

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

Vol 42

Number 4

October, November & December 2018

PUBLISHED BY:

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Editor- Derek Butcher. Assist Editor – Bev Masters

Born 1977 and still offsetting!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Adam Bodzioch

58 Cromer Parade Millswood 5034 Ph: 0447755022

Secretary: Bev Masters

6 Eric Street, Plympton 5038 Ph: 83514876

Vice president: Peter Hall

Treasurer: Trudy Hollinshead

Committee: Penny Seekamp

Julie Batty

Dave Batty

Sue Skrabei

Jeff Hollinshead

Kallam Sharman

Pam Nelson

Life members :Margaret Butcher, Derek Butcher,

:Len Colgan, Adam Bodzioch

:Bill Treloar



Email address:

Secretary – bev.masters@bigpond.com

Web site: <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

Cultivar Register <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php>

List for species names <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>

<http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/brom-1/> altern site <http://imperialis.com.br/>

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876



A view of Oct display (Photo J Batty)

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of each month. Exceptions –2019: 1st Sunday in May, 3rd Sunday March, June & September. - or unless advised otherwise (see dates below).

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME.

MEETING & SALES 2019 DATES

13/01/2019 (Mini Neoregelia), 10/02/2019 (Workshop – Mounting & potting Tillandsia x clumps of 3 or more), 17/03/2019 (Summer Brag- any genera), 22/03/2019 (Set up hall) 23/03/2019 (Extravaganza: 9AM – 3PM), 24/03/2019 (Extravaganza: 10AM – 3PM), 14/04/2019 (Pattern leaf Vriesea & Gouadaea), 05/05/2019 (Winter care- prior & during- Genera Billbergia), 16/06/2019 (Presentation RC- Safety) Genera Aechmea), 14/07/2019 (Xmas in July? Catered lunch? Genera any species), 11/08/2019 (Winter Brag), 15/09/2019 (Workshop Genera Tillandsia single specimen), 13/10/2019 (Midi to Large Neoregelia), 01/11/2019 (Set up hall), 2/11/2019 (Extravaganza: 9AM – 3PM), 3/11/2019 (Extravaganza: 1000AM – 3PM) 10/11/2019 (1200 start Committee, 130PM start main meeting, Pup/plant exchange, Special Afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, Auction)

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

Page	Details
1	Cover page – Photo: Committee: Meeting & sales dates
2	Roving reporter Oct 2018
3	Roving reporter Oct cont.: Sunday Mail home show article, Joan Williams
4	Joan Williams cont: Vale: Peter Huddy
5	Roving Reporter Oct show & sales, October sales overview
6	Raffle prizes, Behind the scenes, Give-aways to children, Future give- aways to children, Roving Reporter Nov 2018
7	Roving Reporter Nov cont: Neoregelia punctatissimo article,
8	Roving Reporter Nov cont: Aechmea ‘Foster’s Favorite’ article, Auction, Future Raffle prize donation
9	2018 Reflections, Pup/ plant auction Planning 2019,AGM Feb 2019, Festival of Flowers, Celebrations, Season’s greetings.
10	Plant of the month change, March 2019 – Things to remember, Summer chores in the shade house,

 **Roving Reporter Oct 2018**

It was great to see the number at the meeting, no doubt drawn in by us having a speaker from Queensland. I think Mal Cameron did a great job in selling his wares accompanied by Michelle at the machine!. More on this later. So things were a bit noisy even though I was only wearing one hearing aid!



Dyckia ‘Arizona’

The most popular plant went to Julie Batty with her *Dyckia* ‘Arizona’, this time in flower. In 1998 when I became Registrar for Bromeliad Cultivars the rule was two photos – one of the plant and one of the flowers. I did not push too hard for Neoregelias as long as the plant had its mature colours. These days especially in *Dyckia* and patterned leaf forms of *Vriesea* you rarely see a flower. So I’ll be offering the Registrar Julie’s photo. D. ‘Arizona’ is shrouded in mystery even though it is a striking plant. We do not know Mother OR Father but that Bill Baker in California was involved. Bill was known for not keeping records nor bothering to register his prolific hybridising. We also know that so many *Dyckias* are grown from ‘self-set seed from hybrids but retaining mother’s name. In this case OUR ‘Arizona’ does look like the photo in the BCR. As for the other *Dyckia* on display I only heard half (blame the hearing aid!) and thought Adam was referring to *Dyckia estevesii* which is a different kettle of fish to *Dyckia marnierlapostollei* var *estevessii*



