

BROMLINK



AUGUST 1993

THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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GOODS SALES SUPERVISOR	Peter Ludowici	
LIBRARIAN	John Catlan	
CATERING SUPERVISOR	Irene Small	
RAFFLES SUPERVISOR	Roy Wenzel	

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

11 Regular Meeting and Cent Auction

OCTOBER

9 Annual General Meeting and Regular Meeting

NOVEMBER

13 Regular Meeting

DECEMBER

11 Christmas Party

DISCLAIMER

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our July meeting was attended by 29 members and visitors. The gift from Buck and Joyce Staff was auctioned off by John Catlan and was knocked down to Peter Ludowici for \$11.00.

The voting for the new name of our Newsletter was held and, as you can see by this paper, is now called Bromlink.

We would like to thank the following people for taking on these positions till the election in October:

Diana Hughes as Secretary
Peter Ludowici as Society Sales Person
Mac and Audrey McAlister as Host and Hostess.

We were all enchanted by the slide show of bromeliads by Greg Aizlewood with the commentary by Narelle Rowe. There were many favourable comments on both the plants and the way of taking such exquisite pictures of our special plants. Every question was answered promptly and there were many tips and hints on what to do and what not to do. Many thanks to Greg and Narelle. I hope they realise that we will be asking them to show us the slides another time. It is always very pleasurable to be able to see such slides again and again. We are all learning more about our plants and it is good to be able to see well grown plants as it gives us something to aim towards.

Olwen told us about *Aechmea* Bert and the parents *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Aechmea orlandiana*. There were specimens of all on the table as an example. Many more plants were on the Show and Tell Table but time ran out on us. I hope all will bring the plants back again as much thought and time goes into bringing plants in for display. These people are really like the ones who help set up and to clean up after and others who work behind the scenes and very seldom get a mention. Thank you very much one and all.

Thank you Irene for your donation of "Growing Bromeliads" for our Library.

I hope you are doing your puzzle. Did you get your answer correct. Someone came up with "Happy New Year" - it was not right.

We hope that John and Pat Carpenter have had an enjoyable time in New Zealand and we hope to see them back again. Also, it is good to have Dorothy Griffiths back from her trip to England. Welcome Home.

Don't forget September is our Cent Auction. Please bring in your plants to aid our Library. The more plants - the more fun for all.

PLANT SALES

You can bring in your excess plants for sale at our meetings. They must be healthy plants and be named, if possible. They can be any kind of plant, not just succulents and bromeliads. There is a 10% commission to the Society on all sales.

Please see that you have a tag with your name and the price of the plant attached to each pot. The tags are available through the Society now. Make use of them and make Doug's work easier for him.

WELCOME

A big welcome to some new members:

Greg Aizlewood
Narelle Rowe
Gill and Margaret Dumble

CENT AUCTION

It was wonderful how much fun can be had by our Cent Auction every March, June and September. If members keep bringing in several plants each to be placed in groups the responsibility will be less of just the same few. The building up of our Library is the aim of the Cent Auction. Please remember to retain No. 1 ticket for the draw.

LIBRARY BOOKS

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

The list of books available for loan are as follows:

BROMELIADS:

Journal of BSI 1981 - 1993
Bromeliads - The BSI
Bromeliads - Werner Rauh (2 copies)
Bromeliads - Walter Richter
Bromeliads for Modern Living
Bromeliads for Everyone - Bea Hanson
The Colourful Bromeliads - Victoria Padilla
Tillandsias - Paul Isley
The Bromeliad Lexicon - Werner Rauh
Bromeliaceae of Venezuela
Bromeliads - Victoria Padilla
In Search of Flowers of the Amazon Forest -
Margaret Mee
Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors - BSI,
1982



CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS

Cactus and Succulents - Sunset
Succulents and Cactus - Sunset
Cacti and other Succulents, Vol 1-6 - Edgar Lamb (2 copies Vol
5)
Cacti for the Amateur - Abbey Garden Press
The Book of Cacti and other Succulents - Claude Chidamian
Cacti and Succulents - E.E. Kemp
Cacti and Succulents for Modern Living
Cacti - Sir Oliver Leese
The Stapelieae, Vols 1, 2 and 3

Photo Album of members' donations.

THE RIGHT INFORMATION

It was brought to my attention at the display which we put on at Carrara in June that there was some "COMPETITION" in the area of selling Bromeliads.

There were some nurserymen selling plants at ridiculous prices and they did not even have the correct names on some of these expensive plants. If we do happen to see a person with a plant which has been bought from someone, we should make it our business, in a polite manner of course, to see if they have been given the correct growing information.

We are the people with the knowledge and expertise in this field. We should not get dis-heartened that someone else has made a sale and not us. All these people are doing is help spread the "affliction" which will in due course be to our advantage. What we should be doing is trying to steer people in the right direction.

The Society is getting a good name for itself. This just goes to prove what I have just been saying, "Give people the right medicine and they will come back for more".

To all the persons involved with the displays, keep up the good work.

