

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

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B. Obi-Wan (Photo J. Batty)

MEETING & SALES 2018 DATES

08/4/2018 (Safety in the garden-Ray Clark), 06/5/2018- 1st SUNDAY (Workshop- pups, soils etc), 3/6/2018-1st SUNDAY (Guest speaker)- Len Colgan 8/7/2018 (Challenges growing Brom's), 12/8/2018(Winter brag) 16/9/2018-3rd SUNDAY (Plants from Interstate), 14/10/2018 (to be advised), 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.

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.

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual : NOW Due Feb 2018

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Roving Reporter January 2018

Another New Year with lots of new things to learn, whatever your age or length of membership. Lots of people there at the meeting and to me many seemed new and therefore boding well for the Society. The problem is when you get old like me, and many seem new. Your eyesight makes badges seem small and hard to read. But they all seemed to recognise me which means we are halfway there. These days the memory is rusty too so it is better if things are kept simple. Human badges are simple because you do not show parentage. Plant labels which show alleged parentage are difficult. One plant that will be written about later is a hum-dinger. The problem with hybrids is easily solved by checking the Bromeliad Cultivar Register using your computer or Mobile phone if you have the latest fancy ones! There are over 14,000 names to pick from, including parentage, most with photos. To think that 20 years ago there were no photos! Yes, there are some cases where the hybridist has not bothered to record his hybrid and the purchaser can only put in the ‘hard word’ for some action. Yes, anyone can give a plant a nickname just as used to happen in my old neck of the woods in England with relatives. I had an Aunt Totty whose real name was Alice. Just try to trace her in a ‘Who do you think you are?’

The topic for the meeting was ‘Pricklies’ and there were several for Adam to talk about but there were many other plants brought in including some with leaves that could be described as prickly. In fact one *Billbergia* ‘Obi-Wan’ from Sue Skrabei did have large spines and won the Popular plant award. I am intrigued with the name which has links to ‘Starwars’ and I wonder if the name is copyrighted in the USA!

You may recall when we had that talk on *Dyckias* last year it was recommended that these be grown in the garden because they have evolved to grow in the sun in rocky places. All what we call ‘Pricklies’ are the same and if you do grow in pots they need overhead protection. Remember that you are growing them in artificial conditions with artificial soil mix.

When you grow plants from seed of seedlings it is great to be able to somehow prove the name on the label could well be correct. One plant that Hans brought in had been in my collection for years without flowering, and Hans had achieved the ‘impossible’! The plant had come from Rudi Schulz when he was collecting in the dry areas of Brazil. Rudi did have a nursery in Victoria but now lives in New Zealand, somewhere. At least we now know it is a *Dyckia* not an *Encholirium*. That is as far as I can go. We do not know where the seed was collected and 100’s of names to check. What I find interesting is that there are many *Dyckia* found many years ago but no further collections made and yet lots of new ones. So I think it better that Hans calls his plant *Dyckia* from Schulz.



D. estevesii (Photo J. Batty)

Two *Dyckias* that caught Julie Batty’s eye included a well grown plant called *D. dissitiflora*. This came to me as seed from my mate Oscar Ribeiro in Brazil. We await flowers to confirm the name. The leaves are whiter than expected and I suggest the current owner put *D. dissitiflora* Ex Oscar Query on the label. *D. estevesii* is a one off in the *Dyckia* world because it has leaves in a distichous arrangement (like pages in a book) not spirostichous (in a spiral). For those who may be interested I wrote the following in 2010.

Dyckia estevesii revisited by Derek Butcher in J Brom Soc 60(2): 82-84. 2010

In J Brom Soc 37: 120-2. 1987 Werner Rauh introduced us to a startling distichous leaved *Dyckia* but in the same year he gave a more reasoned account regarding its origins in German in Trop. Subtrop. Pflanz. 60: 16-21. 1987.

In the German edition he was aware that a spirostichous leaved version was in existence which produced seedlings where some became distichous as they matured. He considered that this spirostichous plant was a hybrid and yet we know that seed from a hybrid produces a hybrid not a species!

And so this fact has been left unresolved for 22 years!

2009 has been a vintage year for me regarding *Dyckia* because I stumbled across a 'Dyckia blog' compiled by a Constantino Gastaldi from Santa Catarina in Brazil.

Ever since the 1980's I had become more and more disillusioned with the *Dyckia* situation. All that seemed to be happening was importation to the USA of species and unregistered hybridising being made mainly in California. I was interested in seed from species and over the years we did get some satisfaction through Heidelberg in Germany. No one in Brazil seemed interested in this complex genus where the only real record was Smith & Downs 1974.



xQuesmea 'Jigsaw Puzzle' (Photo J. Batty)

What detail should you write on the label? Clearly it would be understandable by the writer. If you had checked the label on the *xQuesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle' (The 'x' by the way, indicates it is a bigeneric cross) you would see lots of information but it would have taken along time to write it. The following makes interesting reading especially if you are not a member of the BSI.

x Quesmea 'Jigsaw Puzzle' by G Lawn in J Brom Soc 62(1): 42-45. 2012

Recently Brisbane, Australia grower Rick Cairns posted online a mystery bromeliad photo on Global Bromeliad Forum (<http://www.bromeliadforum.za.net>). This cultivar was not new in Australia, having circulated for maybe a decade and initially was thought to be an unidentified *Aechmea* hybrid from an unknown breeder and untraceable source. In the intervening years this unregistered cultivar acquired several alias names- - *Quesnelia edmundoi* "Black", *Aechmea* "Peachy Keen" and *Aechmea* "Black Olive" at show sales, through Aussie eBay and other outlets.