Billbergia ‘Gloria’
(Photos’ J.Batty)

Who looked at *Billbergia* ‘Gloria’ and wondered why it looked similar to *Billbergia* ‘Fosters Striate’ sitting next door? This reminded me of my motto Uncle Derek says "Never Trust the name on the label cos you may be able to prove the seller expert wrong or satisfy your own ego'. This is what I wrote ***Billbergia* ‘Gloria’** by D Butcher 9/2007

Len Cork of Adelaide was very pleased that his variegated form of *Billbergia pyramidalis* had produced a yellow leaved mutation that had been stable over several series of offsetting. This was called ‘Gloria’ after his wife. When I wrote about this I found out that this sort of thing was not unique to Adelaide. In fact it had happened in Florida and in New Zealand. So without exporting, the plant called *Billbergia* ‘Gloria’ is alive and kicking in other parts of the world. In other words, Len did not like the green stripes even though Gloria did! Now for a bit about variegation. “Variegations are malfunctions. A part of the tissue is unable to produce the green chlorophyll. This malfunction is caused by a somatic mutation which makes the plant a chimaera - an organism with two different sets of DNA.” The trouble with variegations is that they are rarely stable in offsets. So much so when the offset produced has no visible variegation we call it NOVAR (No variegation) Here we have the opposite where variegations have returned so a name from purist point of view would be Gloria reverted. Clearly a case of non-selection in offsetting. No doubt there will come a time when a non-variegated offset will emerge and a TRUE ‘Gloria’ will be with us.



Billbergia ‘Fosters Striate’

Now to the problem of what to write on labels. The most important is the name of the plant. The next is where it came from for my motto to work! The third is parentage which could be in error or just misleading, and difficult to prove. In this case I noted that var, concolor was mentioned but concolor means the same colour and in this case refers to petals being totally red. All the photos I have seen of *Billbergia pyramidalis* have red petals with blue tips which can vary from strong and prominent to very weak.

Talking of labels it was great to see *Tillandsia* ‘Zebra Crossing’ almost in flower brought in by Ian Cook. There are not many around Australia and harks back to 1981 when I collected seed from a *Tillandsia aeranthos* and sowed it on a piece of cork. I assumed that it was self –set but as I have never seen seed on my various *T aeranthos* since I now think it must be the proverbial milkman!

Anyway, said seedlings grew but slowly and I selected one that was different because its leaves had dark, almost black, cross banding just like a zebra crossing. In 2002 (21 years later) it flowered and I registered this oddity.

Seeing *Pitcairnia* 'Rhubarb' in flower was quite a shock because some 10 years ago I was trying to convince Lynn Hudson in Cairns that a plant with such a name should be registered but no one seemed to know its origins. On getting home after the meeting I checked the BCR and – hey presto- there it was, a Catlan hybrid registered by Carol Evans in 2013. Apparently there was discussion as to whether the *Tillandsia recurvifolia* var *subsecundifolia* was a hybrid. In my experience if it looks like a *T recurvifolia* with white petals but has orange floral bracts with scales at the tip it is better treated as the variety especially if it can be traced to imports from Renate Ehlers by myself or Len Colgan. After all, Renate was the one who started it all off with Wilhelm Weber in 1983 for a plant collected in 1981 by Thieken.

Meanwhile in the 1980's we had Seidel in Brazil distributing *Tillandsia leonamiana* E. Pereira, *Bradea* **I: 437,pl. 1. 1974.** "Related to *T. pohliana* Mez and to *T. meridionalis* Baker this new species differs from both in the length of the stalk in the shape and size of the sepals, in the very much plicated filament, in the not caudate ovuli and in the much larger flowers with purplish corolla."

The problem was his plants mostly had white flowers and the Americans considered that var *subsecundifolia* was a synonym and called their plants *T. leonamiana*. We in Adelaide followed the Europeans but finding a true *T. leonamiana* was elusive and continues to this day.

