

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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Neoregelia rosea 'Pink Spider' Query

(Photo J. Batty)

MEETING & SALES 2018 DATES

14/10/2018 (Vriesea hybridizing presentation), 27/10/2018 & 28/10/2018 Show & Sales, 11/11/2018 -130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

NB: 2019 BSSA meeting & sales dates still to be confirmed.

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

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of each month. Exceptions –1st Sunday in March, May, June & 3rd Sunday September. - or unless advised otherwise (see dates below).

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME.

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Gazette

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

Members are encouraged to contribute to this 3 monthly gazette as a method of learning about bromeliads by sharing triumphs, challenges and disappointments etc

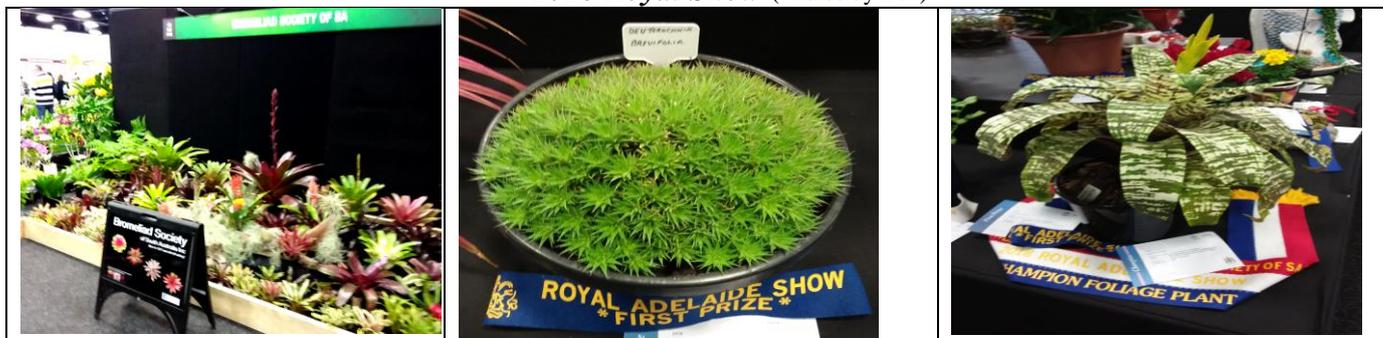
July Meeting

Alas our dedicated Roving reporter & Margaret were not at this meeting so this will be a very brief overview! There were not many plants on display due to this Secretary’s senior’s moment in not informing members that there would be display plants as usual! However the ‘popular plant of the month’ was Aechmea ‘Burning Bush’.

There were several discussions on challenges growing broms, including leaving on damaged/dead leaves until the weather warms up, colour will also improve in these conditions. Bev’s pattern leaf Vriesea in very poor condition (suggestion; perhaps it missed out on water!) was under cover in a protected environment next to others that were healthy & undamaged!

Thanks to Kallam the kris kringle, “Christmas in July” ran smoothly and appeared to be enjoyed by those participating. *Bev*

2018 Royal Show (Photos by Bev)



After successful negotiations with the Royal Show Committee Adam’s vision of a larger more prominent display featuring a garden setting our Society again participated in this event situated next to the Orchid display. There was an area in front of our display enabling those interested more opportunity to check out the colourful inspiring plants & chat with the volunteers.

There were many compliments given on the display, especially the range of shapes, sizes & colour variations on show. Over 500 of our October flyers were distributed and it will be interesting to see how many maintain their enthusiasm and come along to our sales weekend. There were numerous questions from those already growing ‘hooked’ on Bromeliads with some relieved to have details on where they can purchase more. There were about 20 Bromeliads put in for judging & our President was awarded a number of 1st, 2nd & 3rd ribbons along with 3 champion plant prizes, also Ron & Bev received a 1st & 2nd ribbon Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers supporting this. *Bev*



Roving Reporter Aug 2018

Our Society LOVES raffles. Yes, they are a great money raiser but they are more than that to us. Members faithfully bring in spare plants or offsets (mainly offsets) to meetings and dump them on the two tables provided. Invariably it is Bill Treloar who sorts them in door prize and raffle prizes. The more common plants or those without labels go to the Door Prize table – after all it is a freebie! There are usually at least a dozen plants on each table! When you enter the hall EVERYBODY is given a numbered ticket (Door ticket) AND the option to buy tickets for the raffle. Here I must mention there is also a super duper raffle where special plants have pride of place on the FRONT desk with tickets at a dollar each!

