



# East London Bromeliad Society

## South Africa

NEWS LETTER  
November  
2019

Established: 25 July 2009

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

ELBS SA is an Affiliated Society  of Bromeliad Society International

### From the Chairman

Another enjoyable afternoon was had in the shade of the trees at the home of Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall. Many contributors brought their unusual bromeliads, less often seen in East London and described them to an enthusiastic audience. The weather was perfect which was a positive factor.

Two East London ladies, Lee-Anne Botha and Iola Saayman joined our Society. We hope your association with ELBSSA will be a long and enjoyable one.

During the month of October we were privileged to be invited to put up a bromeliad display at the annual Clivia Show. Some members also took the opportunity to sell their excess bromeliads. The beautiful display attracted much attention. It was good to be able to chat to the public about our passion and hobby. Many people were astounded by the beautiful plants on display.

Regards from a dry late Spring in East London. Hope to see some much needed rain soon. Happy Bromming.



Chairman, Dudley Reynolds with his Springbok shirt on and even a table cloth set up for the meeting, must have been a lucky omen!

### November Meeting

Well, the meeting was off to a good start with the SA Springboks beating new Wales the day before the meeting to make it into the final the following Saturday and consequently beating England and bringing home the Webb Ellis Trophy! Magic Stuff!!!!

It was an interesting meeting with 39 present which included 2 new local members and 5 visitors in the lovely setting of Boots and Alison's garden. It is the second time we have held a meeting here and Boots' collection has certainly grown over the last two years. Boots and Alison bought the house 30 years ago and after struggling to get



Our super hosts, Alison and Dr Boots Horsfall in their front drive where lots of the bromeliads are displayed under dappled shade from lovely big trees.



 **Next Meeting: 24th November at 12.am. Annual Bring and Braai, BBB Surprise and Auction!! Hosted by Dr Pete Pfister and Marianne Hillstead at 113 Beaconsurst Drive, Beacon Bay. See you all there!**

plants to grow in the black clay like ground, about 10 years ago he read an article in the local GO weekly newspaper about 'Bromeliads for Africa' and Lyn Wegner. The fact that plants could grow without needing to be in the ground fascinated him. After visiting Boots started collecting Tillandsia at first, and that's how it starts. Bromeliads, the most fascinating genus of plants!

## Bromeliads Seldom Seen in East London

I have included some photos from the lovely selection of plants brought in by Brenda Wegner, yours truly, Barbara Black (becoming a habit that just about kills me! ), Dr Pete Pfister, Lyn Wegner, Robert Moss and Dudley Reynolds. They certainly made for a busy and interesting meeting.

**Brenda Wegner** showed 2 plants: ● *Aechmea* 'Star of Linda': This is a Chester Skotak/ N Schroeder plant, 1995, Costa Rica. It has a mature rosette 50-90cm diameter x 40cm. Broad, grey green, scuffed, arching, spineless leaves. It gets an erect or arching flower spike 60cm tall with a pink thistle-like shape inflorescence, which is often distorted (fasciculated) by the very branched, lengthened apical meristem becoming crested (cristate). Possibly identical to, or a grex sibling of, *Aechmea* 'Stefanie'. Registered in 2008 by Leo Castro. Seed Parent: *mariae-reginae* (female) Pollen Parent: spineless form of *fasciata*

● *Aechmea* 'Black on Black' is a stunning plant with jet black foliage.

The inflorescence is set low and resembles the *Ae recurvata* parent, 30 - 45cm tall with approx 12 tapered glossy leaves in upright recurvata type rosette. Seed Parent: *victoriana* v. *discolor* Pollen Parent: *recurvata* (red form).



*Aechmea* 'Black on Black'

**Barbara Black** showed 2 plants: ● *Hohenbergia ramageana* is a species in the genus *Hohenbergia*. It is epiphytic, saxicolous, and terrestrial, growing at mostly low altitudes in Brazil. First described in 1896. These impressive plants resemble *Aechmea* in many respects, nice and spiky! with tall flower spikes and similar foliage. They are an excellent addition to a garden and can be used for landscaping as they take a fair amount of sun in our garden, but can be frost tender, so best grown in subtropical climates. We are extremely lucky in this regard in East London.

