

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

Vol 38

Number 4

October/ November & December 2014

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: Jeff Hollinshead

Committee: Glenda Lee

Penny Seekamp

Trevor Seekamp

Julie Batty

Dave Batty



Life members: Margaret Butcher, Derek Butcher,
Len Colgan, Adam Bodzioch

Email address:

Secretary – bev.masters@bigpond.com

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

[Follow us on Face book](#)

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions – 1st Sunday in March
May, & August & no meeting in
December or unless advised
otherwise

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876



Jeanne's completed garden (Photo J Batty)

**VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME.**

MEETING & SALES 2015 DATES: 11/1/2015 (Growing perfect Tillandsia's), 8/2/2015 AGM (Preparing for seasons), 15/3/2015 (3rd SUNDAY) Summer brag, [28/3/2015 & 29/3/2015 Sales](#), 19/4/2015 (3rd SUNDAY) Artistic arrangements, 3/5/2015 (1st SUNDAY) Australian made hybrids. 14/6/2015 (Patterned leaf Vrieseas), 12/7/2015 (Slideshow), 2/8/2015 (1st SUNDAY) Winter brag, 6/9/2015 (1st SUNDAY) Workshop, 11/10/2015 ("Show & tell"), [24/10/2015 & 25/10/2015 Sales](#), 8/11/2015 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

Applications for membership always welcome.

Subscriptions \$10.00 per year Feb to Feb

Page	Details
1	Cover page – Photo: Committee: Meeting & sales dates 2015
2	Roving Reporter Oct 2014. OBE & Life membership
3	Roving Reporter Oct cont: xCanmea ‘Galaxy’ article
4	Roving Reporter Oct cont: xCanmea ‘Galaxy’ article
5	Roving Reporter Oct cont: xCanmea ‘Galaxy’ article cont; xNeostropsis ‘B-Fire’ versus ‘Shadeball’
6	Article Pauline & Geoff; Vale George Rudolph
7	Vale George Rudolph cont:
8	Home & Garden show; Roving Reporter October show
9	Roving Reporter October show cont;
10	Roving Reporter October show cont; Roving reporter November meeting
11	Roving reporter November meeting cont; Reflection; AGM forms, reminder -Subs due; Festival of Flowers update
12	Jeanne’s completed garden; Sales photos; Christmas greetings

Roving reporter Oct 2014

First I must mention two presentations complete with two fancy cakes. My 80th birthday had just past and the Committee felt it worthwhile to award me an OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) plaque. I also got a card designed and manufactured by our very own Penny Seekamp. To my embarrassment Adam read out what Penny had researched on my career in Bromeliads which due to the depth of Penny’s research, took a little while. I did have to smile at the reference to pedantic taxonomist although I have never been pedantic and am only a quasi-taxonomist. However, it was much better than an obituary because I was there to hear what others thought about me!



Adam & Derek reading birthday card (Photo J Batty)

It was Adam’s turn to be embarrassed when he was awarded Life membership. Something he really deserves, having been that ‘back up’ job of Vice President for many many years. With tongue in cheek I could say always the bridesmaid never the bride but when Len Colgan retired Adam took over like a duck to water. We are very lucky to have him at the helm.



Adam with his certificate & life membership badge (Photo J Batty)

First we must mention the popular plant was Vriesea ‘Golden Thread’ owned by Julie Batty. It showed that you do not need to replot every time your plant finishes flowering but you do need to be careful with your husbandry! Then Len Colgan spoke on the general plants brought in for display which were mainly tillandsias. Highlights included a bright blushing red T. ‘Magic Blush’ which Len was able to point out was a *T. magnusiana* with a difference. It had been crossed with *T. ionantha*. As Len pointed out it was a woman-made hybrid which was agreed to with acclamation by at least half of the audience!



