

B R O M L I N K



**SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 1994**

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THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY - OFFICE BEARERS

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| 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 | |
| HOST & HOSTESS | Audrey & Mac McAlister | |
| PLANT SUB-COMMITTEE | Olwen Ferris, Bev Collins Graham Besgrove, Nev Ryan John Catlan, Genny Vauhkonen Rolly & Doug Reilly | |
| PLANT SALES | Doug & Rolly Reilly | |
| GOODS SALES | Peter Ludowici | |
| LIBRARIAN | John Catlan | |
| CATERING SUPERVISOR | Irene Small | |
| RAFFLES SUPERVISOR | Roy Wenzel & Clarrie Morrow | |
| LIFE MEMBERS | Olwen Ferris Rolly & Evelyn Reilly | |
| HONORARY MEMBERS | Jum Daniels, Roy Wenzel, Genny Vauhkonen, John Catlan, Bev Collins | |

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

| | | |
|------------------|----|---|
| SEPTEMBER | 10 | Regular Meeting and Cent Auction |
| OCTOBER | 8 | Annual General Meeting |
| NOVEMBER | 12 | Regular Meeting with Guest Speaker - Mr Les Dyne from S.A.F.E. |
| DECEMBER | 10 | Christmas Party |
| FEBRUARY | 11 | Regular Meeting |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR JULY/AUGUST

Our July meeting was attended by 26 members and we had one visitor - Dem Surch.

It was decided that we will not hold our June meeting, but that we hire a bus and spend the day at the Combined Succulent and Bromeliad Societies Show at Mt Coot-tha.

The winner of our Lucky Door Prize was our member from Windora, June King.

A very informative talk on the plants on both the "Plant of the Month Table" and "Show and Tell Table" was given by Graham Besgrove. We were also given some tips on how to get our flower spikes to grow upright by Rolly Reilly.

Some of the plants discussed on "Plant of the Month" were *Vriesea carinata*, several *carinata* hybrids, *ospinea* in flower, *mariae*, El Vira, Royal Hawaiian, *fosteriana* Red Chestnut (3 different ones), *platynema variegata*, *erythodactylon x scalaris*, *heterostachys*, *petropolitiana*, Belgium Hybrid x *schwackeana*, Purple Cockatoo, Little Chief, Nigra. What a lovey selection for this table.

On the Show and Tell Table, there were several colourful clumps of *Tillandsia ionantha*, some had their rosy blush tone while others were their

usual silvery grey. *Tillandsia straminea* was there too. This is an unusual bromeliad as the flowers are perfumed. Neoregelia Morris Henry Hobbs as there in colour too.

Twenty members attended our August meeting and we welcomed a visitor Gwen Stivey. Our hard working catering supervisor won the Luck Door Prize.

Welcome to our new member, Barbara Rowe.

We held a discussion on our insurance to see if it should be increased to allow us to be able to put on displays at some of the Shopping Centres.

Genny Vauhkonen led an interesting discussion on Guzmanias for Plant of the Month.

The members should be very proud of themselves as both the Plant of the Month and Show and Tell tables were a picture of delight.

Some of the plant spoken of by Genny were *Guzmania lingulata broadview* - 2 forms, *lingulata broadview variegata*, *lingulata minor x lingulata cardinalis*, Magnifica, Magnifica variegata, 3 *zahnii* (1 in flower), *wittmackii*, *wittmackii purple x sanguinea*, Orangeade, Cherry, Vulcan x *gloriosa*, *sanguinea*, *pennellii*, Caroline, Amaranth, Grand Prix, Symfomie (*lingulata splendens x zahnii*), *sprucei*. There was also a Guzvriesea Jeannie (*Guzmania lingulata x Vriesea Rex*).

The talk of the plants on Show and Tell Table was given by John Catlan and Olwen Ferris. There were many plants including *Tillandsia flabellata*, *xerographica*, *tectorum*, *streptophylla*, *lindenii*, *imperialis*, *sprengeliana*; *Vriesea carinata*, Plantation Pride, Christine; Aechmea Red of Rio, Blue Bonnet, Pink Buttons; Neoregelia Amazing Grace (green and red forms), *kautskyi*, *carolinae var tricolor*, Bright Spot, Little Brown Jug, Oh Yes, Gold Fever miniature, Manoa Beauty; *Billbergia nutans* and *nutans x Selby Gardens* in flower. There was one lonely succulent, *Bowiea volubilis* commonly called the Onion Fern.

