

B R O M L I N K



March/April 1995

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THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY - OFFICE BEARERS

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Olwen Ferris

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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

MARCH	11	Regular Meeting and Cent Auction
APRIL	8	Regular Meeting
MAY	13	Regular Meeting
JUNE	10	Trip to Mt Coot-tha

Committee Meetings - 1 hour before regular meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Our first meeting for 1995 was held in February and there were 39 in attendance.

We were very happy to see Evelyn Reilly with us - we all wish her the best.

The Albert Aussie Day was held on 29 January at Carrara Sports Grounds. It was a lovely, colourful display put up by this Society. Thank you all who worked on that day.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Greg Aizlewood.

John and Bev Collins kindly donated some glasses which are for a special raffle to be drawn in April. Thank you to John and Bev.

There were many beautiful plants on the Sales Table. This table is going to be manned at the Coffee Break in future for anyone who wants to know more about the plants for sale.

The Show and Tell Table and the Plant of the Month Table were a joy to behold. The commentary on these plants listed below was shared by Genny, Neville, John and Graham. I think that we, as a Society, are very privileged to have so many members who have such a wealth of knowledge on these plants and who are willing to share this with us all.

Some of the lovely plants displayed were:

Aechmea fasciata, fasciata (spineless), *corrie arujuei* (2 forms and miniature)

Guzvriesea "Jennie"

Vriesea splendens x glutinosa, fosteriana Red Chestnut seedling, Angelina, *platynema*, Royal Hawaiian, *phillipocoburgii, poelmanii cv* White Lines, *saundersii x poelmanii variegata, hieriglyphica, scalaris, fenestralis, fosteriana* "Speckles", *vimilanis rex x tesselata*

Neoregelia concentrica, Fancy Free x Dianna., Oh No, Montevideo, Wango Tango, Anna No. 33, Anna No. 38

Nidularium species - collected Brazil by June Bennett, *innocentii nana*, Manoa Beauty, pink on stolon bright light, Extravaganza, Madam Lash, Red Kandy Stripes, Charm, *carolinae* x Painted Lady, Painted Desert

Tillandsia venusta, lieboldiana (3 forms), *vernica*, *meridionalis* yellow, *crocata, meridionalis x didisticha* (Rolly Reilly hybrid), *stricta, flexuosa*, hybrid (Rolly Reilly hybrid), *tectorum, variabilis, brachycaulos x schiedeana, cyanea*

Catopsis hahnii, florubunda

UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

I was seven years of age and I was off to school for the first time, freedom as I knew it had ended. I had never heard of Murphy's Law but it had found me. Transport to school was by horse and sulky. We left while the turkeys were roosting in the trees and arrived home in the dark and they were still in the trees. Murphy's Law had found me with a vengeance by supplying the driver who just happened to be the Head Mistress of the school. The trip both ways was spent either reading, reciting the twelve-times table or the alphabet.

If you want to learn some of the Bromeliads botanical names, you may have to pick about a dozen of the ones you own, pin a list on the fridge, and go over them again and again till you know them. Once you know your first dozen you are on your way.

Our main learning experience at our Brom meetings is our Show and Tell Table. We hold up a plant so that you see what we are talking about, and then we tell you something about its culture and if you ask us questions about the plant it makes the commentator feel good.

Please bring a plant,
Please ask a question,
Every one learns something.

On our visit to see Neville Ryan and his Broms, I have to admit his collection is improving all the time. Every time I see his Tillandsias he has made some new innovation in displaying them. Please don't miss the experience of seeing Neville's plants when we hold a field day there later this year.

We were out at Olive Trevor's with Neville during a Bromeliad workshop meeting held on a Saturday morning and we each managed to acquire a pup of Dyckia Yellow Glow. This plant has a bright yellow centre throughout its life and as its a cultivar of Dyckia brevifolia that grows about 100mm in diameter and clumps up nicely. A good plant for your Dyckia collection.