A consensus among several leading Aussie breeders and/or growers was that the hybrid was more likely a bigeneric, specifically *x Quesmea*. An identification breakthrough came with the discovery of a parentage label of *Quesnelia edmundoi* var. *rubrobracteata* *x Aechmea chantinii* "Peachy Keen" in the Gold Coast, Queensland collection of John Catlan & Genny Vauhkonen. They had acquired one plant locally and another identical clone specimen reputedly from Thailand.

However, my enquiries with several Thai breeders and growers drew a blank as the photos submitted were unknown to them. Similarly, the name of "Peachy Keen" as a cultivar of *Ae. chantinii* was not recognized by several U.S. growers and their contacts I consulted.

Northern New South Wales grower Kerry Tate has followed this case for several years, piecing together what little information has been known and for that reason wanted to name and register this cross as *x Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle', also to hopefully sort out the confusion and settle on one legitimate cultivar name, both locally and abroad.

The mature open, funnel-form rosette averages 40 cms. diameter and 50 cms. tall in spike. The dark, frosted, rigid leaves, heavily black-spined and with muted silvery crossbands, together with orange-red primary scape bracts, suggest a dark form of *Ae. chantinii* was the pollen parent used (assuming the correct procedure was followed by tag-writing the seed parent first). However, the emerging inflorescence of clean yellow petals, yellow sepals and yellow floral bracts indicate *Quesnelia edmundoi* var. *edmundoi* is more likely the seed parent - not *Q. edmundoi* var. *rubrobracteata* which has red scape bracts, red floral bracts, blue petals and reddish foliage. During the blooming process in mid/late Spring, *x Quesmea* 'Jigsaw Puzzle' extends its inflorescence branches even further, ageing to a burnished gold for several months. Pups are formed on 10 cms. long woody stolons.

So we don't have yet a complete background story of this attractive bigeneric but its photos featured here and in the BSI's online Bromeliad Cultivar Register (<http://registry.bsi.org/>) assures its place in recorded history and as a handy, permanent reference which can be updated later if necessary.

Mystery plant that looked like a *Neoregelia* with a funny centre from Sue Sckrabei has been checked and is most probably Grace Goode's x *Niduregelia* 'Surprise'



Tillandsia capitata (Photo J. Batty)

It was nice to see several *Tillandsia capitata* in flower. This species is very varied and comes from the Caribbean Islands (mainly Cuba) and the central American mainland. Collectors like Renate Ehlers prefer to give it a name that links to where it is found which I prefer, whereas if a nursery is involved they invariably use a colour relating to the primary bracts which I do not like because several different looking plants have the same colour. So I was pleased to see one plant called 'Jamaican Yellow' The problem here is that no botanist has found a *T. capitata* on Jamaica and lodged a herbarium specimen!

Finally to what many of us are growing as *Tillandsia tricolor*. The plant brought in had an inflorescence with a central spike and 4 sub-digitate side spikes and were not certain if it was closer to *T. botteri* or *T. rodrigueziana*. I still do not know but you may be interested in a little research I have done. To think if the inflorescence had been one spike things would be easier.

Smith & Downs in 1977 **had Inflorescence** simple and distichous-flowered or laxly subdigitate from a few spikes;(few flowered, bipinnate panicle, almost equalling the leaves.)

The key said

1. Leaf-sheaths uniformly deep castaneous.
2. Plant flowering over 25 cm high; floral bracts and flowers correspondingly large.
var tricolor.
1. Leaf-sheaths more or less pale maculate; plants 15-35 cm high. *var picta.*

In 2004 the Mexicans decided that the 'tricolor' with side branches from Mexico should be called *T. botteri* . Selby Gardens decided that a plant they had been growing as *T. fasciculata* var. *clavispica* was closer to *T. botteri* so things are not that simple. Did our plant originate in Mexico or Guatemala? The following is of interest – at least to me

Tillandsia 'Tricolor' from Guatemala nurseries

Notes from Renate Ehlers , Germany 7/2008.

The plant called tricolor is not a hybrid but occurs in hot areas in Guatemala by the thousands. In the nursery from Uwe Feldhoff hundreds of them were for sale with the name *T. tricolor*. It might be something like *T. compressa* !

Notes from Chris Larson of Gardenworld, Aust, importers 7/2008.