This impasse continued for some 10 years and it was not until 1995 that we saw the following where the Americans joined forces with Europeans

Tillandsia recurvifolia Hooker var. *subsecundifolia* (W. Weber & Ehlers) W. Till, in Till and Luther, *J Brom Soc.* 45:264-8. 1995

Synonym *Tillandsia meridionalis* Baker var. *subsecundifolia* W. Weber & Ehlers, *Feddes Repert.* 94:615, Abb. 12 (1983). The main differences from the typical variety of *T recurvifolia* are the sometimes more lax inflorescence and the orange-red floral bracts (not pink).

In the last 20 years we have seen imports from other sources AND hybrids so it is good to have a discussion now and again!

Just a mention. You may have noticed a *Neoregelia* 'Dorothy'. Dorothy must be a popular name because there are several in the BCR. Our plant should be called Neo. 'Skotak's Dorothy'

And so to the main event with Mal on the microphone. We saw what is a large enterprise in the making compared to what we have in Adelaide. It was interesting that they have problems with shade percentages the same as we do. But I did hear it said that Queensland has sun in the day and rain at night. We saw seed raising in volume but it would seem that sphagnum moss is out of vogue as a growing medium. Then it was on for one and all with striking photos of varying 'Glyph' vrieseas. These had been carefully selected but many had similar traits which would make them difficult to separate if viewed singly. I was intrigued with the reference to quilling and how to prevent it. Both Margaret and I did think we saw evidence of piping

piping: describes when sometimes you get ridges or piping on the surface of leaves. Appears to be some genetic malfunction

This occurs in the *Aechmea fasciata* hybrids which are spineless which makes me wonder if too much inbreeding is taking place.

Sunday Mail Home show

The dazzling colours of bromeliads were on display at the Sunday Mail Home and Outdoor Living Show at the Wayville Showgrounds and we received many compliments on the display.

This event is a good marketing opportunity, a lot of flyers for our Oct sales were distributed with many indicating they would attend.

Adam, Peter, Ron & Bev provided advice on the growing bromeliads in South Australia along with several volunteers. There were plants for sale and many thanks to Peter, Pam & Sue for their help etc. *Bev*

Joan Williams

Recently there was a post on the Facebook site from Ann Williams.

Ann posted a photo of some Tillandias and Bromeliads in her shade house at Minlaton and stated that these had been as result of her late mother-in-law. Joan Williams. She also asked did anyone in the club remember Joan as she had been a member some years ago. During a discussion during afternoon tea at the Meeting of 14th October it seemed that not too many people had known Joan.

As it happens I knew Joan quite well but not from The Bromeliad Society. Approximately 20 years ago I joined The Cactus & Succulent Society of S.A. and one of the very first people I met was Joan Williams. At the time Joan was a doyen of The Cactus & Succulent Society. She was one of the most knowledgeable of people, not only in relation to Cacti & Succulents but in general.

She was always willing to pass on her knowledge and was very generous with her plants.



Section of display (Photo Bev)

A very warm and generous lady. It didn't matter what type of plant Joan grew she just had the right green finger to make that plant a showpiece. She continued to attend meetings and outings right up until she was not able to drive anymore and transport became difficult. I was aware that she was or had been a member of The Bromeliad Society as many Broms often appeared as gifts and prizes.

One of these plants is still in my collection, Neoregelia "Aussie Dream" which I would have acquired as a raffle prize some years ago. A few months ago I put a few pups of this plant in for our monthly raffle so I would imagine some current members would be growing these on. A great memory of Joan.

P.S. I did try and answer Ann on Facebook but I fear my I.T. inadequacy may have resulted in a no show!!!

A further bit of nostalgic trivia.

My first ever introduction into the world of Bromeliads & Tillandsias was from a couple of members of years past (both have now passed). Mrs. Francis and her daughter Jean Francis. Jean was a very close friend of mine and when they were clearing out their home, as Mum had to go into care, I was laden with a myriad of these odd prickly plants. Given a few do's and don'ts and sent off home with a car full. Amongst the haul was, as explained to me, "A Tillandsia Tree". A long piece of knobbly driftwood covered in these bits of green things. Still have the wood to this day but sadly "The bits of green things, due to my lack of knowledge ended up where all good plants go. So I suppose one could say this was the first nip of the bug that we all seem to be bitten by.

Dean Roberts

VALE Peter Huddy by Derek Butcher Oct 2018



Sadly Peter Huddy passed away on October 5th.