With any plants, if you examine the new growth you will note the very young leaves are light in colour and as they mature and are exposed to extra sunlight, they change to a darker green. The yellow centre of Dyckia Yellow Glow is an exaggerated version of this growth.

Neville's whole Dyckia collection looks better than ours. They are growing along the side of his house. They get morning sun till 11.00 am or 12 noon and shade from the house after that. Our collection is under 50% shadecloth which gives them maximum shade till noon and brighter conditions for the rest of the day, but not full sun.

An experiment carried out with *Tillandsia tectorum*: During early winter on the outside of a shadehouse facing north, a collection of *Tillandsia tectorum* were hung, a little over two metres from the ground, in full sunlight from daylight till dark. They stayed in this position up to and during summer, there was no extra watering but the area was subject to heavy dew at ground level.

The *Tillandsia tectorum*s had modified their environmental conditions by the process of increasing the size of the scale:

1. the increase size of the scale offered the plant more shade by stopping the sun's rays from striking the plant
2. by reflecting the heat away from the surface of the plant, it modified the effect of direct sunlight
2. the increased size of the scale allowed more dew to be collected by the plant and decreased the amount of evaporation, so it could withstand drier conditions.

Imagine the problems you have when you take these *Tillandsia tectorum*s and place them with the group that remained in the shadehouse. You now have two groups of *Tillandsia tectorum* that require totally different culture requirements. Ever wonder why you have trouble with some of your new tillandsias.

Returning to Neville Ryan's collection of silver Dyckias and ours. The difference in appearance is caused by the plants modifying their environment by the process of enlarging their scales. They wanted to protect themselves from the brighter conditions. Neville's looked vigorous, full of get up and go, ours could have done with a little more light as they lacked that edge of vitality. The fact that he had run over the odd Dyckia or two with the car does not detract from their cultural perfection, only increased the amount of pups the squashed plants produced.

While we are on the subject of Dyckias a similar group of plants called Hechtias have some very nice members which can be grouped with your Dyckias. We obtained a pup of *Hechtia manier-lapostollei* and spent months watching it die. The small pups of this plant do not strike very well, I am sure you have to start with full mature plants from clump divisions or grow from seed. Maybe someone out there has had experience of striking pups of *Hechtia manier-lapostollei* and can shed some light upon our difficulties.

Later we obtained another pup of *Hechtia manier-lapostollei* and placed the potted pup in a very dry location within our fernery. Now Mary, your President, and Athol, her better half, were out visiting us. Athol and I were up the back having a look at a tree that needed pruning, when I looked up and coming straight at me travelling at about 30 K's was our new *Hechtia marnier-lapostollei* being propelled by a Butcher Bird. The bird went straight through the fernery out the other side and up into a tree. I charged up the shed, speared up into the casuarina and there, 12 feet up the tree, is our Butcher Bird with our *Hechtia* wedged tightly in a fork of the tree ready to demolish it. I drove off the bird, got a ladder, retrieved the pup and repotted it. I have Athol as an eye witness.

We held our Australia Day display again this year at Carrara Sports Complex. The day was much bigger this year. I feel the gate numbers would have had to be up and also the number of displays. Our plants would be viewed by more people if it was shifted from the main hall into a tent in the general entertainment area, but it would be harder to erect the display and man it. The sale of plants was up again this year and at the end of the day there were very few plants remaining. If we could increase

people's awareness of our display we would increase sales. Lastly, must thank all the willing helpers. It went very smoothly.

While out in the yard the other day, we heard two kookaburras fighting, for the first time in our lives, they sounded just like two tom cats having a free-for-all.

Our club proposes to have a field day at Buchanans on 25th March. Their nursery is a must to visit, also they must have the largest area of free range Broms I have ever seen, in the last twelve months. They have established large new areas plus a new fernery. The work they have put into it is incredible. Come and see it for yourself.

