

# NEWSLETTER



**MARCH 1993**

# THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	72 0993
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Olwen Ferris	77 1904
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Besgrove	(07) 800 5431
SECRETARY	Genny Vaukonen	46 1401
TREASURER	Jum Daniels	77 1469
EDITOR	Joint Effort	
PLANT SUB-COMMITTEE	Olwen Ferris	
	John Catlan	
	Graham Besgrove	
	Terry Vogt	
	John and Pat Carpenter	
LIBRARIAN	John Catlan	
CATERING SUPERVISOR	Irene Small	
RAFFLES SUPERVISOR	Roy Wenzel	

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## MEETING DATES AND VENUE

Our meetings are always held at the Red Cross Rooms, 11th Avenue, Palm Beach on the second Saturday of each month starting at 1.30 pm.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

10 There will be **NO** meeting in April as many members will be attending the Australian Conference in Brisbane

### MAY

8 Talk by Phyllis Hobbs on growing bromeliads

### JUNE

5 & 6 Rotary Landscape and Garden Fair

12 Our regular meeting at the Red Cross Rooms, Palm Beach

## **DISCLAIMER**

Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are the contributor's own and are not necessarily those of the Committee or the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society.

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Our first meeting for 1993 was held in February. Twenty-three members attended and three visitors (one who had been before and therefore was classed as one of us). There were nine apologies. The Lucky Door Prize was won by Barry Hertzog.

Much interest was shown in our new Newsletter printed by Wendy. Many thanks as Wendy volunteered for the position. How different it will be as more of you respond to the call for assistance for items to be included in future issues. I will be helping Wendy by gathering together all your articles to pass on to her. Don't forget stories - long or short - or helpful hints.

The Albert Aussie Day display was a success. Thank you to all the people who supplied plants and to those who gave of their time to talk to the public. Thank you to our members who helped set up the display under the leadership of our experienced put-it-all-together man, Graham and his crew of workers. You have done another wonderful job - we may be biased but the Albert Aussie Day Committee thought so too as they awarded the trophy for the Best Static Display to this Society. The trophy is at my home at the moment. Graham and Wendy have it next, then it will be passed out at the following meeting to someone else to display in their home for one month till the next meeting. Anyone who would like to have a chance to show it off is welcome to do so.

We also had a very pleasant duty to perform. Olwen presented Rolly and Evelyn Reilly with Life Membership Badges. In the time they have been in the Society, they have done so much. Rolly's Tillandsias, which he grows from seed, have found their way to many places in Australia. We are all very much the richer for having the opportunity to know both the plants and the people who must have the patience of Job as anyone growing them from seed would know.

Thank you to Bev for stepping in to do the Secretary's work at our February meeting. Unfortunately, Genny had to work that day.

We have been fortunate in having Hazel Hertzog volunteer as our Auditor again. Thank you, Hazel.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Athol and Mary on the loss of his young brother.

Also to Con and Trish van Pelt, our condolences on the sudden death of Con's mother.

Some of our members have got the travel bug: Hazel and Barry are on an "extended fishing trip", Dorothy is going off to England; while John and Genny will be off to South Australia after the Conference.

It was wonderful to see so many plants on the Show and Tell Table. Six members spoke of their plants. Olwen started the talk off, followed by Graham, Bev, Roy, John Carpenter and Mary. It is a great thing for the Society when there are so many members willing to participate.

Some of the plants on show were:

*Vriesea* Carlsbad, Grande

*Neoregelia kalmbacheri*, Harmony, Rain Cloud, Gold Fever

*Aechmea fasciata*

*Hohenbergia correia-arauji*

*Tillandsia cyanea*, *lindenii*, *complanata*, *fasciculata* x *brachycaulos*

*Neomea* Exquisita

*Nidumea* Loeseneri

*Othoiphytum navioides*

*Neophytum* Ralph Davis, Ralph Davis Wide Wings

Flower spike of *Vriesea gigantea*

Several different *Cereopegias* with flowers

*Crassuala* Pagoda Village

*Echereria* Black Night

Seedlings of *Vriesea sucrei* as well as *Aechmea leucolepsis*.

