

S.A. BROMELIAD GAZETTE

Vol 44

Number 1

January, February, March 2020

PUBLISHED BY:

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Editor- Derek Butcher. Assist Editor – Bev Masters

Born 1977 and still offsetting!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019-2020

President: Adam Bodzioch

58 Cromer Parade Millswood 5034 Ph: 0447755022

Secretary: Bev Masters

6 Eric Street, Plympton 5038 Ph: 83514876

Vice president: Keith Bradtberg

Treasurer: Annette Bellman

Committee: Penny Seekamp

Jessie Schinella

Betty Nayda

Sue Skrabei

Jeff Hollinshead

Kallam Sharman

Pam Nelson

Life members : Margaret Butcher, Derek Butcher,

: Len Colgan, Adam Bodzioch

: Bill Treloar



Email address:

Secretary – bev.masters@bigpond.com

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

Cultivar Register <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php>

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

<http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/brom-1/> altern site <http://imperialis.com.br/>

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876

Meetings Venue:

Maltese Cultural Centre,

6 Jeanes Street,

Beverley S.A.

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday

of each month. Exceptions –2020

3rd Sunday in March, April May

& October- or unless advised

otherwise (see dates below).

No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW

MEMBERS WELCOME.



Vriesea 'Nova' (Photo Julie)



MEETING & SALES 2020 DATES SUBJECT TO COVID-19 DIRECTIONS

2020 Meeting dates & events. 19/4/2020 CANCELLED (3rd Sunday- Workshop, Genera: Tillandsia), 17/5/2020 CANCELLED (3rd Sunday- Genera: Billbergia), 14/6/2020 SUBJECT TO CHANGE (Guest speaker- Len Colgan. Genera: Pricklies), 12/7/2020 SUBJECT TO CHANGE (Xmas in July, Catered Peter Hall memorial lunch & Kris Cringle – NO RAFFLE, DOOR PRIZE OR DISPLAY PLANTS), 9/8/2020 (Winter brag, Any genera), 13/9/2020, (Clones & seed batches. Genera: Broms in flower) 18/10/2020 (3rd Sunday – Workshop, Genera: Pattern leaf Vriesea & Goudaea), 23/10/2020 set up sales, 24/10 & 25/10/2020 sales, 8/11/2020. (Break-up: No display or raffle 1200 start Committee, 130PM start main meeting, Pup exchange, Special Afternoon tea – bring a plate of finger food to share, Auction

Applications for membership always welcome – Subs \$15 single \$25 Dual NOW DUE

Page	Details
1	Cover page – Photo: Vriesea ‘Nova’ Committee: Meeting & sales dates - Please note changes, Membership Subs now due
2	Index: Uncle Derek Reports Jan 2020
3	“The <i>Tillandsia zecheri</i> Complex and a New Intraspecific Taxa article,
4	“The <i>Tillandsia zecheri</i> Complex and a New Intraspecific Taxa article cont: Uncle Derek Reports Jan cont: Research project
5	Feb 2020 AGM appointments: Uncle Derek reports Feb 2020
6	Uncle Derek reports Feb cont:
7	Uncle Derek reports Feb cont: Uncle Derek reports March 2020
8	Uncle Derek reports March cont:
9	Uncle Derek reports March cont: July memorial lunch notice: F or F cancellation: Sunday Mail Home show change
10	Message from President



Uncle Derek Reports for Jan 2020

You will notice the title change from Roving Reporter but no change in the coverage. It will still be mainly plant names and identity. From now onwards I will be an apology at meetings and will rely on others to give me information mainly Julie. I used to have my wife as backup too and she kept me in line. You can blame this on old age where Margaret has trouble with her ‘Walker’ and only recently had 2 falls and I cannot leave her home on her own.

The most popular plant was *Canistrum triangulare* owned by Ron and Bev Masters. It has an interesting history name wise as the following shows

“**Misnamed Bromeliads, 1** by Harry E. Luther in *J Brom. Soc.* 38(5):209. 1988 Over the past several years a number of misnamed or unnamed bromeliads well represented in horticulture have been brought to my attention. As they frequently appear in shows and sales I hope to clear up the identities of these troublemakers by means of this occasional series. One way of keeping track of these notes is to make suitable entries in your copy of Victoria Padilla's *Bromeliads*, that indispensable companion.



