

B.S.S.A. QUARTERLY

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The Bromeliad Society of South Australia Inc

Born 1977 and still offsetting!

Editor- Bev Masters

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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/>

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

For special orders/ larger quantities call Ron Masters on 83514876



Canmea Repton x canistrum seideliana

Time: 2.00pm. Second Sunday of each month. Exceptions –2021

3rd Sunday in May & September- or unless advised otherwise (see dates below). No meeting in December

VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.



MEETING & SALES 2021 DATES SUBJECT TO COVID-19 DIRECTIONS



8/8/2021, Winter brag .Display Any Brom. 19/9/2021(3rd Sunday) Clones & seed batches, Display any brom in flower. 10/10/2021, Topic & Display: Aechmea. 22/10/2021 sales setup, 23/10/2021 Sales, 24/10/2021 Sales, 14/11/2021 Break-up: No display or raffle 1230 start 100PM, Catered lunch with partial subsidy : cost \$15 for financial members, \$25 for partners/nonmembers, Pup/plant exchange & Auction

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

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BSSA No: 2-

Name Error Judging Results

<p>BEST MULTIPLE SPECIMEN ANY GENERA Clump of 3 or more plants joined</p>	<p>Gummow Trophy Best multiple specimen 1st Neoregelia ‘Red Hot Embers’</p>	 <p>Neoregelia ‘Red Hot Embers’</p>	 <p>Adam presenting Sue with 3 trophies (Photo Betty)</p>
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Plastics and the Planet

Plastics and the Planet

Recycle, recycle, recycle..... We have all heard it often enough but how many gardeners consider recycling side products such as discarded plastic bags and pots. As Bromeliad growers in SA, most of us need to use bagged potting mix, bark, and orchid mix, to name the basics. Added to that are the empty plastic bags for general garden products – think compost, manures etc. and the amount of plastic headed for landfill very quickly multiplies.

In an attempt to put together a short article that may be helpful I found much of the information online was either contradictory, not SA specific, or out of date.

Eventually a query to my local council provided the following information regarding old/used plastic pots:-

‘All empty plastic pots are able to go in the recycling bin. Ensure pots are free of soil before placing in the recycling bin.

Concrete or terracotta pot plants need to go in the waste bin.’

(I have yet to see concrete or terracotta pot plants but you get the idea)

Regarding the environmentally-friendly disposal of used plastic bags, the Searles garden products website provides the following information:-

‘...soft plastic bags can be recycled at any REDcycle participating drop off centres.

Quick tip: After use give each bag a quick rinse with water and cut the plastic down to A3 size before dropping them at your nearest REDcycle collection centre, located in most major supermarkets (e.g. Coles & Woolworths).’

Redcycle confirm that they accept all forms of soft plastic packaging from all brands.

Note - it helps if the remnants of soil etc left in the empty bag are shaken out before cutting, washing and pegging them up to dry. And, yes, the process is a bit tedious but surely worth it. The above information may not be applicable in all council areas particularly for members who live in our regional/country districts. If in doubt, check locally first.



Quote

To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.!!!

(Unknown)

“Bromeliads give that instant jungle feeling and luckily, there are a lot of varieties and colors you can use.”



June Meeting cont – Several Photos of Pricklies on display



Dyckia Marnier laposollei var estevesti (Photo Betty)



Dyckia lindevaldae (Photo Betty)



Puya mirabilis (Photo Betty)

June Plant of the Month -Pricklies

Winner grown by Ron & Bev



Deuterocohnia brevifolia (Photo Betty)

June 'Give it a go' Pricklies

Winner grown by Chris O'S



Deuterocohnia (Photo Betty)

Christmas in July report

After shorter version of the General meeting 'kris kringle' motivated the majority of members participating into a feeling of light heartedness. The fun of either keeping or swapping (Stealing) a preferred unwrapped or a replacement present kept the friendly banter and goodwill flowing in fact the guidelines were more closely followed this year to minimise interaction (re Covid) & reduce the duration of activity.

Thanks to Pam N for overseeing this activity & to all who joined in Bev





Help! BSSA Quarterly



Do you have any tips, successes or challenges to share with your fellow bromaholics??? Please let us know. We endeavour to produce the Quarterlies that are informative & interesting with topics that are relevant; however we need your input to facilitate this. If you are uncomfortable putting pen to paper but would like to share experiences growing bromeliads please see Bev or any other Committee member, your support will be greatly appreciated!

Bev



YOUR LIBRARY

Hello all, I just wanted to remind some of you and our new members that we have quite a good library! I feel that this great resource is being sadly neglected. Two new books have just been added to the library: Alcantarea...Giants of Brazil edited by Leonardo M Versieux, full of very detailed drawings of these beautiful plants. A more advanced read.