● *Aechmea* 'Frosty the Snowman' is one of my favourites in my garden, *Ae nudicaulis* v. *aequalis* x *Ae* 'Silver Streak', a Lisa Vinzant hybrid, Hawaii, 1998. The base colours are a mix of washed red and green, with heavily silver frosted streaks on the inner and outer leaves, giving the plant a white appearance. The red-spined leaves flare out at the top a bit and the plant is quite stiff - typical of any *Ae. nudicaulis*. It has a tall, erect spike of scarlet scape bracts and yellow petals. I love the characteristic indent mid-leaf that looks like crumpled cardboard. The leaf colours and texture remind me of *Hohenbergia* 'Fudge Ripple', another favourite of mine. Very showy! I grow mine in full morning sun.

**Dr Pete Pfister** showed a few plants. ● *Canistrum aurantiacum* with a nice red 'tulip' shaped inflorescence forming.

● *Guzmania* 'Empire' variegated, which looks at first glance like a 'hen



*Aechmea* 'Star of Linda'



*Hohenbergia ramageana*



*Aechmea* 'Frosty the Snowman'



*Canistrum aurantiacum* inflorescence still to open.



*Guzmania* 'Empire'



*Aechmea ornata* var *hoehneana*

and chicken' plant!

- *Guzmania* 'Theresa' a small, very soft leaved *Guzmania* variety.

- *Aechmea ornata* var *hoehneana*, which has very sharp thorns on the ends of the leaves, a very slow bloomer in East London.

- *Vriesea delicatula* species found growing in Brazil which has a nice flower spike when it blooms.

- *Pitcairnia undulata* which has a nice broad leaf on long stems, you would never think this plant belonged to the bromeliad family, as it does not look remotely typical at all.



*Guzmania* 'Theresa'



*Pitcairnia undulata*

**Lyn Wegner** brought in three plants. ● *Bromelia flemingii*: This is a small interesting *Bromelia* species I first spotted in the Richtmyer's garden when attending the Houston WBC in 2016. I imported this one on my return home! It is found in Venezuela in dry semi-deciduous forest growing on very steep slopes facing the sea. They are drought and salt tolerant and are found growing in the sun and shade. It flushes a pretty peach when blooming and pups via short stolons. Mine is potted and positioned in a stand in a sunny spot. I don't know why the leaf ends have died. I wonder if it would prefer more shade although the 3 developing pups are in good condition.

- *Catopsis floribunda*: This species is found in Florida USA as well as Central America and into South America. It is commonly referred to as the Florida strap plant. It is not often seen in Florida habitats where they grow as epiphytes found on the lower branches of trees in wet and shady conditions, mainly due to the Mexican weevil which unfortunately has no natural predators. They have soft, long narrow bright green, spineless leaves which form a vase that collects debris and water. Plants can grow to 70cm long and produce a 25cm inflorescence that produces white flowers. Mine is growing in a fairly shady spot, positioned in a metal stand, growing as an epiphyte. While gathering this information I have discovered they like moist conditions so I will make an effort to give it more water! I can't say it is an exciting plant but it is interesting.



*Vriesea delicatula*



*Bromelia flemingii*



*Catopsis floribunda*

- *Tillandsia peiranoi*: I imported this real miniature *Tillandsia* from Paul Isley in March 2009! I don't remember

seeing it bloom before so I was very excited to discover two flower spikes developing. It is found in Argentina growing in thick clumps on cliffs and has pale blue flowers which have a short pedicel (flower stalk). It seems there is also a form with white flowers. I am waiting for mine to burst into bloom! It is described as a caulescent plant, meaning it grows on a stem. It needs a bright sunny position and little water so it seems mine is in the perfect spot and I have it mounted on a smallish stone which fits into the palm of my hand. It's really cute and I love it!