(Clever little fellow is Roy)

## HOW I GOT STARTED

Bev Collins

I would like to share with you my experience of growing bromeliads, I don't really remember how long I have had a love of these plants but it goes back a few years.

I have been going to Olwen Ferris's place since she first came to Queensland but at first it was because she had an interesting supply of indoor plants, I can remember admiring Broms even then.

My husband, John, and I started to answer ads in the Garden section in Saturday's Courier Mail and quite often there would be Broms among the plants for sale. I started to bring the odd plant home. About this time we became members of the Queensland Succulent Society and after a while became friendly with a few members and one in particular convinced us we should become members of the Queensland Bromeliad Society and right from our first meeting when John won *Neoregelia* Vulcan in beautiful colour, I was hooked and that was the start of a beautiful and rewarding few years.

I am afraid I have not always done the right thing by my plants as we have moved around quite a bit and the worst treatment they got was our six months in Hervey Bay as we had possums and they are not fussy about what they do to anything.

The last few years have been better and even though I still regard myself as a novice grower I can honestly say I have learned a lot from both Olwen Ferris and Grace Goode and they are very forgiving when I cannot remember the names of the plants that I have.

My favourites are the Neoregelias as I am forever surprised and pleased by the different colours. Some time later I discovered the miniature Neoregelias and they are a delightful plant.

After many disappointments I think I have at long last discovered the secret of growing a good coloured plant but as I am not a competitive person I am not too worried about it not having a perfect shape without any marks.

I really enjoy growing Bromeliads and with a little tender loving care they reward me with their beauty.

## TILLANDSIA LINDENII

by Olwen Ferris

Many people ask what my favourite bromeliad is? This is a hard question to answer, but one that gives me lasting satisfaction is *Tillandsia lindenii*. It is seventeen years since I bought a plant, past flowering, but with a nice offset growing alongside the central dry spike. At that time I had no knowledge of how to surgically remove such offsets so I left it alone. Later the dry leaves of the old plant were removed and the plant was lowered in the pot, taking care to use a very open mix of chunks of tree fern and charcoal. The offsets duly flowered and three suckers appeared around the spent spike. When about three-quarters grown I decided to experiment and remove two of the new growths, and I worked out the following method that has proved successful with Vrieseas with central offsets as well as this Tillandsia.

First step: Make yourself comfortable at a table where the light is good. Use a sharp instrument, such as a vegetable peeling knife.

Second step: Look at your plant. Remove the leaves from the side of the plant directly below and at the side of the offset to be removed.

Third step: You will see no roots descending from the offset base down into the pot. You will find them inside the stem of the mother plant. Have you removed enough leaves to allow for easy working on each side of the base of the offset? You need to see where it joins the mother stem (umbilical cord as it were).

Fourth step: I like to cut into the parent stem with a downward cut and get half an inch of root on the base of the offset. Make a small incision on one side of the offset into the stem of the mother plant and do the same on the other side, but only making a very small cut each time. Gently place a finger between the offset and the mother plant, but do not use any force. Cut a little deeper and lower into the mother stem and a tiny bit behind the offset. Take care at this stage not to cut much behind the offset as at this stage you can end up with a handful of leaves and no future plant. By the time you have the side cuts to about half an inch below the base of the underside, your finger can press right at the base of the offset and lever the roots from the stem. A cut across

the stem at this point will leave the short roots attached to the new plant. (A plant with the offsets removed in this way is now making a new sucker directly above the scar and the roots from this must be much deeper in the parent plant.)

Warning: Always start cutting on each side of the offset base, never behind it. The knife can slip if you start behind the new plant and you can end up with a handful of leaves. This happened to me before I perfected the above method.

Pot up in the usual way.