When Peter was a member of our Society in the 20 years from the 1990's he was the life and soul of the party and I never knew what to expect next. He was also Treasurer from 1998 for 5 years. I well remember him and me trying to find red Neoregelias for the Adelaide Royal Show. One time we even got a Gold medal for our efforts but we never convinced them that their Show should be in November just for us!

Peter was really keen on Vrieseas and in those days it was the flowering kind. Those that had wiggly lines on the leaves were not in vogue. In 1999 Peter gave a talk at the Cairns Brom Conference where it was reported that Peter Huddy was introduced to bromeliads about 20 years ago after seeing a short segment on TV showing a Tillandsia, a plant which required no soil or fertilizer. He put it on the 'must have' list and a couple of years later bought 7 tillandsias and a couple of nidulariums and some aechmeas. Peter was not deterred (upset, but not deterred) when a dog, owned by his son in law, visited and ate 6 of them! Vrieseas have become his passion and he has an amazing collection in a fernhouse where he has simulated the Brazilian environment – his qualifications in drafting and industrial design assisted in this venture. His best bromeliad experience was winning 3 consecutive 'Best in Show' awards with 3 different vrieseas.

It was here that he introduced the Huddy Vriesea identification system based on shape of plant, flower etc. Just part of his talk was as follows "In Dr. Louis Wilson's book "Bromeliads for Modern Living" is a photo of a totally different plant also called x kitteliana. Derek has the first one and I have the second one. The parentage of x kitteliana as listed in the International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids is barilletii x saundersii, you beauty! Dots up your nose Derek, mine's right yours is wrong." So Huddy 15a(a)LGD, meant something to Peter and he tried to convince others that his system worked because so many vrieseas had no label.

At the same time he talked about a flower being pendant but Lynn Hudson of Cairns said it should be pendent. Peter countered this by carving a wooden ant and presenting her with a PENDANT. Talking of his ability to carve I show an example of his work which is something that will forever remind me of him. It is such a pity that he had the shakes due to Parkinson's in his later years.

Perhaps the most memorable thing to most, is his involvement with Vriesea "RoRo" or is it 'Highway Beauty' with its reverse variegation. Why RoRo? This is instead of his daughter's name Roxanne because she could not pronounce it!



Roving Reporter for 27-28 Oct Show and Sales



Section of display (Photo J Batty)

Sorry I could not get there but I would be more hindrance than a help and just live on memories. My scouts tell me it was a great success in people through the door and purchases made. I always used to think that the most exciting part was the day before, doing the setting up. You had some people racing around like chooks with no head and others just standing with a stunned look on their faces wondering what to do next. There was the inevitable, "That person has more sales space than me!" "Would you buy that plant with such a dirty pot?" "Have you brought in your quota of display plants?" BUT no fights. It was exciting and these are happy memories.

The display plants were of high standard and Julie Batty sent me a few photos to whet my appetite and get me thinking. How important are names? Why do have labels when it is just as easy not to have names but use nicknames instead. As a specialist plant society we have an obligation to know more than a common or garden plant society. This was what I grumbled about when Julie had sent me two photos of great looking plants but with unrecorded names. I won't mention them to you because you may get intrigued!



Hohenbergia group (Photo J Batty)

What surprises me in the interest in *Hohenbergia* which could be described as a genus like *Aechmea* but with spiner leaves and when they do flower, expect little hairy things. What surprises me even more is that they are favourites with the Japanese where they admire the plant's shape. Julie's photo sure impresses

Another to impress was a flowering *Vriesea simplex* which has been known from the wild in 1831 and no-one has produced a hybrid to better it. Mind you, it had me wondering if it were closer to *V. scalaris* and I leave you to decide.

8. Floral bracts much more than half as wide as long, 35-45 mm long, their margins much overlapping behind the sepals. Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil.

simplex.

8. Floral bracts not more than half as wide as long, not over 35 mm long, their margins overlapping little if at all. Brazil.

scalaris



Vriesea simplex (Photo J Batty)



Orthophytum 'Warana' (Photo J Batty)

Just a final mention on *Orthophytum* where hybridists maintain they can improve on what nature produces. I refer to *O. gurkenii* which is not common in collections but a selected form (but variable) 'Warren Loose' is common. To think that an unknown father produced 'Warana' whose photo we show. The differences in these 3 plants are minute and contradicts my opinion that names are important!!!!