*Tillandsia peiranoi*

**Robert Moss** brought in two plants to show. ● *Neoregelia rothinessa*. A fairly recently discovered species, 2007, found growing in the humid Atlantic Forests at an altitude of 900m Bahia State, Brazil. Most plants observed were seen growing rupicolously (on and between rocks) at the edge of the forest.

The area where this species occurs as well as ten other bromeliad genera is under severe threat from agricultural practices. The name 'rothinessa' is named in honour of Elton Leme's children collectively, Rodrigo, Thiago and Vanessa.



*Neoregelia rothinessa*

● *Canistrum triangulare*. This species is endemic to Eastern Brazil. It grows epiphytically, (mounted) best in very light shade. It has striking foliage and an unusual and beautiful flower which is fairly long lasting.



*Canistrum triangulare*

**Dudley Reynolds**

brought three plants to show. ● A really splendid *Ananas bracteatus* displaying a nice red mini pineapple, it has taken about 4 -5 years to mature. Grown in full sun. It appreciates a regular watering and feeding. He also brought



*Ananas bracteatus*



xAnamea 'Scorpio'



*Neoregelia bahiana*

● *Anamea* 'Scorpio', this little bigeneric enjoys the same conditions as for the previous plant.

● Also a mystery plant, *Neoregelia bahiana* an interesting species from Brazil.

**Species Talk - Lyn Wegner**

*Tillandsia kirchhoffiana*: This species comes from Mexico where it grows as an epiphyte. It has a compound (branched) tall inflorescence with lilac/blue flowers. It likes to be moderately damp and growing in the shade. Mine is just plonked in a pot, with no soil, positioned between *Vriesea* in the garden and is easy to grow.



*Tillandsia kirchhoffiana*'s tall inflorescence.

## Show and Tell

**Lyn Wegner:** *Tillandsia streptophylla x chiapensis*: I bought this super spectacular monstrous Tillandsia hybrid at the WBC Orlandiana 2012 held in Orlando, Florida, USA. I see this cross has been named T.



*Tillandsia rodrigueziana*, lithophytic form.

'Regal Renee' but I am never sure if I should change my name, preferring to leave it as I purchased it. Its parents are beauties too!

It is plonked in a metal stand and growing in a sunny spot. It doesn't receive very much water and of course I still have good intentions of re-instating my long overdue fertilising program! I have been waiting for some time now for the flowers to emerge, I presume they will be blue. What a magnificent Tillandsia!



*Tillandsia streptophylla x chiapensis*

**Dr Pete Pfister** showed a lovely example of *Tillandsia rodrigueziana*, lithophytic form, found in Mexico. He grows it on a wooden fence which gets a reasonable amount of midday sun.

## Border Clivia Show and Plant Fair - Brenda Wegner

Feedback from ELBSSA's participation in the Border Clivia and Plant Fair: It was held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Little Beacons Pre-Primary School in Beacon Bay.

We were super excited to be invited to participate in this two day event. The committee spent Friday afternoon setting up our bromeliad display table and we completed our sales table early Saturday morning ready for the 10:00am opening. The hall was a riot of colour and looked amazing. It was all a worthwhile exercise as we had a bumper crowd on Saturday. The beautiful bromeliads on display belonged to Dudley Reynolds, Dr Peter Pfister, Lyn Wegner, Lynn Friend, Lyn Odendaal and Brenda Wegner. Thanks to Lyn Odendaal and Betty Heunis for manning the raffle and information table. A very big thank you to all of you for working so tirelessly and making this such a fun filled event.



Super display of gorgeous bromeliads at the Border Clivia Show and Plant Fair held recently.

## Member News

- A big welcome to new local members Lola Saayman and Lee-Anne Botha, and new country member, Vinson Govender, from Durban. We hope you all have a long and rewarding association with all of us at ELBSSA!