Canistrum triangulare
(Photo: Julie)

Canistrum triangulare L.B. Smith & Reitz, 1963. This plant is universally grown as *Canistrum fosterianum* ‘var. pardinum’, a name of no official standing. As this species infrequently flowers in cultivation, few growers have had the opportunity to see how different it is from true *C. fosterianum*. At least two forms are grown: a narrow-leaf and a more common blunt, broad-leaf selection.”

For what it is worth, this plant of Bev’s seems to be correctly named but others might like to check. Apparently it is grown under polycarb & height betwix 5-6ft.

I do know that Bill Treloar talked about some of the plants on display because he rang me about variegated *Neo. macwilliamsii* that I had mentioned in a recent Gazette. Julie came to the rescue by sending me a photo of a plant called *Neo. macwilliamsii* variegated, see attached. This did look like the right plant but still has me grumbling. Who was the one who decided on the name? There are only two accepted naming systems, one for plants found in the wild and are species written in Latin, the other for plants in cultivation registered in the Bromeliad Cultivar register. The third naming process revolves around what is written on the label. So, who was it who decided on the label name and did not use ‘Bossa Nova’ or ‘Skotak’s Sheba’? I like to have some name I can refer to. Just to complicate matters even further there is the possibility of a sporting not being reported. In other words, what I am trying to say is that our members should not blindly accept the name on labels but should check for themselves its authenticity.



Neo. macwilliamsii
variegated (Photo: Julie)

One who is learning fast in this regard is Julie Batty. You may recall in a recent Gazette the reference to *Tillandsia pfeufferi* and *T. Phantom*. Well, she has investigated further including contacting Len Colgan and now considers her blue petalled *Tillandsia* from? Bolivia is *zecheri* I sent her the following reading

“The *Tillandsia zecheri* Complex and a New Intraspecific Taxa from Northwestern Argentina By Carlos A. Palaci and Gregory K. Brown in J. Brom. Soc. 44(3): 107-116. 1994

Tillandsia zecheri is an interesting, saxicolous plant originally discovered by Dr. W Till in 1983 on the banks of the Calchaqui River in the province of Salta, Argentina.

The Calchaqui River drains an extensive, semi-arid region of northwestern Argentina. This river, together with the Rio de Santa Maria and the Rio de las Conchas forms a series of interconnected valleys known as the "Calchaqui valleys" (figure 5). These valleys were occupied by important Indian cultures in the past (Marquez Miranda, 1983) and today represent an important resource for agriculture and tourism.

Also found in the Calchaqui valleys are *Tillandsia muhrrii*. That species was described by Werner Rauh in 1986, who cited the province of Jujuy, locality uncertain, as the type locality. Our field experience indicates, however, that *T. muhrrii* is unlikely to be present in Jujuy, but rather that it is restricted, and probably endemic, to the Calchaqui valleys.

Tillandsia muhrrii was named in honor of Dorothea Muhr, a plant collector from Buenos Aires. The name was identified recently as an illegitimate homonym because of its close resemblance with *T. muhriae* Weber (Till, 1989). As a consequence, this taxon has been left without a legitimate name.

During our field trips into Argentina in December 1989-January 1990 and July-August 1990, we collected samples of both *Tillandsia zecheri* and *T. muhrrii*. We investigated freshly preserved floral material as well as herbarium specimens in order to determine the systematic position of the latter.

A careful comparison of the original descriptions indicates that the most significant difference between *Tillandsia zecheri* and *T. muhrrii* is in their sepals, which were described as "posteriorly carinate" in *T. zecheri* but "posteriorly ecarinate" in *T. muhrrii*. A close examination of the type specimen of *T. muhrrii* (i.e. D. Muhr T8A) shows somewhat ecarinate sepals. This specimen, however, represents a very immature inflorescence with poorly developed flowers. Another specimen from the same type collection (i.e. D. Muhr T8F), with a well-developed inflorescence, exhibits posteriorly carinate sepals. All of the other specimens of *T. muhrrii* that we have examined so far also have carinate sepals (figure 6).

