

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

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Born 1977 and still offsetting!

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

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Neoregelia 'Scarface' Best in show (Photo J. Batty)

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley

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

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

MEETING & SALES 2018 DATES

8/7/2018 (Xmas in July, Challenges growing Brom's), 12/8/2018(Winter brag) 16/9/2018-3rd SUNDAY (Plants from Interstate), 14/10/2018 (Vriesea hybridizing presentation), 27/10/2018 & 28/10/2018 Show & Sales, 11/11/2018 -130PM start, pup exchange, special afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, plant auction.

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

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA TROPHY & CERTIFICATE WINNERS MARCH 2018

Trophy	Plant name	Winner
Tillandsioideae Josie Tonkin Trophy	1 st Tillandsai chiapensis 2 nd Tillandsia 'Marron' HC Tillandsia crocata	1 st . Adam 2 nd . Julie HC. Peter
Pricklies Margaret Reppin Trophy	1 st Deuterocohnia chlorantha 2 nd Encholirium horrida HC Hechtia (San Mateo Penaseu)	1 st Ron & Bev 2 nd Peter H.C. Peter
President's Trophy Inter-Generic bromeliads	1 st x Anamea Scorpio	1 st . Ron & Bev
Best Specimen Plant Gummow Trophy	1 st Cryptanthus 'Black Magic' 2 nd Billbergia 'Illuminated' HC Quesnelia 'Tin Plowman'	1 st Julie 2 nd Julie HC. Ron & Bev
Vriesea complex Marie Robinson Trophy	1 st Vriesea fenestralis 2 nd Tillandsia 'Samantha' HC Vriesea 'Concerto'	1 st Adam 2 nd Adam HC. Adam
George (Gerd) Rudolph Artistic Merit Trophy	1 st . 1 st Tree of Life 2 nd Long stick with Tillandsias HC. Knuckle with 3 Tillandsias	1 st Ian 2 nd Ron & Bev HC Ron & Bev
Neoregelia Trophy	1 st Neoregelia 'Scarface' 2 nd Neoregelia 'Tartan Warrior' HC Neoregelia 'Lorena Lector'	1 st . Adam 2 nd Adam HC. Adam
Jeanne Hall Trophy Miniature Neoregelia	1 st Neoregelia 'Blushing Tiger' 2 nd Neoregelia 'Heat Rash' HC Neoregelia 'Mo Peppa Please'	1 st . Sue 2 nd Adam HC Sue
BEST IN SHOW EDE SCHAEFER TROPHY	Neoregelia 'Scarface'	Adam
Auntie Margaret & Uncle Derek Novice Award	Neoregelia 'Larnach's Red Glow'	Sarka

Well done & congratulations to all.

Gummow Trophy

Jeanne Hall Trophy

Artistic Merit Trophy

Artistic Merit Trophy



Cryptanthus 'Black Magic'
(Photo J. Batty)



Neoregelia 'Blushing Zebra'
(Photo J. Batty)



Ian with 'Tree of Life'
(Photo J. Batty)



'Tree of Life'
(Photo J. Batty)

PrickliesDeuterocohnia chlorantha
(Photo J. Batty)**President's Trophy**x Anamea Scorpio
(Photo J. Batty)**Josie Tonkin Trophy**Tillandsai chiapensis
(Photo J. Batty)**Auntie Margaret & Uncle Derek**Neoregelia 'Larnach's Red Glow'
(Photo J. Batty)

Roving Reporter April 2018

First I must mention the Secretary's challenge where she has a prize for the winner who finds the mistake in the Gazette No1 for 2018. You see, Bev saw this mistake when ready to post out the Gazette. She felt the time had come to see how many of our members actually read our Gazette. My view is that there are at least two sorts of readers. One is a pedant who looks for errors and the other who is an optimist and assumes everything must be OK. The pessimist in me says there are probably more than one error!. The challenge is out and we await the verdict with baited breath.

Now to the meeting which was unseasonably HOT. Adam was unable to attend so Peter took over the reins and excelled himself. He even kept me quiet.

The speaker was our very own Ray Clark. It was his maiden speech and he performed so well we will be asking him back. What I liked best was how he got audience participation. Anyway, he had brought this large box with him which was a sort of cornucopia because he was forever producing something to cogitate over. Face masks, ear muffs, gloves, etc etc. All are recommendations that you might use to save you from damaging yourself when fixing up your plants or surrounds. He did not expect us to follow ALL his recommendations but those of us who are accident-prone should heed! The following is a resume of his talk.