## Thanks

- Dr Boots and Alison Horsfall for hosting the October meeting on a perfect afternoon!
- Members who brought their seldom seen bromeliads and Tillandsia to show at the meeting.
- Lyn Wegner and Dr Pete Pfister for Lucky Draw plant donations.
- Lynn Friend, Dudley Reynolds and Dr Pete Pfister for handling tea time requirements in Marianne Hillstead's absence.

## Congratulations to the October Raffle Winners

- Gail Allner chose *Neoregelia* 'Inkwell' albomarginated.
- Trevor Klugh chose *Aechmea* 'Parati'.
- Dr Pete Pfister chose *Neoregelia* 'Golden Idol'.
- Tracy Moss chose a gift voucher for R120.00.
- Clint Gordon from Johannesburg chose *Tillandsia* 'White Star'.
- Christo van Wijk from Pretoria chose *Tillandsia* 'Candy Corn'.
- Nico Fouche from Pretoria had his name drawn twice, still to make his choice.

If you don't see a plant that you would like to choose as your raffle win you can choose to take a Raffle Voucher for R120.00, save them up and buy a nice plant from one of the society members.

**Attendance Lucky Draw Winners:** There were numerous lucky winners this month!



October raffle winners, Tracy Moss, Gale Allner, Dr Pete Pfister and Trevor Klugh.

## Upcoming Society Events

**24th November: SAVE THE DATE!!! You are invited to our ANNUAL BRING AND BRAAI social day and the last time we meet for the year. This function is for members and their partners and children.**

Hosted by Dr Pete Pfister and Marianne Hillstead at 113 Beacons Drive, Beacon Bay.

**We will meet at 12 o'clock, not our usual 2pm.** The fires will be ready to braai straight after the auction and Raffles.

PLEASE BRING:

- A chair/s, your meat, braai tongs, plates, pudding bowls, cutlery, glasses and your drinks. The fires, paper plates (if you require them), salads, rolls and fun will be provided.
- Your BBB (Black Bag Brom) Lucky Dip Surprise bromeliad or *Tillandsia* in a black bag. They will all be put together and you will have a chance to choose a lucky BBB Surprise and go home with a bromeliad for your garden.
- Your plant/garden related items for the fun auction, this is always loads of fun!



**If anyone is interested in hosting a meeting in 2020, please contact Lyn Wegner to book your spot.**

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

January: To kick off the New year we will be hosted by Brenda and Bryan Wegner at 19 Putney Ave. Nahoon Valley.

February:

March: ELBSSA Show at Little Beacons Pre-Primary School.

April:

May:

June:

July: 11th Birthday Celebrations at 'Bromeliads for Africa'.

August:

September: Artistic Expressions at Little Beacons Pre-Primary School.

October: Hosts Michael and Zena McClaren

November: Annual Bring and Braai, Auction and BBB Surprise Lucky Dip.

## Upcoming International Conferences

**2020:** 9 to 13 June, **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WBC2020** will be held in Sarasota, Florida, USA. For exciting information and pictures go to [bsi.org](http://bsi.org), Conference Corner! It would be great to have a group of South Africans at this World Conference!

**2021:** This biennial **Australasian Bromeliad Conference** will again be hosted by The New Zealand Bromeliad Society. **'Kiwi Broms'** April 8 - 11 2021, venue, Waipuna Hotel. Exciting news! 4 of our members have already registered for this conference! Start saving now! !

## From the Committee

We share the sad news that Grace Goode OAM (age 102) passed away peacefully on 20th October. Grace will be missed within the Bromeliad world, however she has left all of us with some wonderful plants as a reminder of her enormous contribution to the world of bromeliads. Condolences to her family, friends and all those who hold her dear.

