



# East London Bromeliad Society

South Africa

NEWS  
LETTER

May  
2017

Established: 25 July 2009

*Our aim is to promote and encourage awareness and interest in Bromeliads in East London and all of South Africa!*

ELBS is an Affiliated Society of  Bromeliad Society International

## May Meeting

We held a very interesting and jam packed April meeting on a hot Autumn afternoon at the home of Irene Manthe, with her lovely tranquil garden to wander around. It was one of the Pam Golding Open Gardens a few years back. Irene is fairly new to collecting bromeliads but is a keen gardener and it shows. She will be retiring in a months time and looking forward to it very much!

Lyn told us all about her trip to the Sunnysbroms Conference and then Dudley presented the next topic on horizontally banded *Neoregelia* varieties. He brought many fantastic bromeliads from his collection to show us and really bowled us over!!!! To those of you who weren't there, you were missed and you can catch up here. Thank you Lyn and Dudley and everyone present for a super interesting afternoon!



Our hostess for the afternoon in her lovely garden, Irene Manthe in the centre with Brenda Wegner and Val Nel on the left and Bev McGregor and Pam Rogers on the right.

## Sunny Brooms Conference - Lyn Wegner

**The 19th Australasian Bromeliad Conference - 30 March to 2 April 2017.**

I recently returned home after attending another bromeliad conference. This one was held at Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast in Australia. I travelled on my own again, Trevor just can't manage all those hours cramped in a plane seat and doesn't have the need to look at more broms!

I left East London on Tuesday morning 28<sup>th</sup> March. I flew to Johannesburg, Perth and then on to Brisbane. Many hours of flying and many hours spent waiting for flights at the airports!

I arrived in Brisbane just before midnight on Wednesday and spent the night at a motel close to the airport. I arrived in the pouring rain and it poured all night, thundering down on the carport roof outside my window which was wide open, fitted with gauze to keep the flies out. Australia has a fly problem, although I noticed very few flies.

I was picked up the following



Above, On show, *Neoregelia* 'Luciana'. Right, Rob and Barbara Murray with Lyn in front of one of the magnificent displays at the conference. Rob is the man who so kindly sent us seed from Australia!!!!

**Next Meeting: Sunday 28 May. Hosted by Koos and Christine Steyn at 45 Wentworth Road, Sunnyridge, (just up the road from Lyn's house). Don't forget your chair!**

morning, by a shuttle bus, which would take me to Caloundra which was about an hour away. I had seen the weather channel and was shocked to see what was happening, serious flooding in many areas as a result of Cyclone Debbie. I was concerned that the shuttle would not be able to reach Caloundra. When I left a week later to return home the water was still moving through Australia, 9 meters high in places!

The shuttle, excellent service, dropped me at my motel (rain hadn't stopped!) which I was sharing with an Australian couple, Ross and Diane Smith from a place called Tea Gardens in New South Wales. What nice people who told me they were most concerned when they learnt they were sharing with the President as they didn't even have the appropriate clothes! We will keep in touch.

It was now Thursday afternoon. The conference started at 6pm at the Caloundra Events Centre with welcome cocktails, introduction of the Speakers and a raffle draw for early entry into the Sales Room.

There were 12 magnificent bromeliad displays. What a job carting all those broms, assembling the displays and then they have to be dismantled. One of the displays used pineapples for its border.

It was very encouraging to see a number of younger delegates and many first time conference attendees!

There were daily raffles @\$5 if I remember correctly. One lucky winner got an *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal'! I even won a raffle! A mini Skotak neoregelia!

At 7.15pm the Sales Room opened! Delegates stormed into the room desperate to get those special broms! We all have too many, but you know how it is, we just absolutely have to get some more!

There were 31 sellers! Tables were piled with broms, there was something for every collector to grab, boxes full! It's quite stressful trying to grab plants balancing a large box on your hips, then finding somewhere to put the box while you fill another and then another! And there's always the worry someone will take a plant out of your box! Then the next problem is trying to get your boxes to the queues at the tills to pay for your precious new plants. It takes some time to process all the sales. The Sales Room closed at 9.00pm but there were more opportunities to go back and buy some more! The rain stopped! No more rain from Thursday, so, so lucky!