God willing, you will hear from us in May/June Bromlink. We will end this column with a byline from my father, the philosopher, who pointed out you should never argue with a fool, the onlookers may not be able to tell the difference.

TRIPS

These planned trips can only be a success if we are able to get the bus full to go:

DATE	DESTINATION	COST
Saturday, 25 March	Pinegrove Nursery, Wardell	\$25.00
Saturday, 20 May	Gympie	\$40.00
Saturday, 10 June	Mt Coot-tha	\$15.00
Sunday, 2 July	Flemmings	Own car
Saturday, 26 August	Neville Ryan and Jo Ketelaar	\$15.00
Saturday, 23 September	Olive Branch	\$15.00

ODE TO THE BROMELIAD

Alastair (Mac) McAlister

Years ago when looking for new plants
Upon something different we happened to chance
The leaves had no spines, so wasn't too bad
When we asked, were told it was a Bromeliad

Our first lot of plants cost us a heap
Nowadays the plants are relatively cheap
So for keen collectors it makes them glad
to be able to purchase more of the Bromeliad

When we started, most nurseries didn't have many
And quite a lot didn't have any
But we kept on looking and didn't get mad
When occasionally asked, "What's a Bromeliad?"

Our family could see that we were keen
But then our collection could hardly be seen
So for a birthday, it was a time for Dad
To receive a present of a Bromeliad

The collection started with just a few
And gradually grew and grew and grew
Until we realised it was more than a fad
This collecting of plants named Bromeliad

There was much about Broms we weren't quite sure
So we joined societies to learn a bit more
We would jot down hints in an old pad
As there was plenty to remember about the Bromeliad

The plants are not parasites but cling to their host
In nature they are provided with food they need most
At home in our potting mixture we experiment and add
To try and get the best out of the Bromeliad

Remembering plant names can drive us up the wall
And with so many species we can't remember them all
The crossing of plants creates many a new hybrid
And at times this changes the character of the Bromeliad

The well known edible fruit is the delicious pineapple
And Columbus took it to Spain for royalty to sample
His explorations are well known, he was an adventurous lad
But he probably didn't know the plant was a Bromeliad

Things have changed since Columbus said, plantations now abound
And Queensland's Sunshine Coast has plenty of them around
but in his time the new fruit made the royals glad
That their favourite explorer had found the Bromeliad

Displays of plants at public events promote interest for sure
And our Society gains new members who want to know more
Just recently we heard that the casino had a nice display
So we went to admire the plants and not to have a play

The forests where plants live are fast being cleared
And the loss of many species is greatly feared
But Australians are helping recovery with seed banks
And in years to come many collectors will give thanks

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Better to ask a question

than to remain ignorant forever

- W.G.P.



ANOTHER ONE HOOKED ON BROMS

Wendy Besgrove

"I could really get interested in these things". These words were spoken to me by a friend and workmate, Paul.

I've been taking our flowering plants in to work for the last few years for what I call "Show and Tell". You know, that's what we used to do as kids when we went to school and it was our turn to take something in that was interesting or unusual, alive or dead.

Well, Paul sits in the room next to me at work and, of course, gets a large dose of seeing whatever it is that I have either sitting on or hanging from my desk. He has always shown some interest in the plants, but in recent months questions like, "How old is this plant", "Where did it come from", "How big will it grow", "What altitude does it come from", and a variety of others made me realise that Paul might be interested in becoming a collector.

Late last year, I decided to give Paul a couple of plants and, on the occasions I have taken plants into work to sell, he has bought some.

Late last year, Paul came in one morning and, very sheepishly, told me how he goes out in the morning with his cup of coffee and rearranges the plants or gives them a bit of water. Right then, I knew he was hooked and had become a collector.

Before Christmas, I invited Paul to come out to our place just to see the variety of plants that are available. You see, I only take in what is easy to carry - things like Vrieseas, Tillandsias and the odd Neoregelia or Aechmea. He was going on holidays over Christmas, so we postponed the visit until the New Year.