The other one is: Starting with Bromeliads A Guide To The Growing of Bromeliads. By Robert Reilly of The Bromeliad Society of Queensland. We have to remember that the growing conditions in Queensland and ours are vastly different, Although in his Landscaping chapter he shows various layouts in garden beds that are in shade of trees and under shade cloth, some really lovely ideas for garden beds! Remember that their potting mix ratios will be different to ours as well. It looks like they have the same bug problems as we do and he goes into some detail on how to control them, a good read and for those who like their pictures, this could be the one for you!

There are two folders from the Cryptanthus Society; they are older editions but still a good read. I have had these two at home for 2 or 3 years as no one seemed to be very interested in Crypts, except, of course, for Julie. It may be because of Julie's beautiful plants that we are seeing more of them shown, whatever the reason the folders are now back!

There are also a number of books on Tillandsias but I'll leave them for you to find! Also folders of Journals various other Societies: The Bromeliad Society, New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, Illawarra and a few others, look them up!

Another one: Die Bromelie, I think a lot of people shy away from this because it is written in German, it is set out with the German print on one side of the page and English on the other. More of you should be borrowing this journal; we get 3 issues per year. I have now organized them so they can be borrowed individually from 2011 to 2021. A beautiful publication and a great read. So keep in mind it's your library, for you to borrow. Enjoy!

Penny

Cancellation of August meeting article

Instead of sending the usual update on the August meeting content to our members unfortunately due to these uncertain and changing times outside our control & ability to predict next week let alone next month how this pandemic continues to impact on our daily lives, it was with regret and immense disappointment that the majority of Committee agreed to cancel the August meeting. The current circumstances, anxiety expressed by many about public gatherings also taking into consideration the age group of many of our members and the health & Govt regulations relating to physical distancing, hygiene and wearing masks, the numbers allowed in the venue although possibly compliant with our Covid-19 Plan it remained best to be safe and where possible reduce covid related anxieties, then hopefully September would be calmer times and more of us will be vaccinated.

Emails, text messages to mobile phones (to those not on email lists) or phone calls were sent or made endeavouring to notify all so there was hopefully minimal inconvenience.

We respectfully ask in future if you are in any doubt or have concern please contact a committee member or check social media.

Could these possibly be our 10 Bromeliad commandments?

1. Thou shalt not keep my feet in water – I have no boots.
2. Thou shalt not deprive me of light, though; I do need protection from direct summer afternoon sun
3. Thou shalt not make my bed hard-packed; it must be light and well draining
4. Thou shalt not leave my pot in same position, turn me often
5. Thou shalt not let stray hands paw me, they mark my leaves.
6. Thou shalt not leave me to the mercy of ignorant, well-meaning friends, while you are on vacation.
7. Thou shalt not allow old leaves and dead flowers to drape my person, they are messy
8. Thou shalt not make up a name for me if my name tag is missing.
9. Thou shalt not be over generous with fertiliser as some genera loose colour &/ or develop strappy leaves
10. Thou shalt not ignore these commandments, and expect me to be 'Grand Champion' of the show



Neoregelia 'Reynella Rebel' photo by D Butcher

Bromeliad Cultivar Register (10265)

NEOREGELIA 'Reynella Rebel'

Sckrabei S*

circa 2009

Non-variegated parent grown in Adelaide, South Australia since circa 1990 as "N. olens hybrid from Bill Morris". Offsets started to variegate in 2009 hence registered by D. Butcher 2/2010. Named after the Adelaide suburb Reynella.

Seed Parent: **olens?**

Pollen Parent: ?

Bromeliad Society of South Australia's Gazette, vol.34, no.2 (March/April, 2010) online: <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/>



Julie Reports for September meeting

Combining two meetings into one because of Covid restrictions last month, the display successfully juggled both the August 'Winter Brag' plants and this month's topic 'Bromeliads in Flower'.

The Novice trophy winner was Marie Dalitz with her nicely grown, and flowering, *Billbergia* 'Foster's Striate'. This plant has been around for some years, originally under the name of *B. pyramidalis var striate* and remains an attractive 'old' *Billbergia*



Billbergia 'Foster's Striate'

Adam received the most votes in the open category of flowering Bromeliad for his large *Tillandsia* 'Roy Ford' hybrid which he suggests may not be the correct name



Tillandsia 'Roy Ford'

The description *Tillandsia* 'Roy Ford' hybrid from the Bromeliad Cultivar Register states the following: 'Breeder Roy Ford, named by Barry Genn. Seedlings distributed as *T. kalmbacheri* hybrids but flowering has shown little influence of the *T. kalmbacheri* parent but more towards the *T. rodrigueziana/botteri* complex. Plant 80cms diameter, 60cms high with fertile part of inflorescence to 7.5 cms long. Fairly soft scurfy leaves with reddish tips, noticeable even during vegetative growth. Petals bluish to whitish'. The Seed Parent is given as *T. kalmbacheri* with Pollen Parent '*T. rodrigueziana?*' Another label on Adam's plant suggested *T. jalisco-monticola* may be involved. It shouldn't be long before the petal colour provides further clues.

