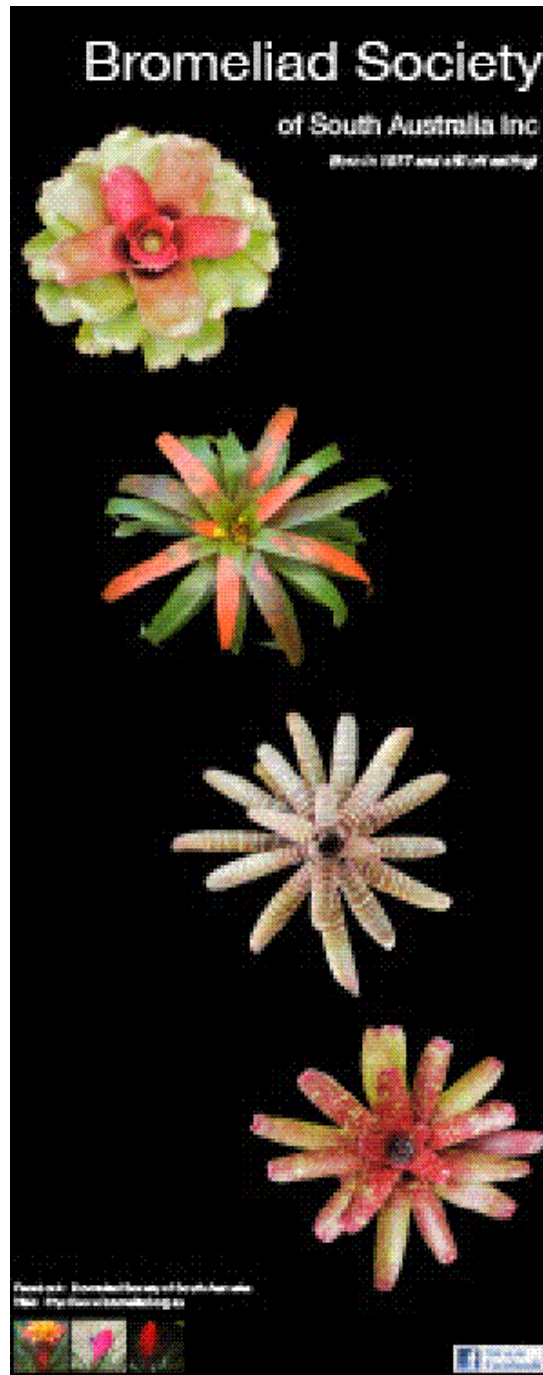


The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc



'Born 1977 and still offsetting!'



The History of Bromeliad Society of South Australia 1977 - 2017

It is with a great deal of pleasure that The Bromeliad Society of South Australia presents this history of our Society to its members in order to celebrate our 40th anniversary.

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc



‘Born 1977 and still offsetting!’



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Your assistance and efforts are greatly appreciated *Bev*

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Len, Derek, Margaret, Darrel, Adam, Jeanne, Peter, Julie, Bev and Ian are some of our members who have taken the more recent photos.

Foreword

As the current President of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia it gives me great pleasure to provide a foreword for the summary of the society's activities over the past 40 years.

The club, since inception, has enjoyed strong and creative leadership through Ede Schaefer and its early office-bearers. Those pioneers, who had been members of the Cactus and Succulent Society, formed a new society in order to promote the growing and appreciation of bromeliads. Two of the founding members of that new society, Derek and Margaret Butcher, have continued to make significant contributions to the successes that we have enjoyed over that time. While no longer active on the committee they continue their involvement to this day. Another significant contributor has been Len Colgan who served as President for 20 years but who also was instrumental in many of the activities of the society, particularly our hosting of 3 Australasian Bromeliad Conferences in 1987, 1995 and 2009. Both Derek and Len have provided many presentations, on matters bromeliad, both in Australia as well as overseas and are highly regarded for their knowledge amongst the international bromeliad community.

The highly successful meetings and activities that we enjoy today are the result of their enthusiasm and endeavours.

I, personally, have been a member of the society for 30 years and served as Vice-President for many years before taking over the reins, as President, five years ago.

I inherited a club with friendly and generous people who volunteer to help with all tasks. It makes life so much easier when that level of support is provided.

I am also pleased to have a wonderful committee and I am grateful to the members of that committee for their hard-work, sound advice and sense of humour in helping me manage all the important issues on behalf of the society. I am indebted to those members of the committee who have spent much time doing the necessary research that is fundamental to the compilation of this publication.

One of the most important things that we do, both individually and as a committee, is to continue to maintain a culture of open-ness, respect and trust and to be inclusive of all who attend our meetings.

The society has the same challenges as many garden and horticultural groups in today's environment, not least of all with declining numbers due to an ageing membership profile. We are keen to keep the monthly meetings relevant and enjoyable as well as educational about the growing of bromeliads. The society continues to promote the growing of bromeliads through our two Shows and Sales each year as well as events such as the Adelaide Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Show, The Sunday Mail Garden Expo, the Festival of Flowers and various other garden shows. In addition, presentations are made on a regular basis to other garden groups and societies.

In more recent times the society has utilised social media, particularly Facebook, to engage more people (particularly younger ones), with a view to promoting bromeliads. It is clear that, in order to attract new young people to our club, we need to communicate with them in a forum that they are comfortable in. We have, over the past six months, seen an unprecedented number of requests to join our Facebook site.

Further, in respect to engaging with the media, we very much appreciate the support given by Jon Lamb and his ABC Radio Garden program to the promotion of our events.

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in gaining new visitors and members to attend and to enjoy the activities of the society. These newer attendees almost always provide feedback that our people are always very friendly and welcoming. The club is seen as a warm and hospitable forum with no disharmony. I congratulate all our members for contributing to this outcome.

Finally, I am delighted with the contributions of some of our newer and younger members, both on the committee and with the Facebook communications. These dedicated and energetic people are the future leaders of the society. This, in my opinion, is the key to our future as a relevant and successful garden club and I look forward to our next celebration in ten years time when we will be fifty years young and still off-setting.

Adam Bodzioch

This Society was founded in 1977 as the Bromeliad Study Group and, shortly thereafter, as the Bromeliad Society of South Australia.

A keen grower of bromeliads, Mr E Schaefer, promoted the growing of Bromeliads amongst fellow members of The Cactus and Succulent Society where he found enough willing 'converts' to form a separate interest group, the Bromeliad Study Group. At the inaugural meeting it was decided to form a Society named 'The Bromeliad Society of South Australia' to promote interest in the growing and cultivation of bromeliads. Following a committee meeting, the first General Meeting was held on 3rd April 1977, a membership fee of \$1 determined, and the Constitution and Bank account of the Society established.

The first two meetings of the Study Group/Society were held at members' homes before moving to the Girl Guides Hall at Kilkenny and, in February 1989, to the Maltese Cultural Centre at Beverley.

There were twenty original members in March 1977 at the first informal gathering, and a further twenty two members at the following Society meeting, all with a common interest to learn and develop the cultivation of bromeliads in South Australia.

They are: Mr. & Mrs. E Schaefer, Mr. & Mrs. H Bamford, Mr. & Mrs. J Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. A Carr, Mr. R Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. E Passfield, Mrs. C Ashby, Mrs. D Cluse, Mrs. L Edwards, Mrs. K Field, Mrs. I Kirby, Miss P Laidlaw, Miss P Orr, Mrs. E Perriam, Mrs. D Telfer, Mr. & Mrs. D Butcher, Mr. R Clothier, Mr. & Mrs. A Cowan, Mr. L Cork, Mrs. G Francis, Miss J Francis, Miss J Fletcher, Mrs. M Fletcher, Mr. B Fell, Mrs. J Fell, Mr. & Mrs. A McFarlane, Mr. T Nottle, Mr. R Perriam, Mr. & Mrs. Purches, Mrs. M Vale, Mr. & Mrs. B Worthley, Mrs. H White.

Within the next few Months Maggie Hick joined in Aug 1977

The inaugural committee consisted of the President, Mr. E Schaefer, Vice -President, Mrs. M Bamford, Secretary, Mrs. G Edwards, Treasurer, Mrs. J Carr and five committee members (Mr. H Bamford, Mr. A Carr, Mr. J Edwards, Mr. R Edwards, Mrs. G Passfield).

Original members still a part of the BSSA are Derek and Margaret Butcher who attended the first General Meeting of the Society in April 1977 and have devoted an enormous amount of time, effort, knowledge, and good company to our club and the wider bromeliad world over the years.

Derek was Secretary for 28 years until 2011 as well as a continuing role as chief writer, Editor & Roving Reporter of the Gazette and has been ably assisted for many years by Margaret as both assistant secretary and chief note-taker. As 'Uncle Derek' and 'Aunty Margaret', both have an international reputation as experts in various aspects of the bromeliaceae family.