All must wait until after afternoon tea for the ceremonial drawing of the lucky ticket! Here they can pick their winnings from the table concerned. First up is the door prize. Here I must mention what has become tradition. If there are new newbies at the meeting they could be in for surprise. There are members who have a full collection of plants at home and don't need a door prize so if they are a lucky one they give the ticket to one of the newbies! Guess what? The August meeting had only one newbie AND the first ticket to be drawn was a 'tradition' so the situation was explained to such shocked newbie. And that's not all. The second draw was also a 'tradition' so we had an overwhelmed newbie!

Adam lead the discussion on Winter brag where the plants on display had survived (so far) Adelaide's winter (and Kadina and Nairne and Belair).

The most popular plant *Neoregelia* 'Bob's Dream' had been brought in by Kathy & Rob Stevens. Both Margaret and I were a bit confused because the name suggested Bob Larnach's offerings around 'Aussie Dream' but this plant was bigger. This needed checking on the computer and we found out that it was a Grace Goode hybrid. I wonder if it was Grace's sense of humour showing through



Neoregelia 'Bob's Dream' (Photo J. Batty)

Survival of plants through this difficult time is not due to luck but astute positioning of said plants regarding available light, protection from frosts and a minimum of water.

I won't be able to solve Adam's identification problem of his *Neoregelia* but I would suggest a hybrid would be easier to grow under Adelaide conditions. The following extract will give an idea of that group of plants that do not like Adelaide except at Peter's and Adam's. It must be the extra hot air in their backyards! On a more serious note with the current emphasis being on DNA, Biogeography and Ecology I can see it being promoted to genus status and therefore the ones who grow these touchy plants will have to remember how to spell the name

'HYLAEICUM, THE AMAZONIAN SUBGENUS OF NEOREGELIA

From Leme in *Canistrum* – Brom. Atl. Forest. 86-93. 1997

The term Amazon forest, or *Hylaea*, a name given by Humboldt and Bonpland, includes several types of forest vegetation, such as *terra-firme* forest, *varzea* forest, *igapo* forest, and others (Leme & Marigo, 1993). Although awe-inspiring in physiognomy, biomass and immensity, the Amazon forest is rather poor in bromeliad-species diversity. But some endemic Amazonian species are very unique, especially the species of *Hylaeicum*. This name was proposed in 1907 by German botanist Ernst Heinrich Ule (1854-1915) in a direct reference to the Amazon *Hylaea*. Ule (1907) grouped two of his newly described species (*Nidularium eleutheropetalum* Ule and *N. myrmecophilum* Ule ex Ule) in *Hylaeicum* which he considered a temporary name. He argued that these two species could not be assigned to any other known nidularioid genus, unless *Aregelia*, *Eunidularium* and *Canistrum* were included in the genus *Nidularium*.

We saw a *Nidularium* 'Ruby Lee' with variegated leaves that had sported from a non variegated plant that had sported from a variegated one! Such is the instability of variegation which is a prized phenomenon amongst growers. This is not the case with botanists who in recent years have been ignoring naming them when found in the wild. This seems to have coincided with the deepening in DNA studies. I have been spending my time capturing names as Cultivars in the BCR if the plant is under cultivation. *Nidularium innocentii* has been just one. *Nidularium* 'Ruby Lee' goes back to before the 1970s when Ralph Davis in Florida crossed a *N. innocentii* with another *N. innocentii*. This intra-species crossing is not technically a hybrid! But how different is it from the plant based on the 'wild' form in the past that we now call *N. 'Lineatum'* and *N. 'Striatum'*. In 2001 a slightly different looking *N. 'Ruby Lee'* found its way on to the competition table in Florida and we called this 'Ruby Lee Too' The motto here is not lose the label on your plant because a label is a great help in checking if the name is correct. Regarding checking names it was great to see Kallum on his i-phone checking the BCR for names of hybrids.

There were lots of 'mini' *Neoregelia* hybrids on display but as Adam pointed out there are mini minis of which *N. 'Red Waif'* is one. The use of 'waif' seems strange to me even with my sense of humour because it means unwanted. As Sue pointed out, it has links with 'Cayenne'. It is such a complicated story you might like to read it. There is even a 'Zebrina Waif' and 'Little Waif' to consider!