Vriesea ‘Golden Thread’ (Photo J Batty)



Tillandsia ‘Magic Blush’ photo by © Blutcher

Roving reporter Oct 2014 cont:

Len was also very proud of his flowering *T. salmonea* but critical of the colour of the floral bracts which were not as salmon as he would have liked. Details as to why Renate had this as her favourite Tillandsia follows “This new species with wonderful colours when flowering was discovered in 1989. It is growing on rocks together with *T. capitata* in Mexico, Chiapas. Similar in habit to *T. rodrigueziana* MEZ, it differs in its fragile leaves, the often simple inflorescence, sometimes compound of few spikes which are twice as long as broad, salmon-coloured and cretaceous; the sepals are larger, more acute and less connected; the petals are twice as long and dark-violet.”

Now to the main event – Bigenerics. This was a combination with Len next to the plants and Adam at the computer and large screen. Both speakers interacted successfully and this may be an idea for future meetings. So many times we do have plants on display when not in flower.

This is a fascinating subject to me because it has so many twists and turns. In the animal kingdom bigenerics are few and far between with the progeny being a mule in more than one sense of the word and being unable to reproduce. In the plant world things are a bit different because they have been evolving for a longer period. The basic block in the plant world is a species and the further apart two species have evolved the more resistance there is to successful mating between the two. Species are allotted to genera and genera in turn are allotted to subfamilies. It follows that the further apart subfamilies, genera, and species are apart the less likely you will get successful mating.

In the wild you only have 3 bigenera (more correctly Nothogenera) namely *xHohenmea*, (*Hohenbergia* x *Aechmea* or reverse) *xNidumea*, (*Nidularium* x *Aechmea* or reverse) and *xNiduregelia*, (*Nidularium* x *Neoregelia* or reverse) with one *xGuzlandsia* (*Guzmania* x *Tillandsia* or reverse) on the drawing board. You will notice that these successful matings are from genera that are closely related. We could even challenge that man could have been involved with the *xNiduregelia* because of the link to Seidel’s nursery.

Compare this to the 57 bigenerics created by man! In the 1960’s Mulford Foster was complaining about his lack of success with crossing species with species of a different genus where the natural barriers would be at their strongest. We know how peeved he was when Bill Morris was successful with his *xNeobergia* ‘Noddy’. This is water under the bridge now but *Neoregelia carolinae* had been in cultivation for some 100 years and been involved in numerous man-made seed raising programs so it may not act like a wild species!

These 57 bigenerics makes you wonder. To me they are the same to the hybridist as Everest is to the climber. It is there, just to be conquered. At best so many are just novelties which do not mean you don’t grow them because in the many there are a few that really excel.

One of these successful accidents was *xNeophytum* where a hard to grow stunning *Orthophytum* with virtually no peduncle with an easy to grow *Neoregelia* creating for Adelaideans a plant that can be grown well if treated properly.

Adam likes to bring down challenges from Queensland and no doubt some of you were scratching your heads over the *xCanmea* Smokey/Galaxy.



xCanmea Smokey/Galaxy (Photo J Batty)

The following shows what I could not find out.

***xCanmea* ‘Galaxy’ versus ‘Smokey’ by D Butcher Feb 2009**

The naming rules for cultivars indicate that offsets or asexual reproduction (such as tissue culture) retain the name of the parent plant **unless** sporting has occurred. In this case ‘Smokey’ was the first to be produced but not registered until the same time as ‘Galaxy’ in 1998! Neither registration being actively done by the persons concerned!

Is there any difference between ‘Smokey’ and Galaxy’? Evidence from Herb Plever writing in 1990 suggests that Bulliss did not select for a different Sport but gave his plants a different name to others in the market-place. This practice is legal unless you have plant patents involved. Whether it is ethical is another thing.

Roving reporter Oct 2014/ xCanmea 'Galaxy' versus 'Smokey' cont:

So, as far as I am concerned all should be called 'Smokey' because it has date precedence as indicated in the Cultivar register. It is interesting that plants in current circulation are much more likely to be called 'Galaxy' than 'Smokey'.

The name 'Smokey' or 'Galaxy' only applies to the non variegated form whereas variegation is a legitimate sporting and should have cultivar name of its own. Alas this will never happen showing the disdain with which the larger nurseries treat cultivar registration.