## From the Members

### **Neoregelia 'Goode for Grace' x Neoregelia 'Shelldance' - What a Journey !!** **Christo van Wiyk - Pretoria**

Ever since I purchased my first *Neoregelia* 'Shelldance' about 10 years ago, I wanted to make hybrids with it! I was (and still am) infatuated by the shape and growth habit of this unique plant. It seems to never flower, it doesn't grow as an epiphyte, it forms a stem, basically - it has all the opposite characteristics of the average *Neoregelia*! The unwillingness to flower posed a great problem, as you obviously need a flower to create a hybrid....

We tried the trustworthy 'apple in the bag' technique... no success. We tried letting the plant almost die from drought and then reviving it.... No success. We had a plant in every imaginable place in the garden in very different conditions- including plants standing in water..... Lovely growths, tragic deaths..... no flowers !!!! We gave up.... Then a friend gifted me the 'magic potion called 'Ethapon', this is a chemical used to ripen fruit and to bloom pineapples used by commercial growers. I scanned over the instructions, but it made absolutely no sense to me... being an Afrikaans boytjie, now having to read very high English scientific (alien) symbols and words....

But hey, I'm Christo - I don't need instructions..... I took a 5L container with

fresh water.... dropped some of the odourless and colourless liquid in with another splash just for good luck! I then proceeded to dip 10 *Neoregelia* 'Shelldance' into this mixture and - setting them aside - I saw that I still had a lot of the mixture left - I can't waste this muti - so I then took about another thirty or so plants from my collection that were reluctant to flower and I did the same to them! The next day the neos were all the most stunning shade of cerise! IT WORKED FAST!! Very chuffed with my self, I moved all the plants into the hothouse so they could flower in a protected area. I didn't want to lose a single pollen grain! Sadly the next day the plants started falling apart! I had overdosed them... and I did it wrong... not only that... turns out I overdosed at a ratio of about 500 to 1, and I did it wrong at a ratio of drinking shampoo for a clean scalp!!!! A few weeks later I was



Siblings that resemble *Neoregelia* 'Shelldance' refusing to flower.

still sad about all the expensive plants I had lost when a Veterinarian friend came to visit, I asked him to explain to me what the instructions meant and I told him what I did, he started laughing! He then proceeded to try and explain everything to me in 'animal talk' - but I think he saw that the wheel in my head was turning.... but the hamster died.... Then (finally) he showed me how to do it! It was so simple, a monkey could do it ! Ratio is 2 ml to 4 L of clean water, then you pressurise the container (pump it up), then you leave it for 30 minutes so the molecules can 'fuse' together! NO DIPPING! You then proceed to pump the mixture upward so it forms a 'mist' over the leaves of the plant, you keep spraying until the droplets on the leaves barely start running...then you are done !

At this stage I only had two *N.* 'Shelldance' left, so I only took a chance with one. Two months later it was in full bloom! Next problem; being now very late in the season, all the other neo flowers were spent. I had two options... harvest the pollen and freeze it, hoping it will stay viable... or go and buy a plant somewhere in flower! All the plants in Gauteng were past their prime, and the flowering plants I did find were undesirable cross mates. I finally saw on Facebook that a friend in Durban had a few nice *Neoregelia* for sale, so I asked



*Neoregelia* 'Shelldance'



*Neoregelia* 'Goode for Grace'

him to send me photos of all the variegated plants he had that were in bud. Now, with *N.* 'Shelldance' being an extreme variation of *N.* 'Fairy Paint' I needed something similar to *N.* 'Fairy Paint', but variegated... as I didn't want to drift too far from the original. Unfortunately I have never owned *N.* 'Fairy Paint' and I don't have a picture of it, but it can be viewed on fcbs.org and the BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Register at bsi.org. A green and red plant, with some 'blotches in the red parts. One of the photos I received was of a very low quality *N.* 'Goode For Grace', this plant is supposed to have very bold variegation up the centre of the leaf, but the one in the photo was barely variegated, with just a few pink pinstripes in every leaf, regardless, it was cheap, so I took it, together with a few others; *N.* 'Ultima', *N.* 'Amazing Grace', *N.* 'Orange Crush', *N.* 'Martin'.