SAFETY IN YOUR GARDEN

APRIL 8TH 2018

The purpose of this discussion today is to increase our awareness of the ways that we can get hurt or cause harm to the environment when pursuing our hobby.

When we are exposed to a hazard there is always a chance that we will become injured in some way or another!

A hazard is a thing or a situation that could cause harm or an injury the environment or us.

Hazards can present themselves whilst enjoying our hobbies in a myriad of ways.

- Cuts and lacerations using hand and power tools
- Infections from cuts and scratches
- Bites from insects, vermin, spiders and snakes
- Slips, trips and falls from spilt liquids or poor housekeeping like hoses not rolled up
- Chemical burns and breathing problems
- Biological hazards from breathing in dust and spores from potting mediums
- Sunburn and sunstroke
- Electrocution

In some cases, these injuries will require medical intervention, hospitalisation or even worse!

How do we stop ourselves from becoming hurt in the garden?

- Wearing gloves, consider using the right kind of glove for the job, chemicals etc.!
- Wear face masks when using potting mixes, pine bark or chemicals
- Wear safety glasses and face shields when using chemicals and power tools
- Use eye, ear and hand protection, when using a grinder

- UV protection, long sleeves, wide brimmed hats and sunscreen
- Consider the use of suitable footwear
- Removing sharp edges on shelves
- Good housekeeping,
 - Roll up garden hoses
 - Put away tools and equipment when not being used
 - Try not to create a haven for snakes
- Read the safety data sheet before using chemicals
- Correct labelling and storage of chemicals
- Keeping hand tools in good working order
- Use Safety Switches when power tools are used

Environmental issues,

- Consider the use of an alternative to nasty chemicals
- Confidor and Spectrum are allegedly harmful to bees and the environment
- What can we use to eliminate pests?
 - To treat mealy bugs use methylated spirits diluted with water instead of Confidor
 - To treat mosquitoes use coffee grounds instead of oil sprays
 - To treat fungal infections use Cinnamon instead of Fungicides (this one of Peter Hall's treatments).
 - Water run off containing excess fertilisers and chemicals

All chemicals sold or distributed around many parts of the world including Australia must have a safety data sheet. These are usually seen as an information panel on a chemical container and this information panel provides the user with the knowledge of what PPE to use and what to do in an emergency. You should read them before using the chemical so that you know how not to become a patient.

If you have any doubts about a chemical then the following link may be useful;

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sds>

The most popular plant went to Julie Batty with *Neoregelia* 'Sandy'. Yet another unregistered hybrid from Bullis Nursery in Florida. It is a pity that some of the large nurseries in the USA do not see the need to register their hybrids with the BCR. Perhaps they consider themselves as being above we plebs.

I have recently being busy checking photographs of hybrids we grew some 30 years ago to see if they were properly recorded in the BCR. I slowly realised that so many were not being grown these days or are being grown but are at the back of the bench/ So I was surprised when Bill Treloar showed me this huge *Neoregelia*. It was huge because it must have been grown under dense shade. So many times we hear at meetings that Bromeliads need shade in Adelaide and they do but there is a lot of difference between shady shade and light shade. Plants know what they like and respond to it. It is up to us to interpret their individual wants. Anyway, Bill was after a name. After a guess that *Neo cruenta* might be involved the name 'Monstrosus' was mentioned. Now, that brought memories flooding back that I would like to share with you.

The case of the misidentified *Neoregelia hatschbachii* by Butcher 2009

I suppose it all started when Kent's named a plant before 1977 as 'Monstrousa' probably imported from Brazil. Somehow it got to Selby Gardens and was identified as *Neoregelia hatschbachii*. In 1985 Harry saw the plant in Queensland when he was over here at a Conference and, of course, he knew it as *N. hatschbachii* but probably identified before he joined Marie Selby. This seems to be confirmed by the following article in Bromeleter 25(3) 10. 1987

NEOREGELIA HATCHBACHII. L.B. SMITH, 1955 (see J Brom Soc 33(5): 192. 1983 for photo.) One of the bromeliads I purchased soon after moving to Queensland, was a very large, attractive neoregelia. It gained in colour pigment when grown in full sun and the best colour came in the year following maturity, when, if the offsets have not been removed, they overshadow the parent by their sturdy growth.