From Bromeliad Cultivar Register 1998

xCanmea 'Galaxy' Bullis, H. <1979 cv. of xCanmea 'Smokey' selected by Bullis from tissue culture - (See 'Smokey') - Midway between parents in matte bluish green with brown mottling, purple leaf tips and coral orange to red compound inflorescence w/white flowers - 12-14 leaves to 4" wide forming tubular flared rosette to 12"-14" tall - 6" stolons - variegated and marginated forms exist - maroon pencil thin lines on scurfed grey-green silvery foliage - this selection has a bit more of the fosterianum parent apparent in its coloration and markings. Baensch 98,99ill, JBS 40:54; 42:65,67ill, CargoRpt#3-1; #6-5, MB1998

By Herb Plever in J Brom Soc 40(2): 54. 1990

x *Canmea* Galaxy is a nice cross by Harvey Bullis. It is a midway compromise in size and shape between its parents. Its inflorescence favours the shape of *C. fosterianum*, but it is compound instead of simple. Its bright red bracts stay in colour for 5-6 months. However, its characters may not have been cleaned up, or perhaps it reacts strongly to changes in light levels, as the plant is still highly variable. When I first saw a specimen a number of years ago its leaves were almost black with a little green showing. But when I bought a near mature specimen while visiting the Bullis Nursery, all of the Galaxies there had divergent green leaves with barely visible brown markings. (Bullis's lath house may have been over-shaded.) The plant now growing in my south window with presumably less light than in Florida is an offspring of the one I bought. Yet, the plant is more tubular-compact and the top half of each leaf is dark brown from irregular barring in brown blotches and only the bottom quarter is grey-green without markings.

From Tom Lineham in J Brom Soc 42(2): 67. 1992

Figure 10

xCanmea 'Galaxy' (*C. fosterianum* x *A. chantinii*), a cultivar produced by H. R. Bullis, Jr., emphasizes the best characters of the parents.

From Bromeliad Cultivar register 1998

xCanmea 'Smokey' DeLeon <1963 cv. of *Canistrum fosterianum* X *Aechmea chantinii* - (See xCanmea 'Galaxy') - Upright tubular stoloniferous plant to 12" - 14" tall w/10-12 leaves in clear heavily scurfed silvery-grey - no prominent markings - upright inflorescence w/large reddish primary bracts and tight clusters of white flowers.

JBS 23:186; 33:72, Grande 1:2CFill, TF1980

By J Stephens on a Visit with Nat Deleon in J Brom Soc 23(5): 186. 1973

And finally: *Aechmea recurvata* X *A. calyculata*, a European hybrid; *Neoregelia* X 'Catherine Wilson,' with warm red tones attractively mottled; *Canistrum fosterianum* x *Aechmea chantinii*, with a showy red inflorescence; *Aechmea fendlerii*, with blue flowers and pink bracts - a rare combination; *Neoregelia concentrica*, maroon striped; and in a bed reserved for royalty, *Vriesea gigantea*, *V. fenestralis*, and *V. gigantea* var. *nova*, a clone of distinct merit.

By Edgar Smith in J Brom Soc 33(2): 72. 1983

x *Canmea* (*Canistrum* x *Aechmea*)

*Jaspe: Ed Hummel

*Majo (*Canistrum fosterianum* x *Aechmea fosteriana*)

*Smokey (*Canistrum fosterianum* x *Aechmea chantinii*)

An asterisk (*) preceding the name of a plant indicates it is listed in a bromeliad catalogue which was available to me.

No mention made of either hybrid in International Checklist of Bromeliad hybrids by the BSI 1979

Roving reporter Oct 2014/ xCanmea ‘Galaxy’ versus ‘Smokey’ cont:

Mention made in Smith’s Manuscript of Bromeliad hybrids and Cultivars 1984 of *Canmea* ‘Smokey’ taken from Nurserymen’s catalogues

So, all I can really suggest to Adam is that he put ‘variegated’ on the label next to ‘Galaxy’ even though to blind Freddie it is clearly variegated!

