



# East London Bromeliad Society

## South Africa

NEWS  
LETTER  
April  
2020

Established: 25 July 2009

*Our aim is to promote and encourage awareness and interest in Bromeliads in East London and all of South Africa!*

ELBSSA is an Affiliated Society  of Bromeliad Society International

## From the Chairman



To all my fellow bromeliad growers and fanatics. These are indeed stressful, uncertain times we are living in with the Covid 19 pandemic. My message this month is one of hope for all of us who have been affected by this pandemic in one way or another in South Africa and all of those worldwide who are much worse off than we are at this time.

We are fortunate to have lovely, sunny, warm weather, ideal for gardening and pottering around with our collections. I am occupying myself during lockdown, trying to neaten up and revive the majority of my bromeliads which were sunburnt during the past very hot summer.

The occurrence of our judged show is as uncertain as our lives are for now. Hopefully we will still be able to have it sometime this year, only time will tell. Please stay safe. Keep the hand sanitizer, masks and gloves close by. Until we chat again..... Happy Bromming.

## The Lockdown Edition!

### Bromeliads on Show in April

Seeing as our 'Bromeliad Magic' show had to be cancelled at the end of March due to social distancing and subsequent lockdown due to the global Covid 19 pandemic, I thought it would be a good idea if members wanted to send me photos of some of the plants they were planning to enter on the show. Plus provide an opportunity for country members to participate as well. Thank you to all of you who took photos of your plants that are looking super stunning right now. It made it very difficult to choose as I couldn't include all of them, plus it depended on what fitted into the shapes of the space available. (Layout is like doing a huge jigsaw puzzle!) I want to encourage all of you to post your photos to our Facebook page and make a



**Xenia Winther:** *Guzmania* variety. I got the original plant about 2 years ago, this is one of the pups. The original plant had a multiple flower head and was much greener and just looked weird. This plant I have had growing in bright shade I'm now waiting to see if the next crop of pups get the same coloured inflorescence. I think it is very unusual.

**Next meeting: There will be no meeting at the end of April. May meeting to be confirmed.**



riot of Bromeliad Magic colour for April! Enjoy!! We sure have some stunning and varied plants in collections all over South Africa. Wish we could have a peep into them all. BB.



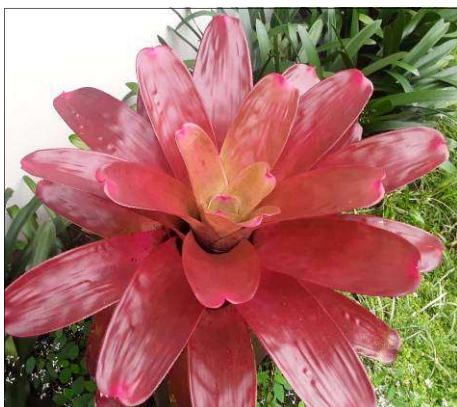
Brenda Wegner: *Neoregelia* 'Milagro' is a Chester Skotak hybrid with pink albo-margined leaf margins and a lustrous red blushing.



Brenda Wegner: *Aechmea* 'White Knight' is a cultivar of *Aechmea orlandiana*.



Lyn Odendaal: The ever lovely *Neoregelia* 'DeRolf'.



Mike and Zena McClaren: *Neoregelia* 'Rosy Morn', it gets about 3 hours of morning sun and in a bright shade environment the rest of the day.



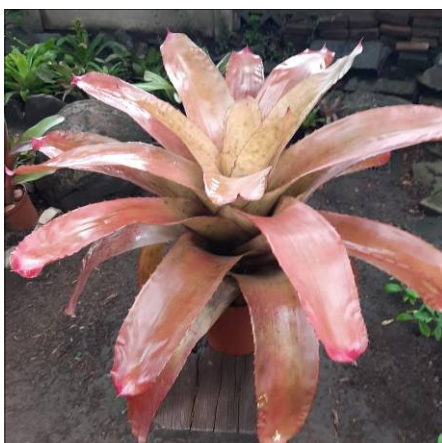
Mike and Zena McClaren: *Neoregelia* 'Heart's Music' gets morning sun and a bit of afternoon shade. I don't use fertiliser.