Friday morning at 7.30am to 8.00am we could view the competition plants, or what I think of as the Judged Show. There were many more opportunities to admire these beautiful plants! Many genera represented. Now that I think back I should have chosen my favourite! Beautiful pattern-leaf vriesea, cryptanthus, tillandsia, nidularium, deuterocohnia, aechmea, neoregelia and more! I do like the deuterocohnia, I love the way they form 'mounds'. I liked the pattern-leaf *Vriesea* 'Sweet Thing', smaller than the larger varieties. I was surprised to see 2 *Nidularium* 'Bahia' as a few of us had discussed the plant at our society meeting a couple of days before I left for the conference. There was a beautiful clump of *Tillandsia duratii* with 3 (I think) inflorescences, cleverly hanging from a stand. *Tillandsia* 'Samantha' was a surprise with its meter high flower spike. Wow! Mine is blooming too, spectacular, but the inflorescence is only 35mm high!

Nigel Thomson did the President's Address at 8.00am and then I did the opening address! The very first conference I attended was the BSI World Conference in Cairns, Australia in 2008. This was and still is the only world conference to be held outside the USA in 66 years! I didn't expect to be



Gorgeous 'pineapple' display!



*Tillandsia* 'Samantha' in the competition.



A Reserve Champion of the Show, *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*.



*Billbergia* 'Kawana Sparkler'



Ex South African's Nigel and Rosalie Thomson. Left, an area in their garden.

back in Australia, 9 years later, now as the President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) and opening an Australasian conference! What an honour and for a South African nogal!

We had 3 seminars on the first day. I enjoyed all the seminars, good speakers and a nice mix of topics. The conference centre had an auditorium where the seminars were held so everyone could see the screen and speaker.

George Stamatis (ex South African!) spoke about 'Conservation through Cultivation'. We are all aware of habitat loss, but George just made us so much more aware of how devastating this loss is and it's escalating at alarming rates. Basically, we need to grow species from seed to ensure we don't lose them forever.

Chester Skotak spoke about 'Organised Chaos'. A witty speaker! It was an interesting talk. He grows over 2.3 million plants a year! Always looking for something special and selecting the best. Plants that are not up to standard are buried in big holes! Chester has done much work with pineapples too (Ananas). He has spent over 24 years revolutionizing the pineapple world.

We had morning tea and then the third 45 minute seminar by Eloise Beach entitled '48 Years of Incurable Bromelitis'. Eloise, at the age of 19, discovered the book 'Bromeliads in Cultivation' by Bob and Catherine Wilson which as she says 'changed the direction of my life'. I love to hear these stories!

Then it was lunch and on to the buses to visit 2 gardens. One was chock-a-block with broms and tropical plants with not a weed in sight! Beautiful! The second was a large garden with rolling lawns leading up to the house where we had afternoon tea, delicious scones with jam and cream supplied by the conference centre as the home owners had had no electricity for 2 days due to the rain. The drone of their generator reminded me of home when we had load shedding! A beautiful garden too, lots of alcantarea and many other broms. There was quite a large collection of Christ Thorn (euphorbia) which I also collect. Gardens and nurseries were very wet and muddy in places but didn't stop us enjoying them all!

Plant Sales and the Competition viewing was open from 5.30 to 6.30pm. And then the Happy Hour (cash bar) for the next hour, before the optional dinner and Rare Plant Auction. I always attend the Auction although I do find it a bit boring and drawn out. It's fun if you have lots of money to spend! A big bonus was that Grace Goode was present, in a wheelchair. How privileged I was to meet this great lady for the second time, just 2 months before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! There is also a Silent Auction section. We had donated a few of Trevor's wire baskets and I was pleased to learn that these went to Peter Coyle from New Zealand.

Saturday's seminars were by Peter Tristram, his topic, 'The Eric Connection – a Columbian Jewel' which was about Peter's trip to Columbia to find *Goudea* (previously *Vriesea*) *ospinae* variety *gruberi*. How exciting it must be to go on a trip looking for bromeliads growing in their natural habitat!