Paul lives in Bardon, a suburb of Brisbane, and goes to the dump at Ferny Hills. I told him how, everytime he goes to the dump, he drives past one of the biggest Bromeliad nurseries in Brisbane (The Olive Branch) and

told him to keep his eye out for it the next time he goes to the dump. Well, the following weekend, Paul visited Olive and bought a few plants.

On Australia Day, Paul finally made it out to see us. He was impressed by the variety of Bromeliads we had and said he had never dreamed that they were so diverse even though I had told him about their diversity and he had looked through a book I have at work. Well, he spent about four hours with us and bought the beginnings of a nice collection.

The weekend after Australia Day, Brisbane experienced a severe storm. I found out from Paul that during the height of the storm, he was almost having kittens watching his plants weathering the storm. You see, he has some of them hanging in a large Jacaranda tree at the front of the house and he watched as they swung from side to side in the 100kph winds that were blowing at the height of the storm. After the storm had subsided around midnight, Paul had his 15 year old daughter, Jessica, dressed only in her bra and knickers, down the back yard holding a torch while he repotted the plants that had fallen over. That's dedication for you, isn't it.

Over the last few weeks, Paul has often told me he'd rather be at home playing with his Broms than being at work. I'm sure most of us can relate to this in some way, as we have probably felt the same at some time or other.

What is so wonderful for Graham and me, is watching Paul as a new collector. His questions are neverending and his thirst for knowledge about the Broms is insatiable. His enthusiasm and zeal is infectious. Paul reminds us of the way we were when we first started collecting Bromeliads - drinking our coffee in the mornings while we watered the half a dozen or so plants we first started with, rearranging them for no apparent reason other than the need to move them around and just generally wanting to spend time with them. Paul has reminded us of our own beginnings and we are thankful for having the opportunity of seeing his interest develop and helping him in his search for knowledge and plants.

OUR INTERESTING PLANTS

Mary Nicholson

The Bromeliad family is divided into three separate subfamilies:

- The Bromelioideae which include the largest number of genera in the family including Aechmea, Billbergia, Canistrum, Cryptanthus, Neoregelia, Nidularium. These plants all have spines, some small but other very large barbs and they also have berrylike fruit.
- The Tillandsioides which has Guzmanias, Tillandsias and Vrieseas is the small subfamily. Most of this family are epiphytic except for a few very large plants. All of this group have leaves without spines. Growing up in the trees they do not need them for protection.
- The third group is the Pitcairnioideae consisting of the oldest and most primitive of the family. The Deutercohnia, Dyckia, Hechtia, Pitcairnia and Puya are among this subfamily. Most of these plants love to be grown in a rockery in our subtropical climate.

As I have been reading up on this last family, I was very surprised to find that it includes a Brocchinia which, since 1984, has been considered carnivorous. This plant forms a tight erect rosette in which insects drown and thus feed the plant.

Anyone who has seen my plants know I have a few Carnivorous plants. My sister, Margaret, alerted me to this plant which ties the two families together. Now all I need is to get hold of two. Can anyone help?

WHY BROMELIAD?

Lyman B. Smith

Obviously "Bromeliad" is simply a shortening of the scientific name "Bromeliaceae" to indicate any member of the Pineapple family. We might call them all pineapples since they are members of that family, and not bother to find a new term. However, it would cause confusion to associate such diverse forms at the giant Puya and the Spanish moss under a name for which we have already a sharp and narrow concept. As the Bromeliaceae were unknown before the discovery of America, we did not have any such ancient general term for the family as there was in the case of grasses, sedges, lilies or orchids, and one had to be manufactured.

It is not possible to say now who first coined the word "Bromeliad" but it was probably some fairly recent botanist or horticulturist who was tired of having to use the phrase "species of Bromeliaceae" after the cumbersome and stately fashion of the old school. French and German botanists of the nineteenth century regularly used such single words for members of one family, had a standard way of making them, and seemed to find nothing undignified in the process.