Mike and Zena McClaren: *Neoregelia* 'Len Trotman' gets morning sun till about 10am and a bit of late afternoon sun too.



Mavis Downey: *Neoregelia* variety.



Mike and Zena McClaren: *Neoregelia* 'Gigas' gets morning and afternoon sun.



Right: David Gower: *Aechmea* 'Frappuccino'.





David Gower: *xSincoregelia* 'Cosmic Blast'.



David Gower: *Tillandsia oerstediana*



David Gower: *Neoregelia* 'Lorena Lecter'.



David Gower: *Alcantarea* 'P.I.T.A.'



David Gower: *Dyckia* 'Michael Andreas'



Lyn Wegner: *Quesnelia tubifolia*



Lyn Wegner: *Vriesea* 'Tasman' hybrid.



Lyn Wegner: *Vriesea* 'Pink Dreams'.

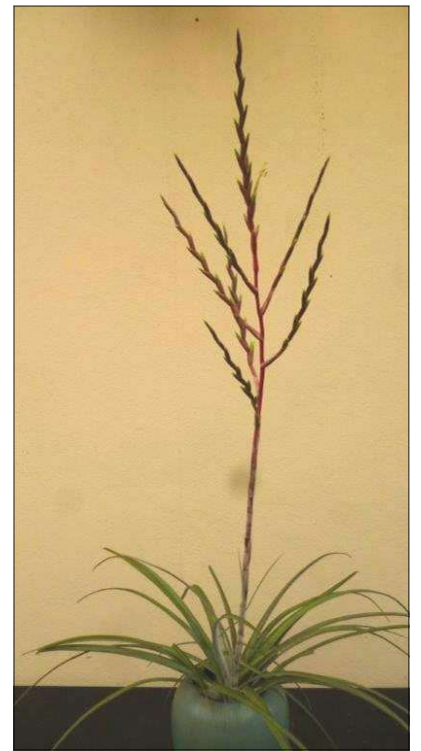




Lyn Wegner: *Neoregelia* 'Heat Wave'.



Lyn Wegner: *Neoregelia* 'Olie Gem'.



Lyn Wegner: *Tillandsia limbata*



Lyn Wegner: *Aechmea* 'Black Zombie'.



Lyn Wegner: *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'.



Lyn Wegner: *Billbergia* 'Bruddah Iz'.



Lyn Wegner: *Tillandsia complanata*



Lyn Wegner: *Catopsis berteroniana*



Lyn Wegner: *Neoregelia* 'Ambosia'.



Lyn Wegner: *Billbergia* 'Domingos Martins'.





Christo van Wijk, Pretoria: *Neoregelia* 'BromMadness' Not yet registered. I LOVE the patterning, only one of the grex to be registered. Parents: N. 'Li'l Candy Rose' x N. 'Red River'.



*Neoregelia* 'Shelldance' specimen plant which is about 10 years old now. It is nearly 1metre high with a long stem similar to a dracaena plant.



*Neoregelia* 'Christo's Shocker'. Not yet registered, a stunning plant. Parents: N. *meyendorffii* variegata x N. 'Top Marks'.



David Botha: *Neoregelia* 'Aventura'.

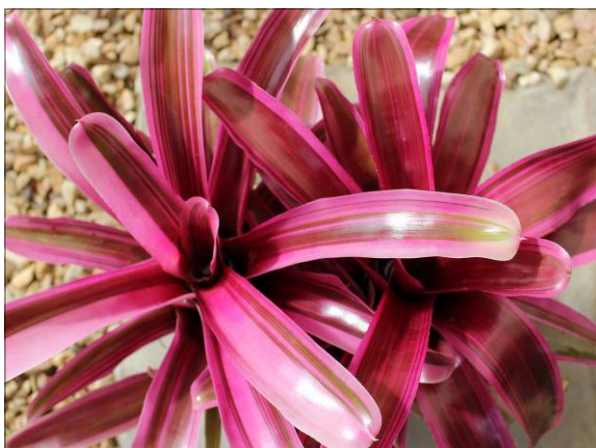


David Botha: *Neoregelia* 'Blushing Tiger'.