Jeff Hollinshead easily won the most votes for the Winter Brag trophy with a magnificent *Vriesea hieroglyphica* which, apart from the occasional drive down from the hills for display purposes, is left to grow in the same position amongst his Bromeliad collection



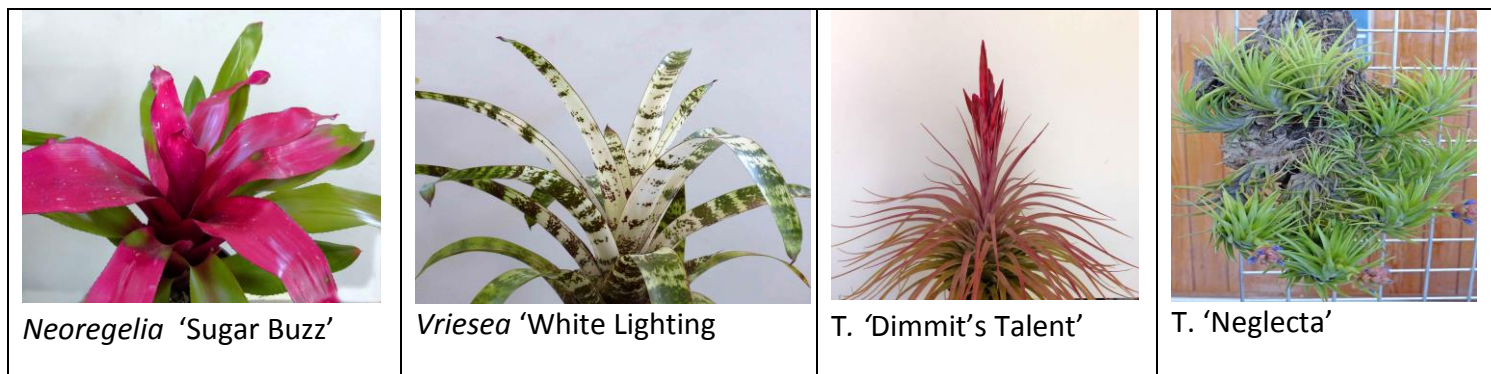
Vriesea hieroglyphica (Photo Jeff H)

Of the general plants on display, quite a few were the reliable spring flowering Tillandsias including *T. Neglecta*, *T. ixioides*, *T. Houston*, *T. recurvifolia*, and the not so reliable *T. erebescens* in spike.



We no longer see many Cryptanthus at our meetings and that is quite possibly because they don't like our winters. However, one that seems to cope quite well if protected and kept on the dry side in cold weather is *Cryptanthus* 'Strawberries Flambae' which had retained its colour throughout winter.

C. 'Strawberries Flambae'



Keith had brought in *Neoregelia* 'Sugar Buzz' which he says maintains its vibrant colour during the year, probably influenced by its colourful parents *N.* 'Treasure Chest' and 'Donna'. Other plants on display included a blushing *Aechmea* 'Blush', striated forms of *Neoregelia* 'Lorena Lector' *Aechmea* 'Repton' x *Canistrum Seideliana*, *Vriesea* 'White Lighting', *Tillandsia* 'Dimmit's Talent', and *T.* 'Neglecta'.

Something new, and informative for most members, was a talk by Keith about his method of seed raising using seedlings to demonstrate a process that has proved successful for him. Clearly members were inspired by the talk as some went home with berries from *Aechmea recurvata* to try their luck. Keith mostly allows his seedlings to become quite crowded before separating them (see photo of *Ae. orlandiana* cv 'Rainbow') and potting on the strongest. Once again, at both this stage and in future repotting, the importance of attaching the correct label/s was stressed



Keith showing seedlings (Photo Betty)

A tray of 15 *Dyckia* seedlings on display were a sample of many which had germinated successfully from cross pollination between *Dyckia marnier lapostollei* and *D.* 'Arizona'. The former is a popular species familiar to most, with brittle, scurfy grey-white leaves; *D.* 'Arizona' has dark maroon/brown smooth leaves. The seedlings could therefore grow into a mix of either or both with the added traits of *D.* Arizona's parentage which is listed as 'unknown', and came into Australia from seed saved in America.