The label said *Neoregelia Monstrum*, a name I failed to find in any of my books. On asking around, someone said they thought a grower on the northern outskirts of Brisbane had imported the plant from Europe. One of our members reported to me that while in Florida at the Selby Gardens, a plant resembling our *Neo. Monstrum* had been viewed and the name of it was *Neoregelia hatchbachii*. On checking my books I find the plant in many collections under the name of *Neo. Monstrum*, should have the label changed to *Neoregelia hatchbachii*.
 OLWEN FERRIS.

I got into the act in the 1990's and started writing to Harry Luther because I could not understand how Smith could describe this plant as being small. Something was amiss! In 1994 Harry agreed that there had been a misidentification and this detail went into the Australian hybrid checklists.

In turn it eventually got into the Cultivar Register 1998 as follows

Neoregelia Monstrosus (*Monstrousa*) Kent* ,1980

Butcher says, "Named by H. Luther at Queensland Conference 1985 as *hatschbachii* which was corrected in 1994 to *cruenta* (red form)". Kent Catalog 1977 lists '*Monstrousa*'? - 1997 verbal commentary by Harry Luther says this is an unidentified species from Kents.

References Butcher1991; 1997, TF1980

From J Brom Soc 48(5): 223. 1998 by Harry Luther

At a later date, larger and broader leaf selections of *N. johannis* were introduced as *N. cruenta*, a species with which *N. johannis* shares a somewhat similar foliage coloration but little else. True *N. cruenta* has hard, green or yellow-green (rarely reddish) leaves with a dark red "finger nail" and blue-violet petal blades. Many clones of *N. cruenta* are in cultivation, mostly correctly identified; rarely, the red leaf form is misnamed as *N. hatschbachii* (something else entirely).



Neoregelia 'Monstrosus' (Photo J. Batty)



Neoregelia 'Monstrosus' (Photo D. Butcher)

In 2009 we still come across plants with *N. hatschbachii* on the label and because few know about the link to 'Monstrosus' it goes uncorrected. We also know that this red-leafed clone is not only a rare form of *Neo cruenta* but has silvery bands on both sides of the leaves, not mentioned in the description in Smith & Downs. Just as there are so many names given to various forms of *Vriesea fosteriana* ie 'Red Chestnut' there seems even more reason that the name 'Monstrosus' should be retained as cultivar form of *N. cruenta* and not lost under the vague term 'red leaved'.

So now you know! *Neoregelia cruenta* grows in the sand dunes of Brazil so knows about sunshine. I now show what different sunlight makes to this cultivar

While on the subject of comparisons we do have a *Tillandsia fasciculata* from Honduras being grown by at least 2 Adelaideans and likely to increase because of its offsetting ability. I leave you to decide if the unofficial name is preferable to the Cultivar name *Tillandsia* 'Hondurensis' Photos are shown



T. fasciculata var. *hondurensis* (Photo J. Batty)



Tillandsia 'Hondurensis' (Photo Dennis Cathcart)

Plus the following reading

***Tillandsia* 'Hondurensis'** By Derek Butcher 7/2011 JBromSoc 61(2): 86. 2011

In 1975 with Werner Rauh, Enrique Kamm found a colony of plants growing on rocks near Jacaleapa, Francisco Morazan, Honduras, quite near Tegucigalpa. There is also a colony near the airport. On the same expedition he found *Tillandsia hondurensis* which Werner Rauh described in 1981. This species is on the endangered list and has nothing to do with the plant here under discussion. Werner did not take any taxonomical interest in the plant with affinities to *T. fasciculata*.

On the other hand, Enrique saw horticultural benefits and he saw similarities with the ubiquitous *Tillandsia fasciculata* and called his find *T. fasciculata* var. *hondurensis*. Over the years he sent specimens to Tropiflora and Dennis Cathcart kept propagating them and selling them as *T. fasciculata* "Hondurensis". Such is the popularity of this plant it is now being grown in many countries by Tillandsia enthusiasts. Recently a large shipment went to Singapore to be part of their huge 'Gardens by the Bay' project.