A SOBERING THOUGHT

Len P. Butt

Conservation, preservation, call it what you will, only in the past few decades have some of us practised it, and often it is a source of derision from many others. Until the general public realise what the destruction of an eco system actually does, there still will be the mockers. Mary White (Australia) and David Suzuki (Canada) both put forward massive convincing arguments on saving life on this plant. Both however, voice the question, is it too late?

All life on Earth is locked together like a gigantic chain; each living entity is a link in this chain and disturbance in the life of each link can and does throw the whole system out of balance. Look and ponder at the many, everyday (IT SEEMS) natural disasters that occur around us and ask yourself the cause. Quite often it can be traced back, directly or indirectly to mankind, the not so wise primate.

Bromeliads are our passion; we enjoy them, care for them, propagate from them, and are constantly told that the habitat of them is daily abused, destroyed, turned into farms which 99% of the time do not make a living.

When we do our daily round in that labour of love, caring for bromeliads, pause a little. Think on it and then decide what maybe you can do to help stop forest desecration; not only in South America but anywhere it matters.

Here below, a poem I wrote on a great river system cradling hundreds of bromeliads ...

AN AUSSIE'S VALE AMAZON

Mighty delta, surging stream that splits this land in twain,
What legends could you tell us now of temples lost in time.
Once the Olmec roamed your shores before the Maya
came,
Toltec and Inca memories still invade your tropic clime.

As placid streams often turn to raging flood,
From west to east great scores of isles are born.
Your waters change to green to yellow mud,
And swallow up the trees that skirt your night and morn.

Aquetzal bird flies up on high from leafy boughs above,
Constricting snakes stalk otters swimming by.
The spotted cat and Caiman share no kind of lasting love,
As howling monkeys lift their evening voices high.

Mighty river ever winding onward to the sea,
You often boil with things that tear and grind.
Piranha fish are death to man and Manatee,
Consuming all if roused and leaving bones behind.

Time was you heard no logging axe,
And tree borne orchids grace the jungle bought.
Air plant abundant trees fall to pay a tax,
As screaming chain saws kill a land as rich as ours.

Brazilian temples hidden were among your jungle vines,
Despoiled at last to fill a nation's needs.
What wondrous stories could they tell of many long gone
times,
When might empires rose, and sank beneath the ocean
weeds.

*Reprinted from Bromletter
Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc, May/June 1994*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In October, when all members stand down for the elections, some have indicated that they will not be standing again. If you are willing to join in the working group behind your Society, please let it be known. don't be shy as the work is shared by very helpful people.

THE DISPLAY OF PLANTS AT CARRARA MACHINERY RESTORATION SHOW

Olwen Ferris

Our members put on a lovely display of plants and are to be congratulated on the quality of the exhibit. Vrieseas took pride of place, offset by the lovely specimens of other genera.

On Sunday morning, horror of horrors, the first people who arrived at the tend were met by tragedy - the overnight storm had blown over the whole display and those lovely Vriesea spikes had been smashed and plants were out of pots and potting mix spread everywhere. The display had to be redone and when I arrived the broken Vriesea spikes were the only evidence of what had occurred.

Beverley Collins' plants suffered most damage. Beverley, we all grieve for you.

Our thanks go out to the number of new members who gave of their time so generously. It was good to be able to share the time with you.

Sunday was a cold, blustery day that kept many people away but our sales plants sold fairly well. Thanks to the members who brought in a lovely selection of plants. Our bank balance grew with the commission.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

For Plant of the Month, could you please bring in some plants from the nominated genera for that month. Remember that the plant doesn't necessarily have to be in flower, we also grow Bromeliads for their foliage. This segment of our meeting is to help us to learn to identify the different genera and perhaps see the diversity within that genera. The genera for the coming months are:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| OCTOBER: | Dyckia, Hecktia, Deuterocohnia |
| NOVEMBER: | Neoregelia |
| FEBRUARY: | Foliage Vriesea |

VRIESEA X MORRENIANA VERSUS VRIESEA MORRENII

Peter Franklin

Both of these plants were named after Morren but are quite different from each other so please be careful when you write out your name tags and double check the spelling on those that you might already have.