'NEOREGELIA 'RED WAIF'/'CAYENNE' revisited at 12/2006. by Derek Butcher

In July 1984 Brian Smith in his Manuscript of Bromeliad Hybrids and Cultivars reported *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Zebrina' x 'Fireball' (DeLeon) and also *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' x *ampullacea* 'Zebrina' (DeLeon).

In the Preliminary Listing by Don Beadle in 1991 only *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Zebrina' x 'Fireball' is listed under DeLeon List #3.

In the BSI Journal Jan/Feb 1994 *Neoregelia* 'Red Waif' is listed as 'Zebrina' x 'Fireball'. This is a Hendrix hybrid grex #7902 but named by Carol Johnson of Pineapple Place. Only one plant was selected from the grex!

Ever since the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry 1998 was issued I have been aware that plants with parental formula only, will be lost to the "official" Bromeliad World and all worthwhile cultivars needed names so that they could be catalogued. In 1999 my wife and I pondered over our *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' x *ampullacea* which we had obtained from Margaret Paterson of Gympie in Queensland in 1996 which seemed to be identical to one with the same name from Olive Trevor of Brisbane in 1993. It was clearly being grown widely in Australia so we decided to call it 'Cayenne' and announced this fact in a printed update on Australian Cultivars at the Cairns Conference in 1999. A photograph of this plant is shown on the BCR.

In April 2000 Geoff Lawn of Perth sent me photographs of *Neoregelia ampullacea* x 'Fireball' (note the reversal of parentage) that he had received from Olive Trevor in 1997 and an identical looking plant with the same parentage from Grace Goode from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Geoff had linked them to our 'Cayenne' and he could well be correct. Also growing in Perth is a plant called *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Red Form' that they inherited from the Cairns Bromeliad Study Group that had brought plants to Perth for their Bromeliad Conference in September 1997. This also seems identical and the Cairns Bromeliad Study Group after 'studying' the problem have the same thoughts! They also advise me that you can also get this plant in Brisbane under the name 'Red Wave' (sic) which may confuse even more especially where there is already a 'Red Wave' and a 'Red Waves' in the Register which have no link whatsoever! AND THAT'S NOT ALL. Don and Alice Woods also of Perth had imported a *Neoregelia* 'Red Waif' from Pineapple Place Nursery and this seems identical to all plants mentioned so far!

1. We know that a true species crossed with another true species will produce like progeny at this F1 level.
2. We know that the ICNCP rules (Rule 2.15) allow for a cultivar name to be given to all these like plants.
3. I have kept a close watch on Australian hybridising since before 1982 and no similar combination has been tried in Australia.
4. Also in the 1991 Preliminary Listing is a *Neoregelia ampullacea* (without the 'Zebrina') x 'Fireball' in *Tropiflora* catalogue in 1986 but Dennis Cathcart has always been a "middleman" so while this has been considered it is treated here as a red herring!
5. We know that DeLeon preferred formulae to Cultivar names and that some of the hybrids he offered had in fact been done by Hendrix although not stated as such. Therefore we can be fairly sure that the formula plants came from DeLeon.
6. Hendrix could easily have used the same parental clones to produce *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Zebrina' x 'Fireball' (Even at the same time in the same flower head). Each seed berry could produce similar progeny so the significance of Grex #7902 seems less important in this situation.
7. While I have strong feelings that 'Red Waif' and 'Cayenne' could share the same name I intend to show both in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry and link them as being probably identical.
8. Comparison of photographs of all participants can be made on the BCR
9. This situation proves, at least to me, that formulae are essential to the hybridist for the correct interpretation of results but if a plant is then worthy of growing and/or selling it is worthy of a name in its own right.

If you have any other evidence in this saga please advise.

December 2006

Let us now look at further developments. In 2006 we heard that Don and Alice Woods had imported a 'Little Waif' at the same time as 'Red Waif'. It was called that because it was smaller but nobody knows how big 'Red Waif' should be! The name 'Little Waif' is also in use in Florida. Investigation with the hybridist came to dead end because naming had been done by Carol Johnson of Pineapple Place. 'Little Waif' is now in the Cultivar Register, mainly as a reference. From the above, we know that grex #7902 got to Australia under formula to become 'Cayenne'. There is now more intrigue because we have been growing a *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Zebrina' in Australia for many years which does not look like a cultivar of *N. ampullacea*. Does it link with *N. ampullacea* 'Red Form' or 'Red Waves' as mentioned above? Another contact with Gary Hendrix reveals that he got his *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Zebrina' from David Barry's Jungle Gardens in California labeled *Neo. zebrina*! This plant is not the same as the Aussie 'Zebrina' which suggests to me that it is another one from grex #7902 but the pollen parent got lost on the label! It seems safer to call this clone 'Zebrina Waif'. It is ironical that a waif is an unwanted animal or person but this seems to be cropping up everywhere. Are there any more waifs for me to fall over? '