I proceeded to pollinate all of them with the copious amounts of pollen extracted from *N.* 'Shelldance', I also self pollinated *N.* 'Shelldance'. The next spring the berries were finally ready to be harvested! The self-pollination didn't take, all the others produced seed! And I sowed them immediately! With variegated seedlings the variegation is visible from a very young age and when they were about 1cm tall I couldn't believe what I had! All the grex's were plain green except for one, the ugly *N.* 'Goode for Grace' batch. Not only did this one have variegated seedlings, about 90% of them were variegated!!! I discarded all the green ones, and started potting, re-potting, dividing, and again re-potting the cream of the crop. After a while, I saw lots of the seedlings had dark red in them, this had to come from *N.* 'Fairy Paint' as *N.* 'Goode for Grace' is bright pink. As time went on, these plants, even as seedlings, produced copious pups and I kept dividing until at a stage I had around 1000 of them. Each one trying to be prettier than the other! This posed a great problem as they took up a lot of space. There's no way I could register them all, and I couldn't find it in my heart to destroy them. Then one morning I woke up in a BAD MOOD, I had the flu!! I told Willie early in the morning, "Today is culling day." We went through the plants, and based on size, shape and colour, we picked out the 100 best plants. I de-potted the rest and donated them to a Primary School that's always begging for plants. The chosen 100 stayed and didn't get divided again. The plants could basically be divided into 2 shapes, *N.* 'Shelldance' shape, and normal shape. The 'normal' ones started flowering after only 3 years, the *N.* 'Shelldance' shapes form clumps, but I still haven't had any flowers! Time to bring out the Ethapon again!! We narrowed the last hundred plants down to twenty, keeping the rest as a backup. The colours varied from pale pink to dark red, and olive green to forest green with variegation of pure white to creamy yellow, making it very difficult to choose only a few, but we had to make the choice! We now see differences in the way that pups are produced as well. Some pup from the base of the plant on short stolons, some form tight clumps and some pup from beneath and between the leaves like *N.* 'Shelldance'.

I decided recently to register a few, focusing on the different shades of red. *N.* David Gower' - named after my friend and avid bromeliad collector from East London. *N.* 'Les Biggs' - named after my friend and avid bromeliad collector from KZN. *N.* 'Lyn Wegner' - named after my friend, a lady who needs no introduction! *N.* Jessica - named after my gorgeous Yorkie. *N.* 'Willies Pink Perfection' - named after my partner, this plant was his favourite when they were still one thousand strong! *N.* 'Christos Candy' - my favourite so far, stays quite small. *N.* 'Zavion Els' -



*Neoregelia* 'David Gower'



*Neoregelia* 'Les Biggs'



*Neoregelia* 'Lyn Wegner'



*Neoregelia* 'Christos Candy'



*Neoregelia* 'Jessica'



*Neoregelia* 'Willies Pink Perfection'

named after the son of one of my suppliers, he is 7 years old, has the best manners I have ever seen, an old soul! He's a dinosaur collector! *N. 'Pete Pfister'* - named after my dear friend and avid bromeliad collector, probably the nicest guy you'll ever meet, also from East London.

I have made and registered quite a few hybrids, but in all honesty, this is my favourite grex so far! Just the variety in colour, shape and size is astounding! and more than that, I am excited to see that the genetics of the grandparents can be seen so clearly. I feel like all the stories about genetics are proven, just by looking at one batch of siblings!



*Neoregelia 'Zavion Else'*



*Neoregelia 'Pete Pfister'*

I have donated some to the ELBSSA to be auctioned / raffled, at the end of year Bring and Braai function. I want to thank Lyn for taking care of this. I do give permission to any one who ends up owning one of these plants, to register it, if they feel it deserves to be registered. Just remember, it needs to flower naturally first, so you know if the centre colour changes, (some do, some don't). I haven't seen any novar (a plant that has no variegation) pups on any so far, but just in case, make sure it pups true, before deciding to register. Kindest regards from a Very Hot Pretoria!