Vriesea morrenii is a large plant - 1 metre across and, when in flower 1 metre high. (I have never seen a *Vriesea morrenii* but that is not to say that there aren't any around.)

Vriesea x morreniana on the other hand is a small plant just a bit larger than *Vriesea carinata* with a yellowish green inflorescence similar in style to *Vriesea carinata*. It is a naturally occurring hybrid of *Vriesea carinata* and *Vriesea psittacina*. This plant is in cultivation often labelled *Vriesea morrenii* which is, of course, incorrect.

Change your labels now!

*Reprinted from Bromletter
Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc, May/June 1994*

BUS TRIP TO SUNSHINE COAST

On Saturday, 17 September, we are having a bus trip to Bromagic at Palmwoods - Lunch in the Park at Palmwoods for 30-45 minutes - then on to Grace Goode's home at Alexandra Headlands.

Bus leaves 55 Dawn Parade, Miami, at 7.30 am with several pick-ups along the way. We expect to arrive back at Miami between 5.00 and 5.30 pm.

Our Brisbane members are invited to meet us at Bromagic. We are to bring our own food and drinks for lunch.

THE TREASURER'S TRAUMATIC DREAM

Jum Daniels

Having dreamt that I had left all my bromeliads on earth for the big bromeliad garden in the sky, I was advised that because of my record, I would have to accomplish three severe tasks before gaining admittance.

The first was to bail all the water out of the Mediterranean Sea in two days which I did with ten minutes to spare.

The second task was to then fill up the empty space by shovelling all the sands of the Sahara Desert into it in one day. I did this with the help of a few blisters and the knowledge that I'd made real estate agents happy.

The third job I was told was a real doozy. It was to make sure that EVERY member of Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society was financial by the October meeting!!!

PS I'm glad it was only a dream, but Society members have always responded on time.

GUEST SPEAKER

At our November meeting we will have Les Dyne from S.A.F.E. as our guest speaker. Les will be speaking on soil enhancement and health products.

S.A.F.E. stands for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Enterprises Pty Ltd.

TRIP TO MULLUMBIMBY

We have been invited to Mullumbimby to visit with Clarrie and Gloria Morrow and Peter Ludowici and Diana Hughes on 19 November. Please let Mary know if you would like to go by bus or car.

DEAR DOROTHY DYCKIA

Question:

I have heard that Bromeliads become dormant in the winter and there is no need to fertilise, remove pups or water them very often. But I have noticed some of my plants starting to flower. Is this unusual?

Answer:

No! I have had some Billbergias flower since the winter started, a few Aechmeas and Vrieseas. I believe that bromeliads do not become completely dormant in winter. Maybe a lot do slow down, but there are certain plants that flower in the coldest time of the year!

There are a few Tillandsias now showing signs of flowering, that probably will not emerge until spring, but also I have a few that ARE in flower now. The flowering process is much slower in the winter months but nevertheless it does happen. Some Vrieseas are slowly pushing their spikes up through the leaves, but their glory will not be seen until the warmer weather comes!

If you run your finger around the base of a parent plant, you could find a sharp point of a new pup emerging, pushing it way through the soil, NOT dormant, but still slowly growing, getting ready for the warmth of the coming months to help it to maturity.

Fertilising is unnecessary as it would not quicken the process of growth, and the watering pattern should definitely be cut down for fear of rot, BUT these plants DO grow in the winter.

The removal of pups can be done in the colder months, when you have more time to concentrate on tidying up your collection before the onslaught of shows and warmer weather. BUT I would suggest the pup has roots or is a reasonable size before you do. Remember a pup will survive the winter frosts and rain better with the protection of its parent plant than shivering in a little pot of its own.

It will feel neglected, forlorn and completely unprotected from the elements without the warmth and security of a friendly, parental leaf overhead!!

*Reprinted from Bromletter
Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc, September/October 1994*

AN EDITOR'S PLEA

Could you please get pen to paper and write us a story, long or short on how you began collecting bromeliads, blah, blah, blah.