Both Andrew Flower from New Zealand and I have imported different *T fasciculata* from Guatemala as *T.fasciculata* 'Tricolor'. When purchasing from Bromelifolia under that name you got a form of fasciculata (or close) which is Andrew Flower's AB32 (*fasciculata* var.*venospica*) - and he told me that this is where he got the plant he has photographed as var. *venospica* on his website <http://anwyl.com>

The term "Tricolor" was used for the form of *fasciculata*, as the only 'real' *T. tricolor* in the Guatemalan nurseries is called 'Melanocrater' which can include, occasionally, one type of *fasciculata*!.

Note added 8/2013

Detail from Chris Larson; it also seems that plants called *T. fasciculata* 'Tricolor' can also refer to plants with strong affinities to *T. rodrigueziana*.

So we are never too old to learn and Mother Nature keeps bringing up these curlies.

Oh, by the way, if you ever come across a variegated *Neoregelia* with Anna on the label remember it is yet another Skotak hybrid. Years ago Peter Tristram brought in some unselected Skotak hybrids. The Catlan's acquired a substantial batch and gave them preliminary name of Anna followed by a number. Some were given registered names and some fell by the wayside.



Roving Reporter February and AGM 2018

Bill Treloar did a great job as Convenor where he convinced all members of the Executive and Committee to carry on for another year except for the position of Treasurer. To think that 20 years ago there were so many Bank clerks, Postal clerks, Insurance clerks around who could play the role with ease that we had a number to pick from. These days these are like hen's teeth.

Adam burnt the midnight oil to introduce us all to the problem of all the new genus names that have appeared in the last year. It is a challenge to learn so much and even harder when you are an elderly citizen. First Adam had us trying to remember when Christopher Columbus introduced Europeans to the Indies and exotic fruits like the Pineapple. What he did not point out was that Pineapples were not found in the wild but were being grown by the locals. There is still confusion amongst Botanists as to whether some *Ananas* should have species names or be treated as cultivars.

Anyway, there were several plants on display with photographs with exotic names. I won't repeat their names here because you will get indigestion! So take things in small bites. I must mention here that if you feel sorry for yourself just think a moment about say, the Japanese. I have just got my copy of their Journal via Len Colgan. Here there are 6 pages devoted to name changes! And in English. Rather than trying to look at the whole picture I suggest a better way for individuals is to check the plants that they grow and write a new label. And as Adam said, "Keep both labels in the pot." Mind you, you could do what I used to do is only put the species name on the label and find out the genus name when needed!

There are some that want to put their head in the sand and ignore these changes but just as all living things evolve so too does our naming and interpretation thereof. We have even those who question the naming based on names of current researchers but I believe it is a good move. It consolidates current thinking even though each of the researchers may have different opinions! I have even been asked what is the proper pronunciation. My view is that if the person/s we are speaking to can understand then that should be sufficient. As Stearns Botanical Latin says "Botanical Latin is meant for the printed word not speaking".

If you are worried about the new names just think of the increase in bigeneric names created by man-made hybridising. You know what a bigeneric (or nothogenus) name is because the name has an 'x' in front of it which a multiplication sign BUT for obvious reasons, is not pronounced. Just like 'p' in swimming. To many, DNA is thought to be the answer to the identity of living things and the Human genome is complicated enough. When we realise that plants have been around for several million years compared to humans there must be a lot of guessing going on! We know that a taxon is based on a herbarium specimen but as far as I am aware you can only get DNA from tissue. Who identifies the plant that supplies the DNA data? A false start would mean wrong conclusions. So I still have an open mind as to the results, taking into account what the plant and flowers look like and its habitat.

Adam mentioned *Pseudovriesea* which is a new subgenus of *Tillandsia*, and does not really need to be used in ordinary conversation. It is in the same category as subgenus *Diaphoranthema* which to the *Tillandsia* specialist covers very small *Tillandsias*. What may be interesting is that in the early 1990's I corresponded with Jason Grant. Jason is a botanist, an Alaskan, who spent several years under the eye of Lyman Smith and is now a lecturer in a Swiss University. I could not understand why the grey leaved *Tillandsias* I was growing from Peru and places, were called *Vriesea* by Lyman Smith. Jason came to my rescue in 1993 by transferring all of these to *Tillandsia*. Shock! Horror! Most botanists including Harry Luther ignored this move. Jason only moved them to *Tillandsia* but I felt they should be a group on their own and called them TV (unofficially). You can imagine the joy when Jason and I read that DNA had proved Jason was right after 13 years. They even had their own subgenus of *Pseudovriesea*!

As Adam pointed out some of the new moves made sense because the plant looked different to what you accept to be a typical *Vriesea*. But then some of the moves raised more questions. This is the right approach because it means you do look at your plants and helps you understand the new genus names.

Many members must like Adam's *xSincoregelia* "Galactic Warrior" because it was again awarded "Popular plant". If you have this, don't forget to write a new label. The curious may ask why the regelia part is second whereas it was first in the old name *xNeophytum*. The answer is aesthetics!