While growers develop their own methods of seed raising over time some basic principles remain the same and an excellent resource for this information is within the BSSA's booklet 'Bromeliad Culture in South Australia'. Derek Butcher's practical article here on 'The Kitchen Method of Seed Raising' is a great help for the beginner and the booklet is available for sale at the club and/or there should be a copy in our Library.

BSSA October Extraganza & Sales 23 & 24 October 2021

Set up is on Friday 23/10/2021 @ 1PM, All sellers must have a sellers code, (please check with Treasurer if unsure) and you are to also to provide QUALITY show plants to show (A minimum of 4 or 2-4 if you only have a small collection). Numbers of Display plants to be noted on a Register - these plants are to remain on display until closing time. Sale plants shall be in good condition- NO damage and presented in clean pots, Be free of water. Plants should be the quality you would purchase if you were buying. Plants shall be 'rooted' and stable in pots or marked with date of potting. Bare rooted plants to be labelled accordingly. Pups must be ready to pot up and grow some semblance of roots. Plants will be removed from tables if they do not meet the quality criteria. Initially on the sales tables 25 plants. Sellers must be present for minimum of 4 hours each day to aid the buying public. If possible be available for setting up the venue & to pack up and clean the venue at closing of last day. Packing up etc must not start until advertised closing time. Sellers are to take cloths home to wash. Each seller is expected to provide a quality raffle plant to be available at set up on Friday afternoon

MY WAY OF GROWING BROMELIADS FROM SEED by Keith

Preparing seeds of berry type bromeliads for sowing:- Once the berries are ripe, usually signalled by a colour change and they come away easily, I then squeeze the berries and let the seeds fall into a small lidded container filled with water and after putting the lid on give it a shake, then empty out any fleshy bits that have floated to the top. I do this for a couple of days and then tip the seeds onto a paper towel to dry out. Once dry they can be stored in a paper envelope to sow later or sow straight away.

Any of the plumose seed like Vreasia, Guzmania, Alcantarea and Tillandsia seed do not need any preparation before sowing.



The sowing medium I use for the bromeliode and pricklies eg. Puyas, Dyckias etc is a premium potting mix or a seedling mix straight from the packet. I use the clear plastic food containers and fill them with 3 to 4 cm of soil then sprinkle the seed on top and water in, add a label and pop the lid on. I put them on a bright window sill or even outdoors under the pergola in a warm place and they will usually germinate within 1 to 4 weeks, although I have had seed wait for 6 to 12 months that does not happen very often. Fresh seed is best. If you have a bottom heat propagating unit that works even better for germinating seeds

The plumose seeds I use the same method but instead of potting soil I use sphagnum moss in the container. Tillandsia seed is another kettle of fish, and I don't bother with them, I have had some success but other people are much more adept at them and I will leave them up to the experts.



I then wait till the seedlings are 15 to 25mm high the gradually open the lid to harden them off. A careful watch must be maintained because they can dry out quickly especially in hot weather. After they have hardened off, I then commence feeding every week with very diluted fertilizer until the seedlings are about 30-50mm high. I will then transfer the lot into a community pot and let them grow on; they seem to like the company when they are young and if room is at a premium it helps there too



Neoregelia Tutu Tango

When they get larger I will remove the biggest for potting in individual pots. This is also when I begin culling of inferior or weak plants of hybrids. I don't usually bother with species seed and let them all grow.

Suggestion Box



This was introduced to encourage members to put forward ideas for meetings, any other item of interest or concern. We appreciate your input & feedback.

Thanks *Bev*

Next BSSA Quarterly-Oct & Nov 2021



In our next issue the report on Sept & Oct meeting, Oct sales, Nov break up, continuation of :- 'Get to know our BSSA members', Non Committee roles & bromaholic news, 2022 Dates & Topics etc. *Bev*

Quote

By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it." George Burns (1896-1996)



MEMBERS BADGES

I have a large number of BSSA members badges that have not been distributed Committee have recommended waiting for 2 months before printing & making badges as there is considerable waste with many new members not attending meetings. If you do not have a badge please let me know. Thank you for your understanding! *Bev*

Get to know our BSSA committee members cont: Betty

I have been asked to contribute to get to know your committee and how our Bromeliad journey started.

A little about me, my life has been anything but dull. Starting married life out owning a sheep and wheat property on the West Coast of SA owned and managed 6 hotels, motels and a few other businesses. I have travelled extensively both overseas and in Australia. During one of my overseas holidays I decided to purchase a trio of rare Miniature Falabella horses which we then had to import from England and being the first of their kind in Australia. I have had many other involvements and challenges enough to fill a book.





