

B R O M L I N K



**January/February
1995**

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THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY - OFFICE BEARERS

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PLANT SALES	Narelle Rowe & Jo Ketelaars	
PLANT SALES ASSISTANTS	Peter Ludowici	
GOODS SALES	John Catlan & Nev Ryan	
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LIBRARIAN & ASSISTANT	Inge vom Bruch & Anita Wille	
CATERING	Roy Wenzel & Clarrie Morrow	
RAFFLES SUPERVISOR		
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

FEBRUARY	11	Regular Meeting
MARCH	11	Regular Meeting and Cent Auction
APRIL	8	Regular Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Twenty-nine members attended our November meeting and we had four apologies.

We were given an informative talk on the products of S.A.F.E. (sustainable agriculture and food enterprises) by founder Les Dyne. Should anyone wish to know more about these products, please contact me as I have some leaflets on them. The Society was given a complimentary membership and you need the number to obtain your goods at a cheaper price. The Society is given a commission on all members sales.

Neville Ryan gave an interesting and informative talk on the Plant of the Month and the Show and Tell tables. Some of the plants spoken of were:

Neoregelia macrosepala, concentrica albo marginata, carolinae tricolor, ampullacea, lilliputiana, Meyendorffii, Painted Desert, Medallion, Pink Heart, Voodoo, Aussie Dream, Avalia Pinwheel (?), Meyendorffii albo marginata Selecta, Primler (?), Rob Ryles Hybrid (?), Wine Gleam, lilliputiana x Rose Marie, Joy Pritchard, ampullacea hybrid
Neomea Strawberry
Billbergia alfonsi joannis

Vriesea fenestralis, platynema, splendens, williamsii, Grafton
Sunset
Aechmea fasciata var *purpurea*

Many thanks to Nev for answering all the questions.

Forty people attended our Christmas Party and everyone had a good time. I would like to thank all who supplied plants for our Raffle Table. It was a credit to you, this being one way that we can all support our Society.

Neville supplied some interesting plants for a Show and Tell Table, some being:

Tillandsia imperialis, funckiana, fasciculata, lampropoda, nervata, copanensis, and some Tillandsias on a piece of wood *albida, streptophylla, harrisii, paleacea, acostae, brachycaulos x ionantha, jucunda* and *globosa*
Vriesea flammea, splendens, splendens x glutinosa, Poelmanii (white eye) and Doreen
Billbergia amoena var *minor*
Neoregelia cyanea

The beautifully painted plate by Audrey McAlister was won by Irene Small.

!! BEWARE !!

Due to the overwhelming lack of response to my recent pleas for articles, I would like to warn members that several people have been put on my "hit list" and I will be contacting you in due course to extract (by any means available) an article for Bromlink. There will be no escape and, if you give in peacefully, I promise that I will make the experience as painless as possible.

Your Editor, Wendy.

UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

This column is about people, broms and other things.

As a 12 year old kid, I lived at Clermont, Western Queensland, and to us tin lids the ultimate status symbol was to have a large mango tree in our own yard. You could sit in a mango tree for hours and talk to your friends. In summer, it was the coolest place to be, in both senses of the word. During the mango season you sat in the tree and ate half green mangoes while you kidded one another. They were half ripe and real beaut.

Forty years later, Genny and I have two big mango trees in our yard. Now I sit under them instead of in them, but the feeling is just as great, hence the name "Mango Mansion".

This year we flowered two *Billbergia alfonsi-joannis* from different sources and comparing the flower bracts to *Billbergia magnifica* in the Journal taking particular notice of the form and colour of the ovaries, it would seem that we have *Billbergia magnifica*. Until we find or flower the real *Billbergia alfonsi-joannis* we will just have to wait and wonder.

The flower bract of our *Billbergia alfonsi-joannis* (?) was covered thickly by scurf and while sitting and watching the developed bract for the three days prior to the first flowers opening, it was visited by bees who collected this scurf and stuffed it into their pollen sacs. Either this scurf is a food source for bees or we have a dopey batch of bees living at Jacob's Well. As soon as the first flowers opened and the pollen developed, the bees changed over to collecting pollen. Maybe its a ruse by *Billbergia alfonsi-joannis* (?) to make sure the pollinators are there waiting for the first flowers to open.

Billbergia alfonsi-joannis is named by the discoverer, Padre Rauling Reitz, after his two brothers.