Maggie Hick continues her membership

Our current membership is 89. Cost of joining has ranged from \$1 in 1977, \$3 in 1983, \$4 in 1985 until reaching \$10 in 1999 which remained for many years until in 2016 when it increased and is now \$15 single membership & joint membership \$25

Our membership remains steady with new members maintaining the numbers as others are unable to continue membership which is usually due to ill-health, moved on to other interests or deceased.

Attendances at our General meetings in the last few years range from 26 up to 48 and since 2011 are recorded in an attendance book that is required for OH & S and Insurance.

New members are recruited during our involvement in Home & Garden shows at Wayville, more recently our return to the Royal show, Festival of Flowers, presentations by members of Committee to garden clubs, Bunnings workshops, and Community Centre groups in & near Adelaide. Bill Treloar gives presentations to country garden clubs. A more recent approach has been through social media particularly Facebook, as well as our website.

New members are welcomed to the Society with a welcome card, Information leaflet on our Society and fridge magnet with BSSA Meeting & special events dates for the year.

Our officer positions have remained unchanged since the beginning

Current officer positions are

- President – chairs the committee and main meetings.
- Vice president – fills the role of president in his/her absence.
- Secretary – takes minutes, handles in and out correspondence, agendas, and is the society's contact person in general dealings.
- Treasurer – manages the society's accounts.
- 6 general committee members

Officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting in February. In 1984 Nomination were to be in writing and Nomination forms are now used.

List of Officers over the years

Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
1977/8	E Schaefer	M Bamford	G Edwards	J Carr
1978/9	G Edwards	M Bamford	B Worthley	J Carr
1979/80	G Edwards	M Bamford	B Worthley	J Carr
1980/1	B Worthley	G Edwards	M Bamford	J Carr
1981/2	B Worthley	M Bamford	J Reid/ M Bamford	D Butcher
1982/3	M Bamford	J Claridge	D Butcher	M Robinson
1983/4	M Bamford	J Claridge	D Butcher	M Robinson
1984/5	M Bamford	J Claridge	D Butcher	M Robinson
1985/6	M Bamford	J Claridge	D Butcher	M Robinson
1986/7	M Bamford	M Hick	D Butcher	M Robinson
1987/8	M Bamford	M Hick	D Butcher	M Robinson
1988/9	L Colgan	M Bamford	D Butcher	M Robinson
1989/90	L Colgan	M Bamford	D Butcher	M Robinson
1990/1	L Colgan	M Bamford	D Butcher	M Robinson
1991/2	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	M Robinson
1992/3	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	M Robinson
1993/4	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	M Robinson
1994/5	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	M Robinson
1995/6	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	M Robinson
1997/8	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	M Robinson/ P Huddy
1998/9	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	P Huddy
1999/2000	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	P Huddy
2000/1	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	P Huddy
2001/2	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	P Huddy
2002/3	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2003/4	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2004/5	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2005/6	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2007/8	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2008/9	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2010	L Colgan	A Bodzioch	D Butcher	W Treloar
2011/12	A Bodzioch	P. Hall	B Masters	J. Murphy
2013	A Bodzioch	P. Hall	B Masters	J. Murphy
2014	A Bodzioch	P. Hall	B Masters	J. Hollinshead
2015	A Bodzioch	P. Hall	B Masters	J. Hollinshead
2016	A Bodzioch	P. Hall	B Masters	T. Hollinshead
2017	A Bodzioch	P. Hall	B Masters	T. Hollinshead

Assistant Secretary: M. Butcher 1996-2010, J. Hall 2012-2013

Committee members over the years

Mrs M Butcher 1989 – 1995	Mr K Bradtberg 1996 – 2005	Mr W Thompson 2012 -13
Mr Len Colgan 1984 -1985	Mr P Huddy 1996 - 1998	Mrs J Thompson 2012 - 13
Mr L Cork 1989 – 2007	Mr T Brown 1999 - 2002	Mrs P Seekamp 2013 -
Mrs M Hick 1989 – 2009	Mr C Waterman 2003 – 2013	Mr T Seekamp 2013 – 2014
Mr K Robinson 1989 - 1990	Mr D Wecker 2005 – 2008	Ms G Lee 2014 - 2016
Mr H Bamford 1989 – 1990	Mrs B Masters 2008-2011	Mr D Batty 2014-
Mr A Bodzioch 1990 -2011	Mr J Murphy 2010 - 2011	Mrs J Batty 2014 -
Mr C Kernick 1991 – 1992	Ms L Stainer 2009 – 2011	Mrs S Sckrabei 2015 -
Mrs K Kernick 1991 – 1992	Mrs V Clark 2011-2012	Mr J Hollinshead 2016 -
Mrs E Mullins 1992 – 1995	Mrs J Hall 2011 - 2013	Mr Kallam Sharman 2017-
Mr A Mullins 1992 – 1995	Mr G Jarrett 2012	

The format of meetings has not changed greatly over the years with the emphasis being on education, interaction and enjoyment of all things bromeliad. As many members were relatively new to growing bromeliads, early meetings were of a practical nature with demonstrations of, for example, potting medium, pup removal, mounting of tillandsias, seed raising, pests & faults, different genera -various ways of growing, plant identification, offsets & repotting, beginners hints and later, preparing plants for show and sale.

Some of the non-plant related activities were slides, bingo, white elephant stall, quiz's and puzzles.

Also popular in the 'early days' from 1981 were visits to members' gardens and some of those included: Clothier's, Lurcombe's, Ashby's, Schaefer's, Hick's, Cork's, Worthley's, Potter's, Carr's, Gummow's, Bamford's, Butcher's, Edwards, Tonkin's, Bradtberg's, Huddy's, Colgan's & Kirby's – often two held each month in the warmer weather. These visits have continued but not on a regular basis and include several to the Butcher's, Colgan's, Treloar's, Hall's, Masters' and one to Jarrett's .

The tradition of a door prize and raffle of primarily 'pup's donated by members, and a trading table set up for the sale of plants has continued and is very popular.

As the Society evolved over the years small changes were introduced such as the Summer and Winter 'brags', and the substitution of the December Christmas lunch meeting for a short final meeting of the year held in November - after which there is a generous afternoon tea and lively plant swap and auction.

Most popular plant of the month trophy was re introduced to encourage members to bring in Bromeliads for display and discussion.

Topics of the meetings are varied, with the aim being to foster high standards in the cultivation of bromeliaceae within an enjoyable social environment. The topics range from hands-on demonstrations to specific genera, e.g. Neoregelia, aechmea, nidularium, species, and lesser known genera. All members are encouraged to bring and display plants relating to the nominated topic and also any additional plants which may be at their peak or likely to be of interest to others, also Pests & faults, general maintenance, mounting Tillandsias, beginners hints, plants in harmony, terrarium planting, watering systems etc

Various members of the club have also generously hosted visits to their home gardens in what is always an informative and relaxed gathering while promoting better understanding of different growing methods in different environments.

At times speakers with wider horticultural interests are invited to speak at meetings and further our knowledge of gardening generally and there are our own members who have interesting presentations to give on their interstate or overseas bromeliad related activities.

Society badges were introduced in August 1980 and have changed in style and now in colour.

Pots became available to members at just above cost and noted that in 1981 a 4" pot was .7c, then in 1984 an 8" pot cost .30c, now in 2017 an 8" pot cost .80c. The 'pot person' includes J. Claridge, L. Cork, D. Wecker & R. Masters. They are now available at all general meetings instead of 4 times a year, by special order or pick up from Plympton.

Show and sales Competitions

The first bromeliad display was held within the Cactus and Succulent Society exhibition in 1977; however it was not until March 1979 when members of the fledgling Bromeliad Society had developed enough quality plants that their own exhibition and sale was held at the Adelaide Show.

Subsequent exhibitions were held at the Adelaide Showgrounds until 2000, more recently in 2015 combined with an Orchid Society and then in 2016 we had our own display. Other early locations included the Westfield Shopping Centre's at Marion and West Lakes, Enfield Civic Centre, North Park Shopping Centre and St Peter's Town Hall. From 1989 shows were also held twice yearly at the current premises. These events have continued to be popular and are an excellent way to inform and encourage buyers in the successful growing of their bromeliads while showing the wide range of quality plants available.

In contrast to more recent show days where we are able to set up the display on the day prior to opening, the earlier members weren't so lucky – they often had to set up on the same day – at 7.30am!

Today the Society continues to promote the growing of bromeliads to the wider community through attendance at various flower and home and garden shows where our volunteers display a range of the various genus/genera growing successfully in Adelaide and readily answer questions from the public. Presentations are also given by committee members on request to specific Garden Clubs.