October sales overview

A Colourful showing of the variety of Bromeliad genera on display, combined with the generous exchange of information, helpful and animated growers, a varied range of quality bromeliads for sale, enthusiastic customers, and plenty of good humour again contributed to our very successful October weekend 'Extravaganza'

There was a steady stream of eager customers both days, (instead of the usual lengthy queue waiting for the door to open) either coming prepared with boxes or picking one up on the way in then some time later leaving with somewhat heavier boxes.

Those who donated the excellent raffle plants especially Sue (see separate article) & Len provided a real incentive to buy tickets when any one of them would make the winner happy.

It is evident that a show and sale with a good atmosphere not only boosts the club's finances but appeared to be enjoyed by all, we also welcomed several new members inspired by the friendliness of members & the diversity of bromeliads.

Many thanks to all who gave up their time to help set up on Friday and especially on Sunday afternoon packing up and cleaning which was completed in record time once again, 'many hands make light work' is very appropriate & **greatly appreciated.** Bev



Vriesea/*Goudeaea*/*Guz* display (Photo J Batty)

Oct Raffle prizes



Sue at the raffle table (Photo Bev)

The raffle is a very popular part of our weekend and thanks to the generosity of some members continues to be great draw card.

The bigheartedness of one member in particular (again these sales) needs to be highlighted & appreciation is extended to Sue for filling the 6 baskets with a total of 28 individual colourful minis'.

Bev

Behind the scenes

There are always a multitude of chores to complete for a smooth & successful sales weekend & one of these is helping the Treasurer(s) by sorting all the sellers' sales labels.

I was very fortunate & thankful to have a young & enthusiastic assistant on Saturday. Scarlet's (daughter of our new member Jessie) main comment & concern was that

her helper was 'too slow!'

Bev



Scarlet & Bev sorting (Photo Bev)

Give aways' to children



Sue with the nearly empty giveaway boxes (Photo Bev)

Over the past years Peter, Ron & Bev have supplied small potted Neoregelias to give to children at our various shows e.g. Home show, Festival of Flowers and our 2 sales. Now that Peter has down sized & we have used most of our larger baskets of smaller plants that we also need for workshops at other Garden club presentations I asked for help with continuing this venture & Sue has again gone well & truly beyond by donating another 20 mini's which we potted. Sadly we ran out of these mid afternoon Sunday.

The goodwill & excitement this promotes is worth the effort & perhaps sometime in the future some of these children when older will be inspired to join the brom obsession.

Bev

Future giveaway's

It has been suggested that our members may like to also donate to the children's giveaway by bringing in during the year small Neoregelia or a Tillandsia that we can pot/ hang ready for the next sales or show. This support & generosity would be greatly appreciated.



Roving Reporter Nov 2018

First I must let you know that Geoff Edwards is nearly 80. In fact he was presented with his OBE award (Over Bloody Eighty) at the meeting and even had a cake. Due to power shortages it only had 2 candles but Geoff had enough puff to blow them out

Wonders rarely happen but I was agreeably surprised when the South African Bromeliad Society started taking an interest in our Society's publication in 1997 called Checklist of Australian Bromeliad hybrids and notes for the hybridist. I don't think the Australian hybrids part will interest them because it was just a list without pictures but the hybridist notes are still pertinent to this day. This brought lots of memories flooding back to when Marie Robinson (our Treasurer) had a computer and I didn't. Many an evening was spent with me dictating and Marie typing. In the same room Ken (Marie's husband) and my Margaret sat quietly testing glasses of Port.

The meeting was our usual end of year special afternoon tea and frantic plant swapping and Auction run by Bill Treloar ably assisted by Adam, the bag-lady Sue, occasionally Bev did walking exercises and we must not forget the Eftpos backup by Trudi. After the plant swap Bill quickly auctioned off the plants with no labels. If I were a newbie this would have been an exciting time for me because this is how plants are found in the wild and you are on a steep learning curve to work out identity.

And so the auction progressed. Some of the names mentioned were oldies which brought the 1997 book to mind and had me cogitating. How many of plants mentioned in the 120 pages are still alive. How well had they fared according to Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest.

We know that in any collection it is the newbies that are mollycoddled with the oldies being put at the back. Those that live are truly survivors! So names like *Neoregelia* 'Beefsteak' being called out brought back memories.