The Noisy Miners who visit our place, clock on at daybreak by visiting the night flowering Vrieseas then change over to Neoregelias and Aechmeas. when the Aechmea berries ripen they look for the insects attracted by the

ripening berries, then they eat the berries and there goes your hybridising program.

A young Miner who obviously had just learnt to fly (of course, that makes it a minor miner), landed on a leaf of *Neoregelia correia arauji* and, with a flurry of legs and feathers, slid on its bum into the cup.

Now, don't be mistaken,
 don't be misled,
 you wouldn't miss it for quids,
 unless you were dead.

We have two *Aechmea maria regina* in flower. Now we know *Aechmea marie regina* is dioecious (ie you have male plants and female plants). One of our plants is marked male and the other female. Of course, being experienced Brom growers, we know that means bugger all so back to the literature to look for a description that will enlighten us. But you guessed it, we found bugger all. We assume one plant should have flowers with female parts and the other male parts (ie pollen). But too many assumptions is a sure road to no where.

Its just a simple question,
 but its left me deep in doubt
 can someone put their mind in gear
 and help me work it out.

I must thank the two people who had questions about pin spot scale after reading my piece in last issue. It gives me at least two areas in the article that need clarification. I think I had better get in now with regard to *Aechmea regina*. Please don't ring me up and tell me male flowers are bigger than female flowers or female flowers are fatter than male flowers, because I will only have to come back and say, "bigger than what", or "fatter than what", because I have found that culture of bromeliads has an astonishing effect on colour of plant, size of plant and size of bracts.

For those people who ring us, the best time is just on dark. We come inside then and will hear it. No, I do not have an answering machine. I

feel most uncomfortable talking to those idiots. Yes, I do talk to myself, but I get a better class of repartee and a lot less orders.

Hello, Diana Hughes. She knuckled me at the Gold Coast Christmas Party and was slightly put out that she had missed out when we put our order in for "Bromeliads in the Brazilian wilderness" by Leme and Marigo, while she was tearing strips off me in an extremely polite manner. I thought it probably prudent not to mention that we had just ordered "Blooming Bromeliads" from Germany (English version we hope) three days previously. Now Diana, take three deep breaths, quick grab the paper bag over mouth and nose. Feeling better? Right, count to ten, right - OK - good.

The system works this way. Anyone who is interested in books lets Genny know, that's my "She whom must be obeyed". As soon as a book becomes available, we ring you. We then group the orders and let Derek in South Australia know. He works out a price, lets us know. We then advise the relevant locals and you shoot off your cheque to Derek. Simple and efficient, except for Diana Hughes.

The phrase, "She whom must be obeyed" was first used as the official title of Cleopatra when she ascended to the throne of Egypt.

Len Coglan bought back from one of his trips seed of *Aechmea spectabilis*, through Josie Tonkin we wound up with two seedlings. One seedling we gave to Don and Phyllis Hobbs and the other is in flower now. It is spectacular. The book, Bromeliaceae of Venesualar, has a photo on page 88 but it does not do it justice. In time, I hope we will have seedlings available.

The spring of 1994 was different. *Vriesea phillipocobergii* is flowering for everyone. *Vriesea guttata*, which I have had since the year dot and never flowered, every plant is in flower and so is Olive Trevor's. People have remarked how cold it was this year so maybe as well as a decreasing day length, they need the cold. It has been very dry and although we water our plants, maybe they have been a little drier this year and they need these conditions to flower. I know from experience, *Vriesea guttata* is not very

fond of wet feet in winter. Has anyone else had plants for years that have not flowered and this was their year? Let us know.

God willing, you will hear from us in March/April newsletter. We will end this column with a byline from the cowboy philosopher, Bat Masterson, who pointed out that everthing evens out in the end, but not always fairly. He used the example that everyone gets ice, the rich get it in summer and the poor in winter.

NOVEMBER BUS TRIP TO MULLUMBIMBI

It was raining when the bus left the coast but the weather fined up as we crossed into New South Wales.

Diana was waiting at the Totem Pole Park with Mike and Sue to lead us to our first destination. Mark, our friendly bus driver, offered to take us on to the Mignon Falls but, alas, we did not have to go so far.

Peter and Diana have a lovely position nestled into the mountains. We were welcomed with tea, coffee and lovely cold, straight from the spring, water and scones.

The plants all seem to thrive in the ideal conditions - we even visited the spring. Clarrie, Gloria, John, Genny and Jo joined us there.

Soon were were off, back to Mullumbimbi, to the Park for our lunch. What a delightful spot that was.