While you might like to own a *Sincorea* these do not like living in Adelaide. The toughest one seems to be *S. burlemarxii*. If you want to get the flavour of this genus then *xSincoregelia* is the one to look out for.

Lutheria 'Double Pleasure'. We don't really know why the 'double' unless it means attractive leaves AND flower spike. It is quite hardy in Adelaide and has been around for nearly 60 years so it must be good to have lasted that long. This was an oddity when under *Vriesea* because of its red petals.

Cryptanthus bahianus is one of species that grows well in Adelaide and is one that has not changed its name. Yes, there have been name changes here that will not affect Adelaide growers. I have dared to suggest to the Cryptanthus Society that they change their name to Cryptanthoid Society!



xWallfussia 'Creation' (Photo J. Batty)

To think that *Tillandsia* 'Creation' has become a bigeneric by the name of *xWallfussia* 'Creation'. The fun has only just started because we could see tri-generics here. It all starts with the European market trying to produce superior plants from 'cyanea' which has reverted to its old name of *Wallisia*. The problem here is that they do not divulge parentage.

Now to those that have not changed their name but may have changed because of sporting or mutation. I saw *Neoregelia* 'Alba' and wondered what was its pedigree. There are two sorts of dog owners, one that seeks pedigree and the other that gets mutts from the dog's home (in other words – waifs and strays with unknown parentage.) Brom growers are the same. There is no such registered name so the trail runs cold. Is it a shortened version of *albomarginata* – a form of variegation? Here you are at a loss because what was it that variegated. Here you will see I now use the term variegated which is not a stable situation.

Variegation has always intrigued me. Articles started appearing in the American Journal in 1971 but were based only on Bromeliaceae. 20 years ago I thought I would widen my knowledge and contacted Kew Gardens. Regrettably, I got the feeling that I knew more and there was little interest in the subject in other plants. Clearly, Bromeliad growers were obsessed with the idea. Because of the differences of opinion Geoff Lawn as Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar sought the views of Dr David Benzing. It was most erudite and confused me even more! Some of you may be interested in reading what he had to say

Variegation in Bromeliaceae by David Benzing in Email August 2017

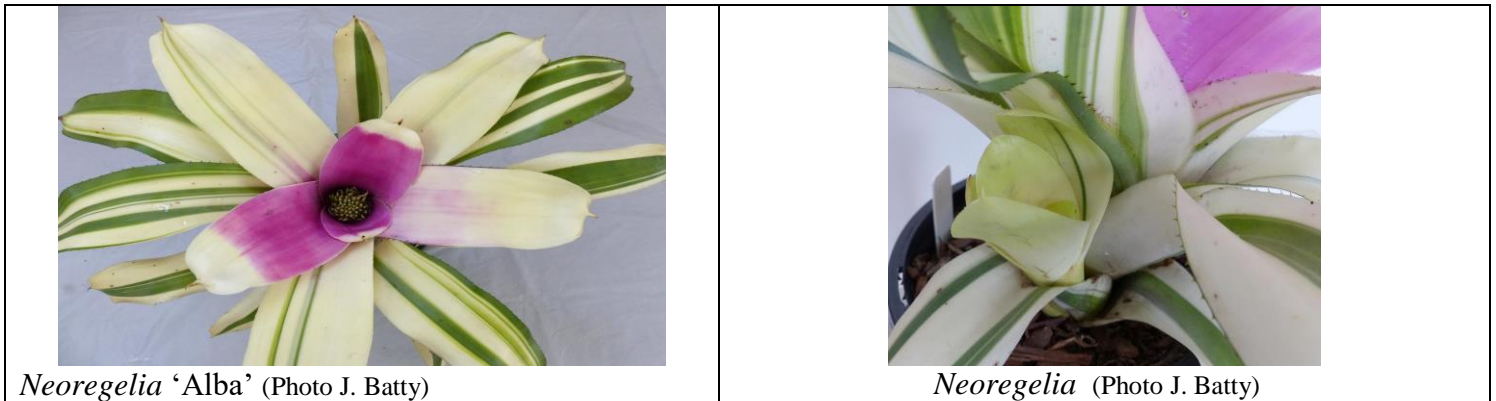
"What you've dug up on the internet is a good example of how bad it's content can be. What's claimed that's true is poorly presented, only half true or flat out incorrect. Here's what I can add that might help. First, I've got to admit that I'm not an authority when it comes to plant pathology or leaf variegation. It's true that the genetic changes that underlie leaf variegations can be spontaneous or induced by a variety of external agents, including ionizing radiation, viruses, mutagenic chemicals, and heat shock. Viruses are ubiquitous of course-even bacteria have them! Their replication always involves disruptive change in the host's genome.