A form of competition between members for 'Most Popular Plant' (Advanced and Novice Sections) began at meetings in 1981 with winners being awarded a certificate which was displayed in front of their plant/s. In 1982 the Cop-operative Building Society presented two trophies to the Society for use in their competitions and a 'Judging Competition' was introduced in 1984 following increased interest amongst growers who wanted to display plants to their best advantage. Judging classes were held for those interested – led by Mr. A Carr - and guidelines sought and passed on at club meetings.

Following the death of Mr. E Schaefer in 1982, a perpetual trophy for 'Best in Show' was purchased to honor his contribution to the club. Mrs. M Hick was the first to win this award (1983) with *Neoregelia* 'Maggie's Pride' – a variegated bromeliad she had grown from seed from America and one which is still grown by current members. In 1984 the award went to Mrs. Josie Tonkin also mentioned 1984 were Mrs Hick and Mrs Kinnear' so it appears there may have been some sort of overlap and in 1985 to Mrs M Bamford.

In 2012 a Judging Manual was implemented thanks to Jeanne, Peter, Derek, Adam and Committee members.

In 1997 the Society adopted new Show Awards to reflect plant family groups:-

1. President's Trophy for Bromelioideae
2. Josie Tonkin Trophy for grey leafed *Tillandsia* and Grey leafed *Vriesea*
3. Margaret Reppin Trophy for *Pitcairnioideae*
4. Trophy for other *tillandsioideae*
5. Trophy for Artistic Merit
6. Ede Schaefer Trophy for Champion Plant from the above 5 sections.

Trophies presented from 2016 as follows

1. Josie Tonkin Trophy for *grey leaved Tillandsias & grey leaved Vriesea*
2. Margarete Reppin Trophy for *Pitcairnioideae. Dyckia, Fosteralla, Hechtia, Deuterocohnia, Pitcairnia, Puya*
3. Presidents Trophy for *Bromelioideae -Aechmea, Ananas, Billbergia, Canistrum, Cryptanthus, Hohenbergia, Nidularium, Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Quesnelia*
4. Gummow Trophy for *best specimen multiple plant – plants joined with stem in Bromelioideae- Aechmea, Ananas, Billbergia, Canistrum, Cryptanthus, Hohenbergia, Nidularium, Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Quesnelia*
5. Marie Robinson Trophy for *Vriesea Complex, Green leaved Tillandsia, Green leaved Vriesea, - green & non concolorous, Alcantarea, Catopsis, Guzmania, Racinaea & Werauhia*
6. George (Gerd) Rudolph Trophy for *Artistic Merit* (replacing original 'Artistic merit')
7. *Neoregelia* Trophy for *Best Neoregelia.*
8. Jeanne Hall For the best *Miniature Neoregelia* (15cm leaf tip to leaf tip)
9. Ede Schaefer Trophy for *Best in show Plant from the above*
10. Auntie Margaret & Uncle Derek "*Encouragement award*" To be chosen by Derek and Margaret (when available) from all plants on display.

Bromeliad Society of SA Inc Perpetual Trophies by Derek & Margaret Butcher Jan 2017

Perpetual is an odd word because I well remember having one donated by the Cooperative Building Society which is long gone. But it is because of memories that we gave the trophies special names and each has a story to tell.

First we must mention **Ede Schaefer**, strictly speaking our Founder. In the early 1970's Ede started putting on a Bromeliad Show in a small section put aside in the Cactus and Succulent Soc of SA Inc. Annual Show and Sales. I only took a passing interest because I loved cactus and knew that Cactus liked it dry and were ideal for Adelaide climate. Many cactus were a sphere because we were told this is the best way to conserve moisture. I then found out by reading Werner Rauh that there were plants that grew in Peru ON cactus and were a Bromeliad. Ede was more interested in the coloured leafy sort that he acquired interstate when he ran his own interstate trucking firm. We became great friends with him converting Margaret to the leafy sort and me converting him to *Tillandsia*. We spent lots of time visiting him at home. His wife Freda was a great cook too! Under the wing of the Cactus and Succulent Society, Ede started a discussion group which we know soon became OUR Society.

Margarete Reppin was a convert from the Cactus Society too, more so after the death of her husband when she moved to Aldinga. She loved her pricklies which is why she is commemorated with the Pitcairnioideae. Margarete had a hard time after World War II and came here as a refugee from East Germany. Yes, one of the old sort who was prepared to become an Aussie and assimilate.

Vi & Art Gummow will always be remembered by their willingness to man stalls we had at Shopping Centres. Yes, in the old days we were often asked to participate, be it Noarlunga, West Lakes or Elizabeth. Now you are expected to pay for the privilege! Art must have had a country background because he swore by the use of river sand he collected at Hamley Bridge. It grew some great plants under their care but if you picked up a pot of his too quickly you nearly got a hernia! One other note about the Gummows is that they had an infamous nephew by the name of Len Colgan

Marie Robinson was our Treasurer for years. Her meeting reports of the accounts were presented at break-neck speed in a heavy Irish accent. Heaven help anyone who made a query. The answer was given at the same speed. Only Ken, her husband could fully understand. She died much too early. She liked the green leaved *Tillandsias* and *Vrieseas*. **Josie Tonkin** was one of our earliest members. She was lucky in having Eric as her husband because whatever she wanted she got. Eric was very handy whatever material was needed. The only way to grow the full range of *Cryptanthus* in Adelaide is to give them protection the year round. One way it to grow them in large terrariums or should I say aquariums with a hole in the bottom. Eric could make any size you wanted. But for all this Josie liked the grey leaved *Tillandsias*.

Jeanne Hall, wife of Vice President Peter Hall. She was a talented lady who was a whiz at IT. She started the Society's Facebook page and always had her camera at the ready at meetings. Jeanne helped us to produce the booklet on Bromeliad Synonyms and other Society publications. She loved her Mini Neoregelias. Peter has a special section of his garden called 'Jeanne's Garden' in remembrance of her.

Auntie Margaret and Uncle Derek Award needs no introduction, other than to say that it was felt there should be some sort of encouragement to newcomers who were reticent to bring their effort in growing Bromeliads to our Annual March Show

Finally last but not least the **George (Gerd) Rudolph Trophy**. George was well liked by everyone but he did have this habit of putting *Tillandsias* on the largest stick he could find in the most artistic way he could think of. Needless to say he kept winning the Artistic Merit Trophy. Several years ago Ivy Kirby had this spare length of tree root which she gave to George. This eventually became known as 'Ivy's Root'!

Trophy Winners:

Josie Tonkin Trophy:

1997: Derek Butcher, 1998: Adam Bodzioch, 1999: Derek Butcher, 2000: Adam Bodzioch, 2001: Derek Butcher, 2002: Derek Butcher, 2003: Adam Bodzioch, 2004: Derek Butcher, 2005: Derek Butcher, 2006: Derek Butcher, 2007: Derek Butcher, 2008: Derek Butcher, 2010: Adam Bodzioch, 2011: Derek Butcher, 2012: Derek Butcher, 2013: Derek Butcher, 2014: Adam Bodzioch, 2015: Derek Butcher, 2016: Julie Batty, 2017: Peter Hall

Margarete Reppin Trophy:

1997: Derek Butcher, 1998: Derek Butcher, 1999: Marj Bamford, 2000: Derek Butcher, 2001: Derek Butcher, 2002: Derek Butcher, 2003: Derek Butcher, 2004: Len Colgan, 2005: Keith Bradtberg, 2006: Len Colgan, 2007: Derek Butcher, 2010: Len Colgan, 2011: Peter Hall, 2012: Margaret Butcher, 2013: Penny & Trevor Seekamp, 2014: Julie Batty, 2015: Peter Hall, 2016: Peter Hall, 2017: Julie Batty

Presidents Trophy:

1985: Marj Bamford, 1986: Marj Bamford, 1988: Joan William, 1989: Josie Tonkin, 1990: Margaret Butcher, 1991: Keith Bradtberg, 1992: Len Cork, 1993 Vi & Art Gummow, 1994: Vi & Art Gummow, 1995: Garry Thiele, 1996: Vi & Art Gummow, 1997: Margaret Butcher, 1998 Adam Bodzioch, 1999: Margaret Butcher, 2000: Margaret Butcher, 2001: Derek Butcher, 2002: Derek Butcher, 2003: Margaret Butcher, 2004: Margaret Butcher, 2005: Len Colgan, 2006: Bill Treloar, 2007: Bill Treloar, 2008: Bill Treloar, 2010: Bill Treloar, 2011: Margaret Butcher, 2012: Julie Batty, 2013: John Murphy, 2014: Julie Batty, 2015: Ron & Bev Masters, 2016: Adam Bodzioch, 2017: Julie Batty.