David Botha: *Neoregelia* 'Balboa'.

David Botha, Port Elizabeth: I grow my plants on the dry side due to the water restrictions in Port Elizabeth. I had a lot of burn damage with the few very hot days we had in November 2019. What I have discovered, is to water them a day ahead of these temperatures of over 40\*c for protection, that's if our weather forecast is correct.



David Botha: *Neoregelia* 'Dyn-O-Mite'.

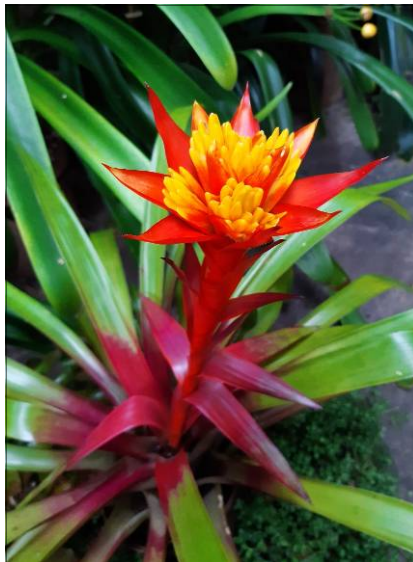


Barbara Black: *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah'.





Ed and Barbara Black: *Wallisia lindenii* blue flower



Ed and Barbara Black: *Guzmania* 'Kapoho Fire'



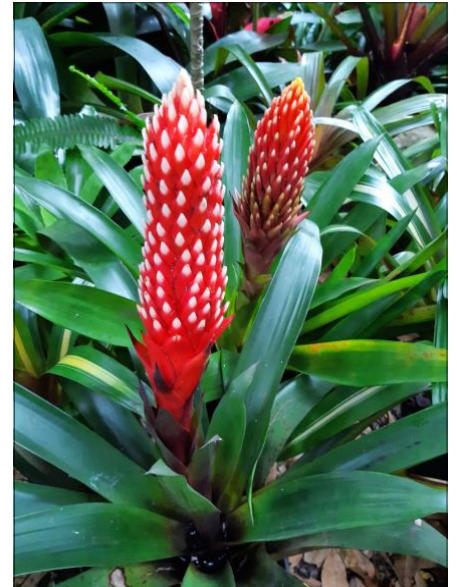
Ed and Barbara Black: *Orthophytum maracasense*



Ed and Barbara Black: *Canistropsis billbergioides*



Ed and Barbara Black: *Guzmania* 'Apache'.



Ed and Barbara Black: *Guzmania* 'Formax' in front, *G.* 'Torch' at the back.



Dudley Reynolds: *Cryptanthus fosterianus*.

Dudley Reynolds, above left: *Cryptanthus* 'Thelma o' Reilly'.

Left: *Cryptanthus* 'Rita Padden'.



Dudley Reynolds: *Neoregelia* 'Gladiator'.





Dudley Reynolds: *Neoregelia* 'Unraveled'.



Dr Pete Pfister: *Goudea ospinae* var. *gruberii*



Dr Pete Pfister: *Neoregelia* 'Lou Wilson'.



Dudley Reynolds: *Cryptanthus zonatus*



Dr Pete Pfister: *Neoregelia* 'Potpourri'.



Dr Pete Pfister: *Neoregelia* 'Invincible'.



Dudley Reynolds: *Aechmea* 'White Knight'.



Dr Pete Pfister: *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Pink'.



