

B R O M L I N K



APRIL 1994

THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PATRONESS

Olwen Ferris

PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	72 0993
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Olwen Ferris	77 1904
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Besgrove	800 5431
SECRETARY	Diana Hughes	
TREASURER	Jum Daniels	77 1469
EDITOR	Wendy Besgrove	
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PLANT SALES	Doug & Rolly Reilly	
GOODS SALES	Peter Ludowici	
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RAFFLES SUPERVISOR	Roy Wenzel & Clarrie Morrow	
LIFE MEMBERS	Olwen Ferris Rolly & Evelyn Reilly	
HONORARY MEMBERS	Jum Daniels Roy Wenzel	

MEETING DATES AND VENUE

Our meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Elanora on the second Saturday of each month starting at 1.30 pm.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL	9	Regular Meeting
MAY	12	Regular Meeting
JUNE	5-6	Rotary Landscape & Garden Fair, Carrara
	11	Cent Auction

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our March meeting was attended by 33 members and 1 visitor, Mr Len Butt. Also we welcome Jo and Hank Ketelaar to the Society.

I would like to congratulate my hard working Vice President, Graham Besgrove, for chairing the February meeting in such a competent manner. It is no easy thing to sit up at the main table and handle the meeting for the first time.

Our next display will be the Rotary Landscape and Garden Fair at Carrara on June 4 and 5. Please get your plants ready and don't forget there will be a 20% commission on all Sales Plants (10% going to Rotary and 10% to the Society).

We have had an invitation from the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc to put on a display at Mt Coot-tha on 11 and 12 June at the Combined Show with the Queensland Succulent Society. Having had the display at Carrara the previous weekend we thought that we would have to give it a miss, but our Brisbane members have volunteered to help Bev Collins to erect a display for us. It makes us very proud to see such spirit working in our Society.

We purchased a set of three secondhand books for the Library - Flora Neotropica Monograph consisting of

- (a) Pitcairnioideae
- (b) Tillandsioideae
- (c) Bromelioideae.

We are very fortunate to have these books in our Library.

A thank you to Jeanette Henwood for calling our attention to a book available at Bookworld on The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Cactus and Other Succulents. Jeanette bought a copy for our Library. (We still owe you 45¢, Jeanette.)

Len Butt, our visitor, gave an interesting talk. Thank you, Len. A separate report on this talk is being written by Diana Hughes.

Nev Ryan spoke about the plants on the Show and Tell table. These included:

Acanthostachys pitcairnoides and stobilacae

Three *Euphorbias* of unknown names

Orthophytum dysjuncta

Canamea Jaspa

Tillandsia stricta, stricta (stiff form), *flexuosa var vivipara, caput medusa x flabellata* and *schiedeana x juncea*

Miniature *Neoregelias*

Neoregelia carolinae tricolor x spectabilis variegata, Walter Richter Hybrid, Skotak Hybrid from Costa Rica and a Bill Morris Hybrid.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Noelene McLauchlin. Everybody had a fun time at the cent auction. The proceeds go to getting more books for our Library. I'm sure you all think that it is a worthwhile cause. Next cent auction is June 11.

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

AN EXPERIMENT: TILLANDSIA IMPERIALIS

Graham Besgrove

I purchased a *Tillandsia Imperialis* in November 1992 from David Schumac in New South Wales.

I realised that this plant is a high altitude plant coming from Mexico. It usually grows in cloud forests at an altitude of 2400 and 3000 metres. There were two other high altitude plants bought at the same time, both of which have "gone to God". It could have been an equally disastrous result for the *Till. Imperialis* growing at sea level.

David advised me to grow this plant standing on stones (I am using pumice stones) in a saucer of water. This is to create a cooler environment for the plant. I have done this and record the result in this article.

Approximately six months after purchase, an adventitious pup appeared and I thought at least I'd have a pup if the plant dies.

In late November, the plant started to colour up and the leaves in the centre started to gather close and form an inflorescence. The inflorescence of brilliant orange/red appeared around Christmas time, which is about the same time it flowers in Mexico. The mauve flowers, nothing to really talk about appeared and went just as quick. No seed was set despite my efforts, so it looks as though you may need two clones.

The bottom leaves, now drying and going brittle, are holding approximately six to seven pups. It is important to leave the drying leaves on the plant as they are a form of protection for the developing pups. In the coming weeks I will be gradually removing these bottom leaves to help the pups toughen prior to the onset of Winter.

I heard a person at a recent BSQ meeting comment that the bottom leaves should have been taken off long ago. If I had listened to this person instead of David Schumac I would now have no pups. It just goes to show, if you listen to what experienced people say, you may be able to have success with even the hard to grow plants.

My advice is to persevere, the results may be fruitful.

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.



Could you please either give your articles to Mary or send them to Wendy at the following address:

The Editor
Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society
c/- 19 Ellington Street
BROWNS PLAINS Q 4118

GARDENING NOTES

Cath Chumbley

Plant Four Rows of Peas;

Plant personality, perseverance, promptness and preparation

Plant Four Rows of Squash

Squash gossip, indifference, criticism and negative thinking

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce;

Lettuce obey rules and regulations

Let us be true to our obligations

Let us be faithful to our duties

Let us love one another

Plant Four Rows of Turnips;

Turnip for Meetings

Turnip with a smile

Turnip with new ideas

Turnip with determination

Cultivate well,

Perspire a little,

and reap the benefits.

JUST A PASSING THOUGHT

Cath Chumbley

God Gave us two ends - one to think with, and one to sit on.

Success depends on the adequate use of the right end.

Heads we win, tails we lose.