Gummow Trophy:

2005: Maureen Hick, 2006: Len Colgan, 2007:& 2008: Bill Treloar, 2010: Len Colgan, 2011: Peter Hall, 2012: Julie Batty, 2014: Ray Clark, 2015 :Peter Hall, 2016: Ron & Bev Masters, 2017: Sue Sckrabei

Marie Robinson Trophy:

1997: Peter Huddy, 1998: Peter Huddy, 1999: Peter Huddy, 2000: Peter Huddy, 2001: Adam Bodzioch, 2002: Adam Bodzioch, 2003: Keith Bradtberg, 2004: Adam Bodzioch, 2005:Adam Bodzioch, 2006: Mike Romanowski, 2007: Margaret Butcher, 2008: Margaret Butcher, 2010: Adam Bodzioch, 2011: Adam Bodzioch, 2012: Adam Bodzioch, 2013: Julie Batty, 2014: Adam Bodzioch, 2015: Adam Bodzioch, 2016: Adam Bodzioch, 2017: Adam Bodzioch

George(Gerd) Rudolph:

2016: Peter Hall, 2017: Peter Hall.

Neoregelia Trophy

1999: Margaret Butcher, 2000: Margaret Butcher, 2001: Bill Treloar, 2002: Keith Bradtberg, 2003: Keith Bradtberg, 2004: Margaret Butcher, 2005: Bill Treloar, 2006: Bill Treloar, 2007: Bill Treloar, 2008 Lainie Stainer, 2010: Adam Bodzioch, 2011: Peter Hall, 2012: Adam Bodzioch, 2013: Jeanne Hall, 2014: Julie Batty, 2015: Sarka Laznicka, 2016: Adam Bodzioch, 2017: Julie Batty.

Jeanne Hall Miniature Neoregelia

2016 : Peter Hall, 2017: Sue Sckrabei

Ede Schaefer Trophy *for Best in show*

1984:Josie Tonkin, 1985: Marj Bamford, 1986: Vi & Art Gummow, 1987: Gertrud Muhlmann, 1988: D & M Butcher, 1989: Elfriede Schaefer, 1990: Len Colgan, 1991: Adam Bodzioch, 1992: Len Colgan, 1993: Len Colgan, 1994: Adam Bodzioch, 1995: Peter Huddy, 1996: Marj Bamford, 1997: Peter Huddy, 1998: Peter Huddy, 1999: Peter Huddy, 2000: Adam Bodzioch, 2001: Adam Bodzioch, 2002: Adam Bodzioch, 2003: Adam Bodzioch, 2004: Margaret Butcher, 2005: Bill Treloar, 2006: Bill Treloar, 2007: Len Colgan, 2008: Bill Treloar, 2010: Adam Bodzioch, 2011: Peter Hall, 2012: Julie Batty, 2013: Julie Batty, 2014: Adam Bodzioch, 2015: Derek Butcher, 2016 :Adam Bodzioch, 2017: Julie Batty

Auntie Margaret & Uncle Derek "*Encouragement award*":

2016: Kallam Sharman, 2017: Kallam Sharman,

Awards presented to the BSSA include:

1988 First prize Floriculture section display of growing Bromeliads with or without flower Display Royal Adelaide show.

1989 Bronze medal for massed display at Adelaide Show

1990 Special prize Floriculture section Artistic display of colourful Bromeliads

1991 Floriculture section collection of flowering and foliage bromeliad

1991 a feature society in the horticultural section of the Royal Adelaide Show.

1992 Silver medal for display Adelaide Show

1996 Gold Award Wayville Showgrounds.

An honorable mention, and three bronze medals

Awards presented to individual members 1989 Adelaide Show (Maureen Hick 9 firsts and 6 seconds in various sections and Show Champion for Neo Jean Black mini.

The Bromeliad Society of South Australia has hosted 3 national conferences in 1987, 1995, and 2009.

Bromeliads IV Conference, Adelaide, 1987 – Len Colgan

The first three Australian Bromeliad Conferences were held in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in 1981, 1983, 1985 respectively. Those South Australians who attended the Sydney Conference enthusiastically offered to repay the enjoyment of the first two conferences by hosting the fourth, after Brisbane. That set in motion the pooling of ideas and the eventual formation of an Organising Committee to co-ordinate all of the matters that would arise.

As was tradition then, the conference was scheduled for the Easter long weekend. The venue was the Parkroyal Hotel on South Terrace, to be suitably adorned with displays of flowering bromeliads. At the time of the conference itself, the president of the society was Marj Bamford (joint convenor), the secretary was Derek Butcher (joint convenor, chief panic merchant), and the treasurer was Marie Robinson (conference registrar). The other society committee members were all drafted on to the Organising Committee. They were Maureen Hick (registration assistant), Carlien Potter, Margaret Butcher (registration assistant), Len Colgan (Chairman and M.C.), Len Cork (chairs, tillandsia stand maker) and Ken Robinson (projection and sound equipment). Four other “volunteers” were Josie Tonkin (registration assistant), Bob McGregor (transport officer and photographer), Harry Bamford (front stage and President’s husband) and Krista Kinnear (Easter Bunny).

The first major decision was to create a title for the conference that would reflect the theme. It was named “Contrasts and Complements”. The next decision was to formulate a programme. The evening of Good Friday was to be casual, with registrations, tillandsia sales, refreshments and wine tastings. Dr Brian Morley, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens accepted an offer to perform the official opening on Saturday morning. This complemented organised tours of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, scheduled for late Saturday afternoon, before a Happy Hour at the venue and the Conference Banquet. An additional arrangement with the Adelaide City Council enabled a bromeliad display to be set up in the Conservatory in the Veale Gardens on South Terrace using plants originating from members.

Sunday was programmed for a trip to the Barossa Valley by coach, with wine tasting and scenic tours. Upon returning, registrants were treated to a poolside barbecue at the Parkroyal Hotel.

Then there was the all-encompassing requirement of a schedule of invited speakers. Feelers were sent out and offers arrived. Peter Temple from England had originally agreed to present “How I grow Bromeliads in England”, but due to illness, was unable to attend. Instead, he prepared a paper which was presented on his behalf by the President, Marj Bamford. Nine other 35-minute sessions were timetabled, five on Saturday and four on Monday, as well as an after-dinner presentation by Ruby Ryde at the banquet. Six of the speakers were from Australia (Bill Morris, Len Butt, Len Colgan, Bob Hudson, Geoff Lawn, Maurice Kellett), one from New Zealand (Bea Hanson), one from Fiji (Dick Phillips), with one other being a slide presentation sent across from Herb Plever in the USA. Topics included billbergias, tillandsias, hybrids, “web-footed” bromeliads, spraying, epiphytic bromeliads, growing in North Queensland, growing indoors in New York.

The conference would officially close at 4:00PM on Easter Monday, following a panel discussion and a short address from those delegated the responsibility to run Bromeliads V.

The conference attracted 82 registrants. There were 68 from Australia, 8 from New Zealand, 5 from the USA (including Thomas Lineham, the editor of the Journal of The Bromeliad Society) and one from Fiji.

It was decided to produce a conference proceedings book to be sent to all delegates after the conference. It contained 74 pages, including several photographs taken during the conference itself as well as a beautiful colour print of *Billbergia porteana*, reproduced from a water colour by Ludwig Dutkiewicz (Botanical Artist), by kind permission of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide.

Bromeliads VIII Conference, Adelaide, 1995- Len Colgan

The second Australian Bromeliad Conference to be located in Adelaide was Bromeliads VIII, held over the Easter long weekend in 1995. The venue was the Royal Coach Motor Inn on the eastern edge of the city.

The four main society office-bearers (Treasurer Marie Robinson, Secretary Derek Butcher, President Len Colgan, Vice President Adam Bodzioch) headed the Organizing Committee with Marie having the key role of Registrar and Plant Sales Organizer, and Derek being Chief Organiser. Len, Adam and Bill Treloar shared the MC duties.

Many other SA Society members undertook important roles, including Margaret Butcher and Eileen Mullins (registration table), Alf Mullins and Harry Bamford (raffles), Keith Bradtberg (plant identification liaison), Ken Robinson (video operator), Peter Huddy and Bob McGregor (photographers), George Rudolph (stage). In addition, Len Trevor from Brisbane was co-opted as the rare plant auctioneer.

The most significant decision was to invite Renate and Klaus Ehlers from Stuttgart in Germany to be keynote international presenters for the conference. They were world renowned for their intrepid excursions into the wilds of Latin America in their search for something different in the genus *Tillandsia*. Klaus was the editor of the German Bromeliad Society journal "Die Bromelie" for many years and relied upon his wife to supply him with new data. At the time, Renate had already been involved with the descriptions of over 35 new species. Since then, it has grown to about 100 new species, mostly tillandsias. Of great sentimental importance were *Tillandsia ehlersiana* named by Professor Werner Rauh in honour of them both, and *Tillandsia klausii* which Renate named in honour of her inseparable husband.