I am sure many would have looked lovingly at the *Dyckia warasii* especially as it had started offsetting. It is a challenge to grow through Adelaide winters as it should because it was originally described as a *Cryptanthus* and we know that traditionally you do not water on the top in winter. Yes it is an odd looking *Cryptanthus*, so much so it is now *Forzzaea*. Homework reading follows where you can see where I spend my spare time.



Forzzaea warasii (Photo J. Batty)

'Forzzaea warasii (E. Pereira) Leme, S. Heller & Zizka, comb. nov. Phytotaxa 318(1): 001-088. 2017

Basionym:- *Cryptanthus warasii* E. Pereira, Bradea 35: 252. 1978.

Type:-BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Diamantina, 25 August 1977, E. Waras s.n. (holotype HB!, isotypes HAL!, K, MBM!, US!).

Translation of original description in Latin by Butcher

Plant growing on rocks, about 10-12 cm high, stemless or a little stemmed, stoloniferous.

Leaves about 20, not narrowing above the sheath.

Sheath 2-3cm long, 3-4cm wide, both sides glabrous.

Blade linear-triangular, 6-12cm long, 1-2cm wide, channelled, acuminate, pungent, thick and rigid, both sides densely crust like covered with white scales, like a hairy membrane, equally above and below, the spiny edges of the leaves are shown in a depressed line on the leaf above, in a dry state coiled-recurved, edges at least armed with spreading spines, rigid, sharp, 2-3mm long, in a dry state in fact the spines are turned backwards, becoming spiny and curved towards the base of the leaves.

Inflorescence with about 20 flowers divided into 2-3 flowered fascicles, which are in the axils of the leaf bracts.

Floral bracts hooded, blunt keeled, outside white lepidote, later glabrous except for the tip, 11mm long, entire, tip mucronulate but not emarginate, equalling the sepals.

Flowers 20mm long, all hermaphrodite.

Sepals 11mm long, linear-lanceolate, lightly blunt keeled, connate at the base, tip mucronulate, but not emarginate, and white lepidote.

Petals 17mm long, white, spatulate, obtuse, reflexed at anthesis.

Stamens shorter than the petals but exerted about anthesis, Anthers 3mm long, linear, tip with two mucrons.

Ovary almost triangular, 4-5mm long, glabrous, Ovules blunt and about 6-12 per ovary, joined to the top of the locule.

Habitat. Minas Gerais, Diamantina, Leg. E Waras s.n. 25 Aug 1977 Holotype HB Isotype US, K, MBM

This new species is closest to *Cryptanthus schwackeanus* Mez, from which it is readily distinguished in the thick, rigid leaves covered with a heavy layer of white scales, by the mucronate but not emarginate sepals and by several other details evident from the descriptions.'

These days there are so many hybrids around with similar spelt names and it pays to check the BCR. Just one recent example was the *Neoregelia* 'Casaba' on display which you won't find in the BCR. You will find a 'Casoba' where it shows that 'Casaba' is a wrong spelling. It had its origins in Brazil some 13 years ago but was only recently registered AND this was done by the Registrar. It is a good job we have such a keen Registrar. It is an interesting job where you are an unpaid employee of the Bromeliad Society International. What you may not realise is that the BSI is formally the ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) for Bromeliaceae. All members, be it Board, Judges, Affiliates etc. should acknowledge this and not just leave it up to the registrar.



Neoregelia 'Casoba' (Photo J. Batty)

Visit with Diane.

14 BSSA members joined Diane Mundy, her sister Lesley (Both members of our Society for many years) her daughter Lee, son-in-law & granddaughter for a tasty afternoon tea with lively conversation & good humour. Diane is selling her home & staying with her daughter before going into palliative care at Flinders.

Diane's thoughtful generosity sharing her bromeliad collection with fellow 'bromeholics' so the plants will be nurtured & enjoyed is greatly appreciated. Each of us have plants, pots & pot saucers to take in to meetings for raffle or door prizes so other members who were unable to be there on the day will have the opportunity & pleasure to share as well.