Another difference between the two taxa is supposed to be the size of the floral bracts and petals. The floral bracts of *Tillandsia muhrrii* were described as being 25 mm long, whereas those of *T. zecheri* were described as ranging from 18 to 48 mm long. Thus, the length of the floral bracts of *T. muhrrii* falls within the range of variation described for *T. zecheri*. The petals of *T. zecheri* range between 37 and 40 mm in length whereas those of *T. muhrrii* were described as being 33 mm long. Our samples of *T. muhrrii* exhibit petals ranging between 28 and 40 mm in length. We observed that these characters tend to vary, within certain limits, among different plants and even within different flowers of a single inflorescence. The color of the petals of both taxa ranges from purple-red to purple-blue passing through different intensities of blue and violet. The flowers of all the plants we have seen in the field are not fragrant.

According to their descriptions, *Tillandsia zecheri* and *T. muhrrii* differ in their leaf shapes and indumentum. The leaves of *T. zecheri* are channeled and pruinose lepidote, whereas those of *T. muhrrii* are flat with somewhat appressed scales. The pruinose appearance of *T. zecheri* is caused mainly by the largely extended wings of the scales (figure 7). However, populations with leaf indumentum and shape characteristics intermediate between *T. zecheri* and *T. muhrrii* are known (figures 6 and 7). Trichome variability within tillandsioid species is well documented [e.g. *T. xiphioides* Ker-Gawler (Smith & Downs, 1977) and *T. utriculata* (Gardner, 1983, p. 64)]. Thus, leaf indumentum and shape characters are not sufficient in distinguishing *T. zecheri* from *T. muhrrii*.

We conclude on the bases of the similarities of the floral characters, the geographical proximity of the populations, and the plasticity of vegetative features, that there is not enough evidence to support separate species status for *T. muhrrii*. Further support for this conclusion is the presence of intermediate populations that we have collected in the same region (figure 10; Ehlers pers. comm.) Since *T. muhrrii* has been recognized as an illegitimate homonym of *T. muhriae* Weber, and in order to prevent further confusion with these names, we have decided to establish a new variety (i.e. var. *cafayatensis*) with a name referring to the typical locality where this taxon is distributed.

In addition, we have collected a specimen from one population in which the leaves are shorter (i.e. (4) 5 (7)cm long) and more rigid than in the typical variety, with a pungent apex and a coarser, strongly pruinose indumentum. The inflorescence is also shorter with only three to four flowers (figure 11).

These plants were found close to Brealito and a similar population was detected near Cachi, both above 2500 m elevation. These populations represent, in our opinion, a dwarf form with characteristics that seem to have been fixed through time as an adaptation to extremely dry and stressful conditions at higher elevations in the Andes.

The plants are distinct enough to be considered a different form from the typical variety.

W. Till (1983) considered *Tillandsia zecheri* to be related to *T. lorentziana* Grisebach and to *T. cardenasii* L.B. Smith. We have observed, however, that *T. lorentziana* differs from *T. zecheri* in its usually compound inflorescence and its smaller flowers with white petals. *T. cardenasii* has very distinct floral bracts and a completely disjunct distribution area in southern Bolivia. As judged by the floral characteristics, other putative relatives to *T. zecheri* are *T. friesii* Mez and *T. argentina* C.H. Wright. The high diversification of habitats and the geographical isolation in distant, narrow valleys may have promoted the evolution of the Andean section of subgenus *Anoplophytum* in the eastern slopes of the Andes (Palaci, 1991; Till, 1983). Phylogenetic relationships, however, seem to be obscured by rapid evolution and incomplete divergence within this group.

The *Tillandsia zecheri* complex is restricted and probably endemic to the Calchaqui valleys of Salta, Argentina. Its populations are frequently small and probably fragile because of their restricted habitat on rocky outcrops, which are subjected to frequent erosion by intense rains and river flooding during the summer months. We recommend that collections of these plants be restricted to scientific research, or that careful collection of seeds from ripening fruits be considered. “

If there is a moral to this it is don't lose your label.