Bromeliads, being monocots possess two kinds of meristems, whose constituent embryonic stem cells are vulnerable to alteration by all of the agents just identified. In addition to the apical meristem that all plants possess (woody plants also have a cambium that causes stems and roots to become thick and woody) monocots have intercalary meristems located at the base of each leaf and this meristem produces the leaf blade in linear fashion, nothing more, whereas the apical meristem located at the apex of every shoot and root is responsible for the growth of those entire organ systems (shoots and roots respectively). Being non-woody, most monocots lack meristem number three, the cambium.

Leaf variegations occur when patches of stem cells within an intercalary meristem possess mutations that block chlorophyll synthesis (or development of the chloroplasts themselves) within those cells rendering them and the cells derived from them non-green. I don't think it's accurate to describe bromeliads as unusually prone to such mutations. It is true that leaf variegations within certain bromeliads are quite unstable, their patterns even shifting from leaf to leaf in a single plant. Such instability can have several causes, viruses for example or simply because the genes that regulate chlorophyll synthesis are unstable in certain genotypes.

But such conditions are to my knowledge no more common in Bromeliaceae than in many other families. It certainly is possible by the way that the progeny from a single mother plant (its seeds) may include the rare variegated individual. The condition of this individual may result because it has a different father, the mother receiving pollen from more than one plant or that seed may have experienced a spontaneous mutation that affected the biosynthetic pathway that mediates chlorophyll synthesis, or simply because it is the possessor of the rare homozygous condition that pops up should the defective chlorophyll synthesis gene be recessive and rare in the subject population's gene pool.

By the way variegations that involve chlorophyll versus anthocyanins (the violet to red pigments) are totally independent genetically, the synthesis of these two classes of pigments being entirely separate. This is why green-white variegations usually exhibit the usual suffusions of pink displayed by non-variegated close relatives. Finally, variegated plants are more common in horticulture than nature in part at least because being less photosynthetically competent than their non-variegated relatives the former are less fit in nature and more vulnerable to elimination by natural selection. "



Neoregelia 'Alba' (Photo J. Batty)

Neoregelia (Photo J. Batty)

Sorry about having to get out the dictionary to find out the meaning of certain words but you should get the gist of what is said. Offsetting can give different looking plants especially in the type of variegation. If they are unusual they should be selected and destroyed if you want to preserve the correct name. This selection rarely happens. Thus the plant that was called *Neoregelia* 'Alba' with no variegation in sight could well have been an offset from a albomarginate plant without variegation and should have had 'Novar' (No variegation) added to mother's name. The marking on the leaves suggest *N. concentrica* in its parentage somewhere. As for the colour of the centre leaves you have to be careful because this is variable if we heed what was said by botanists in years past for plants now treated in synonymy. Then there was a *N. concentrica* Alba on the label where the centre leaves had gone almost completely white with very little green. An attractive plant but as growers we think of the future and therefore offsets. Selection of what offsets to grow is a decision of the grower. Here we had one offset that was almost totally white (I call this an albino) which had no green parts to sustain it when removed from Mother. A decision has to be made on whether to watch this offset slowly die or concentrate on the other offset that had a much greater chance of survival.



N. 'Inkwell' (Photo J. Batty)

We now move to another stunning albomarginate plant called *N. 'Inkwell'*. When you check up the BCR you see a variable plant with variable variegation that had its origins in the early days of Skotak. What a parentage! (*carolinae x concentrica*) crossed with itself and then crossed with 'Big Blue' which doesn't look particularly blue but has links with *N. concentrica*. But it does have a pedigree

There were a few Tillandsias brought in with one coming from the cold (cool?) hills area causing comment. It was *T. vellickina* which wants to flower in our hot Summers but finds it hard to do so. When it was extra hot George Rudolph would put his plant in the fridge overnight when it was about to bloom to prevent the flowers from aborting. Talking of George reminds me of his urge to plant lots of Tillandsias on tree branches like 'Ivy's Root' and me always complaining to him that he had plants that would grow big mixed with littlies.

I was reminded of this with the wreath we saw that had taken a lot of work. I suppose I get too carried away after seeing 40 *T. ionantha* packed in a wreath for comparison

AGM - 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

ALL POSITIONS WERE DECLARED VACANT: BILL TRELOAR CONVENER

PRESIDENT: Adam Bodzioch VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Hall

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

TREASURER: Jointly Trudy Hollinshead & Jeff Hollinshead ASSISTANT TREASURER: To be nominated by Committee

AUDITOR: Annette Bellman

COMMITTEE: Penny Seekamp, Julie Batty, Dave Batty, Kallam Sharman Sue Sckrabei , Jeffrey Hollinshead, Pam Nelson, Ian Cook

POSTAL CLERK: Bev Masters

LIBRARIAN: Penny Seekamp,

AFTERNOON TEA ORGANISER: Bev Masters

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

RAFFLE TABLES COORDINATOR: Bill Treloar

DOOR TICKETS: helpers on the day

RAFFLE TICKETS: helpers on the day

HOST/ESS: Bill Treloar, Annie & Mike Griffin

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, Ian Cook, Kallam Sharman



Roving Reporter March 2018

First I must mention some disturbing news especially for those who import plants from overseas. The last South Aussies who were adventuresome in this area were Len Colgan and myself. I have just finished reading the Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group NSW Feb Newsletter and there was this article based on research done by Chris Larson. The word is XYLELLA and is an invasive bacterial plant pathogen that has yet to reach Australian shores. It is transmitted by insects such as leafhoppers. You may be aware that in my working career I worked in the Insurance Industry and one of our rules was 'Chain of events' when dealing with a claim. Bromeliads themselves do not contain xylella so the chain of events is somewhat tenuous. One wonders what other vegetable matter is prohibited like Oranges from California where xylella can be found. As far as I am aware the only place we can import Bromeliads from is New Zealand.