The second step in tracing our genealogy is to find the origin of "Bromeliaceae" and this is very clear. With few exceptions the scientific name of a plant family is derived by combining the name of one of its genera with the ending "aceae". Thus in 1805 the French botanist, Jaume Saint-Hilaire, defined the Bromeliaceae and formed the family name from the genus Bromelia.

Our next step takes us back to Linnaeus the father of systematic botany for he it was who established the genus Bromelia in 1754 according to the rules we now follow in making scientific names. The name was taken from the family name of Olof Bromelius, a Swedish botanist. Since Linnaeus also was Swedish, we might at first suppose that he had named the genus for a friend, but Bromelius died before Linnaeus was born.

Actually it was Plumier, the early French explorer of the West Indies, who first had the idea of renaming for Mr Bromelius the genus that previously

had gone by the Indian name of Karatas, and Linnaeus so credited it. Plumier was on familiar terms with the genus Bromelia in the West Indies. Bromelius, on the other hand, was famous mainly for the fine Flora that he wrote for his home town of Goetheborg and it is by no means certain that he ever laid eyes on a single plant of the great group that was to bear his name.

Associate Curator, Div. Phanerogams, Smithsonian Institution.

*Reprinted from The Bromeliad Society Bulletin 1(2):11; 1951.
This was Dr Smith's first contribution to The Bulletin.*

Reprinted from BSI Journal Sept-Oct 1984

AN APOLOGY

I wish to apologise for the way in which I did my last Tillandsia talk.

It was pretty bad even when my better half said to me on the way home "Boy, you had better get your act together because that talk was pathetic!". And I agreed with her.

It was not very informative. It was boring. I felt as though I was just saying words to fill in the time!

When I next get the chance to give a talk, if it starts to get so-so, someone let me know.

Please accept this apology and I will make sure that type of talk will not happen again.

Your V.P.

PUZZLE - FIND THE MISSING LETTER

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

AROUND THE WORLD IN SIXTY DAYS - - IN SEARCH OF BROMELIADS -

Don & Alice Woods

The year is 1994 and the month of April is drawing to a close when two eager tourists leave the Western shores of Australia on a journey of discovery, which will result in the circumnavigation of the globe in sixty days.

After a 10 hour Qantas Airways flight they arrive in Harare the capital city of Zimbabwe. A mid-east African sub-tropical paradise which promises to be a logical starting point on their search of the elusive Bromeliad. On the following eight days they search far and wide.

Their first stop is Lake Kariba. This giant man-made lake was formed in the 1950's when the mighty Zambesi river was dammed. During the initial filling of the lake the waters inundated the rain forest habitat of the large herds of local wildlife such as apes, antelope, elephant, zebra etc. Due to the plight of the animals being trapped on islands which were formed by the waters rising around the former hill tops, an international rescue mission was mounted. The rescue code named Operation Noah received worldwide attention due to the successful rescue and relocation on safe higher ground of many thousands of endangered animals.

The shores of this beautiful man made inland sea are now the home of many safari lodges. Our travellers chose to stay at Fothergill Island, a holiday hideaway of twenty local-type huts. These huts are built of low stone walls with timber framed roof of tree trunks which are thatched with a local grass to form a waterproof covering. The tourists are pampered with concrete floors and floor-mats. Each sleeping hut has its own ensuite complete with hot and cold water and seweried toilet. The units are adequately furnished and beds are provided with the necessary mosquito net to ensure a restful night's sleep. All meals and entertainment were

provided at a central meeting hut. This area is enhanced with lawns and gardens of indigenous trees, shrubs and flowering plants. The gardens are complimented by a crystal clear swimming pool, barbecue and bar area.