Graham
BROMGROVE, 4118

GERMINATING TILLANDSIA SEED

When germinating Tillandsia seed, fresh is best. During summer mist seed at least six or seven times a day. Allow them to dry out between mistings. The last misting of the day should be early enough so that the seeds dry out before night. This will allow the germinating seedlings to breath.

During winter you may or may not have to mist as often it will depend on humidity and breezes. Just follow the rules and you will succeed.

John and Genny
Mango Mansion, 4208

A VISIT TO THE SYDNEY TROPICAL CENTRE

Diana Hughes, Mullumbimby, NSW

In June of this year, when in Sydney, I took the opportunity of revisiting the Tropical Centre in the Royal Botanic Gardens - one of my two favourite haunts in this wonderful oasis in the heart of the city. Being a "Friend" of the Gardens, the normal entry charge of \$5.00 is waived, and I had an introduction to the right people who willingly supplied me with the information I desired to be able to write an article for Bromeleter and the Gold Coast Newsletter.

The newer addition to the complex, the Arc, contains bromeliads, among other interesting tropical plants and these are of course my chief interest. Unbelievably, there are 300 plants of 171 species of bromels listed on their computer print-out of 28 June, planted between July 1990 and April 1993. There are a number of highly desirables - *Navia splendens*, *Brocchinia reducta*, *Araeococcus micranthus*, *Fosterella penduliflora* and many Pitcairnia species. Unfortunately, their physical presence in the display eluded me! The Tropical Centre is proud of their collection of over 1400 plants, which includes 66 rare and endangered species.

The landscaping of the Arc, over three levels, is truly splendid. Water plays a big role as it cascades over a waterfall from the top level until it finally trickles as a rivulet on the bottom level. Plants such as calathea and dieffenbachia mingle with heliconias, palms of many species, economic plants such as rubber, cocoa, cardamon and pandanus, oncidium, epidendrum, ferns and orchids all thriving in the atmosphere created for their well-being. Artificial "logs", made from stainless steel and filled with suitable planting material, are suspended from the glass ceiling and mass planted with a number of recognisable bromeliads, some on long stolons, together with orchids, hoyas, ferns etc. They looked very healthy, obviously enjoying the better air circulation.

The Arc is divided into two sections: one is hot and humid, with temperatures maintained between 15°-30°C and humidity kept about 60% with a micro irrigation system. Most of the broms are in this section, I believe. An identifying sign proclaims bromeliads, and there I recognised five or six well-known Vriesea species (*V. espinosae*, *V. fosteriana*, *V. guttata*, *V. hieroglyphica*, *V. imperialis*) and *Orthophytum gurkenii*. Unfortunately, most show brown leaf tips but *Crypthanthus* species tucked into rock crevices looked healthy. Tillandsias mounted on branches and logs were *T. foliosa*, *T. somnians*, *T. cf scaligera* and *T. spiculosa* (according to the print-out). Another sign regretted the temporary absence of part of the display in this area.

The empty spaces looked very wet to my novice's eyes, and I wondered if perhaps a growing difficulty was being experienced. The print-out states six *Aechmea*, 14 *Guzmania*, the *Navia*, three *Neoregelia*, one *Nidularium*, 19 *Orthophytum*, one *Pitcairnia* and two *Streptocalyx* having been planted in this area over the last couple of years!

The other smaller section is described as being cool and misty with a temperature between 12°-25°C, and humidity maintained above 70% by an efficient fogging system - I was effectively prevented from reading my literature and identifying plants on my notepad as it was operating when I was there. More bromels are found in this section, and those that I recognised looked very happy. From the few name tags available I read *Billbergia morellii*, three *Guzmania blassii* with excellent colour, *Aechmea maculata*(?) and *Vriesea sucrei*. I noted that they looked good, while three *Guzmania paniculata*(?) had long, strappy leaves possibly because they were too crowded?

A rocky area outside the glasshouses is planted with subtropical and tropical species. The print-out lists some 21 bromels planted in August and September 1990, although a *Pitcairnia flammea* was planted in November 1980. A plant label or two would have been helpful both here and inside the Arc. Lack of identification is a problem throughout the Gardens and indeed in public areas generally. Are labels "souveniered" I wonder? I believe the Gardens staff would appreciate help from our Society in labelling their plants, and possibly some cultural help. I know of several interstate Societies that had working bees in the bromeliad sections of their Botanic gardens. Proper identification, and display, can only benefit our Societies as a result.

I hope Society members will treat themselves to a visit to the Sydney Tropic Centre. The better-known Pyramid is now home to an all-Australian collection of plants. Overall, the artistic placement of different genera is pleasing to the eye and can provide inspiration for one's own display.

My other favourite "haunt" is the Succulent Garden, and I will write an article on it for later editions of the two Newsletters.

BROMELIADS IN AUSTRALIA

In early 1963 an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald saw the beginning of Bromeliad Societies in Australia. Grantley and Ruby Duncan invited interested persons to meet in their Mona Vale home and about thirty people attended.

At that meeting a list of people with bromeliads for sale was mentioned and someone said Mrs Ferris of Thornleigh had plants for sale and it was when people started descending on my azalea and camellia nursery asking for my beloved plants that I first heard of the society and then attended the first general meeting of the newly formed Bromeliad Society of Australia in April 1963.