Well, you've read the usual message asking for articles, but if you're anything like the person you usually sit next to at one of our meetings, you might think that "nobody would be interested in what I've got to say". How could you think that we're all insensitive to those around us that we're not interested in what others have got to say? It might surprise you to realise that we're all in this Society because we have a common interest in plants (Bromeliads and Succulents in particular) but never forget the friendships we develop through association. Some topics to ponder

- perhaps you would like to share with others your good, or bad, experiences with shadehouses, shadecloth, potting mixes, positioning of your plants, or even an innovative way of displaying your plants. What about a question you don't want to ask someone face to face but you'd really like to know the answer to. Maybe we could start a new feature in the Bromlink - Questions and Answers - you ask the question (anonymously, if you like) and I'll find someone to answer it.



Perhaps you might think, "I don't know enough to write an article" or even "I don't know how to write an article", or what about "I'd feel foolish if I got the facts wrong". For those of you who feel you "don't know how to write an article", the good news is - that's why we have an Editor. I'm here to help you do it, you don't have to do it on your own. And as to "wrong

facts", perhaps a little research using the Society's Library books might help you with the facts.

You may like to be anonymous - that's fine too (but you better post your article to me because handing them to me would blow your cover).

Have you ever thought about giving an interview instead of actually writing the article yourself? It might be fun to ask a friend to interview you about how you got started, for instance, leaving the writing up to them. For that matter, you might like to be interviewed by your Editor, in which case, just ring me and make a time for the interview.

When you do get inspired, could you please, either give your article to Mary, or send them to me at the following address:

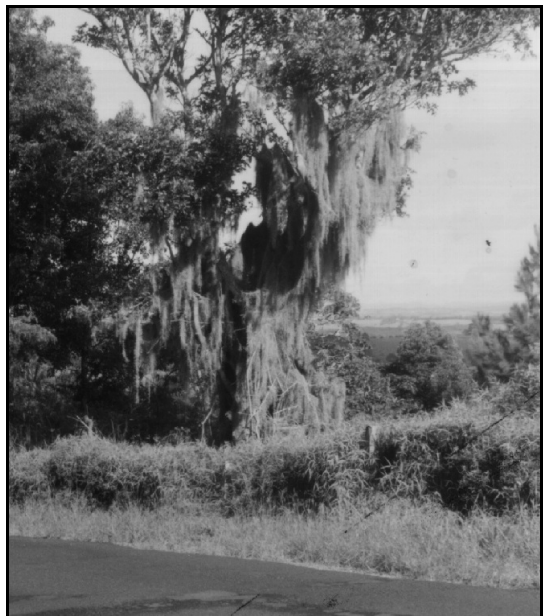
The Editor
Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society
c/- 19 Ellington Street
BROWNS PLAINS Q 4118

GUESS WHERE?

Diana Hughes

No, not Florida's Everglades, but the peaceful dairying countryside of the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales.

I don't know the story of how the *Tillandsia usneoides* escaped to cover this enormous rainforest tree, and the adjoining ones besides. Not to mention the neighbouring trees on the other side of the road! Quite a sight!



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PUZZLE

FIND-A-WORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | T | S | M | L | F | A | R | I | N | O | S | A | M | S |
| A | I | P | S | I | T | T | A | C | I | N | A | S | I | A |
| L | G | O | P | N | H | Y | B | R | I | D | T | I | N | N |
| S | R | R | O | D | T | R | M | E | A | D | N | V | O | G |
| O | I | C | R | E | B | O | V | A | N | H | E | E | R | U |
| L | N | I | T | N | S | S | D | H | A | W | U | A | E | I |
| U | A | M | A | I | A | E | I | Z | A | E | R | L | D | N |
| A | P | E | X | I | E | A | Y | B | A | N | C | S | B | E |
| C | E | A | A | S | C | D | L | E | S | G | T | I | I | A |
| Y | A | C | L | M | N | A | L | R | E | I | V | D | C | D |
| H | T | R | O | U | U | A | A | T | D | S | A | I | O | I |
| C | A | N | G | E | J | E | N | A | O | N | R | R | L | G |
| A | G | R | A | C | I | L | I | S | I | E | O | I | O | I |
| R | U | B | U | D | H | T | N | A | X | E | L | V | R | R |
| B | L | U | M | E | N | A | V | I | I | C | F | E | W | F |

