna 37. I first took its photo in 2000 but it still survives. So much so I have written to the Bromeliad Registrar, Geoff Lawn, to legitimise its temporary name!



Aechmea fasciata NOT ‘Kiwi’ (Photo J. Batty)



Neoregelia ‘Loreta Lector’ (Photo J. Batty)



Tillandsias on display (Photo J. Batty)



Bob quickly progressed! (Photo J. Batty)

REMINDER

Membership subscriptions are now over due.

Raffle prizes March 2015 Show

All prizes except 1st (to be collected at next meeting) have been collected

Prize no:	Plant	Ticket no;	Winner	Prize no:	Plant	Ticket no;	Winner
1 st	Tillandsias on wood	E94	Margot	2 nd	Long t basket with Neos	F63	Karen
3 rd	Neo Perfection	E97	Kath	4 th	Gold basket with Neo's	F78	Barbara
5 th	Burgundy basket with Neos	A80	Ron	6 th	Small basket with Neos	F76	Husband of Barbara
7 th	Neophytum Galactic Warrior	D86	Pauline	8 th	Vriesea Elvira	A95	Michelle
9 th	Neo	J99	Chris	10 th	Vriesea Seideliana x Gigantica	F45	Pam

LET THERE BE (MORE) LIGHT!

During 2014 two significant events occurred around our garden that had major impacts on our growing environment, and more importantly how many of the Bromeliads were growing.

Firstly, on arriving home after a period away, we found that a portion of our 25 plus year old wood railing and paling side fence had blown over. With neighbourly agreeance it was quickly decided to remove the entire (as our side and their back) fence and replace same with a more modern steel and iron fence. Then came the ramifications. The first outcome was to remove a dense flowering creeper. This lead to the need to remove two large and old melaleuca bushes (and lo and behold both were partially dead and being held together by the creeper). One then understood all of the flow- on impacts of the original (and believed to be) simple decision.

But, what about the landscaped bromeliad garden underneath those melaleuca bushes. Then, what about the 40 plus Tillandsias that were happily hanging in the bushes and getting plenty of filtered light with strong direct early morning sun, along with lots of air movement and natural falling rain. This all resulted in the need to extend the hanging wire mesh at the south eastern end of the rear pergola for those Tillandsia. What couldn't go there were strung along the edges of various pots of native orchids hanging about the back garden. These Tills ended up being subjected to full sunlight, etc., all months of the year.

This left the bromeliad garden in the front area. These plants were landscaped between rocks, tree stumps and logs, etc. and they were along the new fence. Many of these plants were of the older variety, species and therefore hardier. They were now fully exposed to all of the elements with no shelter, especially full direct sunlight and reflection from the green coloured fence. However the end result (as is always with change) showed there many good and bad outcomes. There has been sun burn (especially on the top curve on many leaves), much paler leaves, but better flowering with much better markings on the Billbergia and Aechmea. (See photos.) Some of the Neo's have died while some have flourished with lovely colouring. A new watering regime has had to be devised. A Callistemon that had been struggling is now flourishing. Certainly this additional light has improved the outcome.

One of my growing philosophies has come to the fore. Grow them tough, that is what happens in their natural environment. If some end up tatty, but flower and colour well, so be it, as these do not necessarily need to be pristine for judges.

The second event that impacted upon the Tillandsia will need to wait for another time!!!!

Geoff Edwards