In the beginning, very few of my plants had names and I could see that this had to be rectified. I wrote to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, USA about my problem and received a pile of literature in return. Dr Smith was interested in someone who wanted to know about bromeliads. I found him most helpful over the years in identifying any dried specimens sent to him.

Jack Martin, the first President of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, was a man who had a large bromeliad collection and was very helpful with names and information. I was having trouble pronouncing names and Jack told me to try emphasising the second syllable of each name. "You will nearly always be right, but not always." Bro me liad, is a good example.

Olwen Ferris

TIPS FROM A NON-GROWER

You have never had the thrill of growing until you have grown by seed.

HOW I BECAME A BROM FAN

Nez Pearce

After we moved into our first home and being young, broke and from a gardening family, we needed a garden. So Mother to the rescue. WHACKO, an instant garden of prickly plants that stopped weeds, kids, neighbourhood dogs and sometimes flowers. Over the years I added different ones from friends, plant stalls etc. all with no names. June one of those.

Many years later I heard the name Victoria Padilla and she had written a book about those prickly plants that I now know as Bromeliads. I TRIED to identify the ones I had. You can imagine my dilemma and I had to learn a whole new language.

Driving around the Coast after our return I saw a Nursery sign saying Bromeliad Gardens on a house. This lady was most patient with me as I tried to describe things and suggested I come to a Society meeting. I didn't want to join a "Society" after stories from family about "Orchid Societies". I still bought plants, now only with names I might find it in my Book (Bible). I met Olwen again at a Society Show at Carrara and after attending a few meetings I was surprised and delighted to discover you don't have to be a Whiz and a know-it-all to be a member of Gold Coast.

Thank you all for some lovely friendly afternoons and I may even make a day out yet.

TEMPERATURE ON WELDMESH AND SOLID BENCHES

On warm nights there is virtually no difference in pot temperature. On cold nights weldmesh benches maintain the pots 1°C warmer than solid benches. The reason for this is that the solid bench allows the air to pool on it which then chills the pot, whereas on a weldmesh bench this air is allowed to drain down to floor level.

In reverse on a hot summer day pots on a solid bench will be hotter due to higher surface temperature of the solid bench and also reflect radiation.

John and Genny, Mango Mansion, 4208

!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Roy Wenzel and a belated one to Evelyn and Rolly Reilly.



Congratulations also to Irene on becoming a Great Grand Parent.

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.

ORDINARY RAFFLE

This is one way of making money for the Society. It is up to all of us to help by bringing in some plant/s when we have extra ones. It doesn't have to be a bromeliad, just something you would like to win yourself. Let us see if we can make this one good continuous raffle.

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.

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

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. If anyone other than the people rostered for that month would like to donate a plant, please feel free to do so. The plants do not have to be succulents or bromeliads.

SEPTEMBER

Lucky Door Prize: Phyllis Hobbs

Special Raffle: Wendy Besgrove, Clarrie Morrow,
Diana Hughes

OCTOBER

Lucky Door Prize: Greg Aizlewood

Special Raffle: Joy Flockhart, Dorothy Griffiths,
Monica Bailey

If you are unable to attend the meeting, either get the plant to someone to take it in for you or swap with someone else.

APOLOGY

It is with much regret that I must apologise to Peter Ludowici for the mistake in the last newsletter. It was Peter's Mum who died.

Mary.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*Nothing recalls the past
so potently as a smell.*

Winston Churchill

WANTED URGENTLY

Could you please get pen to paper and write us a story, long or short on how you began collecting bromeliads, or your first attempt to grow bromeliads, or even the way you grow your favourite bromeliads.

There are many members who have a long distance to come to meetings so this is one way you can participate. This is your Newsletter. Let's try to make it better.

DEAR DEREK OR ANY ONE OUT THERE

I have a "Kents Bromeliad Nursery" bromeliad label from the USA. The growing instructions on the back of the label read:

WATER: 1 to 3 times per month. Only when the cup is nearly empty. Please wet all the leaves and the soil. Change the water in the cup at least monthly. It must be kept fresh and not allowed to become stagnant.

LIGHT: Bright filtered light is best. Never direct sunlight. The varieties with spines need more light than the spineless varieties.

FERTILISE: Only in summer months at $\frac{1}{3}$ recommended strength. Never use fish emulsion. Use fertilisers which dissolve in water only.

End of instructions. What I want to know is why are Kent's so definite in their instructions, Never use fish emulsion.

John and Genny
Mango Mansion 4208

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.

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.

ITEMS FOR SALE

POTS	105 mm squat pot	20c
	125 mm	25c
	140 mm	30c
	165 mm	45c
	200 mm	65c
OSMOCOTE	500g	\$2.50 (9 month)
LABELS	10 for	50c
PENCILS	\$2.50	each
SALES STICKERS	5¢ each	or 10 for 50¢
SOCIETY BADGES	\$3.00	each Available from the Treasurer, Jum Daniels
BOOK	"Bromeliads for Everyone"	by Bea Hanson - \$3.50

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.