FIND-A-WORD

ALBA	FIRE	RACINAE
ANN	FORMS	RED
AZTEC	FULGENS	ROSEA
BAHIANA	GLAD	RUBENS
BERT	GNOM	RUBRA
BILLBERGIOIDES	HETEROPHYLLA	STAR
CAROLINAE	KOMET	STRICTA
CASCADE	LA	THOR
CHERRY	LAXA	TRISTIS
COMA	MARMORATA	TURN
COMPACTA	MEYENDORFII	VAGANS
CYANEA	MINIATA	VULCAN
DART	MOON	WINDII
DEE	NUTANS	ZAHNII
ELAINE	POLYANTHA	ZEBRINA
FASCIATA	POT	ZONATA

Solution has 13 letters and is a subfamily of Bromeliads.

SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY/MARCH PUZZLE

Aechmea	Len Butt	Rajah
aquilega	Maginali	Raketee
Aztec Gold	Mary Brett	recurvata
Bert	Mary Hyde	Redwinds
Burgundy	Meteor	Royal Wine
caudata	mexicana	Scarlet Gem
Fire Ball	Mirlo	triticina
gamosepala	Mulfordii	Zebrina
Jackson	Popcorn	

ONE WAY TO PLANT NEOREGELIA SEED

by Jimi Prinz, Texas, USA

My father used to tell me "I was not smart, I was lazy". If there is an easy way to find to do something, I'd find it. I can imagine him chuckling if he had a chance to read what follows. Now all comments aside, on "responsible hybridizing", isn't it time we just enjoyed our plants? I say it is.

The following method evolved at one point when I had too much to do and too little time to do it. A fairly common occurrence at our house, I might add. I had been wondering how come those seeds get scattered in nature without all the folderol I had been practising, such as drying them and all the other trouble I had been making out of something that I felt really was too complicated a process.

I prepared my seedbed, soaked it down with a fungicide, and simply squirted the seeds out of the pods directly on to the mixture in nice neat rows. As I closed the lid, I thought to myself, "Well, I must have a half million more seed coming on that mother plant, so if these don't come up I won't be in too bad shape. I'll just work a little harder, and plant them the way I've been doing it". Upon my soul, I never had seeds germinate so fast. I never had them grow so fast either. I just don't understand all I know about a lot of things, and this is one of them. Could there be some enzyme in that gelatinous gook that the seeds are encased in? On the outside chance that this occurrence was a fluke, I planted part of a couple of other crosses. A couple of them were pretty complicated crosses and I really wondered how we would come out. The results were the same.

I will never go back to the old way of planting. If it is good enough for mother nature, I've got other things to do, that make a better show for the time involved.

Reprinted with acknowledgment to *Corpus Christi
Bromeliad Society* journal, March 1980

A NICE WAY TO START THE DAY

Mary Nicholson

First thing every morning I really enjoy taking my cuppa and going for a walk around the yard checking on my plants.

Some of them give you such a lovely surprise by how quickly the flower spike appears. It was not there last evening but this morning, lo and behold, there is the flower spike. The billbergias are beauts at doing this. I had my first *Billbergia brasiliensis* flower and the colours were so brilliant. It has now set seed. *Billbergia pyramidalis var concolor* as well as *amoena var minor* and *vittata* have flowered recently.

The aechmeas were not to be outdone. The tall yellow spike of *ramosa*, the white berries on *araneosa*, the pink and blue of *fendleri*, the yellow and white of *angustifolia*, the blue of *serrata* and the yellow of *eurycorymbus* and *ruben* - these all stand tall above the orange bracts of *chantinii* and the lovely pink of *fasciata var purpurea*.

The *Portea petropolitana var extensa* has a tall branched spike and this has many bluish coloured berries on it. These berries can be used to make jam.

There are many beautiful neoregelias in colour. They range from pink through red to purple. There are green leaves through to spotted leaves and even striped ones as well.

Can anyone not enjoy the day after such a beginning.

!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Diana Hughes, Margaret Dumble and Audrey McAlister.



Happy Wedding Anniversary to Graham and Wendy Besgrove.

If you would like to have a birthday or any other 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.

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. The Lucky Door Prize is drawn first and has the pick from the table followed by the Special Raffle with a choice of the plants available.

MAY

Cath Chumbley, Noelene McLauchlin, Nez Pierce, June King

JUNE

Jan Tobiano, Graham Besgrove, Roy Wenzel, Mary Nicholson

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.

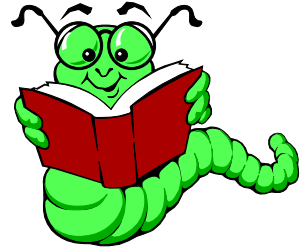
LIBRARY BOOKS

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 some of the 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.

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 on just the same few. The building up of our Library is the aim of the Cent Auctions. Please remember not to throw all your tickets into the lots but retain the No. 1 ticket for the draw.

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.

HELP?

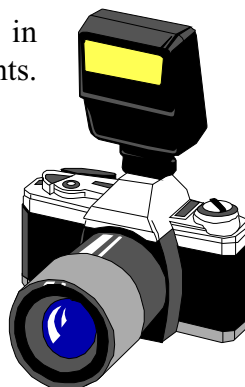
If you have a plant that you are not happy with the way it is growing, bring it in and our panel will help with ideas on what you can do different.

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.



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.

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
	"Growing Bromeliads"	- \$11.50
	"Bromeliads for Modern Living"	- \$8.50



PLANTS FOR SALE

Our Bromeliad plant family has expanded to such extent that we are running out of room to place our new plants.

We would like to sell some of our surplus collection and if you are interested please ring our home on (075) 72 3590 - Audrey McAlister.

A donation from the sales will go to our Society.

SELLING OUT SALE

All plants reduced.

See Olwen Ferris - Phone 77 1904.