In July 2011 Matthias Asmuss of Venezuela flowered his 'Hondurensis' and when he wanted to know more about his plant he could find no reference to this name either in any species listings or the Cultivar Register. This is understandable because nobody had bothered to formally identify this plant. Most striking-looking plants find their way to a taxonomist and eventually get formally identified and sometimes given a new name according to the ICBN rules. This takes time. Here we strike a problem. In 2010 there was a paper published under the heading "Herbaria are a major frontier for species discovery" (PNAS 107 (51): 22169-22171. 2010) where it was revealed that only 16% are described within 5 years and 84% much much longer. It would seem better that living plants be given a non-Latinised name so they can be released via the nursery trade. Here the Bromeliad Cultivar Register can play a vital role because crucial data can be recorded.

Anyway, Matthias in his zeal for information placed a photo on the Florapix section of Brom-L asking for comments. I was somewhat surprised when Dr Walter Till suggested this may well be the 'old' *Tillandsia pungens*. I knew that it was treated as a synonym of *T. fasciculata* var. *fasciculata* in Flora Neotropica (1977) and this had me checking old records. This was what I found in Mez in Das Pflanzenreich, Bromeliaceae 1934/5 :32. ***T. pungens*** Mez in DC. Monogr. Phaner. IX. 684. (1896).

To 0.4 m high.

Leaves 0.4 m long, above the sheath to 23 mm wide then gradually narrowing to a clearly subulate subpungent tip, when dried involute channelled, white lepidote drying grey.

Scape thick, erect, dense very rigid scape bracts, long triangular acute, strongly pungent involute.

Inflorescence digitate with a few spikes at the most, to 0.2 m long & 35 mm wide, densely flabellate, lanceolate, to 14-flowered, subsessile compound;

Primary bracts much shorter than the spikes;

Floral bracts dense imbricate, the back glabrous becoming smooth, from wide ovate becoming blunt, towards the tip the upper part is very clearly incurved acute carinate, to 50 mm long, very clearly exceeding the sepals.

Flowers strictly erect, definitely 55 mm long;

Sepals anterior one free, posterior pair to 23 mm connate, back glabrous with fine prominent veins, lanceolate, very acute, to 36 mm long.

Petals 14 mm longer than the sepals, tubular erect, shorter than the stamens.

Mexico: Oaxaca, in the Sierra de Misteca, Cerro Potrero (Schenck Mex. n.226).

Panama (Wagner n. 53). [Holotype. Wagner 53 (GOET, M, GH photo) – Butcher!]

Lyman Smith in *Phytologia* 20(3): 177. 1970 placed this species under *T. fasciculata* var *fasciculata* and this was again published in *Flora Neotropica* (1979). Nobody has challenged this move in the intervening years. Mez was of the opinion that *T. pungens* was closer to *T. tricolor* because its spikes were flatter in cross section. But then, when does flat become convex?

Matthias has found that his plant is very close to the description of *T. pungens* but he would also find it very close the description of *T. fasciculata* var. *fasciculata* . Such is the dilemma.

We know that *T. pungens* was found in Panama and Mez says that second find occurred in Mexico so it is feasible our plant from Honduras could be the same. However, that is a taxonomists decision, and horticulturists may well consider that it is still different from the concept of *T. pungens*!

Thus it seems prudent to add *Tillandsia* ‘Hondurensis’ to the Bromeliad Cultivar Register. For those who consider it a special form of *T. fasciculata* reference can be made to <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php> under *T. fasciculata* var. *hondurensis*

You must have noticed the well grown *xNeomea* ‘Popcorn’. This is another that has survived the ravages of time, having been around over 40 years. The problem is that there is also an *Aechmea* ‘Popcorn’ which when not in flower looks the same. You tell the difference when they flower when the *xNeomea* has flowers down in the cup of the leaf rosette .

Finally we leave the best till last. As reported in the last Gazette, Julie Batty has been on *Vriesea* watch for some time and experienced disappointments along the way. At long last she has proved the stamens and stigma stay within the petal tube. So we grow the common *Vriesea saundersii* in Adelaide, not the rare *V. botafogensis*

Festival of Flowers

This was another very successful event which is great for networking & promoting our Society. Over 1,000 attended & special thanks to our members who helped in various areas during the weekend in particular Julie, Dave, Kallam, Penny, Trinette, Pam, Peter, Margaret & Sarka, as a result our Society put in more than our share of effort & support.

The coffee machine was a new initiative which was very trendy & popular along with several choices of sliced, very tasty sliced cake or Anzac biscuits for those essential morning or afternoon tea breaks and the BBQ was also a popular spot.