Particularly because of this outstanding decision to invite Renate, the organising committee decided to hold an "extra" session on the Good Friday afternoon, discretionary as far as registrants were concerned due to its somewhat technical and solely tillandsia based nature. However, everyone attended! It started with "Tillandsia Technicals" which concentrated on popular but sometimes misunderstood groups of related species. Renate showed many pictures of different plants from within the following five tillandsia complexes plus distant relatives: *T. brachycaulos* and *T. capitata*; *T. oaxaca* and *T. macdougallii*; *T. erubescens*; *T. parryi*; *T. mooreana*. Len Colgan discussed a number of species from Bolivia broadly similar to *T. xiphioides*, jointly prepared with Derek Butcher. Chris Larson presented elaborate posters of tillandsias imported by the Paradisia Nursery in Melbourne, jointly prepared with Brenton Cadd. Finally, registrants had been advised in advance that they could submit tillandsias to Renate for identification, with a discussion of the more interesting ones scheduled for Monday afternoon. Altogether, the preliminary Friday afternoon was a huge success, with an included evening meal to follow!

On Friday evening, the draw for the Australia-wide raffle was performed. Each prize donor had the task of drawing the next winning ticket. Olwen Ferris was awarded a "Grande Dame of Aussie Bromeliads" award in recognition of her contributions towards the cultivation and knowledge of bromeliads in this country, as well as her attendance at every conference so far. A further recognition was made to Derek Butcher on Sunday evening with a Certificate of Appreciation awarded by the Bromeliad Society of Australia for his contributions.

The official conference opening was performed on Saturday morning by Malcolm Campbell. Malcolm was well known throughout Australia for his contributions to Gardening Australia on ABC TV, his journalistic efforts in the Gardening Australia Magazine, as well as his gardening programme on local radio.

Renate Ehlers gave two more entertaining presentations, one on each of Saturday and Sunday mornings. They involved lots of anecdotes of incidents experienced by Klaus and herself during various collecting expeditions in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Brazil. Of course, the audience was enthralled by so many pictures of tillandsias growing in habitat, especially when the species was a new discovery. There were seven other 40-minute presentations from Saturday to Monday. Five were given by Australian speakers (Kim Chipper, Peter Franklin, Derek Butcher, Tom Kapitany, Maurice Kellett), one by Andrew Flower from NZ, and a presentation by Adam Bodzioch of a paper produced by Dr G Samyn from Ghent in Belgium. This particular paper was titled "Vriesea Hybrids of Today and Yesteryear" and featured vriesea crosses produced by Eduard Morren in Liège, Belgium in 1879 up to modern crosses produced by breeders such as Herb Hill and John Arden in the USA. Topics covered by the other presenters included growing bromeliads in WA, computer control, growing tillandsias from seed, neoregelia species in Australia, marketing bromeliads and looking for bromeliads in Ecuador.

Saturday afternoon was put aside for everyone to take a bus tour to the McLaren Vale wine region. The wineries visited by the two buses included Normans, Pirramimma plus an extended tasting at Kays, where the panorama across the Southern Vales was outstanding. Then, on the return trip to Adelaide, a dinner stop was incorporated with a barbecue inside one of Australia's oldest wine cellars at Chateau Reynella.

One session was reserved on Sunday morning for a Convention Brag where attendees were offered the opportunity to present up to five or six slides of their favourite plants and give descriptions of growing conditions, parentage and other points of interest. This was a success and could be continued at future conferences as long as some rigid rules were put in place to avoid domestic disagreements between spouses regarding their partner's knowledge and appreciation of plants.

Sunday afternoon involved two buses visiting four local bromeliad collections in different orders. Luckily all four were on the western side of Adelaide, albeit quite far apart. The places visited belonged to Len and Gloria Cork, Marie and Ken Robinson (with cookies and afternoon tea supplied), Margaret and Derek Butcher, and Len Colgan. Later that evening was the Conference Dinner followed by the Rare Plant Auction. Refreshments were supplemented by a rather novel door prize raffle, where 10 bottles of wine were given to the lucky winners. Len Trevor, the rare plant auctioneer had been suitably primed with Pirramimma Port, guaranteeing much frivolity and persistent bidding. In addition to plants, three prints of *Tillandsia bulbosa* by Kiti Wenzel were offered.

The conference closed around afternoon tea on Monday following a survey of judging rules used around Australia, and a presentation by the Western Australian Bromeliad Society inviting everyone to *The Western Bromanza*, namely the Bromeliad IX Conference in Perth, 1997.

The conference attracted 81 registrants. There were 73 from Australia, 6 from New Zealand as well as our two distinguished keynote invitees from Germany, Klaus and Renate. The conference proceedings occupied a substantial 130 pages, including nine colour plates and photographs. These included reproductions of two historic vriesea crosses.

Bromeliads XV Conference, Adelaide, 2009- Adam Bodzioch

The third Australian Bromeliad Conference (Bromadelaide) to be located in Adelaide was Bromeliads XV, held over the Easter long weekend in 2009. The venue was the Adelaide Meridien, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide.

The 5 members of the organising committee were President Len Colgan, Vice President Adam Bodzioch, Secretary Bev Masters, Ron Masters and Colin Waterman. Bev Masters had the key role of Registrar and was responsible for registrations, computer records, interactions with the Treasurer and the general co-ordination of the Registrations desk over the 4 days of the Conference. The Society's Treasurer Bill Treloar spent much time over the conference in managing all of the financial aspects including plant sales and commissions. The plant displays and sales facilities were overseen by Adam Bodzioch and he was ably assisted by Bev and Ron Masters, Jeanne and Peter Hall (who also were responsible for graphic design and publication), John Murphy, Keith Bradtberg and Wendy Bodzioch. Many other SA Society members undertook important roles, including Derek and Margaret Butcher (additional writings and editorial content), Diane Mundy (registration table), Lainie (coach captain) and Darrel Whelan (candid camera) and Zyggy Kruszewski (computer and sound equipment). In addition, Len Trevor from the Brisbane Society was co-opted to perform the role of the rare plant auctioneer. We thank Len and Olive also for their magnificent display in the foyer. This was particularly appreciated due to Adelaide having suffered its worst heat-wave in history with the end result that bromeliads in Adelaide were either looking far from resplendent or downright burnt and crisped.

The most significant decision for the organising committee was the choice of key-note international speaker. With the help of Derek and Margaret Butcher we were able to gain the agreement of world-renowned botanist Jason Grant from Switzerland to provide 3 presentations.

The first presentation was a departure from the norm in that it was presented on the Friday afternoon, before the official opening, and was entitled "Travelogue of Jason's Ecuadorian travels". However, rather than being a description of plants seen it was a summary of serious field work performed by Jason and a group of young, budding botanists into the wilds of Ecuador. The research was funded by grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation. While we were shown many pictures of plants found in the wild and great scenery we were also shown the mud and primitive conditions associated with field-work.

The conference was officially opened on the Saturday morning. This was immediately followed by Jason Grant with his presentation entitled "Alcantarea and Werauhia in the context of Vriesea". This presentation highlighted Jason's work in separating Alcantarea and Werauhia from the genus Vriesea. Previously, they had been treated as a subgenus of Vriesea. Jason also pointed out that vrieseas in the Colombian region like *V. elata* are not Vriesea in the strict sense and will be given a new genus name in the future.

Jason's presentation was followed by one from Mark Paul on "Alcantareas in habitat and cultivation" and Mark highlighted the upsurge in interest in these beautiful but large plants. Kerry Booth Tate then presented "A frosty experience – before, during and after" which summarised the move by her and her family to Channon, a small village and rural community in northern New South Wales, and the impact that a severe frost had on her bromeliad collection. The afternoon session was commenced by Michael Romanowski with "Photographing bromeliads in habitat and cultivation". Here, Michael suggested some important rules and tips for obtaining the best quality pictures of plants in the wild and at home.

Nigel Thomson then presented "Out of Africa, into Oz" which was an account of the move of his family from South Africa to Australia and their trials and tribulations in setting up a business in Northern Queensland for the cultivation and sale of bromeliads. Nigel confessed that 30 years ago, in Africa, he contracted a disease with no known cure –an addiction to bromeliads

At the conclusion of Nigel's presentation we saw a mass exodus of registrants to the first session of plant sales followed by the conference dinner. It was here that Len Colgan presented Margaret Draddy with a certificate of appreciation, from the Bromeliad Society of SA, for her kind donation to this conference but also for her efforts in fund-raising for many conferences in the past.

Andrew Flower kick-started the Sunday morning session with his presentation "Tillandsias: Their infinite Beauty and Form" and provided a lively session on the beauty of tillandsias and also tips for taking pics.

Greg Aizlewood then provided a session entitled "Bromeliads around the world" which was an extremely interesting summary of his and Narelle's constant meeting with bromeliads wherever they travelled in the world.