Another naming that irks me is the use of formula which identifies parents but not the child and cannot be formally recorded so you can't find out the hybridist. There was one such on the display table called *Neoregelia (compacta x 'Fireball')*. Is this the registered 'Fire Nymph' or something else? I leave the owner of the plant to decide.



Neoregelia (compacta x 'Fireball')
(Photo: Julie)



Vriesea capixabae (Photo: Julie)

One photo that Julie sent really caught my eye. It was *Vriesea capixabae*. Why? It looked so much like *V. guttata* that we grew 30 odd years ago. The only difference I could see was that it had spaces between the floral bracts. Further investigation of the records showed it was first described in 1999 so we have both old and young plants growing in Adelaide! This newbie also has guttate leaves which have markings like reddish droplets on them.

That is it for this month and I am still open for business. While Julie will continue in her role you are all invited to contact me if you bring an interesting plant for the display that has a dubious name that needs investigating my email address is tillands@bigpond.com if you want its photo taken have a word with Julie

Research project plants

There were a range of these plants available for discussion & the different growing conditions shared by the members growing the plants were evident & valuable knowledge.

BSSA 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
ALL POSITIONS WERE DECLARED VACANT: BILL TRELOAR CONVENER

PRESIDENT : Adam Bodzioch VICE PRESIDENT: Keith Bradtberg

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

TREASURER: Annette Bellman ASSISTANT TREASURER: To be nominated by Committee

AUDITOR: TBA

COMMITTEE: Penny Seekamp, , Kallam Sharman, Sue Sckrabei , Jeff Hollinshead, Pam Nelson, Jessie Schinella, Betty Nayda,

All Executive & Committee nominations were accepted.

POSTAL CLERK: Bev Masters

LIBRARIAN: Penny Seekamp,

AFTERNOON TEA ORGANISER: Bev Masters

AFTERNOON TEA HELPERS: helpers on the day

RAFFLE TABLES COORDINATOR: Bill Treloar

DOOR TICKETS: Peter Nelson /helpers on the day

RAFFLE TICKETS: Peter Nelson/helpers on the day

HOST: Bill Treloar,

POTS & LABELS: Ron Masters

NAME TAG MAKER: Ron and Bev Masters

GAZETTE: Roving reporter: Derek Butcher.

EDITORS: Derek & Margaret Butcher. ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bev Masters

FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR'S: Adam Bodzioch, Ian Cook, Kallam Sharman, Betty Nayda



Uncle Derek Reports on Feb meeting

Julie Batty has been busy sending me photos and comments so it almost seems as though I was at the meeting. It also means that I can still investigate a bit of history.

The meeting was based around creative displays which is great for those with an artistic bent. I am more scientific and I can see nothing better than clumps of the same species (preferably Tillandsias). Most at the meeting thought otherwise and we saw Cathy Robinson's effort complete with plant list win the most popular award. The problem with any massed arrangement is watering requirements and positioning in such display. Still, as Lyman Smith said that botany with Bromeliads is as much an Art as a Science.

You may be interested in the way I am one-eyed against the use of formula to identify a batch of seed arising from an attempt to hybridise. The following should get a smile if noting else.

“FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES NEWSLETTER page 25

Tillandsia Corinne x Tillandsia capitata forma red

This beautiful hybrid needs a name.

Maybe Tillandsia Elegant?

By Carol Wolfe

We have owned this plant for many years and each year when it comes into bloom, Tom hangs it by the front door and it brings us daily pleasure admiring it and enjoying its beauty. It is so stately when in bloom. Purple flowers rise above the subdued red foliage in all their "majesty". That would be a good name for it! Oops, someone else thought of it first and the name is taken. Ah, how about Tillandsia Elegant? Would that be a fitting name for this T. Elegant bromeliad? Why does it need a name? We have many plants in our collections that do not have a name and haven't had a name for 40-50 years. So why does it matter?