If this restriction continues it reinforces my belief that we must try harder to conserve what species we do grow and not consider that hybrids are automatically better. The only reason some hybrids seem better is because of hybrid vigour and thus easier to grow.

Now to 'Summer Brag' where members were given the chance to brag about how their plants had survived the hot dry weather. Wow, the number and standard was high. I did say to Mike Griffin that things were easier than last year because we had had shorter hot spells and he said I did not live in Kadina!

I do not know how this happened because there were so many great plants to pick from but 'Glyph' vrieseas still catch the eye and the most popular plant was Adam's 'Southern Rose'. The most courageous plant was undoubtedly the one brought in all the way from Bute and still in its cardboard box. It was well rooted and in vigorous condition and no one was game to check for a hidden label. The consensus was *Ochagavia carnea* but is it *O. litoralis*? Bill is reluctant to take photos with his phone so when it flowers I will be expecting Mike Griffin to do the honours.

In promoting species it was great to see *Vriesea saundersii* And in flower but not in full flower because I wanted to know if the stamens exerted or stayed inside the floral tube. The 'normal' *V. saundersii* has pronounced dark spots on the leaves and this looked different. In 1977 in Smith & Downs we had *V. botafogensis* as a synonym of *V. saundersii* but in 1994 Leme pointed out that they are different because the stamens exert from the petal tube for *V. botafogensis*. I have Julie Batty on flower watch!

Wow! What about the tall flower spike on *Vriesea philippo-coburgii*. But the primary bracts (those things that are below the branches in the flower spike) were greenish yellow but the books say 'red'. Now, there a *Vriesea reitzii* which does have yellowish primary bracts and is easier to write. Apparently *Vriesea philippo-coburgii* grows from sea level to 500 metres whereas *V. reitzii* likes it cooler and grows from 750m upwards. I wonder if there is a mishmash of colours for plants found in between these levels. Will DNA tell us they are closely related?

Much was discussed as to why the 2 plants of Julie's 'Hohenbergia 'Karla' were growing differently and yet no two plants grow exactly the same even when given the same growing conditions. The following makes interesting reading:-



'Hohenbergia 'Karla' (Photo J. Batty)

Hohenbergia 'Karla' by H Prinsler in Die Brom 2: 60-61. 2013

In 1987 I saw some nice looking tank-type bromeliads on a shelf at the Femo Tillandsia nursery in Langenfeld, Germany. Mr. Mowinski told me that these plants were collected by Prof. Werner Rauh and the Brazilian cactus specialist Leopoldo Horst on a trip in Brazil. I was able to buy all the plants at that time. At home the plants were sorted and potted and put into my Bromeliad collection. There were three different types. Whether they were three different species, was not known at that time. I found out that they belong to the genus *Hohenbergia*. One species was determined by me to be

Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii. In the next few years I began to propagate the plants to build a stock of them. I hit on the idea of cultivating them more like succulents because of their greyish scales that made them look like they were covered with flour, their large teeth and hard leaves. The plants got more light and a less humus-rich substrate. Under these conditions the leaves coloured light grey and the shape of the plants got more bulbous.

A few years later the stock of these plants had grown and I gave away the first plants to people who were interested in them. One day I saw on one of the plants a leaf which had a white longitudinal stripe. The following year I took off the pups from this plant. The pup that had been growing in the axil of the striped leaf already showed some leaves with white variegation. In the following years, the progeny of this one was propagated and a type with uniform white marginal variegation was selected. After a long time, 25 years by now, I have a stock of 150 uniformly variegated plants. I am very happy about my success since in my collection I already grow many species and hybrids with white variegation and I always had an eye out for these.

Some three years ago Uwe Scharf from Leipzig, Germany told me that my *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* was actually a *H. magnispina*. I got a true *H. leopoldo-horstii* from him.

The plant I am introducing here is named for my wife Karla: *Hohenbergia magnispina* 'Karla'. The two other types of *Hohenbergia* that I bought long ago are *H. utriculosa* (det. W. Till 2007) on the one hand and a *H. sp.*, that still has to be identified, on the other hand.

All three types have similar inflorescences. Sometime in the future a scientist must determine if these three types are really three different species.

The plants should be grown quite bright. The substrate should not be too humus-rich but more like a substrate for succulents. This is closer to their terrestrial life habit in their natural environment. After hardening the plants off in spring they can be grown outside in full sun during the summer.