Each day begins before sun-up with a morning hunting trip. The open top four whee drive vehicles have two tiers of elevated seats behind the driver/guide. Until now, the many large herds of Antelope, Cape Buffalo, Water Buck, Zebra had only been encountered safely behind steel bars in zoos.

During the day their guides would take them on walking safari or perhaps a fishing trip by boat on the lake or just take it easy beside the swimming pool. Mid afternoon is hunting time again and our travellers head off in the safari vehicle and their guide promises to find them loin or perhaps the family of cheetah that has made a zebra kill earlier in the day. As they head out from camp they see the usual Impala Deer which our travellers can now identify with a casual glance. But now they only have eyes for lion, cheetah or leopard. If they are sharp eyed enough they may catch a leopard with a fancy shot of their SLR camera equipped with a telescopic lens. As the sun drops low in the western sky their safari guide keeps checking in the loose sand beside the road for animal tracks. They as they round a bend he spots lion spore and the search is on in earnest! But where are the Bromeliads? Then as they bounced over a small knoll and drop into a small stream bed their guide urgently requests silence!

In the failing light the guide has found a pride of thirteen lions less than 30 metres away. Lying passively in long grass below a tall tree is a large male lion. Resplendent with his magnificent mane, enjoying the cool of the evening he surveys his kingdom. Scattered each side of the tree are eight adult members of the pride. To the tourists' delight just left of dad is mother lion and three young cubs only a few months old.

As the sun sets in a bath of golden light across Lake Dariba they head back towards camp. As darkness sets in, their guide rigs up a powerful spot light for them to view the animals of the night. Among the many locals seen is a native cat about the size of a domestic cat, jackals, a hyena, bats and many night birds.

This routine is repeated at Chokamella Safari Lodge where the country is much drier. Situated nearby is Hwange National Park and this is where they are enchanted with a heard of 50 elephants drinking at a waterhole. The real excitement is when a large bull elephant charges to within four metres of their open four wheel drive vehicle. With trunk above his head, trumpeting and swinging his front leg menacingly back and forth, he stares at them with his small black beady eyes! The safari guide whispers "keep perfectly quiet and don't move, and he will back off". And back off he did, much to the relief of our two scared stiff tourists and their six fellow Australian passengers.

Their last camp is Masuwe Safari Lodge located about 15 kilometres from the mighty Victoria Falls. This lodge is sited around the flat top of a 200 metre high rocky outcrop. The huts are built out over the side of the drop on timber platforms. Each hut has a thatched roof and within the hut the tourists sleep in a mosquito proof camper tent which is serviced on the hill side with an ensuite complete with hot and cold water and sewerred toilet. To the front of the tent is a sun porch which is about seven metres above the ground below and in the distance can be seen the cloud of spray rising above the Victoria Falls.

The highlight of their stay at Masuwe Lodge is a full day visit to Victoria falls. This is where the two kilometre wide Zambesi river plunges 130 metres into a narrow ravine. The constant rush of water spray to a height of 500 metres, which can be seen from many kilometres distant. It is possible to view the falls by helicopter and this gave our tourists a bird's eye view of this wonder of nature.

It was now time to look further-a-field for the elusive Bromeliads so our adventurers boarded their British Airways aircraft for an eleven hour flight to the British Isles. During their stay they search North to Scotland, West to Wales and south east to London. They finally located the reason for their unending search at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, a short train journey from London.

At Kew Gardens the tourist must visit The Palm House, Temperature Zone House, Australia House, Sir Joseph Banks Exhibition House and The Princess of Wales Conservatory. This conservatory is a magnificent complex of many different artificial micro climates ranging from tropical rain forest to hot dry desert. This complex is an amazing example of man's ability to create climatic conditions to his whim in the cool temperate climate of the British Isles. Many genera of Bromeliads are growing in appropriate conditions along with what seems an unending line-up of different plant families. Many examples have never been seen by our tourists before. Of the many genera of Bromeliads growing including *Tillandsia*, *Guzmania*, *Vriesea*, *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, *Pitcairnia* and *Nidularium*, only the *Neoregelias* and *Aechmeas* fail to reach their full potential. The usual vibrant foliage colour of the *Neoregelias* and *Aechmeas* was not in evidence due to the constant cloud cover of this area.