The next seminar 'Totara Waters, Our Sub Tropical Dream', was all about Peter and Jocelyn Coyle's spectacular garden in New Zealand and how it came about 18 years ago. I visited this garden when a few of us attended the Cool Broms Conference in NZ in 2013, so I was very interested to see how it all came together. What an amazing accomplishment! Just to give you an idea of the mammoth task they undertook, the first plant they moved was a *Draecena draco*, about 50 years old. It had to be moved 20 kilometres, required diggers (machinery I presume), 2 x 100 ton cranes, a tow truck and a large haulage truck! Peter drove around New Zealand and 'persuaded' people to give up large plants for his garden! Their gardens include palms, cycads, aloes, agaves, beaucarneas and bromeliads of course! In 2006 Totara Waters was made a Garden of National Significance by the New Zealand Garden Trust.

A break for tea and then Dr Terrie Bert spoke about 'Sorting Out an Evolving Family: New Bromeliad Identification Conundrums'. This was about the name changes based on the use of DNA to identify species and how this will affect all of us.

Then a Box Lunch and we boarded the buses again for 2 nursery visits. The first was to Dandaloo, the nursery of



Chester Skotak and Peter Tristram



A garden visit to Buderim Bromeliads.



Second garden visit to Stan and Jane Walkley's lovely sprawling garden.

Nigel and Rosalie Thomson. Delegates could buy plants here too so of course we did! Another buying frenzy! Beautiful broms, pattern-leaf vriesea, neoregelia, guzmania, and many more! The second nursery visit was to Cheryl and her daughter Ema Basic, Wildfire Gardens. Many shadehouses, all very neat and tidy, filled with beautiful broms. We had a delicious tea here!

And then the Banquet; a buffet with heaps to choose from, puddings too! Wonderful food! One lucky person at each table would get a wooden (*Acacia aneura* 'Mulga') toothpick holder kindly made and donated by Doug Cross. I have it! One of the perks of being a President!

Sunday morning we were told a little about the 2019 Australasian conference to be held on the Gold Coast. Their committee had info on the speakers and accommodation.

Then seminar no. 7 'Variegated *Alcantarea*' by Bruce Dunstan. An interesting talk. I saw so many *alcantarea* varieties in Australia, to die for! Next was Eloise doing her second seminar, this time talking about 'Variegated *Neoregelia* – Challenges and Rewards'. What was repeatedly stressed was that plants have to have good variegations which must be stable. Many plants are dumped if they are not regarded worthy of registering.

Teatime again before Chester did his second seminar, 'The Last Hurrah'. Another witty, enjoyable talk, the 'last hurrah' meaning it would be the last time he would speak at a seminar. I wonder!

Then the very last seminar, 'Bromeliad Ecology and Evolution: From Tepuis and Highlands to Lowlands, Seashores, Mountains and Deserts, Terrie Bert's second seminar. This was serious stuff and required concentration.

Then another lunch, BSQ Golden Jubilee co-sponsored by the Bromeliad Society of Queensland. A buffet with heaps to eat and choose from! Then a question and answer session with the Speakers. Next, Graeme Barclay announced that New Zealand would host the 2021 Australasian Conference. Then there were thanks to the registrants and the close of the conference.

And what a bonus! All registrants received a 'Proceedings Book'. A bound A4 size 72 page booklet which lists the names and more of all the delegates, all the seminars in full with colour photos and a little more. A wonderful reference! A wonderful conference. Well organised. The committee of 4 was headed by Nigel Thomson (ex South African!). Peter Cook handled the website and kept all the registrants and those interested in the conference continually informed via emails. He didn't allow us to forget about the SunnyBroms Conference! In fact I recommend you go into the Sunnybroms site to see more conference info and photos!

After the conference I stayed a night with George Stamatis, an ex South African from Durban who moved to Australia in 2001. He was interested in plants from a very young age. George has been teaching for 9 years and one of his subjects is Botany. He lives about 45 minutes from the conference venue in a lovely 'country' area far enough away from the hustle and bustle, but close enough to the shops too. A fairly large plot with an enormous shadehouse filled with mainly George's passions, pattern-leaf vriesea, dyckia, tillandsia and hohenbergia. At the entrance were many *Alcantarea* 'John Stoddart', wow, what a spectacular sight!