By 1997 Aussie hybridists had got the message that formulas may look posh but meant little. This did not stop imports from the USA getting into Qld under formula. Whenever Margaret got a plant with a formula on the label we would wait for flowering, try to find the hybridist which was usually futile, give it a name, and put it on the Aussie list. This was in the hope that the hybridist may see our action and lift his/her game. But formulas still exist especially in the USA. So it was inevitable that we had a formula in the auction where the comment was made that this was a Skotak hybrid. The interesting thing here is that Skotak is a prolific hybridiser whose best results get into the European market. The US market is covered by selections made by Eloise Beach in Florida. So any formula plant allegedly from Skotak could only be considered a Skotak escapee. I also heard the name *punctatissima* as being part of the formula which gave me the shudders. Detail follows

Neoregelia punctatissima originally described in 1954 by Butcher 2008

This all started in Australia in 1984 when plants were coming from the USA as *Neoregelia punctatissima* based on the photograph in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society #6 p. 197 (1974) This had been taken by W. W. G. Moir of Hawaii. As Bill Morris pointed out in the Australian Journal. Bromeleter #2 p.8 (1984) there appeared to be no similarity between this plant and the formal description in Lyman Smith's Monograph. This misidentification remains to this day as evidenced by photographs sent to <http://fcb.org> for our Photo Index. All claims to have used this 'species' in hybrids has been covered in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry by putting a ?*punctatissima* as the parent. You cannot even use the Cultivar convention by using single quotes and starting with the name with a capital letter such as 'Punctatissima' because of homonym problems. This is why it is now recorded as 'Punctate' If you have seen the photograph by W W G Moir it is a plant with *N. ampullacea* traits and probably of hybrid origin. Perhaps someone who has used this clone in hybridising can advise whether it acts as a species when used at supposedly F1 level.

Brazilians continued to claim they had found 'punctatissima' in the wild and Skotak accepted their word. Full investigation showed it was just another form of *N. ampullacea* and now goes under the name of Neo 'Rafa'

Adam did mention that if you wanted to get roots on offsets quicker you could put them in the leaf axils of another plant. I had never heard of this trick either because we had a better way by having *Neoregelias* in our collections too. A trait of *Neoregelia* is to flower in the cup of water in the centre of the plant and we know that flowers have nectar which sweetens the water. This sweetened water seems to encourage root growth. BUT not all is honey because sweetened water eventually ferments. If you have ever kept a flowering *Neoregelia* in your lounge room you will know what I mean. If you keep a dog you will know that it will love to eat such tasty but smelly vegetables.

This, in turn reminds of a plant in the auction called *Neoregelia* 'Foster's Favorite' which may be accepted by Newbies but Oldies will know it as an *Aechmea* Reading follows

Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite' Complex in 2000 by Butcher

This all started in 1945 when Mulford Foster crossed *Aechmea racinae* with *Aechmea victoriana* var. *discolor* to produce *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' which was patented in 1949 (see BSIJ 1988 #2 page 55 by Racine Foster). The interesting thing is that much trouble was spent in describing the plant but not the inflorescence and we do not know what it is supposed to look like! It is accepted that the inflorescence is pendant and is like *Aechmea racinae* but with a darker red ovary with dark purplish petals edged in white that we generally associate with *Aechmea victoriana* var. *discolor*. To add to the confusion Padilla says (Bromeliads 1973 page 123) petals are coral tipped blue, and Bromeliad Treasury (1983) as yellow! Baensch in Blooming Bromeliads (1994) page 79 shows dark purplish edged white.

Since that time I am sure that others have repeated the cross using different clones or have grown self-set seed from *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' while still calling them *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite' or giving them a new name. 'Black Jack' and 'Perez' are just two examples. Variegation appeared in one plant in 1951 and was named *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite Favorite' by Foster in 1953. Shortly afterwards this plant sported again only this time in the collection of Hazel Mueller but with red stripes this time and was called 'Red Ribbon'

Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite', Foster's Favorite Favorite', and 'Red Ribbon' got exported to Australia and no doubt Australians also grew on seed from these hybrids to add to the confusion. However, this traffic was not all one-way!

In 1996 Tropiflora offered the "famed" Australian clone for sale (see Oct 1996 edition of Cargo Report) and this has an interesting story that I will relate to you. Information is from the Australian Journal "Bromeleter" 1972 #5.