Another must for any plant lover who is lucky enough to visit London is a 30 Mile trip to view Wisley Gardens. These gardens are the headquarters of the Royal Horticultural Society. The organisation was founded in 1804 due to the efforts of John Wedgwood, Sir Joseph Banks and their colleagues. Our two travellers were captivated by the design and presentation of these gardens and the depth of plant families displayed. Once again Bromeliads as diverse as *Abrometella* to *Ananas* were displayed in appropriate man-made climatic conditions. Now it was time to head for Norway and after a two hour British Airways flight the beautiful city of Oslo could be seen as the aircraft prepared to land at Fornebu airport. Norway is a country of crystal clear air, mighty

mountains, beautiful fiords, alpine lakes, massive snowfields and magnificent conifer and silver Birch trees. After seven days exploring this beautiful country our tourists flew British Airways from Oslo to London Heathrow airport, changing aircraft for an eleven hour flight to Los Angeles, California.

Along with Australia, California is a mecca to search for Bromeliads, grown as an introduced plant family. Our tourists discovered their favourite plants in many locations during their three week visit to California. A beautiful Bromeliad display was growing in a naturalised area among trees and palms at the Lotus Land Gardens at Santa Barbara. Another Bromeliad display was found in the plant conservatory at the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. This Conservatory was built in 1879 as a replica of the Palm House built in Kew Gardens, London.

From San Francisco our adventurers continued the search for Bromeliads in the Yosemite National Park but even with a complete absence of Bromeliads our two explorers voted this area one of the most beautiful spots on earth. Yosemite National Park is a wilderness area of 1500 square kilometres of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Yosemite Valley which is nine kilometres long and one kilometre wide was formed by glacier action of the Merced River. Today the river flows down the floor of the valley at the height of 1300 metres above sea level. The walls of the Valley are formed by massive granite monoliths rising to over 3000 metres above sea level. From these granite cliffs many waterfalls cascade to the Merced River below. After three days of being mesmerised by the beauty of this mountain paradise our tourists headed south towards the city of San Diego where it was rumoured that they would find "Bromeliads in Paradise".

En route to San Diego, a short detour was made to Vista to visit the home of John Arden, there they found a virtual Aladdin's cave of the most magnificent Bromeliads, all grown to perfection. John's passion are

tillandsias and Vrieseas and he has developed what must be described as masterpieces of the art of hybridisation. A short list of some of his best creations include:

Tillandsia Wildfire

Vriesea Jungle Jade

Vriesea a Delicatula

Vriesea Inferno

Vriesea Towering Flame

Vriesea Jeanie

Vriesea Symphonie

Vriesea Redondo Beach

Vriesea Red Tail x *Tillandsia* Ampla

After a stay of three hours and negotiating the purchase of some of his hybrids our tourists headed south to San Diego in search of "Bromeliads in Paradise".

The theme "Bromeliads in Paradise" was chosen by the Bromeliad World Conference Committee to promote the World Bromeliad Conference at the Hanalei Hotel in North San Diego - June 15 to 19, 1994. The eleventh conference followed the tradition of previous successful world conferences. A well supported competitive Bromeliad show, rare plant auction, an exciting programme of varied seminars presented by many talented, expert and entertaining presenters and featuring the conference key note speaker Elton Leme of Brazil. Static promotional displays of bromeliads, art, ceramic planters and horticultural books by commercial nurserymen and local bromeliad clubs

were supported by a most comprehensive offering of rare and not so rare choice bromeliads. These were purchased with much gusto by delegates to take home and enhance existing collections in many far flung points of the world.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the exciting and gastronomically satisfying banquet held in the tropical setting of the

swimming pool quadrangle of the Hanalei Hotel. Surrounded by 30 metre high palms and many other tropical plants, the 350 attendees were set out under the stars on a beautiful San Diego night. On the opposite side of the pool was a south seas setting stage where guests were entertained with a short history of the Bromeliad Society and its founders, ably presented by Elmer J. Lorenz. The evening culminated with a two hour extravaganza of pacific islands dancing and singing presented by a very talented group of young south seas entertainers.