The last session for the day before lunch was Margaret Paterson's "Gympie hybrids" which highlighted her endeavors in hybridising Tillandsias and Neoregelia.

After lunch, the tour buses arrived for the McLaren Vale winery and dinner explorations. The two “coach captains” were Adam Bodzioch and Lainie Stainer who both did admirable jobs in providing running commentaries on the sights and points of interest of Adelaide and McLaren Vale. A number of excellent wineries were visited before arrival at the “The Barn” restaurant which provided an excellent menu for the hungry guests. It was clear at the dinner that there was a real camaraderie of people from across Australia as tables were consistently made up of registrants from different states, territories and New Zealand.

The Monday morning session was commenced with a meeting of Society representatives for the discussion of a number of matters relevant to bromeliad societies in Australia and New Zealand. Further, it was decided that the 2011 conference would be held in Darwin and that the 2013 conference would be held in Auckland, New Zealand. Jason Grant then provided a presentation on famous bromeliad botanists focusing on C. Jacques Edouard Morren and Lyman B. Smith.

Mark Paul then presented on the use of bromeliads in vertical planting systems (green walls) and the beauty and advantages of growing bromeliads in this fashion.

The final presentation, on bi-generics, was provided by Adam Bodzioch. Here, Adam covered the conventions regarding the naming of bi-generics but more importantly provided images of these fascinating plants. Adam was able to provide images of both parents and the bi-generic plant. This led to a lively discussion on the merits of the bi-generic plant and whether its attributes were better than either of the parents.

The conference which attracted 141 registrants, including 12 from New Zealand, concluded with lunch and was considered by all to be a very friendly and welcoming conference and one that provided the forum for developing and nurturing long-standing relationships.

Newsletters

The possibility of producing a newsletter was deferred until July 1979 when Vol. 1 No. 1 was compiled by the Secretary, B M Worthley. Thereafter M. Bamford produced a one page ‘Bromeliad Gazette’ until M. Claridge then M. Robinson and Derek, with the benefit of a computer, put out a more substantial Gazette. Derek’s input from 1998 has grown since that time to the current informative and multi-paged gazette edited by Derek and Bev. This educational publication (now in colour since July 2008) and produced quarterly instead of bi-monthly is valued by many other Bromeliad Societies in Australia and overseas and contains a wealth of knowledge collated by Derek over the years. It is sent to other clubs in Australia and several overseas on an exchange basis and also to our State Library. We now email this publication to around half of the membership and to the majority of exchange clubs.

Some topics covered in the newsletters / gazettes include reminders regarding topics for future meetings, report on recent club related events, and basic information for prospective new members or interested visitors.

Commentary of the various bromeliads brought to recent meetings for display and discussion, (there are photographs included to add interest) along with much of the background history of the plant in terms where it has come from, of similarities/differences to other related plants, the hybridist or location grown in its natural habitat as applicable.

‘Vales’ (written by Derek) recognizing member’s contribution to our Society and Bromeliads in general.

Articles of topical interest reprinted from other bromeliad club newsletters.

Magazine and/or newspaper articles include:

1981 Sunday living. Exotic bromeliad from Brazil highlighting show at Enfield Civic Centre with photo:

Growing mate-ship article (in AMP Soc Staff Bulletin). What do Len Trevor (Qld branch) and Derek Butcher (S.A. branch) have in common which caused them to spend Easter 1985 & 1987 together.

1991 Shopping around with Damon Baker, photo of Derek Butcher of Fulham talking to his bromeliad at Bromeliad Society display West lakes Mall

Sunday mail article by Sophie Thomson article promoting interest in Bromeliads at monthly meetings highlighting Derek’s involvement and experience.

Make over magic by Sophie Thomson article ‘use bromeliads’ to brighten up dull spots in the garden promoting plant sales and website.

1994 Gardening on Yorke Peninsula, Exotic plant at Bute Hobbies article with photo of Bill & grandson.

1995 Adrossan Garden club, article on Bromeliad presentation given by Margaret & Derek

2007 Sunday Mail ‘Let’s go clubbing’ with Sophie Thomson, learn more about Bromeliads from the Club

Sept 2013 Murray Valley times article with photo of presentation to Murray Bridge Social club by Peter, Ron & Bev.

2014 Article written by Adam for Spring edition of S.A. garden & Outdoor living.

Several promotion articles prior to our sales are in gardening section of various papers.

13 BSSA 40 years ‘Born 1977 and still offsetting!’

20 years of achievements for the BSSA

Anniversary Lunch March 16th 1997 – Luncheon at Royal Coach Motor Inn. Maurie Kellett speaker.

Some of the Achievements mentioned included:

- One honourable mention three bronze medals and one gold medal for displays at the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society Shows.
- Hosted Australian Bromeliad Conferences in 1987 and 1995 producing a video of the one held in 1995 and exporting it to 5 countries.
- Two of our members were guest speaker at a World Conference in the U.S.A.
- For several years around 1990 fairly large batches of seed from Elton Leme in Brazil. Some were grown locally and others shared Societies around Australia to increase the chances of survival.
- Had become the focal point in Australia for the grey leaved Tillandsia type plants and produced a guide to their correct naming.
- Had become the registration point for Australian Bromeliad hybrids and regularly issued a checklist, which was in its 4th edition.
- Had overseas botanist, Harry Luther, name Puya butcheriana and Renate Ehlers name Tillandsia colganii in recognition of two members efforts in the Bromeliaceae.
- Recognised by articles in Bromeliad Journals in USA, Great Britain, Germany, Brazil, New Zealand as well as other states of Australia.

Derek and Margaret- Butcher Life Members 2011

Derek and Margaret are our original members, joining at the first General Meeting of the BSSA on 3/4/77 and playing an active part in the club in various roles. Both have led discussion on topics of the day, presented illustrated talks, and generously participated in all aspects of club activities.

Derek began giving talks at meetings in November 1977 when he spoke on 'pronunciations'. Other topics to follow included plant husbandry, tillandsias, nomenclature, a report on the first National Conference, genera distinction, plant names etc., always 'with a little good humour with intelligent discussion'. He was also a speaker at Australasian conferences such as the 2003 NZ conference where he spoke on the role of the Bromeliad Cultivar Register, and the World Bromeliad Conference/s in 1992 (Australian hybrids) and 1996 at Orlando and Brisbane in 1993.

Derek was elected treasurer 1981, then Secretary from 1982 – 2010, combining these duties with that of editor of the Gazette, writing not only for this newsletter but contributing many articles for interstate and overseas club's magazines. * see also list of publications

Margaret joined him at the 'top' desk as assistant secretary from 1996 to 2010 after giving valuable service on the committee (from 1989), note-taking at meetings for the 'roving reporter', judging at shows and providing members and the public with a reliable source of information regarding plant culture and identification, particularly Neoregelias, Billbergias, and Vrieseas.

The Butcher's garden was open to other members on organised club visits - a popular event during the 1980's - and to Gardening Australia for a 'tillandsia tour' (1991).

Harry Luther honoured Derek by naming Puya butcheriana after him – the first bromeliad species to be named after an Australian - and in 2012 he received the Wally Berg Award for Excellence in recognition of his expertise in the taxonomy of bromeliads in general and the cultivation of tillandsias in particular.

Both were invited to the Singapore Botanic Gardens in 2001 to help in correctly identifying and labelling a large shipment of Bromeliads from America that had been donated to the gardens.

Over the years Derek has freely given of his time and expertise by collating and sharing a huge amount of bromeliaceae data electronically.

Derek has also

*Compiled 'The Amateur Guide to the Greyish Leaved Tillandsioideae' (1991) Now in WWW Bromeliad Society Website <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/brom-l/>

*'Key to the Genera of Bromeliaceae' printed in the May/June 2000 issue of the BSI Journal. Now in WWW Bromeliad Web site

*Articles on the internet <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/> under the title 'The Hybrid detective' from 2005

*Glossary of Terms – Now in WWW Bromeliad Society Website

* 'Bromeliaceae and its Eight Sub-Families' Now in WWW Bromeliad Society Website

*'Diaphoranthema Tillandsias' – listing on fcbs but not updated

- *‘Checklist of Australian Bromeliad Hybrids’ 1983. 5th edition and last 1997
- *‘New Bromeliad Taxon List’ in conjunction with Eric Gouda
- * Maintains the most comprehensive list of Bromeliad genera names, changes and synonyms on the Bromeliario Imperialis website <http://imperialis.com.br/>
- *Involved in submitting descriptions and photographs of approx. 250 bromeliads for inclusion in the ABC Gardening Book ‘Flora’ in 2003.
- *2000 appointed to the position of Cultivar Registrar for the Bromeliad Society International.
- *Helped put the BCR on the fcbs.org website
- *An international authority on the complexities of plant ID Derek has been involved in the authentication and promotion of true species, *particularly Neoregelias*
- *One of the principal writers of the BSSA booklet ‘Bromeliad Culture in SA’
- *2008 Honorary Trustee of Bromeliad Society International
- *Produced a Booklet on Names and synonyms with Jeannie Hall (out of print but now on WWW web site)

Len Colgan -Life Member 2011

President 1988 - 2010

1984 donated several plants to the society

June 1985 spoke on grey leafed tillandsias – informative – brought in a large number of the plants in his collection.