In the early 1960's *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite Favorite' was imported to Sydney and offsets were in demand even though the plant did not particularly like Sydney's winter weather.



Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite' (Photo J Batty)

A little while later it was rumoured that a more hardy form had come into being somewhere "Up North". Olwen Ferris, these days known as the Grande Dame of Aussie Bromeliads, and a Trustee of the BSI, was then the Editor of Bromelletter and was apt to travel the "Country" looking for the odd Bromeliad. In 1970 on her way back from Queensland she found a vigorous Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite Favorite'. On discussing the plant with the nurseryman she found out that it was the alleged Australian Sport obtained from a person now deceased! The trail was cold! But, was it? Olwen does not give up easily.

She checked old membership lists and decided that "Up North" meant FNQ (Far North Queensland) and wrote to a lady who lived near Townsville. Yes, she did have the plant having bought it in Townsville. (Only some 1400 miles north of Sydney). BUT she understood the original plant came from Port Macquarie (Only 400 miles north of Sydney). Olwen knew of a lady who did have a small nursery in Port Macquarie and Yes, the plant had originated there! The search had ended!

While everyone in the Bromeliad World knows of Mulford Foster few Australians remember Mrs Jean Cannon who started of the "famed" Australian clone. Apparently she had got seed of Aechmea racinae x Aechmea victoriana var. discolor from Germany {I can't always blame Americans!} and grew on the plants. ONE became variegated!

Jean Cannon sold 3 offsets, all going "Up North" to Queensland but then her interest in Bromeliads faded as the nursery found Orchids more profitable. The original plant died through neglect. This is just one example that sharing plants around is their best chance of survival.

So if you did buy a plant from Tropicflora please think about Jean Cannon who started it all off.



Thank you to all who donated the pups & plants for the swap & auction. This was again a great success & a lot of fun even tho some of us were unsuccessful in our bids! The amount raised was \$1,140 –well done & thankyou!
Bev

Bromeliad Society of South Australia March 2019 Trophy classes

‘Joan Williams’ for Best Aechmea

‘Len Cork’ for Best Billbergia

‘Maureen Hick’ for best midi Neoregelia (between 250mm and 400mm)

‘Bill Treloar.’ for Best Species

‘Len Colgan’ for Best Single Tillandsia or grey leaf Vriesea

‘Peter Huddy’ for Best pattern leaf Vriesea/Goudaea

Josie Tonkin Trophy for best Tillandsia or grey leaved Vriesea clump/specimen (3 or more plants).

Margarete Reppin Trophy for -"Pricklies"Dyckia , Fosterella, Hechtia, Deuterocohnia, Pitcairnia , Puya etc

Presidents Trophy for Inter-Generic bromeliads -xHohenmea, xNeomea, xNeotanthus, xNidumea, xNiduregelia, xOrthomea, xSincoregelia, xVriecantarea, xVrieslandsia, xWalfussia

Gummow Trophy for best multiple specimen (3or more) any Genus all joined

Marie Robinson Trophy Vriesea/Guzmania green leaf

George (Gerd) Rudolph Trophy for Artistic Merit

Neoregelia Trophy for Best Neoregelia.(Large-over 400mm)

Jeanne Hall for Best Miniature Neoregelia (up to 250mm)

Ede Schaefer Trophy for Best in show

‘.....’ Reserve Best in show

Auntie Margaret & Uncle Derek for "Novice award"

Future Raffle prize donation

At recent Committee meeting it was suggested that to continue this very popular feature at our sale weekends and to share the undertaking each seller will be asked to donate a quality plant to the raffle, there will be a ‘raffle coordinator’ to assist with this and we appreciate your support & generosity. *Bev*

2018 Reflections- From your Secretary

This has been another successful yet busy “Bromaholic” year involving several presentations to various Garden clubs, Festival of Flowers, sales extravaganzas, meetings, display of Bromeliads in Royal show which included multiple winners in the Bromeliad plants Competition sections, Sunday Mail Home and Garden show and Christmas in July.

We continue to welcome new members to our group and we hope the involvement is lengthy, rewarding & informative.