When Herb Plever received our FCBS Newsletter, he would email me about using the "parents name". I tried to convince him that in Florida it was our Standard Practice to use parents' names. But he felt strongly that each plant should have its own name. For most of us, it is easier to remember one name than the parent. Make sure each plant has a name tag, they get lost or break and the squirrels carry them away. When this happens, I agree that it is much easier to remember the plant name as opposed to remembering the parentage.

It was Derek Butcher explanation that really helped me understand the problem. Derek asked how many children were in your family growing up. I told him ten. From oldest to youngest were, Jerry, Wayne, Joyce, Carol, Bobby, Jeannie, Fran, Suzanne, Donnie and Terry. Now Derek asks what if all ten of you grew up with your parents name (Codus x Jerena) would that have been confusing? Of course, growing up with that many brothers and sisters.

I could now understand what he and Herb Plever had been telling me the last five years about bromeliad names and why each plant needs its own individual name.

What I didn't know was that an unknown hybrid could be registered with the BSI Cultivar Registry even though you are not the hybridizer. I loved this plant so much, I completed the on-line form on the BSI.org site and perhaps this beautiful bromeliad will soon have its own name, Tillandsia 'Elegant'. Do you have an unregistered bromeliad? If you really love the plant, you may want to consider naming it.

The process with the BSI Register is simple to complete. It would be so much easier for our members and the public to have names on all our bromeliads.

What a pity that whoever made this cross is not getting the credit. It's never too late for the "real hybridizer" to step up and get the credit for this beautiful, stately, elegant bromeliad!! Let me know if it's your hybrid and we'll transfer the credit to the true "Parent". The next time it blooms and I step out my door, I won't have to remember Tillandsia Corinne x Tillandsia capitata forma red, I'll just say, Good morning Tillandsia Elegant!"

So South Aussies are not the only ones to get reminders where I notice that Adam brought in an impressive flowering Vriesea hybrid under formula 'Nova' x? (See photo front page)

For years we've known how erratic Billbergias can be with their offsets especially if they are variegated. Often we see an offset that is clearly a Sport and yet in so many cases the offset gets more and more like 'mother'. Here we have a different twist with a so-called mother plant by the name 'Ralph Graham French' In 2001 it was reported that a *B. vittata* had sported an offset with a light marginated leaf. Now to the plant at the meeting-photo attached -. To me the old plant does not have variegations which are pronounced in the offset. Should 'mother' have been called 'Ralph Graham French Novar' or just *B. vittata*. Just a thought!



Billbergia 'Ralph Graham French' (Photo: Julie)

As collectors we are always looking for something different and tend to look for vegetative differences whereas the taxonomist looks for differences in the inflorescence. Even here there is leeway with subsequent discussion. So we saw several examples of *Tillandsia cardenasii* on display

This species was looked at closely by Ehlers and Hromadnik and some of their writing follows "Vegetatively, this plant with its satin like white leaves is similar to *T. zecheri* var. *zecheri* W. Till, but differs from this by the larger growth, the usually much longer scape, the abundant compound inflorescence, the dark-violet colour of the scape bracts, the wider spike, the much shorter rhachis internodes, and the shorter likewise dark violet floral bracts (with *T. zecheri* dark pink).

It also differs from *T. lorentziana* Gris. in several characteristics: the leaf is more broadly triangular, stiff, with awl-like tip and dense, silvery white, eccentric scales (*T. lorentziana* concentric, grey or brownish, sees Smith & Downs 1977); the scape is shorter and stocky, the inflorescence dark-violet and, if compound, then not lax but densely digitate with up to 5 broad and mostly long erect spikes; sterile base of the spike very short or missing; the floral bracts are much longer, thick leathery and stiff, shiny black-violet with a somewhat waxy overlay, well exceeding the sepals, the sepals long and leathery; petals usually longer and dark violet, not white or blue, almost linear without elliptical platte, the edges finely waved and minutely toothed, much stronger bent outwards.

The dark-violet colour of the entire inflorescence including the scape bracts is identical to *T. cardenasii* and typical for this species. Also it agrees in the form and colour of the flower, but is clearly our plant in larger in habit and inflorescence as well as the stem; the rosette is more compact, the leaves are much bigger and broader, the spike up to twice as wide; floral bracts are leathery and often keeled, petals much larger, the edges finely waved, and minutely toothed, more strongly bent outwards.