He grows many broms from seed and enjoys hybridising too. His hybrids are spectacular! George is also very concerned about the conservation of species. He feels it is vital that we all do our bit and grow species from seed. It was interesting to see the quarantine house that George designed and had built, \$30,000 AUD! It is not operational yet due to the ban on importation of broms from the US. They are working hard to convince the



Wild Fire Garden display containing 3 red plants in the centre which are one of Grace Goode's hybrids, *Neoregelia* 'Reverence'.



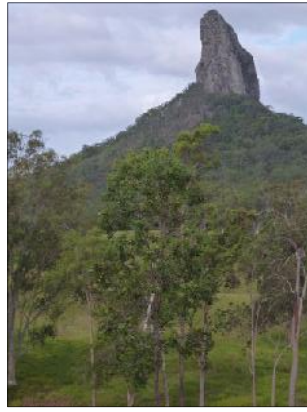
A special lady who has done so much for bromeliads, the amazing Grace Goode.



My visit with George Stamatis and his shadehouses full of wonderful bromeliads. Below, one of George's stunning vriesea hybrids. Eat your heart out!



Australian authorities that they should be allowed to continue importing from the US. George made us a delicious Burmese chicken curry and salad for supper. And he made 2 delicious savoury phyllo tarts for visitors from the conference who came the following day to visit his shadehouse. George is a passionate cook too! I now feel brave enough to try using phyllo pastry! We shared a dragon fruit and custard apple for lunch! George showed me some of the Glass House Mountain Peaks (there are 11 in total), the remains of volcanic eruptions now covered with lush vegetation and beautiful soil. His property is very close to this area.



One of the Glasshouse mountains and one of Nigel's many shadehouses

Then George took me to Nigel and Rosalie Thomson for the next 3 nights, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They were about an hour from George's place and he stayed the first night too. I was again made to feel most welcome. The surrounding gardens had many broms, alcantarea, aechmea, guzmania and more. There were many shadehouses bursting with broms. And what a bonus, a wallaby outside the lounge window that kindly stood still for a while so I could have a good look!

The Thomsons took me sight seeing on both days and we had lunch at different eating places in Noosa and Montville. We also visited a private botanical garden, heaps of different coloured salvia, some cycads, a euphorbia variety I liked very much, lots of water features and more. But the rain bucketed down soon after our arrival so we didn't explore for too long.

Some observations.

- I saw heaps of spectacular pattern-leaf vrieseas and alacantarea!
- I didn't notice many nidularium or cryptanthus, although I did see some very nice crypts in the Sales and Competition Rooms!
- The gardens and public places, road islands are weed free and well maintained. Everywhere is a thick mulch of shredded bark.
- There was lots of debris from the wind and rain that was being cleared in many areas and I found it very interesting to see numerous big trucks each with an attachment which shredded stuff on the spot, a huge contraption that I presume would shred tree branches and stumps, the lot!

What a wonderful few days! Of course it is always nice to come home again. And I was itching to get back to my own broms! And of course Trevor and our precious cats Ninja and Ebony!

I do hope some of you will attend a bromeliad conference, whether an Australasian event or a BSI World Conference or both! Every bromeliad grower/collector will have the time of their life, surrounded by broms and passionate brom people too! The next WBC will be held in San Diego, California, 29<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the Australasian conference will be held on the Gold Coast in 2018. Interested!? I have more details for you. Just a warning though! Attending brom conferences is just as addictive as brom collecting!

## Some Horizontally Banded Neoregelia Varieties - Dudley Reynolds

In most established collections of bromeliads one seems to focus on one group of plants and collect that specific group and then maybe move on to the next group. I know that I have done that over the years of my addiction. Firstly I collected as many tillandsia that I could get my hands on. Then it was *Aechmea nudicaulis* and *Aechmea orlandiana*. Then the marble throated neoregelia. Then I just had to have all the *Neoregelia carcharodon* varieties. I am now accumulating a lot of the mini *Neoregelia*.

A group I want to share with you are neoregelia with horizontal banding on the leaves similar to *Neoregelia* 'Hannibal Lector' which is a cross between *N. punctatissima* and *N. carcharodon* 'Tiger'. It was hybridised and introduced by Chester Skotak from Costa Rica and one of a series he named after the character in a series of suspense novels written by Thomas Harris and of course the character is, Hannibal Lector from 'Silence of the Lambs'.



Dudley holding *Neoregelia carcharodon* 'Tiger'.