While on the subject of duplicate names there is the *xNeostropsis* ‘B-Fire’ which also makes interesting reading but shows the problems that arise when the hybridist is lazy in naming hybrids before letting loose to the general market



xNeostropsis ‘B-Fire’ (Photo D. Butcher)

***xNeostropsis* ‘B-Fire’ versus ‘Shadeball’ by Derek Butcher 3/2008**

A success story where a cultivar’s origin has been revealed because of a younger bromeliad grower’s eye for detail.

This started towards the end of 2005 when Ian Hook from Sydney alerted me to the fact that a plant called *Nidularium burchellii* x *Neoregelia* ‘Fireball’ was in circulation. Not only did it take ages to write the label but this was grex formula which should only be used by hybridists while under their control. Theoretically, it should have been given a Cultivar name, and registered, when released to the ‘general’ public. Who was the hybridist? Contact with Olive Trevor of the ‘Olive Branch’ failed to get an answer but it seemed the plant had come from the World Bromeliad Conference in 2000.

As an aside, it is interesting that the BSI agreed to abide by the ICNCP rules in the late 1980’s and Don Beadle started on his monumental work which culminated in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register being published in 1998. Grex names disappeared and not a formula in sight. This did not stop the BSI Show Officials from continuing to include the use of grex by way of formula for show plants. This double standard continues.

We eventually decided on *xNeostropsis* ‘B-Fire’ and this was registered in February 2006.

Everything went fine for a couple of years until hawk-eyed Ian Hook pointed out *xNeostropsis* ‘Shadeball’ a recently registered hybrid by Lisa Vinzant in Hawaii, looked awfully like ‘B-Fire’ and had the same parentage! PANIC.

Geoff Lawn of WA lead the investigations which showed that Olive could well have got her plant indirectly from Lisa and the consensus is that they are the same plant. So if you have *Nidularium burchellii* x *Neoregelia* ‘Fireball’, or *xNeostropsis* ‘B-Fire’, or *xNeostropsis* ‘Shadeball’ on your label they refer to the same plant!

I will make notes to this effect in the on-line Cultivar Register <http://bsi.org>.

To those who browse this data base it is not strange to find such references because the larger commercial concerns in the USA and Europe are oft to change a name because of market strategy!!

While ‘B-Fire’ has precedence date-wise, both names will no doubt be used with ‘B-Fire’ in Australia and ‘Shadeball’ in the USA

For the purists who may be interested, some Brazilian taxonomists are treating *Canistropsis burchellii* as being really *Nidularium burchellii* so it is not just cultonomists who have naming problems!

There seems to be no end to what is happening to bigenerics by man’s intervention. Things will get tricky when phylogenetics give us new genera meaning re-thinking for ever more formulas and thus new nothogenera. Also, at one time I was convinced that all bigenerics were mules and only back-crossings worked but I am sure that trigenerics are just around the corner. After all, they are already there with Orchids. Another barrier has been broken and we will soon hear about the successful mating outside the subfamily boundaries with a Puyoideae crossed with a Bromelioideae! My mind boggles!

Whatever plants one grows, be they Roses, Vegetables, Orchids, Bromeliads, etc., the elements of water, air movement, growing medium and light, and play a distinguishing relevance to success. The challenge is to get the balance of those four correct for the environment in which you grow. Nutrients could also be added to these elements.

Within those elements some basic features always apply to the genera being grown, and should be adopted every time, e.g., certain plants should not be fertilised; some should not be given direct summer mid-day sun; some should not be over watered, yet some should be kept completely dry; while some should be placed on a mount and not in a pot. These generalities can always be provided in cultural notes to assist growers (especially those inexperienced) as they cope with the challenge. Then comes the practical fact that two plants can be adjacent to each other, one will flower, one will not (one will fruit, one will not – and often only guess why) !!!!

These three Tillandsia of mine were all obtained in Queensland in January 2013. I mounted them on pieces of hard wood that gives good drainage in the winter (which is needed in my growing conditions in the Adelaide Hills – but gives a requirement of more watering attention in the summer - another story). They hang with many of my other Tills on a wire mesh at the end of a pergola facing the south east. There is no covering above them. This gives them full morning sun all year round (until approx. 11am), then part shade till mid afternoon and full shade for the remainder of the day. Being open to the natural elements ample air movement is provided and natural rain can fall on them if coming from a general easterly direction. Unless receiving natural rain they have not been watered during winters and are sprayed when I think they need it in summer. No fertiliser has been applied to any of these (or the other plants). I have a simple philosophy, ‘grow them tough’ –that is what happens in their natural environment.

The end result is these two in particular have flowered, i.e., ‘Moonlight’ and ‘Houston’ and one ‘Cotton Candy’ (which was hanging between the flowering two) has not (see photographs). Same treatment, same environment, slightly different end result – why is this so??? Approx. 10 other Tills on the same mesh have flowered. ‘Moonlight’ is particularly pleasing for me – to see the stem with open seed pods and fine silky hairs, along with three further flower stems emerging – this being a first for me. ‘Houston’ is also relevant in view of the article in a recent Gazette.

Perhaps this result is why the collection grows – buy two of each and then one can grow them in different positions and compare the end result!!!

Geoff Edwards.



Vale George Rudolph

George passed away on 16th October at Ashford hospital where he had been staying recently more frequently than he would have wished.

We first met up with George in the early 1990’s when he was a frequent visitor at our stand in the North Park Shopping centre at the corner of Regency Road and Main North Road. He just kept coming back to chat with Len Cork.

Vale George Rudolph cont:

Eventually he joined the Society. While we could not get him on the Committee he was known for years as the seller of raffle tickets. We had joined the German Bromeliad Society because of our contact with Renate Ehlers but their Journal at that time was either in Latin or German. I could manage the translation of Latin and taught myself Botanical German but normal German prose was a great problem. So George got roped in to translate and even he complained of the various dialects that he found 'foreign'. But we got there and there were several articles in our Gazette on how the Germans wandered through Mexico and places looking mainly for tillandsias.

George was good at finding the odd branch or two and mounting them on wooden stands. He would then mount tillandsias which was great for display but for aesthetic reasons was not covered with name tags!

One such mounting was infamously called 'Ivy's Root' because it was a tree root obtained from Ivy Kirby. Then there was his mounting of lots and lots of *Tillandsia aeranthos* all in flower which was a great success at our display at the Morphettville race-course. Everybody wanted to buy it. One problem with this was that he forgot names when he wanted to sell his tillandsias and he often asked me for identification.

This is how the expression GBH came into being. Not the normal Grievous Body Harm but George's Bloody Hybrids.



'Ivy's Root'

I well remember the meeting when we celebrated George's 80th birthday and he got his OBE and a cake. He spoke about it for weeks afterwards, such was his happiness

George had had a hard life in his early years. In 1945 when WW2 was drawing to a close I was in England joining the Cubs, George was in Germany forced to join Hitler Youth. In our various chats George did let drop how you avoided rifle fire at close range. Soon after the war he migrated to Australia all on his own which must have been a daunting experience – no family and not understanding the language. But things got better and he met and married Phyllis. What Phyllis wanted Phyllis got so she was a very lucky woman.

Yes, me German mate, Gerd, has gone but will never be forgotten.

Derek Butcher

From Bev

He has achieved success who has lived well,
laughed often and loved:

who enjoyed the trust and the respect of those around:

who filled a niche and accomplished his task;

who left the world better than he found it.....

Whether by an improved plant such as a Bromeliad,

or a perfect piece of woodwork or artistic display;

Who always looked for the best in others and given the best he had.

Who generously shared his time & knowledge?

Whose life was an inspiration;

Whose memory is for us to share & treasure.

Yes, George has gone but he will never be forgotten.

Our condolences to Phyllis, family & friends.



Georges mounting of lots and lots of *Tillandsia aeranthos*

Home & garden show Wayville.

This years Expo appeared to have considerably less organizations participating, however there was a steady stream of people on Friday but reports that Saturday was slow however substantially increased numbers on Sunday along with several compliments given on our display. The flyers for our October sales were popular & several members of the public indicated they would see us there. Most enquiries from visitors to our stall were relating to growing tips for plants they already had.



