

B R O M L I N K



July/August 1995

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THE GOLD COAST SUCCULENT AND BROMELIAD SOCIETY - OFFICE BEARERS

PATRONESS

Olwen Ferris

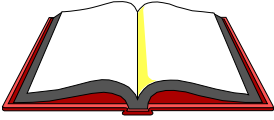
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COMMITTEE	Mary Nicholson, Olwen Ferris, Graham Besgrove, Diana Hughes, Jum Daniels, Peter Ludowici, Nev Ryan, John Catlan, Rolly Reilly, Doug Reilly, Audrey McAlister, Mac McAlister	
PLANT SALES	Rolly & Doug Reilly	
PLANT SALES ASSISTANTS	Narelle Rowe & Jo Ketelaars	
GOODS SALES	Peter Ludowici	
GOODS SALES ASSISTANTS	John Catlan & Nev Ryan	
LIBRARIAN & ASSISTANT	Jeanette Henwood & Dawn Collas	
CATERING	Inge vom Bruch & Anita Wille	
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

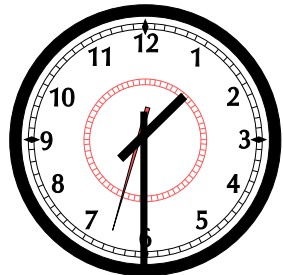
Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the contributor's own and are not necessarily those of the Committee or the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	COST (if any)
Saturday, 8 July	Regular Meeting	
Saturday & Sunday, 5&6 August	Pioneer Rally, Carrara Sports Ground	
Saturday, 12 August	Regular Meeting	
Saturday, 26 August	Trip to Neville Ryan and Jo Ketelaars	\$15.00
Saturday, 2 September	Twin Towns Civic Centre Display	
Saturday, 9 September	Regular Meeting	
Saturday, 16 September	Elanora Flower and Fair, Elanora	

Committee Meetings - 1 hour before
regular meeting.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR MAY AND JUNE

MAY

The May meeting was attended by 33 members.

It was decided to hold a meeting in June instead of the Bus Trip. It was also agreed to spend some of the funds to buy plants for a Special Raffle open to all our members. These are to be rarer plants so they will be named in the next Bromlink (September/October). If any of you who have the Bromlink posted out and would like to have a chance of winning a plant or two, you can let us know and you may also let us know which genera you collect as we would like to be able to include all our members in this raffle.

Lucky Door Prize was won by Rolly Reilly who selected a lovely bunch of chrysanthemums and promptly presented them to his good wife, Evelyn, as an early Mothers Day Gift.

All those people who have donated photos for our Library, a BIG thank you.

Graham gave a talk on the plants. Some of the plants on our tables were:

Billbergia macrocalyx, *nutans* ex Selby Gardens, *vittata* ex Brazil, *leptopoda x euphemia*, Catherine Wilson, Muriel Waterman, With Love, Dr Oeser's Bigeneric, *leptopoda*, *amoena*, *viridis x amoena rubra*, Santa Barbara, Rainbow, *amoena stolonifera*, Josie Tonkin, Shocking Pink, *venezulana?*, *amoena x vittata*, Richters Hybrid, Chas Webb, Perrimans Pride, Yayee, Storm, Violet Beauty, Mondas Othello, Bobtail x Gem, *pyramidalis striata*, *brazilensis*, Bronze Wing

Hohenbergia correa arauji
Tillandsia grandis var viridiflora
Guzmania sanguinea

Neobergia Noddy
Billbergia x Quesnelia
Clump of *Aechmea recurvata* var *benrathii*

JUNE

Twenty-one people attended our June Meeting and there were 18 apologies. We had a visitor, Abbey Vize.

There was the Combined Succulent and Bromeliad Show held at Mt Coot-tha the same day. Our Brisbane members were busy there.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by our visitor, Abbey Vize.

All the members who helped at the Rotary Landscape & Garden Fair were thanked for their support. A very successful weekend it turned out to be. Olwen has written a piece in this Bromlink.

Mike and Sue Levine have a contact who will do a name tag for you for \$3.00. They re very well done with a plant as well as the name. If you wish one, please see either Mike or Sue.

The Cent Auction went off well with as much fun as usual. Many thanks to the people who bring in the plants or fruit or vegetables. Two of our newest members, Judy and Vicki, did not think they had plants to bring for the Cent Auction, so they brought along cup cakes, beautifully iced, for our afternoon tea. Eat your heart out all you absentees.

We go a very late invitation, 12 days before the Mt Coot-tha Show, for the Society to participate in it. I had to decline as it was so late. Our Brisbane members heard of this and banded together to put in a display for us. I didn't see it but I have had many reports that it was beautiful. Thank you all so very much.

This just goes to show the feeling in our club - everyone is a worker and we all pull together and so we keep growing. It makes me so proud to be their President.

Some of the plants brought in this month were *Billbergia vittata*, *Aechmea nidularioides*, *Nidularium scheremetiewii*, *Wittrockia compos portoi*, *Quesnelia x Billbergia*.

Don't forget the upcoming events as our calendar is filling up fast.

UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

The raising of capital to start a new business when you had no previous track record was always difficult for a new Australian back in the late forties. It was almost impossible. My Grandfather, Papa Nicholas, sponsored Angelo and found him a job with George, the Fruiterer. Now to say that George knew the value of a pound would not give you a true insight to his character - George knew the value of a halfpenny. He had Angelo working for subsistence wages, on top of that to save himself security problems he allowed Angelo to sleep in the shop and get it ready to open early, for this privilege he deducted a suitable amount from his wages. Angelo was 5'1" tall and as thin as a whip so as a generous gesture, George allowed Angelo to eat as much damaged fruit as he wanted. Angelo was hard working and had no apparent vices, George was happy.

Eight years passed in no time. Angelo advised George he would be finishing in two weeks as he was buying his own fruit shop. George was stunned, telling Angelo that he was not earning enough to be able to afford a shop. In one form or another this same conversation was repeated over and over during the next two weeks. On the last day as Angelo left, George was still on about how he could not afford a fruit shop. They shook hands and as Angelo was leaving he turned back to George and said he had enough money as each week for the last eight years he had taken a little money out of the cash draw each day and now he had enough.

Years later, three days donkey ride out of Palermo up into the mountains, I met Angelo on a hot August afternoon. He was coming down the mountain to do his shopping. I was sweating my guts out following my father on one of his sightseeing trips. Angelo now lives half way down a well - but that's another story.

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The club has come a long way in the last few years. Once upon a time we were about a dozen members trying to raise enough money to pay \$10 rent each month and looking forward to a time when we would have over twenty members.

~~~~~

A group of owls is known as a parliament. For some unknown reason I feel the owls have been slighted.

~~~~~

About once every seven years, *Aechmea benrathii* flowers early. This was such a year. Normally my plants start to flower just after the June Show. This year they were finished by Show time.

~~~~~

If you live in South Australia and want to import plants, the nearest facilities are in Melbourne. The South Australian Botanical Gardens quarantined some Tillandsias for the Society but said it was a one-off situation and would definitely not be repeated.

~~~~~

Peter Tristram is organising a shipment of plants from overseas and next Bromlink there will be more on this.

~~~~~

I must thank Neville and Graham for putting on the Gold Coast display at the Brisbane June Show. You can always rely on the terrible two to do a good job. Thanks to all the members who supplied a box of plants to help out. Unfortunately I did not get to see the display but three of the plants received Highly Commended Awards.

(PS: Yours truly managed to bribe her boss into giving her the afternoon off to help the "terrible two" - WB)

~~~~~

Our Library has a number of promotional packages for the Perth Conference in September 1997. Anyone wanting to obtain one, please ask.



It has been scheduled for the end of September to coincide with the height of the wild flower season so you can do the tourist bit. If you are thinking about it, contact me and I will try and keep a list of everyone going. I believe a group intends travelling by train from Brisbane with other people hoping to join the train along the way.

~~~~~

At the Adelaide Conference, they showed some slides of broms hybridised in Western Australia. I believe the intention is to release some of these hybrids at the Conference. But more on this later.

~~~~~

We have so many new members at our meetings, it is the intention of the club to run through the basics of brom growing during the coming year. Would all the old hands at brom growing please be on hand to help out in your specialty. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

~~~~~

Our display at the Rotary Landscape and Garden Fair went off well. We nearly doubled our sales on last year in less area (9 sq metres). We are all going to have to lose weight or get a bigger area. On thing that was noticeable about the weekend was the fact we had so many helpers. Thank you all - it was a good weekend.

We have many displays and sales opportunities during the year, so try and keep the sales plants coming along. We will need them.

I know it is difficult dropping plants off and picking plants up at the end of the day or weekend but maybe our members can help one another by taking leftovers home and bring them in to the next meeting. If you can't pick up your plants at the end of the day, just ask. There will surely be someone who can help.

~~~~~

God willing you will hear from us next month. Just an observation about these you beaut death-till-us-part guarantees on today's merchandise, it seems to me that: What the large print giveth, the small print taketh away.

## UP THE MANGO TREE

Derek Butcher

With apologies to Norm Catlan, 'cos years ago he was just plain Norm and it must have been the influence of Genny because he started using the name John Catlan purely because his initials would be JC and I refuse to believe he is that good.

However, he has been of help to us lot in Adelaide for which we give thanks on bended knee! For example, we now know that *Neoregelia fendleri* started out in Queensland as a misspelled Neoregelia FLANDRIA and got to South Australia with this name just to try to confuse yours truly.

Now to poor Diana Hughes. In November we in South Australia decided to order eight copies of Baensch's book and eventually we got a response from the Bahamas via Telex (the US contacts ignored us). In the meantime a phone call from the Gold Coast increased our order to 12 and then Western Australia pushed the order to 15. At no time had I advertised our action, so it must have been bush telegraph or telepathy that was the cause. So the order was placed and no doubt others in Australia were disappointed in not getting on the first bandwagon. Baensch's book is good despite a few naming errors and no doubt many will want it. Perhaps I got involved because moss rarely grows on me (I'm not a ROLLING STONE) or because of the GUNNER Societies which for some reason seem to have large funds and are always gunner do something. I understand that the Queensland Society and the Australian Society have some plans in ordering some supplies. \$140 may seem a lot of money but it is an ideal birthday, engagement, wedding, belated Christmas present.

Finally, how the dickens can Catlan grow *Aechmea spectabilis* to flowering when ours in Adelaide are still in 10cm pots and anaemic looking. I know - He just walks on water.

Happy Growing.

## THE PRILL

John Catlan

Osmocote and Nutricote are controlled-release fertilisers. The individual grains are known as prills, each prill is made up of various water soluble fertilisers and then plastic coated. The plastic coating is porous in such a way that osmosis takes place.

From my Modern Standard English Dictionary circa 1939: Osmosis: the penetration of fluids through porous partitions.

From my Heinemann Australian Dictionary 1976: Osmosis: the movement of a solvent across a semipermeable membrane into an area where there is a higher concentration of a substance.

The key to understanding what this is all about is water with fertiliser dissolved in it will pass from low concentrations through a membrane into higher concentrations, the exact opposite to what you would think.

Water enters through the plastic coating and dissolves the soluble fertiliser core, osmosis has taken place. Pressure within the prill causes it to sweat, this minute amount of liquid has fertiliser dissolved within, and is then spread throughout the potting mix by watering which washes the fertiliser down through the potting mix and evaporation of moisture from the pot surface which drags the fertiliser upwards.

Mixing the prills with the potting mix is more effective than surface application especially where bromeliads are concerned. The shape of the plants act as either an umbrella and/or a vase stopping rain and irrigation water coming into contact with the surface of the soil, especially when the plants are closely packed.

A bromeliad absorbs fertiliser by osmosis through it's root system from the moisture in the potting mix. Under normal conditions the weak fertiliser solution passes through the membrane of the roots into the plant. If too much fertiliser is dissolved in the moisture in the potting mix the moisture in the root system will pass from the plant into the soil mix. This causes the membrane of the roots to rupture and the roots then die. We say we have burnt the root system by overfertilising.

## ROTARY LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN FAIR

Olwen Ferris

Saturday and Sunday, 3rd and 4th June, saw workers from our Society, busy with a Display of Bromeliads. Our Sales section was also successful.

The space allotted us was smaller than last year and John Catlan worked wonders by displaying a narrow group of plants along one side terminating with a triangle of taller plants that caught the eye of people entering the area. The Sales plants were where they could be inspected on table level and the tables refilled by spare plants in boxes from underneath.

Neville Ryan used one of the central poles, in front of the display to show off the flowering Tillandsias and you could hear the Oo's and Aha's from the public. He was kept busy selling his lovely plants.

We were cramped for space, as only one or two people could look through the sales area, but we did a steady business.

So many people said they knew we would be there and how good it was to be able to buy from such a good selection of plants. Many took one lot of plants away and came back later for more. There were two bus loads of people from out west in a drought area, who all said, Bromeliads were the only plants still growing in their gardens.

Mary was kept busy taking the money and willing hands put the plants in plastic bags to make it easier for people to carry them to the cars.

We were very pleased with the result of all the work that goes into such a display. Thanks everybody for the effort.

## OUR DISPLAY AT THE COMBINED SHOW

Wendy Besgrove

Each year there is a Combined Show hosted by the Queensland Succulent Society Inc and the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc which is traditionally held on the Queen's Birthday long weekend (this year 10 and 11 June) in the Auditorium at the Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. This year our Society was invited to provide a display which was located at the entrance to the hall.

Our Brisbane-based members rallied behind the direction of Nev Ryan to provide a beautiful display of bromeliads and succulents. Those members provide plants were Nev Ryan, Graham Besgrove, Jo Ketelaars, Jeanette Henwood and Paul Schacht. It is real credit to these members to be able to provide plants at such short notice. Our Society was not approached until three weeks prior to the date for the Combined Show. Under normal circumstances, it would not have been possible for us to provide a display as most of our members were involved in the two-day display for the Rotary Landscape and Garden Fair the previous weekend (3 and 4 June). Thanks to Nev and his offer to put on a display on the Society's behalf, we were able to be represented most adequately.

The setup for the display was on Friday afternoon ready for the weekend. Nev, Graham and I got to work to set it up. The display was approximately 2 metres by 1 metre and we had just enough plants to fill the area. Nev made a totem on which he hung Tillandsias and this gave the display the height that was needed.

We had many favourable comments from visitors to the Show. John and Genny obtained three Highly Commended certificates for some of the Neoregelias they supplied for the display. Well done!

A thank-you also goes to Paul Schacht, one of our newer members having joined in January of this year. Paul has only been collecting bromeliads since 26 January and this was his first experience of providing plants for display. I'm sure he's an inspiration to our new members.

## PUZZLE - LARGER PLANTS

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## CLUES

ANANAS

BABY

BILLS

BRACTEATA

CRUENTA

DEPPEANA

FOSTERIANA

GIGANTEA

GLUTINOSA

HIEROGLYPHICA

IMPERIALIS

MAGDALENAE

MEXICANA

PLATYNEMA

PORTEA

PUYA

QUESNELIANA

RAMOSA

REGINA

ROSEA

SAGENARIUS

SERRA

STELLATA

TESSMANNII

VENEZUELANA

The remaining 45 letters as they read will make a statement about our plant.

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## **PLANTS AND HELP NEEDED**

There are some shows coming up in the near future which I would like to bring to everyone's attention.

First is the Pioneer Rally on 5 and 6 August at the Cararra Sports Grounds.

The second is on 2 September at Twin Towns Civic Centre, next to the Bowls Club. We have a stage to fill and will need plants for display and for sale (20% commission) and people to man the display as the stage is a very large area.

The third is on 16 September at the Elanora Uniting Church Flower Show and Fair. We need plants to sell. Also, there will be an opportunity for you to enter some of your plants in for judging. There will be 2 Bromeliad Sections to be judged - Flowering and Foliage. Will people please try to find a plant or two to put into their show to be judged.

For all these events we will need your support both in plants and in help. Please put these dates in your diary and come along and join in.

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## **INCORPORATION**

As instructed by the meeting of 10 June 1995, I wish to inform members that the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society has resolved to apply for incorporation through the Office of Consumer Affairs, Queensland. It was further resolved that the President prepare the necessary documentation.

This gives the Association its own separate legal identity.

Diana Hughes  
Secretary



## WHAT'S THIS *Aechmea cylindrata* ALL ABOUT?

Chet Blackburn

... Now that communism poses less of a threat than earlier, I guess the conspiracy crowd is devoting increasing attention to environmentalists and the media. Frankly, I've never been able to understand why so many people have such a deeply ingrained need to believe in conspiracy theories. I'm certainly glad I'm not that paranoid.

But, say ... have you noticed what's been going on with *Aechmea cylindrata* too? Consider the following:

Do you know anyone who doesn't have an *Aechmea cylindrata*? Its presence is almost universal in bromeliad collections, but just think about it. Have you ever actually known anyone who ever **bought** an *Aechmea cylindrata*? Did you buy yours? For that matter, have you ever seen an *Aechmea cylindrata* even **for sale** at a nursery, supermarket, or plant shop?

Have you ever heard of anyone importing or bringing one back from its native Brazil? No, they just suddenly appear one day, usually among the very earliest plants in a collection.

Aren't your suspicions aroused when you realise that we all have *Aechmea cylindrata* but none of us has ever bought, imported, or grown one from seed?

And, there's more to ponder. Once in our collections, they are among the most prolific of all bromeliads in producing offsets. The lone pot soon becomes a clump that requires dividing into more pots, that in turn become bigger clumps, and before you know it, *Aechmea cylindrata* is taking up a sizeable portion of our greenhouse. Could it be that we have a horticultural version of a computer virus on our hands?

Also, if there is not something going on, why do they go to such lengths to sneak in under assumed names? In our area, most plants labelled *Aechmea kleinii* are actually *Aechmea cylindrata*. So are those labelled as

*Aechmea cylindrica*. They've even slipped into my greenhouse labelled *Aechmea calyculata* "blue form". Then let's not forget those that make their way in simply as "*Aechmea sp.?!!*"

OK. So the inflorescence is attractive, consisting of a stout, rosy-hued cylinder densely covered with sky-blue flowers that never fail to elicit favourable comment from those who see them. Trouble is, you have to really be on your toes to see them. They are conspicuous at the height of their bloom, but the azure flowers all open over a period of just a few days. The plant's flowering period is one of the shortest in the bromeliad family. Why? Could it be that it is trying to avoid detection and blend in inconspicuously amidst all the other rosettes?

Add to those facts that it is one of the hardiest and toughest of the bromeliads around so that once in a collection, they are there to stay, and you have to wonder about this whole *Aechmea cylindrata* phenomenon.

Taking all the aforementioned circumstances into consideration any sensible person could come to only one conclusion. For purposes known only to them, someone out there is intent on spreading *Aechmea cylindrata* around to overrun the rest of our collections.

I'm calling this to your attention so that the next time you see an *Aechmea cylindrata* on the plant table (which is quite frequent, I might add) you can sidle up to the person responsible and whisper into his (her) ear that you're on to the game and let him (her) know you'll be watching them in the future.

And just maybe someone ought to let Rush know about all this ....

*Reprinted in part from The Bromeliad News, July 1993.  
The Sacramento [California] Bromeliad Society*

*Reprinted in Bromlink from Journal of The Bromeliad Society  
Bromeliad Society Incorporated, March-April 1995*

## CONSIDER GROWING VRIESEAS

Ervine Wurthmann

Vrieseas have enjoyed popularity in Europe for over 100 years. Demand for these plants has fostered many hybrids of which many are still in the trade today. Vrieseas vary in size from less than six inches in diameter to a size with a spread and height of over five feet. The smooth-edged leaves may be spotted, blotched, or barred with eccentric markings. The inflorescence usually bears a flattened or distichous spike with yellow, red, green, or purple bracts while remaining in color for several months.

### CULTURE

**Light:** Vrieseas are not hard to grow. They do not require as much light as the neoregelias but will thrive under higher light conditions than once supposed. Some of the vrieseas with thin, green leaves will take on a rose or dark purple hue at the base if the plant is grown as bright as 65% shade on an all-day basis.

**Soil mix:** Soil mix should be well drained to permit frequent watering, which vrieseas prefer.

**Potting:** I am not an advocate of over-potting having flowered *Vriesea hieroglyphica* in a 5-inch pot. It is well to add turkey grit or fly ash if you wish to grow *Vriesea fosterisana*, *gigantea*, *gigantea* cv Nova, *hieroglyphica*, *imperialis* in a situation where ample watering occurs.

**Feeding:** Most vrieseas require a higher level of feeding to grow a top quality plant than do neoregelias. It can be accomplished by top feeding on the medium with Osmocote, Sure grow, or Nutra Coat, all slow-release fertilisers that provide long-time feeding. Soluble fertilisers may be used when watering.

**Pests:** Pests are few. Soft brown scale can be controlled with Diazinon, Cygon, or Orthene. Occasional fungus can be handled with Dithan M-45,

Captan, or Banrot. Read labels thoroughly as dosages will vary according to the material used.

**Applications:** Small vrieseas are ideal house plants because they will endure relatively low light conditions and are not demanding in terms of temperature and humidity. The more closely the grower can meet ideal light and humidity the more attractive will be the plants. Most are rewarding with their inflorescences that retain their bright colours for many weeks. Many vrieseas are satisfactory bedding plants where the winters are mild and moderate shade can be provided. Some of the larger varieties such as *Vriesea altodaserrae*, *atra*, *edmundoi*, *imperialis*, *neoglutinosa*, *philippo-coburgii*, *tuerckheimii*, and *vinicolor* would do well with almost full sun in frost-free areas.

## SELECTION

After reading price lists and visiting collections you may want to make a list of the plants that you would like to have. Aside from the matter of size, which may be the main consideration, there are other things to think about such as special requirements for air circulation and protection from cold. In some cases there may not be enough information about which plants are cold hardy and which ones are not. In such cases you may have to guess or resort to learning where plants come from and how high, how dry or wet the original growing conditions.

The easiest test is cold hardiness so we will begin there.

**Cold Hardy:** Nearly all the Brazilian species and their hybrids possess considerable cold tolerance. Many of them are as tough as neoregelias and can be grown outdoors in the Tampa Bay, Florida, area.

The most cost tolerant are those with green leaves. They include: *Vriesea altodaserrae*, *atra*, *bituminosa*, *bituminosa* var *minor*, *carinata*, *ensiformis*, *erythroductylon*, *flammea*, *friburgensis*, *incurvata*, *philippo-coburgii*, *platynema*, *psittacina*, *rodigasiana*, *schwackeana*, *simplex*, and *vagans*.

Species somewhat less tolerant of cold include those with more decorative foliage such as *Vriesea fenestralis*, *fosteriana*, *gigantea*, *gigantea* cv Nova, *hieroglyphica*, *imperialis*, *saundersii*, *tuerchheimii* (from the Dominican Republic was collected by the author in an area where frost occurred).

*Vriesea heterostachys*, *racinae*, ‘Red Chestnut’, and *sucrei* are reasonably cold hardy, but should be protected from frost and subfreezing temperatures.

**Not cold hardy:** Central American and northern South American vrieseas are for the most part not cold hardy. These varieties will require greenhouse protection during the colder months. They include: *Vriesea chrystostachys*, *glutinose*, *heliconioides*, *malzinei*, *rubra* and *splendens*.

**The really challenging group:** Another group for which, unfortunately, there is no record of hardiness in this area [Tampa, Florida] are those of the grey-leafed types, which somewhat resemble tillandsias. These vrieseas are frequently xerophytic in their native habitat and for this reason require a different method of culture. *Vriesea appenii*, *barclayana*, *chontalensis*, *cylindrica*, *espinosae*, *heterandra*, *hitchcockiana* and *rauhii* are best mounted on cork bark, tree fern plaques, or some kind of wood. Occasional spraying with a dilute soluble fertiliser is beneficial. Since some members of this group are from high altitudes it is possible that they may be somewhat cold hardy.

A real challenge to vriesea culture is the group sometimes known as the thecophylloid vrieseas. These occur in the higher rain belt area of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Caribbean islands. Species such as *Vriesea leucophylla*, *ororiensis*, and *sintenisi* have spectacular inflorescences while *Vriesea montana* has sensationally colored foliage.

Cultivation of this last group is difficult and almost impossible in warm, humid areas. I have seen very presentable specimens in California. These plants prefer to be mounted on wood so that there is ample air drainage around the roots. A greenhouse with fan and wet wall cooling can enhance your chance of getting them to survive. They should be watered only

enough to keep them from dehydrating. It is not likely that they will tolerate any degree of cold.

*Seffner, Florida*

*First printed in the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, August, 1980, but recently revised by the author. