S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!'

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Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,
6 Jeanes Street,
Beverley

Pots, Labels & Hangers - Small quantities available all meetings.
For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876

M. Paterson hybrids on display (Photo J. Batty)

Time: 2.00pm.

Second Sunday of each month
Exceptions –1st Sunday in May, June & 3rd Sunday January, March, September-, October no meeting in December or unless advised otherwise

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

MEETING & SALES 2017 DATES

,09/7/2017 Christmas in July. 40 year celebration,13/8/2017 Winter brag, 17/9/2017, (3rd Sunday) guest speaker,- Dr Randall Robinson. Dykias 15/10/2017, (3rd Sunday) Getting ready for Spring, 21/10/2017 & 22/10/2017 Sales, 12/11/2017 130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs $15 single $25 Dual : Now Due 2017

April, May & June 2017 Index

Roving Reporter April 2017

It must have been the colder than usual for April that caused a drop in attendance. If the reaction on winning the 'Special' raffle was anything to go by we did not really need heaters. We also had the luxury of spare minutes at the end of the meeting to discuss in depth the plants brought in for display. These were mostly patterned vrieseas which are the flavour of the month or even the last year or so. More so than hybrid neoregelias. While the hybrid neoregelias we see are very hard to tell apart, they do have a wide range of species as parents grandparents etc. Patterned vrieseas get by with only 4 or 5 species which have been crossed and crossed and crossed. The added benefit with these 'Glyphs' is that as the plant ages it can change colour. I well remember in the days of species, 30 years ago, seeing lots of seedlings at Maurice Kellett's place in Victoria and looking longingly at those that had more white markings than green markings. We must have had that look because Maurice let us have one to bring home which survived under Adelaide conditions BUT the white bits got taken over by green bits. It was not much later when we were at John Catlan's place at Jacob's Well in Queensland. Here we saw lots of seedlings where some were redder than others. Again we selected and picked out the reddest. Guess what - the red colors faded.

What caught the eye of members was a plant called *Vriesea* 'Cosmic Jewel' which was voted the most popular plant. When I did my usual chore of checking names before writing these notes I could not find it in the BCR. Clearly a case being a great plant in the eyes of many but not the hybridist.

Vriesea 'Cosmic Jewel'(Photo; J. Batty)

Before Adam got into the main display he followed up from our last meeting by introducing us slowly but surely to the new genera names. You may recall that in March we started with *Goudaea* . Anyway, he started us off with *Sincoraea* which is a resurrected name for the Orthophytums which flower without a flower stem (peduncle). These are undoubtedly the most spectacular because they go a brilliant red in the centre of the plant to announce flowering has started. BUT they seem to grow as annuals here in Adelaide except *Sincoraea burlemarxii* Luckily if this genus is crossed with another genus to get what the taxonomists tell us is a nothogenus these plants will grow well in Adelaide. The name you will have to get used to x*Sincoregelia* which replaces x*Neophytum* . Taxonomists tell us it needs the 'x' to show it is a nothogenus but do not tell us how to pronounce it, when we realise the x stands for 'times' if you remember your Mathematics. I say it is better to ignore the x when talking about your plants! A list compiled by Geoff Lawn of the bigenerics linked to Sincoraea follows.

Cultivar	New Genus	Old Genus
Andromeda	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Aurora	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Blushing Bride	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Burgundy Hill	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Burgundy Thrill	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Cosmic Blast	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Ecstasy	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Firecracker	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Galactic Warrior	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Gary Hendrix	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
George H Anderson	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Lisanne Kiehl	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Lymanii	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Medalist	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Mollie S	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Ralph Davis	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Rising Tide	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Shiraz	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Supernova	***x Sincoregelia***	***x Neophytum***
Andrea	***Sincoraea***	***Orthophytum***
Blaze	***x Sincorphytum***	***Orthophytum***
Blazing Bonsai	***x Sincortanthus***	***x Orthotanthus***
Rosita	***x Sincorglaziovia***	***x Orthoglaziovia***
Selby	***x Nidusincoraea***	***x Ortholarium***
Powderpuff	***x Sincoraechmea***	***x Orthomea***

These new genera names we are now seeing are supposed to link similar looking species into a recognisable group with a back-up from DNA studies of their evolutionary history and there are many more changes to come. I was very interested in Adam's *Vriesea neoglutinosa* which was in flower and very rare to me. As you know I am a 'species' man and here was this oddity amongst a multitude of hybrids. The problem was that I knew the name but not what it looked like in flower. A 'normal' *Vriesea* has a flower like a narrow paddle and here was a *Vriesea* with an inflorescence looking like a tree with branches everywhere. Margaret said she thought it looked like *V. philippocoburgii* (Confirmed by Bill Treloar- I think) and I thought it looked like *V. procera.* Later that day when in my den I investigated. Yes, it was *V. neoglutinosa* BUT the plant now called *Lutheria* is *Lutheria glutinosa*. A completely different species. Now for a bit of history. In 1856 Lindley named a *Vriesea glutinosa* and in 1883 Wawra gave a completely different plant the same name of *V. glutinosa.* It was not until 1935 that Mez corrected the error by changing the Wawra plant to *V. neoglutinosa.*

V. neoglutinosa (Photo; J. Batty)

The irony here is that *Lutheria glutinosa* should qualify as a patterned 'Vriesea' and is much more common in Adelaide than *V. neoglutinosa.* My grumble about the plant was the fact it had red petals so I could never find the right time to take its photo because the red petals blended with the red floral bracts!!!

Now to the *Goudaea* with stretch marks. Some growers see it as a collectable item but others might say, "What have I done?" I started looking at this form of oddity in 2003 when at the Conference in NZ and of course asked why was it so. Nobody could help and I put it down to irregular use of fertilizer. You only notice this with Vrieseas with patterned leaves because it seems to have grown faster lengthwise that widthwise! Shortly after this I got from Mick Romanowski a *Vriesea fenestralis* with the same traits but I rarely fertilize and my plant went back to normal!

My Brazilian mate Oscar Ribeiro had the same thing happen to him and he registered 'Adroalda'. I was then at the Conference in Darwin when I again saw *V. fenestralis* with stretch marks where the locals could not answer my questions and seemed to me had the feeling it was an undesired trait which occurred now and again. If we look into history this phenomenon was reported in 1893. With the stretchmarks in *Goudaea ospinae* var. *gruberi* which occurred in Australia we have 'Smudge Grub' but if they occurred in Europe we have 'Euro Smudge'.

We have yet another comment on plants with formulas on the label caused by a discussion with our Orchid grower Peter. I was pleasantly surprised to hear him say that if an Orchid known by formula won a prize it had to be registered within the year! Here is a quick recap on the naming of man-made hybrids. In the 1950's we had the first Code on how to name plants made in cultivation. This was regularly updated with what were seen to be improvements. In the 1990's it was decided to move the emphasis from parents, grandparents, great grandparents, to the child. We all moved except the Orchid growers who wanted their own system. So when I used to see the Orchid displays in West Lakes I used to wonder at the size of the labels needed to accommodate the many parents given in the formula.

Only a few Tillandsias to see but it was great to see a *T. sphaerocephala* in flower and the one from Bolivia too! In the 1990's we had lots and lots of plants called *T. sphaerocephala* from the wholesale nurseries in Guatemala most of which we now know as *T. riohondoensis.*

T. sphaerocephala (Photo; J. Batty)

Key to Tillandsia sphaerocephala complex from Ehlers & Hromradnik in Die Brom: 43. 1998

1. Leaves stiff, prominently canaliculate, flower bracts lepidote **2**

1. Leaves thin, rather soft, finely appressed lepidote and therefore appearing gray-green to silvery, less canaliculate, outside subcarinate, erect, forming a narrow, sometimes secund rosette; blades narrowly triangular, filiform subulate towards apex; sheaths very large, when dry prominently nerved, dark brown to black; scape bracts and primary bracts carmine red, flower bracts punctulate lepidote; sepals membranaceous and up to 2.5 cm long; petals purple **T. calochlamys**

2. Leaves many, spreading, recurved, forming an almost globose rosette; finely appressed lepidote, green; sheaths scarcely distinct, green to dark green; inflorescence globose; sepals shortly connate, fine lepidote; petals white; Argentina and southern Bolivia **T. schreiteri**

2. Leaves not so many; leaf blades, scape bracts and primary bracts grey, stiff, almost succulent; sheaths brown; sepals glabrous or nearly so; Bolivia **3**

3. Leaves spreading, forming a rosette; scape decurved, sheaths of the upper scape bracts and primary bracts rose-violet to reddish; sepals glabrous or nearly so, posterior connate (1-3 mm), petals violet to purple with spreading plate **T. sphaerocephala var. sphaerocephala**

3. Leaves not so many, erect, often reddish-violet, forming a narrow funnel; scape erect, inflorescence nodding, red, smaller **T. sphaerocephala var. tarijensis**

3. Leaves not so many, strongly secund, scape curved, primary bracts & floral bracts shiny red **T. imporaensis**

This key had me thinking Julie's plant may well be the variety *tarijensis* and if we read further we see ***Tillandsia sphaerocephala*** Baker var. ***tarijensis*** Ehlers & Hromadnik Die Bromelie 2/1998 p36-43

Differs from TYPE in

1. Leaf rosette narrower with fewer very erect leaves (10-12)
2. Leaves shining with reddish-violet dots due to the stronger solar radiation.
3. Inflorescence ca 15cm long, somewhat shorter than the leaves
4. Scape straight and erect.
5. Primary bract and upper scape bract sheaths brick red
6. Inflorescence 3cm long, 1 – 1.5cm wide, head somewhat nodding with ca. 5 compound spikes.

7. Spike to 2 flowered, 15 – 20mm long, 8mm wide,(Type with to 4 flowers, 3cm long, 15mm wide)
8. Flower bracts to 15 mm long (Type 25mm)
9. Flower smaller
10. Petals lilac

Type Bolivia, Tarija, Cana Cruz, Upper part of Rio Paicho, 2950m. leg L Hromadnik 19025, 6.2.1995 (Holotype LPB Isotype WU) R Ehlers EB951103 (Paratype WU)

From the photo I only see 2 flowers per spike but if Julie is really keen she may like to dismantle the inflorescence to find out!

Roving Reporter May 2017

Roving Reporter May 2017
Winter has come. We even had the wall heaters on. They are so high up the wall it did make me wonder if Peter Hall had a warmer experience than the rest of us. Despite this we had a good roll up probably because it was a meeting with a difference. We had a supply of Margaret Paterson's *Neoregelia* and *Tillandsia* hybrids to buy where you had to wait your turn for your number to be called. We were instructed to use the ticket we had been given at the door which would be used for the door raffle AND the expectant purchases.
Kallam had been promoted to look after the raffle plants and see that raffle winners were directed to the right table. He did a good job although he did try to purloin tickets from unwary members!.
At the tea break I was shown how a new member was growing her plants via her telephone, or was it her camera? I suppose she had a patch of some 20 plants which looked great in a massed display. She had clearly found the right spot for them in her garden. I saw a great shot of an *Aechmea fasciata* in flower. When I saw a couple of shots of *Guzmania* hybrids I just had to say you will have to take care of those especially in our hot dry summers and cold winters. Should I have said this, because they clearly were happy in the position they were! I also commented on the great symmetry on her single plantings of *Neoregelia* pointing out how they lost this shape if grown in clumps. Whoops! I then remembered the number of plants in clumps we had on display! Is there a moral to this? Perhaps I should not be let loose with newcomers. I either scare them with problems they have yet to face or give them a biased view on clumping non-tubular plants!

This leads me to the most popular plant *Neoregelia* 'Gympie Delight' with lots of offsets, owned by Sue Schrabei. As is my wont I always check the Bromeliad Cultivar Register for hybrids because they invariably have a fascinating history and this is no exception. As Adam said, Margaret Paterson kept her hybrids in batches or series. The Gympie series is a beauty, there are 59 of them. She must have liked using 'Satsuma' as mother and 'Little Dazzler' as father because she did this several times between 1988 and 2001. Let us look at 'Satsuma'. This was imported from the USA ages ago with (*ampullacea x paucifolia*) x (*princeps* x 'Fireball') on the label. The seedlings from such a parentage must have been very variable indeed but it is lucky that only one plant got to Australia, so in effect we selected this clone. In 2000 my Margaret got fed up with writing such a label and we decided to call it 'Satsuma' because of its plum coloured leaves. 'Satsuma' is still around Adelaide – somewhere! Now to father, 'Little Dazzler' a hybrid made by Bob Larnach which was a nice plant and named and registered by Margaret P but Bob could not supply parents. This is not the first time that an orphan has shown great promise. With such a parentage you would expect a motley crowd of children. Margaret P saw 59 recognisable variations which she named. I wonder how many were destroyed as not being up to scratch.

Neoregelia 'Gympie Delight'
(Photo; J. Batty)

This leads me to say that breeding hybrid Neoregelias is easy. You just grow on seed you can collect from any *Neoregelia* hybrid. But, by doing so you have responsibilities. I always think in human terms where the 18 year old male is keen to sow his wild oats without responsibility. Luckily, few people in Adelaide have dabbled in hybridising but as a Society we have been instrumental in getting names registered for plants coming in from interstate showing great promise.

Yes, members did behave themselves in purchasing their plant of their choice. All we have to do is to see how many are successful in getting their purchases acclimatized to Adelaide conditions.

Just a word a bit off topic but I am getting lots of queries about the loss of *Tillandsia lindenii* when all the others got transferred to *Wallisia*. First let us look at what was in Smith and Downs 1977 and the plants we grew were based on it.

Tillandsia lindenii Regel, Ind. Sem. Hort. Petrop. "1868": 92. Mar 1869; Ann. Sci. Nat. V. **10:** 382. ca Aug 1869.
TiIIandsia lindeniana Regel, Gartenflora 18: 193. *pI.* 619. *Jul 1869.* Type. *Linden Hortus* s *n* (n v). In the absence of any specimen the species is adequately typified by the description and illustration.
Tillandsia lindeni E. Morren *var regeliana* E. Morren, Belg. Hortic. 20: *225, pI.* 12. 1870. Based on *Tillandsia lindeniana* Regel.
Tillandsia lindeni var *major* Dombrain, Floral Mag. 10: *pl.* 529. 1871. Type. *Veitch Hortus s n.* Typified by illustration.
? *Vriesia violacea* hortus ex Houllet, Revue Hort. 44: 230. 1872; nomen in synon.
Tillandsia lindeni var *rutilans* Linden ex Houllet, Revue Hort. 44: 230. 1872; nomen in synon.
Tillandsia lindeni var *intermedia* E. Morren ex Carriere, Revue Hort. 50: 390. 1878. Based on *Tillandsia lindeni* var *major* Dombrain.
Phytarrhiza lindeni E. Morren var *intermedia* E. Morren, Belg. Hortic. 29: 298. 1879. Based on Floral Mag. 10: *pi.* 529. 1871 *(Tillandsia lindeni* var. *major).*
Phytarrhiza lindeni var *regeliana* (E. Morren) E. Morren, Belg. Hortic. 29: 298. 1879.
? *Tillandsia lindeni* var *violacea* hortus ex Andre, Revue Hort. 58: 61. 1896; nomen.
Tillandsia lindeni vera major Duval, Gartenwelt 5: *164, fig.* 1901. Type. *Duvalle Hortus* [Versailles]. Typified by illustration.
Tillandsia lindenii var *koutsinskyana* (E. Morren) L. B. Smith, Contr. U. S. Natl. Herb. 29: 494. 1951.
Tillandsia lindenii var *x caeca* D. Barry, Bromel. Soc. Bull. 12: 5. 1962.
Tillandsia lindenii var *abundans* L. B. Smith, Phytologia 20: 166. 1970.
Tillandsia lindenii var *x duvaliana* L. B. Smith, Phytologia 20: 166. 1970. (Tillandsia cyanea x lindenii).