Bev, Ron, Peter & Dave (Photo J Batty)

Roving Reporter at the October 2014 Show

When you are over eighty you do tend to drag your feet and to think I did not roll up until 10 am on the Saturday. But there was the smiling face of Jack Van Gorp doing MY job selling raffle tickets. So someone had been organising in my absence and I was told I had missed the big rush! Throughout the weekend there were several others keen and willing to take over this role. More so, when I had to have a break and retire to the Half-way Hotel for a leisurely lunch. Those taking the money did a great job although the electronic Cash Register did misbehave causing the Treasurer to call on brain power to balance. Mind you, he also had problems with supply of the EFTPOS system but luckily this was solved. To be a Bromeliad Treasurer you cannot panic.

Thanks to Bev, the Bute Group were able to have a spontaneous meeting on the Sunday afternoon for free at a table provided. It was great seeing some of Bill Treloar's mates paying us a visit over the weekend.

Margaret was very impressed with the standard of the plants on display. Her first on the list amongst the other great 'Glyphs' was a *Vriesea* 'Howard Yamamoto'. This had me investigating because I had not come across this name before. Howard Yamamoto hailed from Hawaii and was well known as a nurseryman there. In 1987 David Shiigi created an intraspecific hybrid by crossing *V. fosteriana* with the variety *seideliana*. He called the plant 'Memoria Howard Yamamoto' so in the last 37 years it has lost its 'Memoria' but not its beauty. It seems to link to the official description.



Vriesea 'Howard Yamamoto' (Photo J Batty)

One *Neoregelia* that did stand out was N. 'Transfusion' but if you want to grow such plants you will have to sacrifice space for your other Neos because any within the 'carcharodon' complex are generally huge and wide spreading.

One plant, although not on display which did cause comment was a *Hohenbergia* 'Karla' which was a steal at \$300. Such is the demand for this plant in Australia that one fetched over \$1000 on Ebay. This is a variegate that I have known about for several years having been developed in Germany in the 1990's but there is a twist to the story I would like to write about first. In 2003 my Brazilian mate Oscar Ribeiro was very excited about a plant he had found in Chapada Diamantina in Bahia. Not much a surprise because Oscar regularly takes holidays in this area and finds new species much to the chagrin of Brazilian botanists who seemingly walk past these gems. Anyway, in 2007 it flowered in captivity and in 2010 was described as *Hohenbergia magnispina*. Back to Germany where Hermann Prinsler was growing some unknown *Hohenbergia* that had been collected in the wild by the Cactus collector Leopoldo Horst. One of these sported an albo-marginate offset and 25 years later had a stock of some 125 plants. Because he was getting flowering specimens Uwe Scharf was able to identify them with the newly described *H. magnispina*. Now this is a large stock to hold and Peter Tristram on a trip to Germany thought that some should get to Australia and working with Chris Larson got some through quarantine. So we saw one in Adelaide.

Roving Reporter at the October Show cont:

Ray Clark had brought in a flowering *Tillandsia yuncharaensis* to brag about. It had a delightful fragrance too! So what – you may say. Well, I had imported the plant from Lotte Hromadnik in 1995 and it had never flowered so I let Ray have an offset. Let us go back to 1993 when big Len and I were very keen on knowing the finer points on Tillandsias. Anyway Len made a big trip to Bolivia with some German Cactus collectors. This was the trip when *T. colganii* was found but the trip was not all roses. He had studied hard on the Tillandsias he was likely to encounter and even took his panty-hose. I don't know where he got his panty-hose but these are great for stuffing with tillandsias to stop them escaping. On his return we spent hours poring over a large map of Bolivia. I say large because it was spread over his billiard table! So we collated his finds with localities on the map and I even set up a separate file so I could write notes. Collection #5 SW of Tojo was interesting because it was near Yunchara.

He did find *T. xiphioides* in the area but one was different. Len thought *T. yuncharaensis* but I thought *T. muhrii* just like the plant that Chris Larson had collected in Argentina!



Tillandsia yuncharaensis
(Photo R Clark)

This was said when *T. yuncharaensis* was described.