During the period of the conference, the organisers also arranged for visits to two private gardens featuring bromeliads, palms, orchids and many other tropical plants. Special visits to Sea World, San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Quail Botanical Gardens were well attended. The San Diego Bromeliad Society and its dedicated team must be congratulated for a top quality, friendly meeting of that special breed of *Homosapiens*, "The Bromeliad Lovers". Special thanks must be extended to those 350 Bromeliad Lovers who travelled from all parts of the world to meet in San Diego, for without them, we would not have a conference.

Our two travellers have shared the joy of their experience with you in the hope that perhaps when you answer the invitation to meet in Orlando, Florida, USA in 1996. You too may travel around the world in sixty days and meet up with old friends and meet many new ones at the greatest show on earth for Bromeliad Lovers - The World Bromeliad Conference.

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WHERE ARE THEY?

These books are missing from our collection. Perhaps you have seen them somewhere? Please return them so others may enjoy them too!

PADILLA, Victoria The Colourful Bromeliads

ZAGHINI, Shane Bromeliads: A guide to the Beautiful Neoregelia

HANSON, Bea Bromeliads for Everyone (Copy 2)

JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY - 1993/1994

JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY - 1991/1992

JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY - 1981

ANSWER TO JANUARY/FEBRUARY PUZZLE

The answer is OCHAGAVIA CARNEA.

I apologise for an error that was in the January/February Puzzle. Some people have phoned Mary and have been told, but for those who didn't have that opportunity to phone - the error is in line 5, fourth last letter it should read "G" instead of "F".

MARCH TRIP

To go to Pinegrove Nursery on 25 March, we will be taking along our own lunch and a cuppa. Also, don't forget your seats to sit on. There is plenty of shade to sit under.

BROMELIAD DISPLAY
At the Australia Day Festival at Carrara

Olwen Ferris

Again this year, we put a lovely display of Bromeliads in the hall and I was very pleased with the results. John and Genny are to be congratulated on the quality and number of plants presented and the rest of us popped a plant in here and there. The overall display was outstanding as was the quality of the plants for sale on the table alongside.

John and Genny and Nev Ryan put most of the display together while Beverley and John ably assisted by Nev managed the For Sale Area. We had a lovely lot of sales plants, most delivered by members who couldn't spare the time to help with the selling, but we managed to sell over \$200.00 worth.

This year we had to set up on the Sunday morning which made it a rush as we had to wait until the hall opened after 7.00 am to unload the plants.

All in all, a most enjoyable day.

John and Genny had some magnificent *Neoregelia carolinae tricolor* that they massed in the foreground. Big *Aechmeas* in flower and lovely *Nidulariums* placed here and there.

It seemed strange to me that I only had one plant and that was a *Vriesea scalaris* Long Spike good enough to take. I had to drape the inflorescence over a mounted *Haekia* to show it off to perfection and it didn't let me down.

All in all, a good day held by all.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Jill Such, Margaret Dumble and Eddie Collas.



Welcome to Joyce Stanton, Lee Henwood and Paul Schacht

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.

APRIL: Jum Daniels, Audrey McAlister, Doug Reilly, Irene Small

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

JUNE: No Meeting

JULY: Bev Collins, Evelyn Reilly, Jan Tobiano, Jo Ketelaars

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.

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

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.

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.

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	
PHOSTROGEN	625g -	\$18.00
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	