The Feature of a small combined display garden with a variety of plants from each group was a trial and very successful with many of the public spending time looking around the arrangement.

At the end, when all moneys are counted and expenses are paid, each group received a tenth of the total money left over. **This year we received \$357.95** as our share, slightly less than previous years.

Our sincere thanks again to the Festival of Flowers organisers. *Bev*



A view of our display plants (Photo Bev)



A section of sales plants (Photo Bev)



A view of the display garden (Photo Bev)



Roving reporter May 2018

Popular plant was Adam’s Neo ‘Pink Debbie’. I still have Ross Little on the hunt as to its similarity to ‘Pink Passion’. There was also a ‘Sandy’ on display which looks like it comes from the same stable but alas there is nothing official recorded. Grant Groves has much to answer for in his reluctance to record his hybrids in the BCR. For what it is worth, it appears he is selling up this year.



Neo ‘Pink Debbie’. (Photo J. Batty)

Words. As for the English language you find your vocabulary increases as you get older as well as having to understand what the current youths use! So words evolve just like Bromeliads evolve. I must have translated hundreds of plant descriptions in my time especially Portuguese (Brazil) and find the most outrageous words used which need a dictionary to understand. A Portuguese/English dictionary is useless and it usually means a Google search. I knew what viviparous meant. In fact vivipara was a favourite with Werner Rauh in the 1980's and used at varietal status. These are now treated with the type species because this phenomenon is more common than first thought and comes and goes. Pam Hyatt reports it in *Tillandsia tectorum*! Anyway, in my translating I stumbled across pseudo-viviparous and worked out what it meant

pseudoviviparous: having plantlets produced at the base and/or at the apex of the inflorescence or infructescence. See Ananas and Tillandsia etc

viviparous: Germinating while still attached to the parent plant; proliferous. Does not occur in Bromeliaceae.

At the meeting Adam had brought in 2 examples of this phenomenon and I was able to announce my recently acquired knowledge. You see, as part of the 'Workshop' Adam already had normal offsets and adventitious offsets (I prefer the German word gras-artigen which is more descriptive) and here we have yet another way how nature reproduces. Humans only reproduce by seed which is what Bromeliads are supposed to do but they want belt AND braces. So we saw *Tillandsia mima* var *chiletensis* with offsets on the peduncle. We also saw *Racinaea flexuosa* with red tubular flower AND offsets as part of the peduncle. Here we have trap for beginners and experienced growers alike. In 1788 Swartz described a *Tillandsia flexuosa*, which in 1887 became a *Catopsis*, which became a *Tillandsia* in 1896, which became *Tillandsia bakeri* in 1931. So in the 1980's I was growing this plant in Adelaide as *Tillandsia bakeri* and it may still be surviving somewhere. In 1993 it had its name changed to *Racinaea flexuosa*! It is not an inspiring plant being mainly green on green with the smallest white flowers you could imagine. Back to Adam's plant which is the TRUE *Tillandsia flexuosa* which has a long peduncle with scattered red flowers AND difficult to grow in Adelaide. While it grows like a weed in Cairns, Adam is to be congratulated in having success here.



Tillandsia mima var *chiletensis* . (Photo J. Batty)



Tillandsia flexuosa . (Photo J. Batty)

While on the subject of name I was asked by the President of the BSI (no less) as to why I did not have in my glossary

chasmophyte: a plant that grows in the crevices of rocks

Apparently a newsletter in the USA had spent a whole page explaining the word and yet I had never come across the word in Bromeliad descriptions where the favourite word is lithophyte – growing on rocks!



Aechmea purpureorosea . (Photo J. Batty)

Wasn't it great to see an *Aechmea purpureorosea* and in full flower too. The only problem as I see it is how do you spell the name and does it have a hyphen. The last few weeks has had me discussing hyphens and interpretation of THE RULES! First I found out that a species name can only be one word AND the use of a hyphen to join two words is optional (under certain circumstances). When looking for a species name I always recommend the New BromeliadTaxon list <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php> The problem here is how do you search with a name that has a hyphen? The answer is that you do not use it in your search. Eric has been clever enough to show a hyphen in the black answer if it applies!!! So whatever you have on your label the correct name is *Aechmea purpureorosea* unless they change the rules!

Finally two things that did make me happy was to see 2 Neo oldies by the name of 'Golden Glean' and 'Burnsies Spiral'. Yes, the leaves are in a spiral but the plant keeps getting taller and taller and never seeming to want to flower in Adelaide. It sometimes gets so tall you have to cut it off and start again. If anyone ever gets it to flower please save a photo for me.

This was a Workshop meeting where Adam and Ron were supposed to get their hands dirty although for while Ron wore gloves. Although not advertised they concentrated on Tillandsioideae. You will be aware this is a sub-family of Bromeliads with its feathery seed and non-prickly leaves but you may not be aware that you need a different technique in removing offsets. Adam did point out that this workshop was rather late in the year to remove offsets but you have to be adaptable when the opportunity arises and take precautions. I remember 30 odd years ago the Butchers did a yearly pilgrimage to Qld. Of necessity it was in the winter time and we brought back offsets not plants. There were several reasons for this but the main one was space in the car. Needless to say we had losses because of cold wet winters. Action was necessary and we came up with the idea of upturning a styrene-foam box, cutting holes in the bottom and poking in said offsets in such holes. This method saved quite a few plants but is only recommended in dire necessity!

Back to the plot. Tillandsioideae pups need to be prized off using a knife for leverage, not chopped. If you can get an offset off with roots however small you are increasing its chance of survival. To assist in this aim you need to remove leaves from 'Mother' to see what you are doing. Sometimes you only get one offset but you may leave Mother in some quiet place where she may recover and produce another offset. But then how many plants do you need.

What did you think of Bev's x*Wallfussia*'Creation'? I thought it looked like a pot full of adventitious offsets. Adventitious offsets are offsets produced at the base of some Bromeliads that look like seedlings and should be treated as such. Anyone who has grown Bromeliads (not grey leaved Tillandsias) will know that that first up they get grass which when potted on separately will slowly get adult leaves. This reminded me that perhaps Bev's phenomenon had originally been an explant in tissue culture in its heritage and had got 'confused'. I still recommend that Ron should remove one 'plant' when Bev isn't looking. This leads to how Ron removed adventitious offsets from Adam's *Alcantarea*, making sure he had plants with roots!. I leave the best to last where you could hear the groans from the back bench. Apparently some males do not like to see Tillandsias taken apart just using thumb pressure and yet Adam was gentle. You should see Len Colgan in action! You waited for the 'snap' which never came. The end result was a perfect offset ready to be attached to something. As with the green *Vrieseas* or *Guzmanias* you are seeking an offset with vestigial roots.



Roving reporter June 2018

Heard of Rocky River? Well, Bill Treloar went there to give a talk to their Garden Club. It is north of Laura. We heard that they do a great tea/supper in typical Country style but very little about what Bill spoke to them about! BUT it shows there are rewards for those who spread the Bromeliad gospel. Ever since the Society was formed we have sent out Ambassadors to spread the word. I am sure that Bev and her lot get great satisfaction with talks locally and I recommend this activity to anyone who is not too shy. I well remember giving a talk to the Blind Society where you had to be prepared for your plants to be handled. They quickly learned the difference between a smooth *Vriesea* and a prickly *Aechmea* but were somewhat nonplussed with a *Neoregelia* which flowers inside a cup of leaves. A 'talk' to the Deaf Society was another experience because you had an interpreter to change your words to sign language. With my propensity for Latin names the interpreter was in a bit of a tizz. AND so was I in trying think up alternatives. But then both Blind and Deaf people can experience the quietude of growing Bromeliads successfully.

There were quite a few plants for Bill Treloar to talk about, on the display table. Keith Bradtberg won the most popular plant with his *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign' *Billbergia* 'Hidden Treasure' came a close second. But is it a *Billbergia*? I have never seen a *Billbergia* before, with red variegation stripes. Yes, lots and lots of *Neoregelia* hybrids. The other problem is that the name is so hidden we do not know officially how it came into being. It is certainly possible it could get the Most popular award the next time it is brought in. Hopefully with more information to satisfy the curious ones

The orange flowers on *Tillandsia erici* caught the eye and we can thank Renate Ehlers of Germany for the number being grown in Adelaide. It must be nearly 20 years ago when Renate sent us the seed and it took a long time for the resultant seedlings to reach maturity. What intrigued me was that I had always thought of it as 'erikii' named after 'eric' ignoring the alleged classical Latin of the pronunciation of 'c'. Some were pronouncing it as 'erichi' and bless me it was originally named after Erich Haugg.

One that caught my eye was *T. guelzii* in flower. It is owned by George Nieuwenhoven and I have challenged him to self set seed. Nobody has ever claimed success in the past but I didn't tell George that. This plant is now considered a natural hybrid and there are many slightly different plants being grown in the USA, Australia and Germany. In 1979 a plant was found in Peru but we do not know if the same plant found its way to Germany. The alleged collecting area has since been bulldozed for a super highway! So no more research! But could it be explained by a misplaced label? In 1984 a plant from north Argentina/south Bolivia also found its way to Germany and after extensive research culminating in 2013 it was decided by the Europeans that they were the same plant and in all probability was a natural hybrid. Now, this is much more interesting and intriguing than a common or garden man-made hybrid.

Julie and I discussed whether the plant called *Aechmea nudicaulis* albomarginata had a proper name because there are several of this species with variegated leaves and not all have proper names. It may be interesting to know that variegation is losing favour with the botanist but an oddity cherished by growers. The inflorescence on Keith's plant suggested a link to Reitz's 1965 original var. *capitata* which Lyman Smith thought was natural hybrid. Currently the name is the cultivar name *Aechmea* 'Capitata Albo' The 'albo' part seems all the more pertinent because some leaves were almost totally white.

Talking about variegation or lack of we saw Mike's *Neoregelia* 'Serendipity Girl' of a glorious purple colour. He said it was only half-size! We will hold him on his word because we now know it came from Townsville. Up there it is variegated so we wait for it to be displayed when full size and with stripes.

It was nice to see pitcairnia for a change. As Bill said, most species like wet summers and dry winters so they can be a challenge. First was *Pit. integrifolia* which means leaves without spines and was named in 1812 from the West Indies. Such was the botanical interest in *Pitcairnia* in the West Indies in the early 1800's that many were described as new species and today we see lots of synonyms. This similarity of species from this area means it is difficult to prove you have the right name!

The other was *P. riparia* which attracted attention because of its growth habit. This is what was in Smith & Downs 1977

Pitcairnia riparia Mez, Repert. Sp. Nov. 12: 416. 1913.

Synonyms Pitcairnia erratica L. B. Smith, Lloydia 11: 305, fig. 3. 1948.

Pitcairnia stolonifera L B Smith & R W Read, Phytologia 33: 431-2. 1976

Description from Smith & Downs

Plant caulescent, flowering 5 dm high, propagating by stolons; rhizome cylindrical, elongate, branched, covered with the remains of old leaf-bases.

Now, that does describe our plant to a 't'. The stolons looked very spiny to me! But did you realise it comes from Ecuador which was the subject of the main talk by Len Colgan. It is clear that Len is one-eyed Tillandsioideae because *Pitcairnia* get not-a-mention.

Finally I must tell you of another omission of mine. I had not told Len that the name of his natural hybrid of *T. complanata* (the promiscuous one) and *T. fendleri* (must be the male because they never stray) is destined to be *T. xfendlanata*. Apparently its brothers and sisters do exist in the wild but we will know nothing until Jose Manzanares book on Tillandsioidea in Ecuador is published.

The main presentation was a talk by Len Colgan on collecting bromeliads in Ecuador. Adelaide's climate is totally different to that of Ecuador which lies on the equator, has the high Andes Mountains and Amazon jungle, and receives rain virtually every day. Consequently, bromeliads from Ecuador do not like temperatures below 20°C or above 25°C, but do like humidity. Len built a specially designed "Ecuador house" to give plants collected there a chance to survive Adelaide's weather.

The presentation covered his second trip in 2010 with an introduction showing highlights of the previous 2009 expedition. On both occasions, he was accompanied by Manfred, a German who had married a local lady and had assembled a fine collection of bromeliads. In 2009, Len flew into Cuenca, and the trip was restricted to the high Andes, where bromeliads were often growing with cactus and succulents. In contrast, in the 2010 collecting adventure being presented, the itinerary began in the major port of Guayaquil, with a long first day's drive north, over the Andes past the capital Quito, and finishing near Papallacta. From here, a visually stunning two week trip ensued.

Most of the featured bromeliad photographs were tillandsias, racinaeas and guzmanias, although a couple of aechmeas and mezobromelias were each included. In addition, some "grey vrieseas" were named amongst the featured plants, but since then they have been reclassified as tillandsias.