To get a better demarcation of the new variety of the stemmed *T. cardenasii* var. *cardenasii* the following is an amendment of the original diagnosis by Smith on the basis of examinations of living plants collected at the Type locality.”

On the other hand we were looking at differences from the growers’ point of view. We were lucky in Adelaide in getting plants from Renate and Lotte before they were subjected to scientific scrutiny. We can treat our plants as a variable *T. cardenasii* or pick out those that look really different and give them a Cultivar name.

Finally, it was interesting to see *Aechmea andersonii* in full flower. Older members can be excused for thinking how close it is to the plants we used to grow as *A fulgens* hybrid. The plant on display seemed close to the description made in 1998 which perhaps shows that we don’t grow just ‘old’ Broms in Adelaide



Aechmea andersonii (Photo: Julie)

Most popular plant – creative displays resulted in several amazing creations, ranging from small to large a credit to the creators’ imagination & efforts. Cathy presented several creations which were constructed using a variety of bromeliads along with items collected during the many travels intrastate & overseas. Betty also put a lot of effort into her displays.



(Photo: Julie)

Cathy’s winning creation, congratulations!



Uncle Derek reports March 2020

Based on notes from Julie Batty

It was a good meeting on Sunday and despite people numbers being down (28) there were some nice plants on display. Also good was that Bill was there to add information to Adam’s commentary – when both you and Bill are away we miss out on some of the ‘old’ info and practices. Perhaps the numbers were down due to the Corona virus scare which also caused the cancellation of our Autumn show and sales weekend. Yes, it is great to get input at meetings but just as important to get feedback through the printed word because you can study at your convenience.

Ron and Bev won the most popular plant award with *Catopsis subulata* which prompted a query regarding which Broms do better mounted as opposed to potted. That issue was further expanded when T. ‘Redy’ was discussed with its healthy root system – one idea was that it should be potted so the roots can take up slow release fertiliser, but Bill had a different opinion saying the plant adjusts its roots according to its needs particularly when it comes to securing itself on whatever is handy.



Catopsis subulata (Photo: Julie)

To all of us who speak to our plants we assume that they can think which of course they cannot. But they do have survival mechanism that helped in their evolution. Some species seem to be able to adjust their rooting system according to ambient moisture. *Catopsis* are included here but generally they have bulbous bases and is one of the reasons why so many are grown in pots than mounted on sticks, at least in Adelaide. Another reason could well be it is more convenient to pot. Some like *T paleacea* only root at germination and yet offset and offset without roots. In other words know your plant to know its abilities. These days many of us are growing hybrids rather than species and many hybrids seem to want to produce offsets and use roots to their full capacity.

There were several *Catopsis* on display. When the Society was first formed we grew them under the name *Tillandsia*. We quickly found out that that they needed more moisture and many were grown in hanging pots rather than mounting. I find this genus intriguing because it has mainly male and female plants which pollinating insects know about but few growers. I often ask about sex and get a deafening silence. In human terms you oft hear “It’s a boy’ from the midwife which is contrary to a *Catopsis* grower.

One that was a brag in the true sense was Keith’s *Aechmea jungurudoensis* which is apparently a tropical plant but did well in winter with no heat but under a pergola – the damage that could be seen was actually done in the hot weather. Further investigation shows it comes from Panama, which goes to show we can grow a wide range of Bromeliads in South Australia if growers are prepared to amend the conditions in their back-yard.



(Photo: Julie)

Aechmea jungurudoensis

Mike from Kadina showed a pretty *Aechmea* ‘MEND’ that was doing well – apparently they are susceptible to scale if there is not good air movement. Don’t be too worried that the cultivar name is wholly CAPITALS. It is just that acronyms are rarely used in this role.