*Reprinted from Bromeleetter  
Bromeliad Society of Australia, September-October 1980*

## BROMELIADS AND THE GARDEN POND

Any bromeliad lover who has seen the garden pool photos taken at Parrot Jungle in Florida and shown in Wilson's early book on bromeliads will know the advantages of placing these plants as pool decoration.

The ideal situation is to have the pool in dappled sunlight and to select the rock surround with extreme care. Rocks are individual things, and as important as the plants they augment. People who live near creek and gully waterways well know the water-worn rocks I mean. Place selected rocks as naturally as possible around the edges of your pond, leaving spaces among them that will take a potted bromeliad. If your pond has good adequate light, the genus *Neoregelia* and the attractive rosette *Neomea*, which is *Neoregelia* x *Aechmea*.

As the plants colour and flower, remove the parent plant as soon as the offsets are about 1/3rd matured size. New offsets always appear when the parent has produced a series of small flowers. If the old plant is removed carefully leaving a little of the basal stem intact, the flowered plant can be placed aside and will generally produce one or two more offsets.

Sometimes, if a hardwood or casuarina log can be found, bore 5cm (2") holes along it and place it across the end of your pond.

Offsets of colourful *Aechmeas* such as *Aechmea* Burgundy, *Ae.* Coral Beads, *Ae.* Hummels Hybrids, *Ae.* Bill Barrett, or any of the *Ae. Chantinii* type *Platyaechmea* can be fitted along the log and the overall effect can be very good to see.

Len Butt

*Reprinted from Bromeliaceae  
Bromeliad Society of Queensland, July-August 1987*

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*Women grow old gracefully,*

*Most men disgracefully.*

*Anon*



## PLANT ROSTER

We are now operating a roster to share the responsibility of bringing in plants for the Lucky Door Prize and the Special Raffle. I would like to thank all those people who signed the roster board. If someone other than the names notified for that month would like to donate a plant, please feel free to do so. The more tickets Roy, our overworked seller of tickets sells, the happier he is.

### MAY

Lucky Door Prize: Jum Daniels

Special Raffle: Audrey McAlister, Doug Reilly and Irene Small

### JUNE

Lucky Door Prize: Cath Chumbley

Special Raffle: Roy Wenzel, Nez Pearce, Noelene McLauchlan



Happy Birthday to Genny who is having a birthday before we're all together again.

Special Happy 79th Birthday to Cath.

If you would like to have a birthday message put in the Newsletter, please just let us know. You don't have to tell us the year. This is your newsletter, make use of it.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due in October of each year. If you require postage of your newsletters, please forward 11 (eleven) current-price stamps.

Family - \$6.00

Single - \$4.00

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## LIBRARY BOOKS

Library books are available on loan for one (1) month only. Please return them so someone else can take the book out.

We are trying to build up our Library. The money raised by a cent auction in March will be of great use for this purpose. John is trying to get the old magazines together in folders as many of you are asking about them. They will soon be in the Library for your use.



## **HELP?**

If you have a plant that you are not happy with the way it is growing, bring it in and our panel will help with ideas on what you can do different.

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## **BUY AND SELL**

If any members have plants they are looking for or plants to sell, tell us. We will put it in the newsletter for you. This is your newsletter, make it work for you.

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## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

<b>POTS</b>	125 mm squat pot	25c
	140 mm	30c
	165 mm	40c
<b>LABELS</b>	10 for	50c
<b>PENCILS</b>	\$2.50	each
<b>BOOK</b>	"Bromeliads for Everyone" by Bea Hanson	- \$3.50

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## **WHO AM I?**

Don't forget, anyone who has a mature plant or one in flower but doesn't know it's name, our experts are here to help identify it for you.

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## **PHOTOGRAPH APPEAL**

If you have an additional copy of photos of your Bromeliads in bloom, why not donate them to the Society's Library.

The goal is to have a compilation of photos in albums to help with future identification of plants.

So bring in those photos, please.