Description from S&D pages 844-5
Scape (flower stem) erect, slender, elongate;
Inflorescence simple, lanceolate, acute, strongly complanate, dense, to 20-flowered, to 20 cm long and 5 cm wide, glabrous.

The first name is where the name on our labels comes from. All others are synonyms, in other words are considered are linked to that name even though in themselves they might be different. So this plant started out in 1868 as having a small inflorescence with only about 5 flowers but as each synonym was added so too did the description change. The ORIGINAL *T. lindenii* becomes *Wallisia lindeniana*. But what happened to *T. lindenii* as seen by Smith?. To my mind, the clue lies in the last line of the synonyms and we should think of the hybrid Wallisia ‘Duvalii’. May it rest in peace.

The history of Bromeliad Society of South Australia 1977 - 2017

'Born in 1977 and still offsetting'

It is with a great deal of pleasure that The Bromeliad Society of South Australia presents the history of our Society to its members and Bromeliad Societies through our exchange system to celebrate our 40th anniversary.

Every endeavour has been made to provide and accurate overview of these years, and there is a diverse and interesting (at times entertaining) history to be proud of, unfortunately it has been condensed otherwise it would have been a lengthy book. Each member will be presented with a printed copy.

Appreciation is expressed especially to our foundation members for the legacy they have left us, the result of their enthusiasm and accomplishments.
My thanks go to Julie, Margaret, Derek, Len, & Adam for their support and assistance in compiling this history, also gratitude to my proof readers Margaret, Derek, Adam & Maddy.
Bev

STOP PRESS! July Meeting

This is expected to be a low key, friendly get together combining a catered luncheon, 40 year celebration with presentation of the BSSA history booklet and Christmas in July celebration. **Early start 1230PM**
The lunch will be served at 1PM; BYO DRINKS & GLASSES
All financial members' meals are being paid for with BSSA funds, non members are $25 each. Our June meeting was the deadline for notification of attendance.
We have endeavoured to cater for the nominated preferences; however the majority have chosen between 3 meats (beef, chicken & turkey) with roast vegetables instead of salads. We will ensure that specified special dietary needs are noted & if necessary contact those members individually.

There will be **NO MEETING, NO DISPLAY PLANTS, RAFFLE OR DOOR PRIZES** so please do not bring in any plants just for this meeting.

Please join in the fun and bring in a wrapped gift value of $10 to participate in the Kris cringle- Christmas in July. *Bev.*

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Roving Reporter June 2017

Another cold day but a great roll up. Most did not realise that earlier in the week there had been great panic that the scheduled speaker was on holidays! So we had a makeshift meeting on how to butcher Tillandsias. But first let us look at the plants brought in for display. It was great that some had got here from cold old Kadina, AND they looked quite happy and flowering too.

Have you ever seen a blushing Bev before? She had the most popular plant with *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'. This cultivar name was given to a special selection of *Quesnelia marmorata* by Harry Luther at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota Florida. If you are ever in the USA this is a 'MUST' visit. The garden started off in 1955 and was mainly about Orchids. Harry was the one who really promoted Bromeliaceae and one that worked there before Harry was Tim Plowman. So now you know!


Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'(Photo; I. Cook)

How new must a New Release be? It revolves around Neoregelia 'Easter Egg' which Adam mentioned he had seen before only to be 'corrected' by those who had been to the Qld conference. I am reminded of our own Shows and Sales where on Saturday morning early you have those who must have the best and are happy that they got in first. After reflection they wonder if they did get a good buy (bye?)! Anyway, this is what is in the BCR

Neoregelia 'Easter Egg'(Photo; J. Batty)

Neoregelia 'Easter Egg' by *Geoff Lawn, BSI Cultivar Registrar*

In the past 30 years there has been an increasing trend to breed more mottle-leaved cultivars, particularly focusing on white/pink/green combinations in miniature Neoregelias. A key species form in these crosses is *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat', a Brazilian cultivar of unknown origin released with no positive I.D. about 1975 by Lotus Osiris Nursery, Brazil. This was named N. 'Marble Throat' by Bill Seaborn of Seaborn Del Dios Nursery, Escondido, California and later determined by Harry Luther to be a select form of *N. chlorosticta.*