Dr Pete Pfister: *Aechmea* 'Ensign'.



Dr Pete Pfister: *Neoregelia* 'Lorena Lecter'.



## Member News

A big welcome to Lennard le Roux from Rustenburg. We hope you enjoy a long and meaningful association with the society! We enjoy seeing your posts on the ELBSSA Facebook page! Lennard is also a member of the Bromeliad Society International.

## Upcoming Society Events

26th April: There will be NO MEETING this month due to the National Lockdown to prevent the spread of the Covid 19 Virus.

*Please let the committee know if there are any particular topics you would like discussed.*

- 31st May: Host: Karen, in Rosemount.  
28th June: Bev and Theo McGregor near Cove Rock Estates to be confirmed.  
26th July: 11th Birthday Celebrations at 'Bromeliads for Africa' Sunnyridge.  
30th August: Artistic Expression at Little Beacons Pre-Primary Beacon Bay.  
27th September: Travelling Meeting to be confirmed.  
25th October: Hosts Michael and Zena McClaren in Vincent  
29th November: Annual Bring and Braai, Auction and BBB Surprise hosted by Dr Pete Pfister and Marianne Hillstead.

## Upcoming International Conferences

**2021: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WBC2020** Due to the global Covid 19 pandemic this conference has been postponed. It will now take place on the 8 - 12 June 2021 in Sarasota, Florida, USA. The host hotel will still be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. You will have to change your reservation dates with the hotel. The registration that you paid for the conference will apply to the rescheduled conference with no changes in the rate. The bus tours will not change. We are in the process of verifying all the speakers. We hope that you still plan to attend the rescheduled conference.

**2021:** This biennial **Australasian Bromeliad Conference** will again be hosted by The New Zealand Bromeliad Society. **'Kiwī Broms'** April 8 - 11 2021, venue, Waipuna Hotel. Exciting news! 5 of our members have already registered for this conference! Start saving now! !

## From the Members

### Rupert Partridge, Kilifi, Kenya: A Bromeliad garden on the Kenya Coast

On my return to Kenya after a career in the hospitality industry, of which the last fifteen years was with Sun International at their properties in Botswana and Swaziland, I retired to my parents' house at Kilifi, a town sixty km north of Mombasa in Kenya. The property of nearly six acres overlooks a wonderful creek that flows into the Indian Ocean. It is, however, an area of incredibly poor sandy soil in which, even with tons of manure and compost, even Bougainvillea find it difficult to survive!

I was approached after a few years to become the Treasurer of our local branch of the Kenya Horticultural Society, a vibrant organization of nearly three hundred members. At one of our talks I listened to Noel Hays, who has a beautiful property near Nairobi and is the country's only real Bromeliad expert living here.

Well the rest is history! I purchased a few, and the ones that grew in our poor soil, (which albeit drains well) have thrived and multiplied. I have added to them over the years, primarily from



A raised bed with empty bird bath to avoid mass invasion of Vervet and Sykes monkeys.





Noel's nursery. It is forbidden to import bromeliads into this country, maybe because of the country's flourishing horticultural sector that exports 10 billion flower stems a year that sadly, are now being thrown away, or made into compost as the world's lockdown continues...



A potted collection of bromeliads in front of ancient local cycad.



My small shade house. Rather pink but many years ago I consulted Lyn who said a friend of hers found it the best colour netting for her orchids.

Year-round temperatures here hover in the mid 80\*f (26\*c) with rainfall averaging 800mm a year, spread over a longer period in May-July with the short rains falling in October.

I have an abundant water supply, so the plants are sprayed every day in the very hot season and obviously much less during the two rainy seasons. The potted plants grow in a mixture of three quarters coconut coir plus one quarter crushed quarry stone and appear to thrive in it with occasional foliar fertilising.

Challenges..... very few that I can think of; no garden pests have been found but the plants are a wonderful refuge for many chameleons breed here, unless of course these are found by black and green mambas or the far too many puff adder snakes which lurk in the thick scrub!!