So 'Karla' is in Adelaide and in years to come we will see offsets available. It is sure to be on members want lists. There is a further twist to this story that affects me. In 2003 my friend Oscar Ribeiro found this different *Hohenbergia* in the wild and we discussed it. Eventually Elton Leme published it as *Hohenbergia magnispina*. This was a Brazilian collection and is not related directly to the plants mentioned in the above article. Discussion as to how the German collections fit Brazilian interpretations continues!

And so to another *Hohenbergia* hybrid that Ian Cook (Cookster) had acquired from Qld. I would suggest it is another grown for plant structure rather than flowers. It comes with the name 'Ninja Ghost' and is a bigeneric called *xHohenmea*. There are several brothers and sisters sharing the name 'Ninja'. They all share the same trait of grey dusting on the leaves. This comes from the *Aechmea chantinii* parent. As soon as I see *A. chantinii* I shudder because of my experience with this plant which does not like Adelaide winters. But the fact that it has hybrid vigour makes me optimistic for Ian.



xHohenmea 'Ninja Ghost' (Photo J. Batty)

Everyone was intrigued with a plant called *Canistrum auratum* cv Vania Leme and so they should because it is very rare and must have crept in via New Zealand. You, no doubt, will assume that the cv stands for cultivar but may not realise that this term was made redundant some 25 years ago. The following is an interesting read

A NEW CULTIVAR OF AN ELUSIVE CANISTRUM by Peter Waters

A bromeliad species rare in cultivation is *Canistrum auratum* Leme. In "Canistrum - Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest" it says about this plant, which was previously subject to only two collections'..... 'at today's deforestation rates, it has become increasingly difficult, or even impossible, to find this species again in the wild. There are very few specimens of *C. auratum* in cultivation. All arose from the original clone, which does not guarantee the survival of this species *ex situ*.'

On an expedition to Bahia, Brazil in Sep 2003, our team which consisted of Elton Leme, Raymundo Reis, Jose Falcon, Carlos Moreira, Edmundo Silva, Marlon Machado and Peter & Jeanette Waters, discovered a new population of *Canistrum auratum* in the county of Barra do Choca near the city of Vitoria da Conquista and the same day, a few kilometers away, in a small fragment of Atlantic Forest at about 600m elevation made an even more dramatic find of a new cultivar of the same species.

This new and striking plant has wonderfully marked and banded foliage in shades of purple and dark-brown in addition to its attractive orange and yellow inflorescence, and is sure to be highly sought after in the horticultural world.

Because leaf colour is not recognized as sufficient reason for varietal status, it is intended to assign a cultivar name to this new introduction, and it gives me great pleasure to name it *Canistrum* 'Vania Leme' after the beautiful wife of our friend, Elton Leme, the foremost authority on Brazilian bromeliads. Vania fully deserves the recognition for many years of support of her husband's work.

The Tillandsia area had its usual surprises. One was a *T. intermedia* which did not seem to know whether to flower or offset. This oddity comes from the west coast of Mexico. The following may be of interest

TILLANDSIA INTERMEDIA MEZ by Derek Butcher Fulham, S.A. in Bromeleter 31(1): 12-3. 1993

This story of a tangled web started in 1898 when Mez described a plant collected by Langlasse as *Tillandsia intermedia*. It had a long flower stem, was viviparous, and came from the Pacific coast of Mexico at Zihuatanejo. If you have a detailed atlas you should find it 17.37N, 101.34W.

Previously in 1878 Baker described *T. paucifolia*, but in 1889 reconsidered and put *T. paucifolia* under *T. bulbosa*. This bit of information had me looking at the plants I have under the name of *T. bulbosa*. I have 3 or 4 different forms and one I imported from the U.S. some ten years ago is more scurfy than the others and last year's flower head does not seem to look like a *T. bulbosa*. Check Paul Isley's book "Tillandsia" for comparisons. I'm now eagerly waiting for it to flower again for closer comparison but at the moment

I am thinking *T. paucifolia*! Perhaps you too might like to check your own collection. Smith's key differentiates by having *T. bulbosa* with orbicular leaf sheaths and *T. circinnata* with ovate or elliptic leaf sheaths. My key has step A58 showing *T. paucifolia* as having a long cylindrical bulb compared to the shorter more oval bulb of *T. bulbosa*.

I'm not sure what happened in the intervening 50 odd years but in 1951 in Smith's studies in the Bromeliaceae XVI we find *Tillandsia circinnata* Schlect with *T.paucifolia* Baker and *T. intermedia* Mez included in the synonyms and this detail was reproduced in Flora Neotropica in 1977. In 1982, Wilhelm Weber pointed out that after studying the type specimens in Berlin the name *T. circinnata* was originally applied by Schlechtendal to a very different species which we now know as *T. streptophylla*. See B.S.I. Journal 1982 pages 28-31. Renate Ehlers was still puzzled with *T.paucifolia* because she found that "*T.paucifolia*" on the Pacific coast of Mexico had extra long flower stems. Those from Florida, the Caribbean Islands, and the coasts facing the Gulf of Mexico had short flower stems. Finally in 1991 we have the following article. This is a broad translation of an article by Klaus and Renate Ehlers in Die Bromelie 2/1991 page 46.