Others growers concurred also that it breeds true from self-set seed. *N.* 'Marble Throat' is a small upright rosette to 15cms. diameter and 20cms. tall with 5cms. long stolons. The green leaves spotted white have heavily-marbled cream inner leaves and white petals. The rosette base is sepia red with green spotting and the entire foliage can flush pink in strong light. This mottle gene seems dominant and transmits well to many hybrids. To date the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (http://registry.bsi.org/) under Advanced Search lists *N.* 'Marble Throat' for 29 entries as a seed parent and 3 entries as a pollen parent, but other unrecorded crosses are known to be in cultivation.

In 2007 Hawaiian breeder Lisa Vinzant of Olomana Tropicals, Oahu produced *N.* 'Easter Egg' ('Ruby Throat' x 'Pink Mosaic') . Lisa's own cross *N.* 'Ruby Throat' ('Honi Honi' x 'Marble Throat') has 'Fireball', 'Nana', *sarmentosa* and 'Fairy Paint' in its ancestry. The pollen parent 'Pink Mosaic' ('Marble Throat' x ?) was bred by pioneer Hawaiian grower Hatsumi Maertz.

All this lineage behind *N.* 'Easter Egg' has produced a midi-sized, broad-leaved, open rosette to 25cms. diameter. In strong light the foliage features a good balance of green, cream and pink marbling throughout, reminiscent of a candied, decorative Easter egg. Even in the relatively-mild Hawaiian winter, leaf colouring and markings are still attractive.

What Geoff did not mention was that 10 years before we had Vic Przetocki in Perth doing similar crossings with 'Marble Throat' and many were called 'Marble SOMETHING' if you did not see that 'Marble Throat' was involved somewhere. I will admit they are not exotic from Hawaii. And I you want to go back a further 10 years we have

AN ATTRACTIVE FORM OF NEOREGELIA CHLOROSTICTA. by Olwen Ferris **.** In Bromeletter May/June 1988

A dainty little neoregelia can be seen in a number of collections, scattered right around Australia. I first made its acquaintance about three years ago in Cairns, North Queensland. June Bennett gave me an offset from an unnamed substitute plant which came to her from Lotus Osiris, Brazil, and asked "what is it ?".

About the same time Ruby Ryde of Sydney, gave me a small neoregelia seedling, grown from Brazilian seed. Recently Ruby gave me an offset labelled *Neoregelia chlorosticta* 'Marble Throat'. All three plants are identical and when grown in nearly full sun, the soft green and white is suffused with faint pink. A most attractive little neoregelia very suited to growing in hanging pots or baskets. At Bromeliads IV in Adelaide, Easter 1987, Geoff Lawn showed slides of this small neoregelia and a number of delegates asked for more information on the plant.

We did see one casualty from the Qld expedition where it is hoped that the remedy of dried cinnamon in the centre and keeping the plant dry in the winter months will result in recovery through offsetting.

Wasn't it great to see an *Aechmea carvalhoi* in flower and unadulterated by the hybridists. It was found in Bahia, Brazil in 1984. Plant epiphytic in rain forest. Flowered in cultivation in Rio de Janeiro in the collection of Elton Leme. We are lucky it was imported to Australia when it was because these days exportation from Brazil seems to be only by seed (when it is available) The plant looks too delicate for Kadina but being related to *A. fulgens* and *A. victoriana* it is tougher than it looks. Then there was a *A azurea* with blue flowers. The following shows how interesting things can become when you ask questions

*Aechmea carvalhoi (*Photo; J. Batty)

Aechmea azurea not *A. fendleri, nor A.winkleri, nor A. araneosa* **by Derek Butcher 2001**

In 1996, Peter Franklin of Raymond Terrace was pondering over a plant he had which had just flowered with white petals. Nothing strange about that, you may say! But he had received identical looking plants as *Aechmea fendleri* from Bill Morris and *Aechmea winkleri* from Marjory McNamara. Neither of these plant names are known for their white petals, but you can get albino plants. Using Smith and Downs, Peter found that the closest match was *Aechmea azurea*, but, as the name implies, this has blue petals. He decided to put his thoughts to me and I put them to Harry Luther at the BSI Identification Centre. Harry's answer was succinct; *Aechmea azurea*! Apparently Harry had come across this problem before, because the BSI Seed fund had offered *Aechmea fendleri* seed in the late 1970's. This could be where Bill Morris got his plant originally. Plants raised from this seed offer turned out to be a weak white-flowered form of *Aechmea azurea*.