*Neoregelia* 'Hannibal Lector'



Neoregelia 'Norman Bates'.



Neoregelia 'High Voltage'



Neoregelia 'Freddy Krueger'



Neoregelia 'Groves Red Tiger'

Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector' has since been used in many other crosses.

To name a few of the other crosses that were brought to the meeting:

- Neoregelia 'Norman Bates' (from the movie Psycho), a cross between N. Hannibal Lector and N. carcharodon 'Tiger'.
- N. 'High Voltage' a cross between N. 'Hannibal Lector' and N. 'Foster's Pink Tips' .
- N. 'Freddy Krueger' (from Nightmare on Elm Street) a cross between (N. 'Hannibal Lector' x N. 'Norman Bates' ) x (N. 'Skotaks Tiger' x N. 'Hannibal Lector')
- N. 'Groves Red Tiger', cross between N. 'Ornato' x N. 'Skotaks Tiger'

I grow these bromeliads in the sunniest spot to retain the wonderful markings and they get watered the same as any other tank type bromeliad. I don't feed them, just rely on nature. They seem quite cold tolerant. I grow them close to my *Aechmea orlandiana* collection.

## Show and Tell

Lyn Wegner showed *Neoregelia* 'Sybil Jane' as an example of a plant that had lost practically all its variegation in its leaves but still produced nicely variegated pups, evident in the photo opposite.

## Library Book Review - Brenda Wegner

Brenda did a review of the latest BSI Journal, Journal of the Bromeliad Society and covered a few of the Interesting topics in this Volume 66(1): 1 - 64

- The Editorial is written by Lyn Wegner, her first as President of the BSI!
- General - World Bromeliad Conference to be held in San Diego, May/June 2018.
- Science - Re-establishment of *Sincoraea* (Orthophytum)
- Horticulture – *Tillandsia usneoides* 'Odin's Genuina'.
- In the garden – An overview of *Aechmea* 'Snaakse Ding' written by Lyn Wegner.
- Horticulture – Spotting in *Billbergia* leaves.

BSI Journal copies are in the library and available to take out on loan, plus other interesting resources on USB. The BSI website has a link, BSI Journal Archives, where you can access back copies of the Journals.



Neoregelia 'Sybil Jane'



Thelma Jamieson and Anne Holder recently joined the society.

## Member News

- A very warm welcome to Anne Holder from East London, Ian Kotze from Meyerton and Jean Lombaard from Cape Town who have joined the society.
- All the bromeliad family extend their most heartfelt condolences to our Vice Chairman Dr Peter Pfister and his family on the very sad loss of Heather, a dear wife and mother on the 30 April.
- Condolences to Dudley and Albie Reynolds on the death of Albie's father in Johannesburg recently.
- Congratulations to Chris van Zyl and his wife on the recent marriage of their daughter.

## Thanks

- Irene Manthe for hosting the April meeting.
- Dr Peter Pfister, Eddie and Barbara Black, Val Nel and Caryn Delpport for bringing delicious eats for tea time and assisting with serving.
- Lyn Wegner for Lucky Draw bromeliads.
- Irene Manthe for lovely give-away plants, slipped and grown for us!!!

## Tea Duties for Meetings

if you are unable to provide eats for the meeting when you are on duty please let Lorraine Parathyras know in time, so that someone else can be organised to swap duties with you. Contact Lorraine: cell: 082 594 4559 or lorraine.parathyras@liblink.co.za

**May:** Miriam Kennard, Dave and Carol Flint, Glenn and Barbara Miles.

**June:** Sue Pema, Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall, Dr Geoff Howes and Lisa Voges.

**July:** We need a volunteer to make a birthday cake or tart for our 9th Birthday! By tradition, it has to have pineapple as one of the ingredients. You can claim for your ingredients from the society. Please contact Lorraine if you are willing to do it.

## Congratulations to the Raffle Winners for April!

- Miriam Kennard chose *Guzmania sanguinea*.
- Bev Reynolds chose *Neoregelia* 'Sybil Jane'.
- Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall chose *Aechmea ramosa var. festiva*.
- Lorraine Parathyras still to choose a bromeliad.
- Clint Gordon from Johannesburg still to make a choice.
- Christo van Wijk from Pretoria won 3 of the country raffles this month! He chose *Billbergia* 'Groovy', *xSincoregelia* 'Andromeda', *Neoregelia* 4873 x 18 x *bahiana*.