"Mez described in 1898 a plant collected near Cihuatanejo by Langlasse No.370 as *Tillandsia intermedia*. The isotype is in the Humboldt Herbarium in Berlin. It is distinguished from *T.paucifolia* Baker by

- (1) Coming from the Pacific coast of Mexico between Zihuatanejo and Puerto Vallarta.
- (2) The different habit in that it is a narrow plant with long mostly twisted, not sharp leaf blades, a very long flower stem & different spike. The plant is very variable with a reported giant form from Maruata to 60cm long and 140cm long when flowering. Whilst there is viviparous offsetting there is also basal offsetting and can completely cover a bush or even a tree. Other plants can be scarcely 5cm long.

The Ehlers have made numerous journeys into these special areas and have not been able to find any distinguishable differences amongst the various young plants. The feature of viviparous growth (such as in *T.baileyi*, *T.stricta*, *T.cacticola*, *T.argentea*) can hardly be used to split into a subspecies or a variety. The isotype deposited in Berlin shows that the viviparous growth emerges from the lower half of the inflorescence. The result is that *T.intermedia* Mez is a good species rather than being a synonym of *T. paucifolia* Baker. *T.paucifolia* subs. *schubertii* F.Ebel and Roeth in Flora pages 179-187, Halle 1988 is considered a synonym of *T.intermedia* Mez. The classification of the plants ranging from Florida to Cuba need further wide study."

You should be able to find Puerto Vallarta quite easily on any Mexican map but Maruata is a bit more difficult. It is found at 18°.16N, 103°.20W.

The cultivar 'Dimmitt's Delight' is clearly *T.intermedia* and probably does not need this cultivar name now that it is NOT a *T.paucifolia*! Paul Isley does mention in his book 'Tillandsia' that this plant comes from Mexico and if what Renate Ehlers says is true must come from the Pacific coast.

T.paucifolia var. *prolifera* is a plant given this name by the U.S. nursery trade and has no botanical standing but this too must be considered as being another *T.intermedia* Mez. If you are aware of any collections of this *T. intermedia* Mez NOT on the Pacific coast of Mexico please let me know and I will advise Renate Ehlers.

And then to the potted stuff where we saw *T. chiapensis* in full flower. Reports from around Australia seem to suggest that 2018 is the year of the chiapensis. While the original descriptin says it has a single spike it seems that with feeding you can get multiple spikes. The one that caught great attention was *T. confertiflora* which comes from the Ecuador/Peru border area. It has been discussed at past meetings as the photo below shows.



T. confertiflora (Photo J. Batty)



T. confertiflora being discussed by Derek & Len (Photo Rose Van Gorp)

Garden visit

Members are invited to Peter Hall's garden at 18 Coorilla Ave, Glenelg North on Sunday April 15th from 1.30PM.

This is an opportunity to socialise whilst enjoying a colourful & inspiring setting especially 'Jeanne's garden' and afternoon tea will be available.

There will be bromeliads for sale as Peter is down sizing.

Bev



Jeanne's garden

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS



This event is held on the 21st and 22nd of April at St Paul's College, 792 Grand Junction Road, Gilles Plains and planning is well underway. Mark the date in your diary as our members are needed to make the day successful.

Apart from plant sales there are many jobs for which you can volunteer – selling raffle tickets at the entrance foyer, helping in the kitchen, setting up the tables, assisting wherever needed and importantly selling bromeliads and giving growing advice then on Sunday packing up and cleaning at the end of the show.

There will be a Roster passed around at the April meeting along with a Festival of Flowers volunteer badge that must be worn also please wear your Bromeliad name badge. Thank you in anticipation of your support. *Bev*

BSSA March extravaganza & sales



Section of display (Photo J. Batty)

This was another successful event, attendances both days & sales were down a little from the previous event.

A Colourful showing of the variety of Bromeliad genera on display, including the much admired featured exhibit of the winning plants in the annual judging. The generous exchange of information, a varied range of quality bromeliads for sale, enthusiastic customers, and plenty of good humour again contributed to our very successful March weekend 'Extravaganza'

There was a shorter than usual line of eager customers waiting for the door to open Saturday morning, coming prepared with boxes or picking one up on the way in then some time later with somewhat heavier boxes again waiting in the queue to pay.

Those who donated the excellent raffle plants provided a real incentive to buy tickets when any one of them would make the winner happy. Many thanks to all who gave up their time (particularly Anthea) to help set up on Friday and especially on Sunday afternoon packing up and cleaning which was completed again in record time, 'many hands make light work' is very appropriate & **greatly appreciated.** *Bev*

Photos and Judging results will be published in our next Gazette with Trophy presentations at the May general meeting.