“*Tillandsia yuncharaensis* is restricted to a small area in southernmost Bolivia where it grows in groups on rocks. It is easily recognized by its long stems, which are covered with dead leaves at the base, and by its violet petals. Within the *T. xiphioides* alliance, it occupies very high elevations (3000-3100 m) while typical *T. xiphioides* is found normally at 600-1100 m in its lower range to 2100-2650 m in its upper range and usually grows as an epiphyte. It is distinguished from *Tillandsia muhrii* Rauh by its habit, flower shape, and fragrance. The flowers of *T. muhrii* are not fragrant. The related *T. xiphioides* var. *tafiensis* L.B. Smith has densely pruinose leaves, short stems and pale blue petals.”

Then it flowered! It was white with blue margins. A plant was sent to Eric Gouda and he could get no further than *T. aff. yuncharaensis*. The ‘aff.’ means has an affinity with and is Botanist jargon for ‘don’t really know’! You may have noticed the name *T. xiphioides* var. *tafiensis* which was a bone of contention with the Yanks (primarily Paul Isley) and in the other corner the Aussies and Germans, as to its existence. This exciting information will be divulged when Ray flowers his plant!

Did you see the flowering *T. cajamarcensis* that Chris Larson had brought over from Melbourne. Well, our intrepid photographer Julie did and took its photo. Most would accept the name and might even know that Cajamarca is in north Peru. It is also an area where over the past few years several Australians have been collecting. After the plants survived quarantine I am often called in to make some judgement on identity because you rarely find a plant in the wild with a name-tag. Is *T. cajamarcensis* really a *T. dudleyi* or *T. confinis* or ----! I will always remember the shots of Australian gum trees that Mick Romanowski sent. Peru is a poor country and there are few resident botanists for such a species rich country. Are these natural hybrids occurring or what? Surely lots of exotic trees like Eucalyptus would change the range of pollinators? We see a similar happening in Mexico where natural hybrids seem to abound and yet 100 years ago botanists seem to have been unaware of them, or were they there?



T. cajamarcensis (Photo J Batty)

Roving Reporter at the October Show cont:

Finally, I must mention the flowering *Tillandsia dyeriana* that Chris Larson had brought over from Melbourne and is now under the care of Julie Batty. It is not an easy to grow plant in Adelaide but Julie likes challenges, perhaps living in the foothills may help. You see it needs extra humidity in the Summer and a sheltered position in winter. Still, at least she has taken a photo of it in flower and all she has to do is get offsets!



Tillandsia dyeriana (Photo J Batty)

Roving reporter at Nov meeting

Good roll-up for our last meeting of the year. Must have been the special afternoon tea but was it because there was spirited bidding at the auction. Bill Treloar showed he has a variety of talents by taking over as auctioneer. Some got great bargains but some spent more than they would have liked, due to more than one person after the plant concerned. Yes, we all get carried away by the heat of the moment. The same problem arises at our sales days for those who must be there at the time the doors open. The best plants must be there at the beginning – mustn't they? This means that if the person next to you in the crush takes an interest in a plant it must be good. He who hesitates is lost so you grab the plant and commiserate later!



Auctioneer Bill (Photo J Batty)

But it is all good fun. Geoff Jarrett from Strathalbyn has a garden chock-full of plants and although enjoying himself was sitting on his hands to stop himself bidding. What embarrassed me was my bringing in a small box with second hand mallee roots. Oops, I am not allowed to call them that these days because it is illegal to sell them, but how do you describe them? When it was legal I would prowl wood yards looking for small bits of knobby wood. The proprietor thought I was nuts spending hours just for a small bag. And so they were converted to unperishable Tillandsia mounts. I say unperishable because I had progressed from gnarled Grape vines that lasted 3 years then fell apart. The last few years has seen a dramatic reduction in the plants I can keep alive which means spare tillandsia mounts.

What was embarrassing was that it was decide not to auction the box but to do things a bit at a time! I had thought \$1 a shot would be great but some took great interest in an especially knobby bit. In any event all looked happy with their winnings.