My bromeliad garden brings me much joy.... I am a complete novice and do find naming the plants a challenge even with the Baensch's' Blooming Bromeliad book. Growing from seed remains a milestone to conquer so I do so appreciate all the newsletters Lyn kindly forwards containing so much useful advice.



Graham Watts in Umzumbe in KZN has a lovely clump of *Tillandsia stricta* in bloom.

## From the Editor



Who would have guessed another month end and no society meeting?! Who knows what will happen after the lock down of 5 weeks? We can only hope for the very best outcome for the people of South Africa and that we kick this Covid 19 virus to the kerb and get on with our lives, healthy, content

bromeliad growers, gardeners and collectors among many other things.

Do what you need to do to keep yourself ticking over and sane during this time. You may be motivated to get stuck into all the jobs you haven't had time to get to, or you may be finding this radical change of routine difficult, and that is ok too. When this is all over I am sure many of us will look at life slightly differently in many respects and maybe figure out what is truly important.

I had another idea! How about if local and country members send me one photo of your most interesting or current best Bromeliad or Tillandsia for Show and Tell in the next newsletter? Do some research on it and let me have some information on your growing conditions too. Send to me by the end of the month, 1st May, which hopefully coincides with the lifting of restrictions on our movements, or some at least.

Let's not allow lock down stop us sharing the love of these wonderful plants!  
See you soon.... sometime.....

Barbs .

**Gardening is not cancelled, folks!**

When the going gets tough, the tough get growing.

We may be in lock down, but our bromeliads and Tillandsia and all their pups are ready for liberation.

We have plenty of time to plan ahead and get those before winter chores done and enjoy extra time with our plants, dogs and family too..... which ever order you prefer!!!



This is a publication for the **East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa** for the interest of its members. Articles may be used by non profit societies with acknowledgement to the author where applicable and East London Bromeliad Society South Africa. Please use the photos that accompany the article used. If you require higher resolution photos please request them from the Editor.

Any opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Society.

When submitting items for inclusion in this newsletter, please ensure that all facts and information, including spelling, is checked and accurate.

**ELBSSA is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International.**

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*We meet on the last Sunday of every month at 2.00 for 2.30pm, January to November, at various venues around East London. We have a topic for each meeting and Show and Tell where members are encouraged to bring along their brag or problem plants. There are member raffles, lucky draws for those present, tea time, library and member plant sales, plus a monthly newsletter sent out via e-mail only. Visitors are always welcome and can attend three meetings before they will need to join the society in order to continue attending. Annual subs are R120.00 for individuals/families and R60 for students.*

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You will find ELBSSA on Facebook: type 'East London Bromeliad Society' into the fb search bar. You can request to join the group and will then be able to upload your photos and comments on the wall. The ELBS SA page and other bromeliad related sites are a useful and informative forum to share and 'meet up' with other like-minded bromeliad folks.

You can view most of all the bromeliads mentioned in meetings or in the newsletter at the following websites:

The BSI's official Bromeliad Cultivar Registry [www.registry.bsi.org](http://www.registry.bsi.org) which is maintained by Geoff Lawn, the BSI Cultivar Registrar. Plus other information regarding the Bromeliad Society International and bromeliads is found at bsi.org

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies: [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) This is another very useful site where you can also reference many bromeliads, clarify identification or just trawl through the site and add to your wish list!

Encyclopedia of Bromeliads <http://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia/>(Bromeliad Taxonomists and Growers Society) has photographs. It also now has keys for the genera and sub-genera. If you like to be informed what is happening, just follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bromeliadsencyclopedia> Just type in 'Encyclopedia of Bromeliads' into the Facebook search bar.

For internet resources you can also go to TAXON (The New Bromeliad List) for the most authoritative and right up to date list of genera and species, accepted and new names and taxonomic keys - <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php> or just type in 'New Bromeliad Taxon List', it's much easier!