Diane is an inspiration & it was a privilege to be part of this meaningful afternoon.



Roving reporter Sept 2018

I am always on about plant names so I suppose I should not be surprized when strangers present a plant to be identified. To show how biased I am to plants I cannot remember the person's name! She will know who I mean because I recommended she look through the 13,000 photos on the Bromeliad Cultivar Register via her computer despite the fact that Margaret suggested 'Shelldance' because of the wonky leaves. Winter had certainly made the plant greener that usual but it had flowered and we were assured it had been red in the middle. As is usual with these sorts of queries I check when I get home. Yes, Margaret could have been right and I enclose a photo that the unknown member may recognise and write a label.

***Neoregelia* 'Shelldance'**

Named by Don Woods WA, Australia

A seedling of 'Fairy Paint' received from Shelldance Nursery, California, pollen parent unknown. Reg Doc 1998/2000

Note added 2/2012. Questions asked at a Brom Soc of South Australia meeting about the odd looking inflorescence suggests this may be a x*Neotanthus* hybrid.



Neoregelia 'Shelldance' photo by Stephen Mann

There is no proof but doubt was expressed in Andrew Steen's book 'Bromeliads - the Connoisseur's guide', published 2007, in comments made on page 230. - "some people think it may be an intergeneric cross between a *Neoregelia* and a *Cryptanthus*. However, I suspect that it is simply an extreme variation of 'Fairy Paint'. While this is unusual, it is not unheard of, with N. 'Burnsie's Spiral' being one fairly common example. These types of plant almost never flower but continue to put out new leaves, eventually forming a stem that may reach 50cm or more in height. I have a tissue culture sport of N. 'Purple Star' which is almost identical in form and appearance to N. Shelldance, the only difference being in the colour."

We will leave this as a *Neoregelia* because that is how it appears in collections throughout Australia

Thanks to lots of work by Adam we had a meeting with a difference. He had arranged a shipload of plants from Queensland which covered 2 tables. Members then took it in turns to buy what caught their eye. The amount of jostling reminded many of the old Myer's Bargain Basement Sales. Were they looking at anything new by way of name or looks. Were they checking on price? All I know was that 30 years ago Margaret and I would visit Queensland and select our own plants and provide our own travel arrangements to bring them back. Depending on the weather we decided if it was a good buy or a good bye because of unpredictable Adelaide weather

It was very sad to hear about Diane Mundy's health problems but magnanimous on her part to let some of her plants go on to the raffle table. Those who did take home a plant will know it has a special meaning.

I shuddered when I read the tag on the Popular plant for the month brought in by George Nieuwenhoven where the hybridist did not consider it worthy of a proper name. It had *Vriesea* Queen Scheherazade x Celestial Jewel on the label which does not tell us much.

It seems that Sue Skrabei gave a short talk on her potting mix which I missed. Perhaps we can get her to write it out for us. Is her success on her growing technique or what?

As far as Tillandsias go it was interesting to see that 'Rutschmann's Orange' still raises eyebrows. I was the first to bring it to this country from Renate Ehlers. Interesting reading follows

***Tillandsia crocata* 'Rutschmann's Orange' by Derek Butcher 3/2008.**

When Werner Rauh described *T. crocata* var *tristis* in Trop. Subtrop. Pflanz 43: 17. 1983 he mentioned how variable *T. crocata* was. At that time *T. crocata* was considered to be widespread in Brazil, through Argentina to Bolivia. He referred to a very large form collected by Dr J Rutschmann of Basel, Switzerland in the grounds of a hotel in Brazil, and which had a 6-7 flowered inflorescence and fragrant, dark orange flowers.

A year later Walter Till created *T. caliginosa* in Pl. Syst. Evol. 147: 282. 1984 and treated *T. crocata* var *tristis* as a synonym. *T. caliginosa* coming from Northern Argentina and Southern Bolivia.

The orange flowered *T. crocata* continued to offset and be grown by European specialists. In fact in 1996 it made its way to Australia as *T. crocata* 'Orange' where it would not offset fast enough to satisfy the demand. In dry Adelaide, Australia, 'normal' *T. crocata* have leaves 7cm long but leaves for 'Orange' are 13cm long. Nobody has succeeded in growing self set seed from this plant to prove it is a form of *T. crocata* and not a hybrid. However, it was collected in Brazil far from the habitat of *T. caliginosa* so this cannot be considered to be a parent and we are talking about a putative natural hybrid. Because of a man-made hybrid – see below, this clone needs a more specific name like 'Rutschmann's Orange'.