This is an appropriate time to recall those friendships we have lost in the last few years, but memories remain dear & I again acknowledge their contributions to our Society- sadly missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts are with members who have lost loved ones and those who are experiencing ill health or a crisis.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to all with special appreciation to individual members who assist with the many mundane but necessary chores. Also gratitude is given to those who continue to give me support & friendship. It is great to be part of a friendly, inclusive & informative group.

Seasons greetings, wishing everyone a safe & prosperous 2019

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

Pup/ plant auction Planning 2019

There have been comments that the pup/plant auction could be changed to a different time of the year as being so close to our sales weekend makes it a challenge for those wishing to buy &/or bid at each. Please give us some feedback on this.

Bev

AGM February 10th 2019

All Committee & Executive positions will become vacant at the AGM, please give consideration & nominate to join this group.

Trudy, & Jeff are thanked for their terrific work, but they are unavailable next year so Annette has offered to take on this important role of Treasurer. *Bev*



Festival of Flowers 2019

Planning is underway for this 2 day event which will again be at St Paul's on 27th April & 28th April.

This is the only one of its kind in the gathering of like minded gardening groups and is a unique South Australian enterprise.

The Committee is formulating something different in the additional display featuring plants from each group. *Bev*



Celebrations

We rely on our members to let us know when they or a friend in the Society is celebrating a special occasion that then gives us the opportunity to acknowledge & extend best wishes etc.

When it is the significant milestone of 80 we will provide a cake & certificate if given at least a couple of weeks notice.

Bev



Season's greetings.

On behalf your BSSA Committee everyone is wished a happy, healthy & memorable Christmas with a safe & great 2019

Bev



Plant of the month change

This continues with a step back in time by having particular genera most months as this will give more opportunities for us to identify & learn about specific genera. The proposed list will be on the 2019 magnets & on the front page of each issue of BSSA Gazettes. *Bev*

March 2019 – Things to remember

The black cloths members took to launder will need to be back by our March meeting at the latest, also all trophies are to be returned by that meeting as well. Many thanks

Bev

Summer chores in the shade house

There is a strong likelihood that we will experience an El Nino weather event again this year, certainly for the first two months of summer. This means that temperatures will be hotter than normal and rainfall will most likely lower than normal. We only have to look back as far as 2003 to remember the peak of one of the worst droughts in history when many members lost large portions of their collections due to an extended extremely hot dry summer.

An El Nino event happens when the ocean surface temperatures are above the long-term norms. This phenomenon impacts on our weather, specifically, lower than normal rainfall and above average temperatures. The two combined will likely create extended periods of extremely low humidity levels.

What does this mean for our plant collections?

When our plants endure low humidity conditions they become stressed, one of Mother Nature's inbuilt mechanisms is to close the stomata or pores, which also limits their ability to capture carbon dioxide uptake, in other words, breath!

Simply watering more cannot always overcome the moisture losses from our plants and it is not the author's intention to discuss watering regimes here. Other measures may need to be considered and most collectors would be aware of the pitfalls of watering tank type plants, of which many bromeliads are, the plants will literally boil.

My Tillandsias get misted very early in the morning and sometimes again late in the day after sundown. The misting method of watering usually evaporates very quickly and they cope reasonably well. Agave on the other hand when given too much water suffer in a very different way, the high uptake of water causes the leaves to swell and then they eventually split resulting in permanent damage.

Many succulents do not like being watered from above and perform better when the water is drawn up from below. Placing a saucer under the pot or placing several small pots in a tray can help, the excess water that flows out of the bottom of the pot after watering and is captured, then rises up through the soil as the top of the pot dries out. This method works quite well but the grower must be aware of potential salinity increases.

Another task to consider is moving your plants closer to the ground away from the radiant heat that comes from being too close to a shade cloth roof. Grouping plants together to create a micro zone where they will 'share' humidity lost with each other is also very effective, larger hardier plants can protect or shade the more delicate ones.

The addition of a second layer of shade cloth also helps as does laying shade cloth over upper benches to protect the more delicate plants below.

Another technique we use is a misting system that operates on a time clock and sprays water down at the crushed rock on the shade house floor. This event takes place at regular intervals across the day and as the water evaporates the air temperature lower down in the shade house drops and the humidity level rises albeit only a little but it does assist with the more delicate plants.

All of these techniques require observation of your own personal microclimates and you the human will be the best judge of the outcomes, Mother Nature on the other hand will set you the test. *Ray Clark*