We then followed Clarrie and Gloria back to their home where there were many different plants, trees, orchids - you name it, you can find it here. We met up with an ex-member, Buck Staff, here. He gave us two jars of Choko Pickles for our next raffle. All too soon it was time to head for home.

A special thank you to Peter and Diana, Clarrie and Gloria for making us so welcome.

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.

FIND-A-WORD

P	U	Y	A	A	I	L	E	N	S	E	U	Q	A	D
I	C	R	Y	P	T	A	N	T	H	U	S	G	E	Y
T	H	V	N	A	A	C	U	T	E	A	E	U	T	C
C	E	B	R	O	M	E	L	I	A	N	T	Z	R	K
A	C	I	A	X	I	L	C	I	E	E	F	M	O	I
I	T	L	D	I	R	B	Y	H	R	E	D	A	P	A
R	I	L	P	A	E	N	E	O	M	E	A	N	S	A
N	A	B	O	F	R	U	C	S	E	E	D	I	I	V
I	E	E	T	O	H	O	X	C	P	H	A	A	S	R
A	N	R	O	C	H	A	G	A	V	I	A	L	P	I
N	A	G	A	N	L	C	C	O	M	A	K	L	O	E
A	Y	I	I	R	O	S	X	Y	L	A	C	E	T	S
N	C	A	N	I	S	T	R	U	M	O	S	S	A	E
A	S	Y	H	C	A	T	S	O	H	T	N	A	C	A
S	N	U	S	S	U	C	C	O	C	O	E	A	R	A

CLUES

ACANTHOSTACHYS
ACUTE
AECHMEA
ALL
ANANAS
ARAEOCOCCUS
AXIL
BILLBERGIA
BROMELIA
CALYX
CANISTRUM
CATOPSIS
COMA
CRYPTANTHUS
CYANEA
DEUTEROCOHNIA
DYCKIA
GENE
GUZMANIA

HECTIA
HOT
HYBRID
LAX
MOSS
NEOMEA
OCHAGAVIA
PITCIARNIA
PORTEA
PUYA
QUESNELIA
RED
SCAPE
SCURF
SEED
SPIKE
SUN
VRIESEA

Rearrange to make a sun-loving bromeliad which grows on rocks or in the ground. This plant belongs to a small family.

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THE CRYPTANTHUS CARNIVAL

Did you realise that there were 100 Cryptanthus names used in The Cryptanthus Carnival in November/December Bromlink?

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PUZZLE

1	NEOMEA	LINE	3	POSITION	9
2	BILLBERGIA		5		1
3	LAMATA		2		14
4	ALBERTII		4		11
5	ORNATA		2		7
6	GIANT RED		5		8
7	ARGENTEA		3		14
8	FASCIATA		1		1
9	TAN BEAUTY		1		7
10	METEOR		2		3
11	FIRST BORN		3		1
12	ALL		2		19
13	RED ROCKET		5		13
14	NATACHA		2		9
15	CAESIA		4		6
16	YABBA		1		15
17	KOMET		2		1
18	INCA		4		18
19	BABY		1		18
20	MUSAICA		4		1

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

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.

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:

MARCH:	Cryptanthus
APRIL:	Aechmea
MAY:	Billbergia

DISPLAY AT BOYD'S BAY NURSERY

John and Genny are to be congratulated on the plants that they supplied for this display. The size of most of them no one else could get into their vehicles. Thank you to everyone else who supplied plants and also their time.

It was disappointing that the weekend was such a slow one - the wind, the rain and the bushfire. The people who did come were very impressed by the variety of the plants. It was our first display in a nursery. The owners were very happy with the display and gave us a handsome donation.

NAME TAGS

If you have a name tag, will you please wear it to the meetings. Wearing a name tag makes for a more informal meeting which is what we are striving to offer.

!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Cath Chumbley, Genny Vauhkonen, Terry Vogt, Phyllis King, Gil Dumble, Inge vom Bruch, Jennifer Ross and Dawn Collas.



Welcome to Mary Frawley and Mal & Rhonda Symonds of Bundaberg

If you would like to have a birthday or any other message put in the Newsletter, please just let us know.

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.

MARCH: Narelle Rowe, Nev Ryan, Roy Wenzel, Mike Levine.

APRIL: Jum Daniels, Audry McAlister, Doug Reilley, Irene Small

MAY: Cath Chumbley, Eddie Collas, Sue Levine, Jennifer Ross

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.

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.

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 25c	100 for \$2.50
	PENCILS	\$2.20 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