In 2004 Doetterer in Germany, was selling *T. caliginosa*, having obtained his stock from Holm. What is interesting is that a low proportion of these plants do not have the typical glabrous leaf sheath of *T. caliginosa* nor the typical dark brown petals. In fact they have *T. crocata* type leaf sheaths and almost orange petals. It would appear that some foreign pollen has crept into the seed raising project. Because of their hybrid origin they should be called 'Mock Orange'. The problem with identification will be that fact that *T. caliginosa* also has long leaves which remind me of a live floppy mousetail compared to a dead stiff mousetail of *T. myosura*. We must remember here, that *T. myosura* was a 'confused' species for over 50 years until Walter Till created *T. caliginosa* in 1984

So if you do have a *T. caliginosa* acting oddly, think of 'Mock Orange'

Note added 2016

If you ask any Tillandsia fancier living in Rio Grande do Sul what is the colour of *T. crocata* flower they will say Orange! In more recent years hybridising with *T. crocata* has occurred so you can expect some variation in 'Rutschmann's Orange' with later imports from Germany.

Among the Tillandsias it was good to see 'Dennis' again and *T. sprengeliana*. Dennis has an interesting story to tell

Tillandsia carminea 'Dennis' by Butcher 2008

This is a plant that was imported from Dennis Cathcart at Tropiflora in the USA by Keith Golinski at Bromagic in Queensland about 1990 as *Tillandsia carminea*. I eventually acquired an offset from Ken Woods of Sydney because he said that it had white flowers and I did not believe him! My offset flowered white too although when in bud it was a very pale blue. I took a flower to pieces and measured all the plant's vital statistics. I even went to the trouble to translate Walter Till's description of *T. carminea* in Pl. Syst. Evol. 138, 293 - 295 (1981) and compared my findings with his. Our plant only differed in a few aspects but they seemed significant enough for me to believe that it was not according to type. The problem here was that I had no collection data even from Dennis Cathcart but the information I got did suggest it was a species and had been collected in the wild.

Our leaves were strongly carinate under the blade, the posterior sepals at 13mm long were connate for 9 mm not 2mm, and the petals were virtually white, not dark blue. I also found the filaments were plicate but this information was not in the original description.

The plant's growth habit suggests epilithic (on rocks) and could easily have come from the Organ Mountains (The home of *T. carminea*) and thus been misidentified. It may even be found again in the wild with correct collection data so that a decision can be made as to its relationship or non-relationship with *T. carminea*. I have therefore decided to call our plant *T. carminea* 'Dennis' for the meantime to at least identify it.

The high connate posterior sepals suggest a greater link to the *T. tenuifolia* complex.

Seeing the *T. sprengeliana* in flower reminded me of the time when I had this plant and *T. kautskyana* but could not tell the difference even in flower. I asked Renate Ehlers who had been involved with the naming of *T. kautskyana*. Feel the difference in the leaves, she said! Both species are in the Red Brazilian group which are fairly easy to grow under Adelaide conditions (And they do not take up much space) They are rare in the wild and were on the world-wide CITES list for many years. Being in that category of CITES means that live plants cannot be exported. In 2013 I thought it strange that Brazilian botanists successfully got both species removed from such list! On second thoughts I realised that Brazil had an export ban on all their endemic plants and wanted to manage their own affairs. Details given with their application got me cogitating. (Somewhat dangerous to an old fellow). I found that the descriptions were different to what had been recorded previously. *T. sprengeliana* was discovered some time in the 1850's and is fairly wide spread in Espirito Santo State. *T. kautskyana* was found in 1974 and is in a restricted area around Domingos Martins in Espirito Santo State. I would suggest that hybridising occurs between the two making identification even harder. For those who wonder how plants escape from Brazil the answer is seed. If you have *T. kautskyana* AND *T. sprengeliana* don't panic, just have fun cogitating

BSSA October Extraganza & Sales

Set up is on Friday 26/10/2018 @ 1PM, All sellers must have a sellers code, (please check with Treasurer if unsure) and you are to also to provide QUALITY show plants to show (A minimum of 4 or 2-4 if you only have a small collection). Number of Display plants to be noted on a Register - these plants are to remain on display until closing time.