Following the 2010 trip, Len had an article titled "The wanton *Tillandsia complanata*" published in the BSI Journal, accompanied by amazing photographs. This plant is quite different to other bromeliads, having multiple flower spikes emanating from the base, and flowering year after year without offsetting. But, most significantly, Len showed a number of strange natural tillandsia hybrids involving *Tillandsia complanata* and used this concept as the focus of the presentation.

From the end of the 2009 trip, Len showed a picture of the rare and beautiful *Tillandsia ionochroma*, a highlight. But, growing behind it was a more startling appearance. It is not, as Len originally thought, *T. complanata*, but a natural hybrid of it with *T. ionochroma*. It had actually been named *Tillandsia X complachroma* several years earlier, but from a location well away from the place on the first Ecuador trip. The earlier described *T. X complachroma* was discovered in a field near Papallacta. Incredibly, Len then showed a picture of a differently coloured *T. ionochroma* growing beside *T. complanata* in that very location, but he was totally unaware that the rare *T. X complachroma* must be there also! Of course, he blamed that lack of knowledge on Derek for not telling him beforehand.

The 2010 itinerary then headed east over the Andes to Baeza, before turning southwards through Tena, Puyo, Macas, and Zamora towards the Peruvian border. Finally, the drive was north-west back to Guayaquil, completing an extensive circle, plus various diversions.

That early section from Papallacta to Baeza featured some of the most photographically spectacular fields of bromeliads Len has seen in his travels, with pictures of blazing colours featuring tillandsias, racinaeas and guzmanias all growing together. In fact, when friends from northern NSW recently went to Ecuador, Len advised them to concentrate on that section for its beauty. The subsequent response from those friends was just as enthusiastic as Len had experienced. There were many highlights in one particular field, including another natural *T. complanata* hybrid, plus *T. tequendamae* which should be on Julie Batty's wish list, with its large pendent orange spike and prominent purple flowers.

Further south, Len and Manfred drove towards an erupting volcano as others were fleeing, to get to an area which Manfred had previously visited and held many desirable plants, such as (then) *Vriesea incurva*, rare red-leaved form of *Tillandsia fendleri*, *T. biflora* (Manfred's favourite species), *T. buseri*, *T. confinis*, *Guzmania mosquerae*, *Racinaea tillii*, etc.

Heading further south, along progressively worse roads, we could see the high Andes to the west and the Amazon jungle to the east. Obstacles were almost impassable muddy roads, landslides and broken bridges, but the lure of further treasures was all encompassing. Then, the most spectacular naturally growing bromeliad that Len has ever seen appeared, not far from the Peruvian border. It was a natural hybrid of *T. fendleri* and *T. complanata*, of which a photograph was featured in the BSI Journal article. The plant included an over-sized *T. fendleri* multi-branched flower spike, plus many separate spikelets coming out of the base, in concert with the *T. complanata* parent. Unfortunately, it was way out of reach, unless one is an experienced tree climber.

The latter part of the journey revealed a few different forms of *Guzmania monostachya*, which is arguably the most predominant bromeliad in Ecuador. But Len only collected tillandsias and racinaeas.

Len successfully managed to get quite a fair proportion of collected plants from both trips through gassing and quarantine, but over the eight years since most of the plants, especially the racinaeas, succumbed to Adelaide's weather, albeit after flowering. Last November's consecutive days of over 40°C seemingly pinpointed plants from Ecuador, with now only five still growing strongly. But so many great pictures from Ecuador and home, plus memories!



Tillandsia.complanata (Photo L. Colgan)



Tillandsia.fendleri(Photo L. Colgan)



Tillandsia. xfendlanata(Photo L. Colgan)



Tillandsia incurva (Photo L. Colgan)



(Photo L. Colgan)



Tillandsia.ionochroma (Photo L. Colgan)

Update for our July 8th meeting.

The General meeting is “Christmas in July and will start at 2PM. Do bring in display plants and the topic is “challenges growing Bromeliads” or “what’s wrong with my brom?” hopefully there will be some helpful advice from our members!



Please bring in a plate of finger food to share for a special afternoon tea. We will also have a shorter version of the kris kringle activity, which is usually a lot of fun; if you’d like to join in bring a wrapped gift value of \$10.

Keep warm

Bev