### Lucky Draw Winners

- Lorraine Parathyras and Betty Heunis.

## Upcoming Society Events

**May:** To be hosted by Koos and Christine Steyn at 45 Wentworth Road, Sunnyridge, (just up the road from Lyn's house). Bring your mug and a chair and any questions or bromeliads you would like to show the members during Show and tell.

**Topic:** Talking Fertilisers and Fertilising Bromeliads

**June:** Wyndham Whitfield in Dorchester Heights. The orchid man!!!!!!

**July:** Lyn and Trevor Wegner, Sunnyridge, AGM and Birthday Bash!

**August:** Tamara Hartwanger in Baysville.

**September:** Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall in Vincent Heights.

**October:** Val Nel in Vincent Heights.

**November:** Brenda and Bryan Wegner in Nahoon Valley. Chrismas/End of Year Auction, BBB Surpise, Bring and Braai Function.

## Upcoming International Events

**2018: World Bromeliad Conference** to be held in San Diego, California from 29 May to 3 June 2018. Check out the Conference Corner at [bsi.org](http://bsi.org) for more information. This will be the third WBC that will be held in San Diego, California. Registration for the 2018 conference has already begun. More information can be found at [bsi.org](http://bsi.org) or contact Lyn Wegner.

## From our Members

**Dirk Wessels, Port Edward:** A group of ELBS members and some friends from around Port Edward KZN got together on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the home of Dirk and Leslie Wessels in Leisure Bay. They started getting together in 2016 as a group of novices who wished to share their love of these plants and to provide a conduit for bringing together like-minded plant lovers. Thus, during our jolly social gatherings (with lots of lovely goodies to eat) we share information on the growing of bromeliads, assist one another with plant identifications and swap a variety of plants. The interests of these passionate gardeners and plant collectors are wide ranging; from *Aloes*, indigenous trees, succulents, orchids, mixed collections of bromeliads to focused *tillandsia* collections. This results in the exchange of a wealth of wide ranging information during the get-togethers. We will meet



Miriam Kennard chose *Guzmania sanguinea*.



Bev Reynolds chose *Neoregelia* 'Sybil Jane'.



Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall chose *Aechmea ramosa var. festiva*.



Members and pets who gathered at the Wessels' home recently: back row: Mark Gettliffe, Pam Bircher, Estelle Stegman. Middle row: Kelsie, Leslie Wessels, Stephanie Christiane, Alexandre Viossat Barau and Michel Barau Viossat and Dunes. Front: Len Moriarty.

again at the home of Len and Kathy Moriarty on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Oslo Beach, KZN. Len is an ELBS member and a keen *Tillandsia* collector.

**COUNTRY AND LOCAL MEMBERS** Thank you to all of you who have sent in items of interest this year!! I am hoping more of you will be inspired to share and send me any interesting news/developments relating to your bromeliad growing. Local members if your bromeliad is too big to bring along to the meeting for Show and Tell, e-mail a photo to me or Lyn. We would love to hear from you all.

## From the Editor

There is loads of super newsy stuff to read in the newsletter this month so I shall make it short! I desperately need a volunteer to type up any notes that may result from the next meeting and another person to volunteer to take a few photos, as I will be out of action due to a shoulder operation. If you are willing and able, please let me know beforehand. It is not a huge task and I would really appreciate it.

We are in the process of having a website created for the society (Soooooo exciting!!!) and we are in need of good quality photos of bromeliads from your gardens/collections. They must be correctly named. These will feature in a rolling picture gallery on the site and we would like them to be member's plants. You can send any photos for inclusion to me.

There was a huge thunder storm rumbling loudly overhead tonight in the wee hours while working on this newsletter, it started with huge plopping drops and a good, solid downpour! Such a wonderful sound! There was a mini thunder storm earlier too. So grateful for every drop - yay! I don't have to get the hosepipe out! Yes we are very lucky, we can still use them!

Don't be scared off by the topic for the next meeting, 'Fertilisers and Fertilising Bromeliads' We are hoping for lots of discussion on this contentious topic. Some people do, some never do, some a little and we will discuss what can and shouldn't be used to fertilise bromeliads.