Soon after Harry's advice, Peter's other plant flowered with blue petals therefore matching the description of *Aechmea azurea.*

Several tillandsias had been brought in for display but one needs a special mention. It related to 2 plants, one related to *T. straminea* x *T. chiapensis* and the other the reverse cross by Holm in Germany. 80 years ago it did not matter who was quoted as mother because it was believed that an ovule was half a normal cell and pollen was half a male normal cell. It was then found that an ovule had a few extra genes that may affect the resultant seedlings. So, these days we should take note of the name of the plant the seed came from! Let us not forget how promiscuous Broms are with 'foreign' pollen. Back to the plot. Holm was an orchid growing but he hybridised Tillandsias at every opportunity. Germans do not seem to worry about hybrids and concentrate almost totally on species which they collected from the New World. The only ones who seemed interested were Aussies and although Holm died registering none, his daughter saw the need and we now have 67 registered by her. I even have a list of what is outstanding but *T. straminea* x *T. chiapensis* is not there. So when Adam flowers his plants and decides they are the same or different he should be pushing for a proper name to be registered.

And so to the Circus of butchering Tillandsias. It was great to see so many volunteers. Taking Tillandsias apart and attaching them to bits of wood is easy, if you use common sense as to the time of the year you operate and the prevailing climate in your area of residence. Most tillandsias can be adapted to pot culture and Adam showed how you attach a ribbon/tape/stockings to your plant and feed the ends through the drainage holes. This controls the depth you want your offset to stay in relation to the level of your bark chips/ soil mix. This strategy stops your offset falling out the pot. Because I use scoria bits these are heavy enough to help the offset stay rigid.

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Adam during butchering *(*Photo; J. Batty)

I was pleased to see the use of Selley's Sealant when attaching plants to wood. Yes, there are lots of glues you can use but these set hard whereas sealant stays pliable enough for roots to push through

Should you remove the flower head when it has lost its colour? Yes! Because it induces offsets. Yes, you can wait for seed which may take 12 months but in my experience rarely happens in Adelaide. If you do get seed be prepared for a wait of 10-15 years to get a mature plant. Leave it to the Queenslanders provided they don't hybridise
The demonstrators seemed worried about rot and were extra careful in removing offsets. I am much more robust and if you have good sharp secateurs these are great tools to bring an offset back to size. Provided you don't seal the cut with your sealant, the end soon dries up.

Two final warnings. When drilling the hole to take your offset remember it is safer to drill right through otherwise you can leave a trap for moisture. As Adam pointed out, if you have several plants to dismantle just like we had on the operation table it pays to write a label early because you can look at an unnamed offset and think "How is it so?"

Interesting articles from Bromeliad Gazette June 1987

We have read of the pineapple being used in medicinal purposes, but not often is there anything specific. Recently I read that for coughs and colds you should roast some lemons until they crack open. Then mix the juice from these lemons with brown sugar and fresh pineapple juice and take this for a cough or cold.
It further stated that the pineapple juice had powerful digestive enzymes to add along with those of the lemon and helped to dispose of the mucus in the throat.
There is one thing about it - most people would not mind taking this medicine!

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A number of years ago I saw a piece of lava rock completely covered with an Aechmea Fosteriana. It made a most unusual sight. It was so pleasing to the eye; it would have made an excellent subject for a painting.
There are a number of Bromeliads that would make a picture' grown this way**.**

Perhaps this is one!

T. latifolia

P.S. DON'T FOR 12.30 START FOR JULY 9TH WITH LUNCH SERVED @ 1pm.