Sale plants shall be in good condition- NO damage and presented in clean pots, Be free of water. Plants should be the quality you would purchase if you were buying. Plants shall be 'rooted' and stable in pots or marked with date of potting. Bare rooted plants to be labelled accordingly. Pups must be ready to pot up and grow, some semblance of roots. Plants will be removed from tables if they do not meet the quality criteria. Initially on the sales tables 25 plants. Sellers must be present for minimum of 4 hours each day to aid the buying public. If possible be available for setting up the venue & to pack up and clean the venue at closing of last day. Packing up etc must not start until advertised closing time. Sellers are to take cloths home to wash.

November 14th Christmas / break-up meeting

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Committee meeting starts @ 1200 midday General Meeting 1.30PM There is no door or raffle draw, or display plants. Please bring in a plate of finger food to share & celebrate the last meeting for the year. If you wish to participate in the pup exchange and pup auction please bring in 2 pups (If a new member & are unable to provide these please let a committee member know), 1 pup goes onto the exchange table and these are drawn using raffle tickets, the other goes into the auction Come along and have some fun!. <i>Bev</i></p> |  |
|---|--|---|

VALE Renate Ehlers by Derek Butcher



Renate & Klaus (photo by Jarka Rehak 1995)

We recently heard the sad news that Renate had passed away in Germany on 4th September after several years with heart problems. If Renate could be remembered in one word it would be 'generous'. She was generous with her time, sharing with her numerous writings (both official and unofficial) and last but not least, spare *Tillandsia* plants. I suppose the 1990's were the golden years when Len Colgan and myself imported hundreds of *Tillandsias* to make South Australia the leading state as far as *Tillandsias* went. Yes, *Tillandsias* that had a pedigree.

Let me digress for a while. It must have been the 1970's when Klaus and Renate ran a travel agency and regularly took Germans on trips to Mexico looking at Cactus. Needless to say the interest in Cactus waned as too did the size of the 'travelling party' and visits widened to include most of subtropical north and south America. Renate never trained as a taxonomist but she had that German trait for detail and taught herself botany. She soon became an accepted World authority on *Tillandsias*.

1995 saw us host the VIIIth Bromeliad Conference in Adelaide where the key note speaker was Renate Ehlers who recounted her collecting trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Brazil. She and Klaus stayed with Len Colgan. They just had to squeeze in a visit to our very own German settlement from the 1800's at Hahndorf!

Len Colgan and I knew Renate very well. In fact in 1996 we spent a week at her place in Germany.

The house was large and had the bottom floor leased out to another family. I slept in the attic which was full of cupboards full of notes, photographs and herbarium specimens. I was in my element and got little sleep. I was even allowed a spare key to the house which let me escape and pay visits to the shop on the corner about 200 metres away that had a photocopying machine! Len busied himself differently, like being allowed to be a 'Bridge partner' and yet not knowing how to speak German. AND showed his prowess as a Mathematician by changing a German light bulb. I must not forget the regular trips we made outdoors to visit the *Tillandsia* collection. Yes, outdoors because it was Summer and every *Tillandsia* needed to have fresh air after a winter in a stuffy heated glasshouse.

In 1996 Renate published a book on the Red Flowered *Tillandsias* from Brazil and on page 66 under Danksagungen you will see mention to Bromeliad Society of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia. On the same page you will see reference to English translation by a George Rudolf Butcher (our George (Gerd) was not impressed by the printing error by suggesting he was my brother!). Yes, Gerd used to help with German translation but always grumbled about the fact that he came from a different part of Germany. Translating a botanical description is helped by the fact that it is in a set format but travelogues are not. Gerd did the travelogues. I did the botanical descriptions. In 2009 Renate published 'Little green Mexicans' and again the Bromeliad Society of South Australia got a mention.

Yes, many *Tillandsia* lovers will forever remember Renate.

Notice Board



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

Suggestion Box



This was introduced to encourage members to put forward ideas for meetings, any other item of interest or concern. We appreciate your input & feedback.

Thanks *Bev*

Garden event Dates for your diary



- ✓ Begonia & Fern Spring Show 20th Oct
- ✓ Spring into Burra -Garden exp 20th & 21st October 2018
- ✓ SA Geranium & Pelargonium Soc Spring Show , 20th & 21st October 2018
- ✓ Iris Show 27th & 28th October 2018
- ✓ Bromeliad Society show & sales 27th & 28th Oct 2018
- ✓ Spring Salvia sale October 28th 2018
- ✓ Herb day November 4th 2018