Hoping to see you all at the next meeting at Koos and Christine Steyn's home, just up the road from Lyn and Trevor Wegner in Sunnyridge.

Happy bromming to you all !

*Barbs*

blacket@telkomsa.net  
072 1787 421

This is a publication for the **East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa** for the interest of its members. Articles may be used by non profit societies with acknowledgement to the above.

Any opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Society.

When submitting items for inclusion in this newsletter please ensure that all information is checked and accurate.

ELBS is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International.

**ELBS Address:** c/o 18 Wentworth Road, Sunnyridge, East London 5201 South Africa,  
brommiesfa@telkomsa.net

*We meet on the last Sunday of every month, January to November, at various venues around East London. We have a topic for each meeting and Show and Tell where members are encouraged to bring along their brag or problem plants. There are member raffles, lucky draws for those present, tea time, library and member plant sales, plus a monthly newsletter sent out via e-mail only. Visitors are always welcome and can attend three meetings before they will need to join the society in order to continue attending. Annual subs are R120.00 for individuals/families and R60 for students.*





## Committee Members

Chairman:	Dudley Reynolds		079 488 2360	dudleyreynolds1@gmail.com
Vice- Chairman:	Dr Peter Pfister		082 625 5533	tanuki@mweb.co.za
PRO & Secretary:	Lyn Wegner	043 736 1737	082 970 2293	brommiesfa@telkomsa.net
Treasurer:	Lynn Friend	043 748 2271	083 318 1179	lynnfriend1@gmail.com
Editor & Publisher:	Barbara Black	043 7212775	072 1787 421	blacket@telkomsa.net
Proof Reader:	Lyn Wegner	043 736 1737	082 970 2293	brommiesfa@telkomsa.net
Raffles:	Lyn Odendaal	043 726 1075	083 441 6813	lyngerald.vogt@gmail.com
Librarian:	Brenda Wegner		082 743 2141	brendawegner@gmail.com
Catering Co-ordinators:	Eddie Black and Lorraine Parathyras	043 7212775 043 726 3167	082 5505 347 082 594 4559	blacket@telkomsa.net lorraine.parathyras@liblink.co.za
Events Co-ordinator:	Brenda Wegner		082 743 2141	brendawegner@gmail.com

Peter Cook from Sunnybroms (Australia) has very kindly created a link to ELBS newsletters on their web page.  
<https://bromeliadnewsletters.wordpress.com/east-london-south-africa/>

You can access :

- All the back copies of the 2016 and 2017 ELBS Newsletters
- The first of the BSI BCR genus changes and cultivar changes generated via DNA studies compiled by Derek Butcher and Geoff Lawn, the BSI Cultivar Registrar

You will find ELBS on Facebook: [eastlondonbssa@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/eastlondonbssa@groups.facebook.com) or type 'East London Bromeliad Society' into the fb search bar. You can request to join the group and will then be able to upload your photos and comments on the wall. The ELBS SA page and other bromeliad related sites are becoming a useful and informative forum to share and 'meet up' with other like-minded bromeliad folks. There are also many other bromeliad related sites that you can join and become part of a world wide online sharing environment.

You can view most of all the bromeliads mentioned in meetings or in the newsletter at the following websites:

The BSI's official Bromeliad Cultivar Registry [www.registry.bsi.org](http://www.registry.bsi.org) which is maintained by Geoff Lawn, the BSI Cultivar Registrar. Plus other information regarding the Bromeliad Society International is found at [bsi.org](http://bsi.org)

[fcb.org](http://fcb.org) (Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies). This is a very useful site to reference many bromeliads where you can clarify identification or just trawl through the site and add to your wish list!

Encyclopedia of Bromeliads - <http://bromelia.club> (Bromeliad Taxonomists and Growers Society) has photographs. It also now has keys for the genera and sub-genera. If you like to be informed what is happening, just follow on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bromeliadsencyclopedia> or just type in 'Encyclopediad of Bromeliads' into the Facebook search bar.

For internet resources you can also go to TAXON (The New Bromeliad List) for the most authoritative and right up to date list of genera and species, accepted and new names and taxonomic keys - <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php> or just type in 'New Bromeliad Taxon List', it's much easier!

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