I did notice some names which were strange to me but then the older I get the more I forget or it is new name. To those interested in matching labels with plants there are easy ways via the internet in trying to solve problems. I hope that the plants that we brought in will not raise too much concern and there were two Dyckias that need some introduction. As you know, I abhor Dyckia hybrids because there are so many around looking alike - even the registered ones. So I try to grow species and the only easy way is to grow from seed and be extra fussy as to their source. One on offer was *D. frigida* whose seed had come from Corsica of all places. Details were in the last Gazette. The other is even more fascinating because I first saw its photo taken in the wild in 2011 by my mate Oscar Ribeiro near Serra do Cabral in Minas Gerais in Brazil. We thought it was just a variation on *D. marnier-lapostollei* which is fairly wide-spread. Oscar sent me seed and resultant seedlings do not look like this species so I prevailed on Oscar to look further. I think it is a new species and have the Brazilian botanists thinking this way too. So if you do get a Dyckia from me with Serra do Cabral on the label you have something different AND with a provenance.

Roving Reporter at the November meeting cont:

DECISIONS DECISIONS DECISIONS. This time about what has been decided on judging. If you did not know before, judging is a very controversial subject. I have always said that when 2 or more Aussies meet they will invariably have a bet and when 2 or 3 Yanks meet they say let's have a competition – what are the rules? Well, the Bromeliad Society International does have judging rules and you can qualify to be a Judge by attending classes in the USA usually at World Conferences. Thus it costs lots of money and the peasants outside the USA are revolting. Luckily, our Society is not affiliated with BSI so we can do what we like. This does not mean we are not involved in its workings. After all I was Cultivar Registrar for 10 years and Adam is currently on their Board so we do keep an eye on them!

Anyway, we do have rules for judging based on what they do in the USA. It has been decided that we should have another Trophy in honour of Jeanne Hall who had a passion for the smaller Neoregelias. By smaller we mean any plant under 15 cm diam – well roughly. We don't expect Judges to use a hoop to check which I well remember being used 70 years ago when I grew Chrysanthemums! So do not forget to check on your plants ready for the Show in March 2015.

Reflections- From your Secretary

2014 has been another successful yet busy “Bromaholic” year involving increased numbers of presentations to Garden clubs & community groups, Festival of Flowers, visits to members gardens by garden clubs, sales extravaganzas, meetings, Home and Garden show & Jeanne's completed garden yet there was still time to nurture our Bromeliads.

It is an appropriate time to recall those friendships we have lost but memories remain dear (Jeanne, Bob & George-Gerd) & again acknowledge their contributions to our Society- sadly missed but never forgotten,

I would like to extend 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. Seasons greetings, wishing everyone a safe & prosperous 2015.

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

AGM February 2015

Reminder

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 8/2/2015 when all Committee positions will be declared vacant. To assist the nominations blank forms are attached & extra forms are available by contacting your secretary or at January meeting. Please give consideration to increasing your involvement in this friendly group.

Annual subscriptions are due in February also.

Festival of Flowers update

2015 Festival of Flowers will be held on 11th & 12th April at St Paul's College, 792 Grand Junction Road, Gilles Plains. At this stage participants include Begonia Society, Cactus & Succulent Society, African Violet Society, Fern Society, Fuchsias, Geranium & Pelargonium Society, Carnivorous plants, Bromeliad Society of S.A. & Orchids.

Jeanne's completed garden

On Saturday, November 22nd, a day of thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, friends of Peter Hall met at his home to celebrate the completion of Jeanne's Garden.

Where there had been a fairly large pond was now a stunning display of Bromeliads. Peter and Ray O'Donohue (an orchid man and one time member of our Society) had worked very hard to drain the pond, leaving a large water sculptured rock, that became a water feature and focal point. The plants were arranged in a horse-shoe shape, mainly bright coloured Neuroglia's tiered from large to small, giving a banked effect. The "open" mouth of the horse-shoe meant you could walk inside to admire individual plants and also find small sculptures that Jeanne loved. Surrounding trees and sarlon gave shade and made the whole area one of peace and tranquillity.

Margaret Butcher



A view of Jeanne's completed garden (Photo J Batty)

October 2014 Sales photos



Section of sale plants (Photo J Batty)



Section of Neoregelia on display (Photo J Batty)



Happy gardening.