CLUES

ALBA
APEX
AXIS
BERT
BICOLOR
BLUMENAVII
BRACHYCAULOS
BUD
BURGUNDY
CRUENTA
ENSIGN
FARINOSA
FEW
FLORA
FRIGIDA
GNOM
GRACILIS
HYBRID
IXIODES
JUNCEA
LAD
LAEVIS

LAX
LINDENII
MEAD
MICROPS
MINOR
NALLYI
NEW
PEAT
PSITTACINA
RED
ROSEA
SANGUINEA
SEED
SPORT
TIGRINA
VAN
VAR
VIRIDIS
XANTH
ZAHNII

Large green or red plant, large spines, black berries which can be eaten.
(16 Letters)

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INTRODUCTIONS

Len Butt

Not very much seems to be discussed today on just where many of the Bromeliaceae came from and indeed entered our collections. Research through several old books I found this to be of great interest, so for what it is worth I pass it on here.

In early times, many of the European horticultural people showed great interest in these plants, an entirely new concept from the conquered New World. Their colourful beauty and their tenacity in clinging to life after long sea voyages. This would have been enhanced by the fact that the first known in Europe were both tough and formidable. The first of these, famous for the astringent drink first mentioned by that old salt, Cristobel Colon about 1493 was *Bromelia ananus*, later *Ananas comosus*, the eating pineapple. The other was *Bromelia pinquin*; they both came over in 1690. According to my information, it was not until approximately 80 years later that a *Guzmania* followed, known then as *Caraguata lingulata*.

By 1811, over in England, the Kew Gardens had managed to bring together sixteen species, and their collection had been slowly rising when they received a very large collection which boosted theirs to 252 species.

The history of the early continental days of Bromeliads is still of great interest and the period when they gained great favour seems to have been the 19th century. During this time they arrived with many other great exotics such as orchids and tropical aroids from the New World, mostly into Europe and the U.K. Nurseries, private collectors and the horticulturally minded took a great interest in them. This wave of interest sparked the number of expeditions that followed, participants often risking their lives, in the search for and study of these rare and new precious plants.

The aesthetically lovely species *Vriesea splendens* came out of the GUIANAS, discovered by two explorers, Melinon and Leperieur, around 1842 and 1844. To follow over the next two decades were many more, the most outstanding being *Aechmea fulgens* from Brazil, and the chance discovery of the lovely *Guzmania musaica* by a collector in a section of dense forest near the Magdalena River, in Columbia. The *Billbergia* species began their import into other countries in the early 19th century. The most famous of these I found listed in British Flora books as *Aechmea rhodocyanea*, their durable nature making them popular everywhere. The afore mentioned "Aechmea" being of course, *Billbergia pyramidalis* var *concolor*.

Great names in botany have long been associated with bromeliads, and possibly the famous Jean Linden comes to the fore. After his expeditions into middle and south America 1835 to 1845, he became so entranced with the genus that he had many collectors and taxonomists doing research for him. Orchids were also his passion and his collectors brought back some 2,600 orchids and rare species among which were a great number of bromeliads. Among his collectors were Libon, Giesbrecht, Roezl and Schliem.

Belgium seemed to be the first country in Europe to take them to heart, and many famous gardeners of that country left their names on the genus. De-Jonge Brussel, Alexander Verschaffelt, Louis an Eckhoude, to mention a few. The Botanical Garden in Liege having the best and largest collection under the directorship of a great bromeliad authority, Prof. Charles Morren. Eventually it was his collection that augmented the Kew Gardens collection. Edouard Andre, a famous Frenchman of the time also had a large collection and also sent out many collectors into South America. Early plantsmen such as Charles Pinel and Morel, had plants to honour their names, as did Marius Porte, who work in the Philippines is well known among Bromelians.

Although much of this research is from the German "Bromeliaceen" work of Walter Richter, he himself is extremely modest when talking of his own bromeliad efforts, which were considerable.

World Wars 1 and 2 did much to halt European collections but with these over, the scene shifts to North America, where great names like Lyman B. Smith, Victoria Padilla, Adda Adendroth, Mulford B. Foster, Lad Cutak and many other of the period of the early 1950's took up the challenge and the Bromeliad Society Inc. was formed.

Thus a species faced with extinction in its own country was now being saved for its true value and potential, while America at last gave recognition to its own native plant family.

Unfortunately now, multi crosses and hybrids rule the day, but much can be said for the great fascination of many species of yesteryear.