About 5 years ago my son gave me a Bromeliad for Mother's day, John thought it was a very nice plant and thought we should get a few more, mmm he did not actually state if it was "A few more" "A few hundred more" or "A few thousand more" well it has become the latter. Our biggest problem with my addiction was finding them available in South Australia, we started importing them from Queensland and then we noticed a post that there was going to be a Show and Sales in South Australia, so myself and 2 friends, armed with the 4x4 utility were there waiting for the doors to open, well our first visit fill that utility, now the wait until the next sale, John also came to this sale, which was good because as fast as we filled trays he could load them into the utility. I was looking for some shade plants and started chatting to Ron and invited us to the next meeting this led us into becoming members and finding a lovely group of friends.

☆ *Food for thought!*

Elderly people are like plants. Whereas some go to seed, or to pot, others blossom in the most wonderful ways. I believe beauty competitions should be held only for people over seventy years of age. When we are young, we have the face and figure God gave us. We did nothing to earn our good looks. But as we get older, character becomes etched on our face. Beautiful old people are works of art. Like a white candle in a holy place, so it the beauty of an aged face."

~James Simpson

November 14th Christmas / break-up 1230 for 1PM meal

	<p>There will be NO MEETING, please do not bring in plants for the usual raffle etc as there will be NO DISPLAY PLANTS, RAFFLE OR DOOR PRIZES.</p> <p>A Catered 'spit roast' lunch by Texas Bull (Financial Members \$15 each non-members \$25.</p> <p>There will be a list' at Sept, and Oct meetings for members to complete. A general email will be sent out mid-October reminding all of the event & giving opportunity to attend and notify special dietary requirement's. The final menu & numbers to be notified to caterers by Nov 3rd.</p> <p>If you wish to participate in the pup/plant exchange and pup auction please bring in 2 pups/plants (If a new member & are unable to provide these please let a committee member know), 1 pup/plant goes onto the exchange table and these are drawn using raffle tickets, the other goes into the auction. Come along and have some fun!.</p> <p>The Peter Hall Plant of the month Trophy will be presented to the grower who has accumulated the most 'stars' during the year. <i>Bev</i></p>	
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A GENEROUS DONATION

Our Society is fortunate to have a very generous donation from Dean, a valued member for approx. 15 years of his Tillandsia collection.

A small group went to Modbury and collected the extensive range of Tillandsias.

The beautiful garden with a huge variety of plants that were very creatively landscaped with many colourful bromeliads planted in various areas of the garden is an inspiration & credit to the years of hard work & dedication. Dean's hospitality and tranquil garden were difficult to leave. We will sort through the trays of plants and endeavour to name those without labels before bringing in for members to purchase possibly via a mini auction next meeting and our breakup auction. There may be some for sale later in Oct at our sales.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated –Thanks Dean



Dean, Peter & Betty
(Photo Bev)



Some of the trays!
(Photo Bev)

An old favourite... Len Trotman's anti mosquito 'recipe'

500ml Sunlight liquid (dishwashing)
200ml of Household Cloudy Ammonia
100ml of Citronella or Pine-o-Clean disinfectant

Pour the contents into 5 litres of cold water. As this mixture is highly concentrated use only at 2 to 4 tablespoons per litre of water in your sprayer or watering can. It can also be mixed with a liquid fertilizer and can be used weekly if desired. It is **NOT** detrimental to your bromeliads even at the seedling stage. Use it all around the garden.

You will notice when spraying that foam is generated, but this is not a problem as each of the stages in the life cycle of the mosquito are dependant on the surface tension of the water. The adults rest on the surface of the water to lay eggs and the other forms hang below the surface. If the surface tension is broken then the life cycle is interrupted.

A FEW MORE GARDEN SENTIMENTS



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.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



- ✓ SA Chrysanthemum Society 9/10/2021
- ✓ Fern sale 9/10/2021
- ✓ SA Bonsai Society 9/10 & 10/10/21
- ✓ Cactus & Succulent spring show & sales 9th & 10th Oct- book online
- ✓ SA Geranium & Pelargonium Spring sale 16/10/2021
- ✓ BSSA Sales extravaganza 23/10/2021 & 24/10/2021
- ✓ Begonia & Fern Sale 23/10/2021
- ✓ Spring salvia sale 31/10/2021
- ✓ Herb Society Herb day market 7/11/2021
- ✓ African Violet open day 6/11/2021

NB As dates for groups are available /confirmed they can be listed here: please notify with dates & locations. Bev.



Rewarding & safe gardening.