Aechmea ‘MEND’ (Photo: Julie)

One that Adam brought in was *Barfussia platyrhachis x wagneriana* which has the seed parent in common with ‘Creation’ – we think. Here again we have the problem of trying to identify a cultivar by a formula of the parents name. No selecting of the grex seedlings has taken place and the hybridist remains unknown which makes investigation a problem. Ever since 2016 we have had problems with the new genus names in Tillandsioideae because of the bigeneric names that were created in the hybrid world where nothogenera have an ‘x’ in front of them. This ‘x’ is the multiplication sign but is not on a computer keyboard so you have an alphabetic ‘x’. One that affects us here is *x Wallfussia* which is bad enough by itself. ‘Creation’ is still sold in the USA and Europe as a *Tillandsia* and is even captured as such in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR). Is Adam’s plant linked to Peter Tristram’s ‘Feather Belle’ or ‘Hercules’ which seem smaller than ‘Creation’. Discussion continues!

Neo ‘Mrs Nina Rehak’ was brought in to let others know that if they have one that looks like this but is missing the ‘Mrs’ on the label (and yes, there was one person) then to change it – and Bill knew exactly what the ‘Nina Rehak’ looked like but linked it to ‘Rhubarb’ whereas BCR indicates it is of ‘dubious origin’. This goes to show how difficult it is to identify a *Neoregelia* hybrid. Check the photos in the BCR if you want a challenge

Tillandsia ‘Dimmitt’s Talent’ prompted some discussion on the cause of the plant producing a main multi spike which hadn’t flowered as yet (and may not), then two side spikes – which may flower with this cooler weather, seemed to be the consensus.

Interesting observation which goes to show how reproduction plays such a major role in conservation and evolution.

A prime role is to flower and set seed at a time when rain is likely to ensure survival of such seedling. The problem with us humans understanding what is happening is that these phases change places year by year.

I always smile when I see 'NOID' on a label because it only means no attempt has been made as to identity. A blank label gives the same answer and shows it is work in progress

Julie enclosed a photo of Kallam's Cryptanthus. 'Chickadee' because it was lovely and looks much better as a 'live' plant on display than the dated photo on the BCR shows. A Hummel hybrid. What surprises me is that it still survives after some 40 years and with doubtful parentage. It must be the name that is catchy to encourage it being grown. I would have thought that *C. beucheri* would have had the greater appeal



Cryptanthus. 'Chickadee' (Photo: Julie)

STOP PRESS! July: Meeting & Peter Hall Memorial Lunch: Subject to possible COVID-19 restrictions



This is expected to be a low key, friendly get together with a catered luncheon. The Christmas in July celebration will include a garden related Kris Cringle value \$10.

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 \$20each. Our June meeting will be the deadline for notification of attendance.

We will endeavour to cater for the nominated preferences; 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.
Bev.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS 2020

This event was to be held in April on 25th & 26th. St. Pauls College informed ALL external bookings for the school have been cancelled until the 27th April 2020, where they will again review this.
Our F of F Committee will meet again when permitted to discuss future options.
Bev



HOT OFF THE PRESS

At the time of producing this Gazette :The April Home Living expo has now been merged with the Master Builders SA Home Show – July 3 to 5 2020

The next Adelaide Shows will be staged at the Adelaide Showground subject to COVID-19 changes.

- Master Builders SA Home Show – July 3 to 5
- October Home Show – October 16 to 18

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc



Message from the President re Covid-19

It was with some regret that your Committee decided to cancel the Annual Show and Sales scheduled for March 21/22.

However, the health risks to our members and the public were too great to ignore. This was particularly so given the age demographic of our members and visitors that placed them in the high-risk category. That decision was vindicated by the decisions by all garden groups both in South Australia and interstate to also cancel their respective events.

Similarly, with respect to our monthly meetings it has been considered too risky to hold those meetings with safety. Further, Government directions in respect to the maximum number of people attending internal events has been reduced significantly.

As a result, the next meetings scheduled for April and May have been cancelled. At this time we may resume on June 14 where Len Colgan has agreed to provide a presentation on his second trip through Ecuador. The situation will, of course, be monitored and it may be necessary to also cancel the June meeting. Your committee will endeavour to provide as much notice to you as possible but that will also be subject to the ever-changing bans and directions coming from Government.

I am optimistic that we will get through the next few months with success in containing the virus and then get back to enjoying the events that show-case our beautiful plants.

STAY SAFE & HEALTHY