(Research from Walter Richter's BROMELIACEEN, with commentary by Len P. Butt.)

*Reprinted from Bromletter
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SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD

Mary Nicholson

Every week in the Australasian there is Australia's Biggest Crossword.

My surprise in the 20 August edition was one of the clues. It was "Epiphyte named after E. Tillands". Another clue was one which appears occasionally "Agave".

So both of our plants featured in the one crossword.

THE COLOURFUL BROMELIAD (Pineapple Family)

Olwen Ferris

The Bromeliad Family is extremely variable and grows both epiphytic and terrestrial, in North and South America, in company with Orchids, Philodendrons and many other flora.

The Bromeliad Society of Australia was formed in April 1963 and the Victorian Branch in 1968, with the other States forming their own Societies. It is a non-profit organisation, working to acquaint both the novice and amateur in a better understanding of these attractive plants. The Bromeliad Family has more than 2000 species and varieties, with many hybrids produced that enhance the best of selected parents.

Many species will grow outdoors in rockeries and open garden, whilst others are pot specimens. Some are referred to as "air plants" and need little root cover. When grown in pots, fibre is used instead of compost and the smallest pot that will accommodate the small root system is used.

These epiphyte plants can also be attached to slabs of treefern.

Billbergias, Aechmeas and Neoregelias are among the Bromeliads that adapt well to pot culture. You can use orchid compost or make your own well draining mixture. It could include 1 part old tan-bark, 1 part leafmould, 1 part sharp sand, ½ part very old manure. When the temperature is under 70°F, only water when the pots dry out, and in winter grow the plants as dry as possible without dehydrating them. New members or interested persons are cordially invited to the monthly meetings where they will always see interesting specimens displayed and hear knowledgeable discussions.

The Bromlink is produced within the society by the members and contains much interesting information regarding Bromeliad culture, identification, and articles from overseas members.

GOING POTTY ON POTTING MIXTURES

Joan Williams

The "Forum" at our July meeting was on "Potting Mixes" and all the members sat, with expectant faces, waiting to hear the ultimate in a potting mix for their bromeliads. One lonely member, Bob Gray, came forward clutching his plastic bag with his magic formula marked on the bag, to be passed around the room for members to feel, smell and approve the contents. His formula was Pine Bark, Charcoal, Rice Hulls, Vermiculite, Peat Moss, Perlite, Dynamic Lifter, Blood & Bone, etc., and he mixes it all together in a concrete mixer.

There was a poignant lull after this demonstration and the organiser of these Forums must have thought "Oh, it's going to be a flop!", but then a great show of hands of members wanting to come out and tell everybody what they thought was the perfect potting mix. The variation was astounding - pine needles, sand, grit, cut up polystyrene boxes, Kitty Litter, polystyrene beads, Hoof & Horn, old cow manure, leaf mould, peanut shells, peat moss, etc, and of course charcoal to sweeten the mixture.

For those members who are too lazy to mix their own (like me) or haven't got the room to house all these different ingredients, you can go to Orchid Care Services, of 5 Putland Place, Oakville, 2765. Everyone agreed that their "Cymbidium Orchid Compost" is very good. You can also buy different size bags at Flower Power, Swane's, Alexander McDonald and of course Wondabah nursery in North Rock Road, Carlingford and probably many other nurseries. I did buy another brand from Flower Power when they were out of stock of the Cymbidium Orchid Compost, and it said on the bag that it was for orchids and **BROMELIADS**, but maybe I was unlucky and bought a bad "bag lot" - it was like they had shovelled up the bagfull from the side of the road!

One very important lesson, I think we learned, is that these remarkable plants will grow quite happily in most potting mixes as long as it is friable. Let's remember that in their natural habitat they grow precariously on trees, cliff faces, cacti, desert sands and even telephone wires; without potting mixes, regular watering, fertilising and most of all without any loving care! So I feel that the potting mix is just to hold the plant steady in the pot and

any other bonus that the plant may receive will reward the owner with perfection in shape, size, beauty and plenty of offsets so that their favourite plant will continue for many years to come!!!

*Reprinted from Bromletter
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BROMELIAD WINDOWS

Albert M. Hodes

The 2 greenhouses filled solely with bromeliads that I have collected from all over Central and South America, and with plants that I have purchased or traded, provide my family and me with much enjoyment all year long.