International member **Martin Siaw from China**: Our show-stopper at the 2019 World Horticulture Expo, the *Tillandsia duratii*, came into bloom during the Expo. The *Tillandsia* exhibition has now come to a full circle today with the blooming of *T. duratii*. Sharing our joy from China.



Martin Siaw holding the giant *Tillandsia duratii*

## From the Editor

This has been a busy year in the life of ELBSSA, lots of fun too! We held our very first Fun Judged Bromeliad Show, which was a huge success and a big learning curve! Then we were invited to participate in the Clivia Plant Fair which is something that we have been talking about doing for years - getting plant growers from many different plant societies together in East London to show their plants, give talks and demonstrations and have sales tables available too. Everything has to start somewhere, just like us, we started out 10 years ago and celebrated our birthday at the end of July! We have also been very privileged to have wonderful hosts who have welcomed us into their gardens to host our monthly meetings. Thank you to all of you, it is greatly appreciated on many levels by the society members and the committee.

Eddie and I took a trip to Johannesburg to visit family and also to visit the very first International Johannesburg Flower Show. We saw magnificent displays; indoor displays of incredible flower arrangements, anything to do with flowers, an incredible display of artwork in many different mediums; another huge air-conditioned enclosure of just cut flowers, who has seen bearded tulips before? not me. There were Orchid stands and displays, Malanseuns and all the big growers had stands with new releases of plants. Outdoors, there were interesting water-wise landscapes with different themes to view as well. I kept looking everywhere for the promised and advertised re-creation of the SA entry to the Chelsea flower show, only to be told that the creator sold off the components of the display, so it did not feature!!! I was so disappointed and let them know on their website. We were with family, so did not spend as long as I would have liked viewing everything at a more leisurely pace. Well worth the visit and I am sure that as it was a first venture, it can only improve. It was also perishing hot! Imagine keeping all those tents air-conditioned and all the plants



With Karabo Masukela who works with the broms at Likhutsa projects and set up the display with his colleague.



Eddie looking to see if there is a brom we don't have!?

watered. I am sure they viewed it as a big success and it seemed very popular with the public as they streamed in. Needless to say I handed out our ELBSSA brochures to anyone I came across who was remotely interested.

A few days later we went to visit my brother in Pretoria and we all went off to visit Christo and Willie at their Nursery, Brommadness / Orchidology, depending on your addiction!!!!

I could have spent the entire day there if I had been on my own, I only came home with 6 plants! Shocking!! Then forgot what I actually went there for! I love visiting our country members when we travel, do consider it when travelling around the country, all the contact information is in the Member List which Lyn circulates from time to time. Arrange to meet beforehand, it is so rewarding to meet up with passionate growers and share your growing conditions, your joys and problems. I am in awe of some of our bromeliad collectors in SA, incredible knowledge, experience and magical things happening in this country of ours!



Visiting with Christo and Willie at Brommadness.

Country members don't forget you are also all invited to our end of the year Bring and Braai fun, wow! it would be awesome if some of you could join us.

I wish you all a very early, wonderful Christmas season, doing whatever brings you peace, joy and meaningful restoration after a long year with family and friends who mean the world to you. If you are traveling, be safe and always try to take good care of yourselves and each other.



We can look forward to another good year in the life of ELBSSA in 2020!!!

Wow that has quite a potent ring to it! Thank you to all of you far and wide, who have made our society the wonderful group of folks that it is! Your contributions, large and small make all the difference. Spread the love of these wonderful plants that are so rewarding in the summer growing season.

From a happy East London that has at last had a bit of rain, happy bromming in your special patch on this earth we share together.

Hope to see lots of you soon at the annual end of year Bring and Braai.

*Barbs*

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

**ELBS SA 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.*

## Committee Members

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 You will find ELBS 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 is found at [bsi.org](http://bsi.org)

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies: [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) This is a very useful site to reference many bromeliads where you can 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 'Encyclopeda 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!