March 1986 – on committee

May ’86 attended the World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans, later gave talk at our club meeting

May 1986 talk and video on specific plants in Grace Goode’s garden.

April 1988 talk and slides on his trip from Cusco to Salta, South America

1992 Orlando Conference and talk/slides at our club meeting

1993 Trip to Bolivia

Talk in 1996 re: broms seen on recent trip to Europe.

1998 talk on visit to England, Belgium, Germany and California earlier that year.

1999 talk on his trip to Europe in July and meetings with Lotte Hromradnik, Renate Ehlers, Walter Til, Eric Gouda etc.

2002 talk on trip to Germany to acquire tillandsias

2004 Trip to Bolivia and later talk to club.

Chief Organiser and Master of Ceremonies at ‘Bromadelaide 2009’

Spoke on ‘Tillandsias of Bolivia’ at the Darwin 16th Australasian Bromeliad Conference 2011 following his visits to Bolivia in 1993 and 2004.

Authority on tillandsias (*T. colganii* named by Renate Ehlers after Len.) but also on wide ranging technical aspects of bromeliad genera. His career as Mathematics Professor meant he was confident in speaking and explaining the most complicated of subjects and was known for his amusing antidotes.

1996 and 2001 – club visits to Len’s garden

Adam Bodzioch-Life Member 2014

President 2011 –

1995 Provided presentation on Dr.Samyn’s “Vriesea hybrids of today and Yester year”

International Director (Australia) to Bromeliad Society International 2012 to date

Inaugural Chair, Australasian Bromeliad Council 2015 to date

Provided the final presentation at Bromadelaide 2009 – bi-generics.

Speaker at Broms on Arafura 2011 the 16th Australasian bromeliad conference. ‘Persuading Bromeliads to Bloom – use of Ethrel.

Speaker at Sunnybroms 2017 conference.

Bill Treloar- Life Member 2016

Treasurer 2002 - 2011

Garden visit April 1991, bus trip to Bute 1997 and 2 during more recent years.

By 1996 involved in assisting at club functions – librarian, raffle tickets etc

Makes the approximately 260 km return trip from Bute to the meetings.

Describes the difficulties in growing broms in harsher climate than the Adelaide plains

Treasurer, librarian, auctioneer, raffle prize sorter, registrar of judges, speaker on display plants – many times stepping in at short notice. Generous with knowledge, seeds, plants and encouragement. Set up a Bromeliad Nursery at Bute,

Gives talks on bromeliads to local plant groups and is the founder of the Yorke Peninsula Study Group.

History of growing Bromeliads in South Australia

The first of the bromeliads mentioned in the 1977 newsletter was tillandsia when Mrs G Edwards gave a talk on raising them from seed. Neoregelias were also displayed at this time and a talk given by Mrs Bamford.

By 1990 there was a large range of tillandsias being brought to the meetings and these included butzii, erubescens, meridionalis, lindenii, straminea, Nez Misso, kautskyi, duratii, harrisii, rothii, chiapensis, and argentina. Many are still grown by current members.

Billbergias (amoena, braziliensis, horrida, fosteriana and stenopetala, 'Touch of Gray', Golden Joy, 'Meadow Gift', 'Spotted Wren', 'Louise'),

Neoregelias, (pendula, eltoiana, 'Deep Pleasure', 'Bea Hanson', 'Gold Fever', 'Spot On')

Aechmeas, ('Mary Brett', 'Julian Nally', 'Gympie Gold', drakeana, seideliana, nudicaulis capitata albomarginata, 'Cherokee Maid',

Vrieseas, ('Rose Marie', 'Lucille', 'Gunther', swankiana, cereicola, 'Red of Rio')

and bigenerics were all grown at this time.

Despite the challenge, Cryptanthus were also popular.

Plants resourced from:

Tillandsia seedlings from Queensland, plants from interstate growers such as Grace Goode.

One of the early projects was to get seed from the Bromeliad Society International seed bank.

Members involved in seed growing were Mrs. Edwards, Maureen Hick, Keith Bradtberg, and Derek, with Tillandsia seed a popular choice.

Most members had an interest in growing broms from seed and demonstrations were given at meetings to provide novices in this area with the best tips and tricks. Follow up displays of the seedlings was encouraged to compare growing practices and growth/performance.

More recent Initiatives include:

Suggestion box introduced in Sept 2011 to encourage members to put forward ideas.

EFTPOS facility trial March 2012 was successful and continues to be popular with customers at our sales.

Re introduction in 2012 of 'Most Popular plant' which is chosen by the members at monthly meetings, and winners include: Jackie Thompson & John Murphy. Julie Batty, Sarka Laznicka, Peter Hall, Ron Masters, Sue Skrabei, Joy Stinson, Adam Bodzioch, George Nieuwenhoven, Jeff Hollinshead, Mike Griffin, Kallam Sharman, & Len Colgan. A small Trophy is presented and some of these members are multiple winners.

OBE certificates have been awarded to Derek, Margaret, George R, & Geoff J. on celebrating their 80th birthdays, Joan on her 90th birthday and OBN to Maureen on her 90th birthday.

Screen printed Bromeliad Society of South Australia Tshirts were purchased in 2013 and Society lanyards are provided as option for displaying/wearing badges.

Christmas in July was an entertaining event in 2016 and will be part of our 2017 celebration.

Committee meetings have been changed to earlier start to facilitate this group having time before the general meeting to socialize with members before that meeting.

A pull up blind, flag & wall sign have been purchased and used at our venue on sales days and at other functions such as Royal show, Home & Garden events etc to promote our Society

A Few Interesting snippets from minutes or newsletters over the years.

10/1/1999 only 13 attended meeting on very hot day

July 1986 Article Have you been thinking about that article that you are going to write for our "Gazette"? STOP 'thinking' and start DOING! Ed.

2008 heat was severe enough and the week before Feb AGM it was 46 degrees in the shade with several days in the 40's no wonder plants revolted.

2009. Show cancelled March due to members Bromeliad collections being burnt from heat wave.

June 2009 Marble glass stand presented to Margaret & Derek for 'Long & Distinguished Service to BSSA

October 2011 3PM finish for Sales

2012 Jan/Feb/March Gazette 'A picture is worth a thousand words'

2013 our resident photographer Julie won a prize in Garden Clubs of Australia photographic competition.

16 BSSA 40 years 'Born 1977 and still offsetting!'

2013 change from 1 day to 2 day sales in October.

Jan 2015 a large wooden golden spoon made on a lathe by George Rudolph many years before then presented to Derek because George considered Derek was a stirrer when he was Secretary. It was decided that this award should be perpetual, but there was a problem as such awards generally follow the male line in Germanic custom. This custom was refuted by at least one member present as sexist but it was decided to give it to Ron even though Bev is Secretary and it was left to Committee to decide if this award is to continue and to whom it is presented.

Hint: Nov 85 from BSNZ 1985 Bulletin

Many of the older collectors have found this hint excellent so we pass it on to the newer members and hope they have success with it.

If you have a small offset that doesn't seem able to root in any kind of medium, choose a Neoregelia mature plant and pop that pup into the centre so that the base of it is just touching the water in the plant. In a very short time roots will appear and you can plant it.

Hint: Feb 1987

If any of your plants are suffering from dehydration submerge them in sugar water which is made from adding 1 cup sugar to 1 bucket of water, leave plant in this solution for several hours or overnight. Do not use a galvanized bucket for overnight method as the zinc may have possible harmful effects.

Quote overheard in car park. 'What I like about this club is no politics'

A FAIRY TALE OF A BROMEL ROMANCE (by Dawn Holdcroft taken from Bromletter Nov/Dec 1983

'Nalli' met 'Bert' at the 'Royal Wine' tasting evening and 'Rubens' viewing. They fell in love and he gave her a 'Platinum' ring with a 'Little Gem' set in it. They later married, having 'Catherine Willson', 'Muriel Waterman' 'Elvinia Slosson', 'Charles Webb', 'Clyde Wasley' and 'Theodore L. Mead' to name a few witness to the happy event. Off to 'Santa Barbara' they went for their honeymoon, to 'frolic' in the 'Magic Light' and enjoy 'Green Ice' and 'Cherry Sundae', followed by 'Café au Lait' and to sit in the 'Sunset' with 'Happy Thoughts'.

1990 Nov/Dec Gazette

Don't throw away your oldies.

An interesting segment at our last meeting was when Val Tinter displayed two tillandsia. One had been sent down by Rolly Rielly of Queensland and one of Vals (*Tillandsia chiapensis*). Rolly had sent this plant down to show members that, even after many offsets had been removed and it was felt that the parent plant's life was finished, it is not wise to throw them away until completely dead.

Both plants, completely brown and desiccated, had healthy vigorous pup growing from them. So treasure those precious parents til the last!

Feb 1992 from the secretary's desk

Well, how many of you watched Gardening Australia on Oct 1991? How many of you noticed the HANDFUL-OF-LEAVES-TRICK? Regrettably it is a fact of life that when you move an offset in haste and sometimes not in haste, you can end up with a handful of leaves instead of the offset. So new members need not despair because even the most experienced of us has done this deed. Some species are more susceptible than others but luckily most Bromeliads will accommodate by producing another offset for another try.

1996 March April Gazette

Cloud nine by Assistant Secretary

Derek has been on Cloud Nine ever since he got a fat envelope from Harry Luther-just before Christmas. It contained a letter and a copy of Selbyana- the Journal of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Page 237 lists a newly name **Puya butcheriana**. H Luther Species nova.

In the early 1980's Derek raised from seed several Puyas from Karel Knize's list, one was called Puya filifera. When the plant eventually flowered Derek could find no trace of it in Smith & Downs.

In January 1992, Len Colgan's plant was flowering and Derek sent pieces of this plant to Harry Luther for identification. Now 3 years later, Harry has honoured Derek by naming this Puya after him

1997 Sept/Oct Gazette August meeting from the Secretary's desk

Congratulations to Bill Treloar for promoting Bromeliads in Bute. He was the recipient of a South Australian Tourist award.

Jan 2003 Gazette

Events such as North Park shopping centre, sales etc give necessary injection to our funds, one wonders what our subs would be without these,, regrettably our membership is falling, not so much from lack of interest but we are all getting older and more members are going to that happy bromeliad hunting ground in the sky.

23/7/2004 BSSA Secretary and minute Secretary put forward the case that Tills grow well in South Australia, someone did remark that if people can look like their pets why shouldn't they look like their plants especially

T. usneoides. (see last photo)

Members who have Bromeliad plants named after them include, Auntie Margaret, Uncle Derek, Peter Huddy's daughter, Maggie Hick and Len.

17 BSSA 40 years 'Born 1977 and still offsetting!'

Interesting insights into Bromeliads.

“WHY THE PINEAPPLE?”

Symbol of Hospitality, by Beryl H. Black, taken from the August, 1987, issue of The Bromeliad-visor printed by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

Anyone familiar with Early American Colonial design has seen the pineapple used repeatedly as a motif. It is prevalent in stenciling, which was commonly used to decorate walls long before wallpaper was introduced. Subsequently, the pineapple has been a recurrent motif wallpaper patterns of authentic early American design.

In other interior design uses the pineapple is frequently carved on bedposts, and used as finials and even doorknockers. It is a decorative motif seen over and over again.

Granted, it is a highly attractive form lending itself to realistic or stylized treatment, but there are many other pleasing forms in nature, so why the pineapple... why a symbol of hospitality, especially in colonial New England, so remote from the areas where it could be cultivated ?

My curiosity was piqued. By delving into Harry Luther's files (Harry Luther is Selby Gardens' Director of the Bromeliad Identification Center), which he graciously made available to me, I learned that in all probability it was on the second voyage of Christopher Columbus to the new world in 1493 that he was introduced to the pineapple. In a rare volume, Fernando Columbus reports that his father (our Christopher) first saw pineapples the then cannibal island of Guadeloupe (in the West Indies).

Only the cultivated pineapple, Ananas comosus, family Bromeliaceae, is edible (and by now it's many clones and horticultural varieties). It is supposed that the plant was native to Brazil, but according to Mulford B. Foster (1958), the bromeliad guru, “The original species of our world-wide known Ananas comosus has never been seen growing as a wild native plant in its original habitat by anyone in recent times. It entered the world of commerce several centuries ago.

The cultivated, edible pineapple, A. comosus, is the only bromeliad of commercial value. Its botanical genus name, "Ananas", comes from the South American Guarini Indian language: "A" meaning "fruit" and "nana" meaning "excellent". Because of the fruit's resemblance to a pine cone the Spaniards called it "Pina".

A terrestrial bromeliad, A. comosus grows about one meter tall with long leaves forming a basal rosette from which the inflorescence arises. Propagation is not from seed, since seeds are lacking or extremely rare, but it offsets. Young plantlets are removed from the base of leaf rosette, and also from the base of the inflorescence bracts and from the crown and its tuft of leaves. Approximately one year after planting the pineapple "bud" forms. Later as the tiny blue or violet flowers wither and die, the bud enlarges into a fruit. After several months a ripe pineapple is ready to pick and eat.

Now to get back to the title of this little treatise - "Why the Pineapple?" -- I asked several people I thought would be knowledgeable and all answered, "Why? It is a symbol of hospitality, that's why". But still I wondered how the pineapple came to represent hospitality in New England Colonial times. At last that never-failing fount of knowledge, Harry Luther, gave me the answer I was searching for.

The sea-faring captains of New England often brought back pineapples from the West Indies, and Central and South America. When they returned from one of their lengthy voyages, a pineapple would be mounted on top of a long pole and put in front of the captain's house this signified that the man of the house had at last returned and that all were welcome to come and greet him and partake of the hospitality of the household.

A delightful and satisfying explanation, is it not? I like to think that the guests feasted on the fresh pineapple brought back by the captain. A feast for all! Juicy, fragrant, fresh pineapple is still considered something special. Imagine the rare treat it must have been then. Hospitality indeed!

BROMELIADS BREAK THE MOVIE BARRIER.by L.F. Wilgrim.

Reprint from The New York Bromeliad Society, Inc. newsletter, Bromeliana, February, 1985.

In the two popular movies Star Trek II and E.T., bromeliads are brought into the story in an interesting way. In Star Trek II, you'll have to wait until the last film sequences to see them but it's well worth while. Mr. Spock dies at the end of the movie and his coffin is jettisoned and sent to a planet that just before had been energized to hasten plant evolution. As the coffin settles down into a carpet of "primitive" green plants it becomes surrounded by a multitude of bromeliads -mostly Neoregelias. This very attractive site, I'm sure, was chosen by the movie makers to instill in the viewers a feeling of early evolution, and as such they chose relatively unknown plants. I think it was a wise choice!

The movie E.T. portrays bromeliads in another way. E.T, the extraterrestrial, is a botanist from another world who by the time he is discovered in North America had collected plants in South America...'. Early in the movie the camera pans across E.T.'s plant collection in the ship, and lo and behold there are bromeliads among his booty. I like the movie for this and other reasons and especially thought E.T. was a wise botanist to collect such fascinating plants. Actually I'm a bit jealous because I wished I had been along with him. I'm certain most people didn't notice the bromeliads, other than just some more green plants, but they would have been obvious to bromephiles like us.



Adelaide conference 1987



Till display conference 1987



Adelaide show display



Butchers garden 1991



Royal Adelaide show 1995



Butchers garden 4/95



Len Colgan's garden



Cake made by Yvonne Prztocky 1995



Royal Show display 1995



Conference display 1995



Royal show display 1996



BSSA Oct show 1996



Tillandsia colganii

Named by Renate Ehlers (in honor of Len) this small plant was brought to notice of collectors in 1993, when Len Colgan did a botanical tour of Bolivia. It is endemic to a small area near Cana Cruz and will always be a rare item

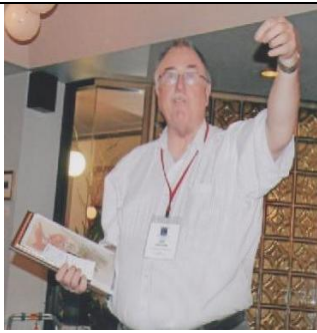


Puya botanical butcheriana

Named by Harry Luther in 1995. (In honor of Derek)This plant has been grown in 1980 from seed from K.Knize. Plants flowered in 1990 but it ws not until 1992 that a piece "borrowed" from the type specimen in Len Colgan's collection



Butchers Billbergia garden 1999



Auctioneer Len 2009 Conference



Derek, Margaret & Len 2009 Conference



Rhonda & Geoff's garden



Bill & George Tillandsia workshop



Bill's Garden @ Bute



One of Ron & Bev's display areas



Thank you & Life membership Margaret, Derek & Len



Jeanne's in memoria garden



Adam presenting OBE and card to Derek



OBE presentation to Margaret



Adam Life membership & certificate



Adam Congratulating Bill on Life membership



Derek & Bill pondering over a name



Bev, Adam & Peter Festival of Flowers 2016



Hans & Derek