When we recently decided to redecorate our living room, I thought of a novel focal point of interest: the crowning touch of elegance for the room. We would remove the three existing stained-glass windows and replace them with windows depicting some of my favourite plants in full flower; thus we would enjoy their beauty in all seasons.

We began with a search for a stained-glass artist who not only had the talent and skill for the job, but who would also appreciate the beauty of bromeliads. After meeting with a few artists, we gave the assignment to Barbara Meise Kassis whose work with flowers was most impressive. It was when Barbara visited our house that she first saw bromeliads. As we walked through the greenhouses, looking at the plants, their foliage and flowers, I discussed with Mrs Kassis the life history of bromeliads, the various habitats they live in, and the varieties to be found in various climates. Then, I narrowed our field of attention to some of my favourite plants.

The next step was to obtain photographs of these specific plants. Searching through my library, I was able to provide Barbara with illustrations of the selected plants, and armed with these, she began her work. Meanwhile, we eagerly awaited the appearance of her preliminary sketches. Six weeks later, Mrs Kassis brought us drawings that were far more beautiful than anything we had expected. After an enthusiastic

discussion, some minor changes involving choices of type of glass, shades of green, etc., were made and the windows were started.

Two months later, they were installed. Photographs do not do justice to the unforgettable sight of the rays of the sun streaming through out permanent pictures of bromeliads in bloom.

Mrs Kassis' work is on display in various museums, and has also been shown on television. Not only has she mastered the use of coloured glass in her work, but her techniques include acid etching whereby she is able to capture the finer details of her subjects.

Tenaflly, New Jersey

*Reprinted from Journal of The Bromeliad Society
Bromeliad Society Incorporated, September-October 1983*

For those who have the journal from which this article has been reprinted, you might like to refer to the back cover where there is a photograph of a window taken by the author of the article, Albert M. Hodes. It is titled, "Bromeliads", which is a creation of Barbara Meise Kassis aptly illustrating her artistry. If you do not have a copy of the BSI Journal, perhaps the Society's Library has a copy of the September-October 1983 issue which you can access. - Ed.

THE BILLBERGIA BLACK OPAL SOLUTION

Mary Nicholson

For those of you who took up the challenge to find all the Billbergia names last month, how many Billbergia's did you find?

Well, there were 81.

ANSWER TO JULY-AUGUST PUZZLE

| | | | |
|---|--------------|----|------------|
| 1 | Wow | 7 | Cacticola |
| 2 | Ideal | 8 | Kahibah |
| 3 | Triangularis | 9 | Iridifolia |
| 4 | Tillandsia | 10 | Amigo |
| 5 | Rubra | 11 | Weilbachii |
| 6 | Orangeade | | |

BUY AND SELL

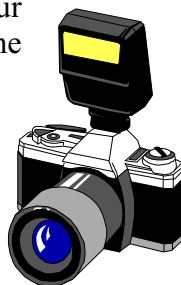
If any members have plants they are looking for or plants to sell, tell us. We will put it in the newsletter for you. This is your newsletter, make it work for you.

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 6 (six) 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. 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.

OCTOBER

Dorothy Griffiths, Monica Bailey, Greg Aizlewood, Phyllis Hobbs

NOVEMBER

Jeanette Henwood, Don Hobbs, Clarrie Morrow, Diana Hughes

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.

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.

!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Dorothy Griffith, Narelle Row, John Catlan, Marie Daniels, Greg Aizlewood, Mac McAlister, and Doug Reilly.



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.

CENT AUCTION

It was wonderful how much fun can be had by our Cent Auction every March 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.

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.

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 |
| PLANT LADDERS | 25c | |
| PLANT HANGERS | 25c | |
| SALES STICKERS | 5¢ each or 10 for | 50¢ |
| SOCIETY BADGES | \$3.00 each | |
| | Available from the Treasurer, Jum Daniels | |
| BOOKS | | |
| | "Bromeliads for Everyone" by Bea Hanson - \$3.50 | |
| | "Growing Bromeliads" - \$11.50 | |
| | "Bromeliads for Modern Living" - \$8.50 | |
| | "Bromeliads - A Guide to the Beautiful Neoregelias" - \$20.00 | |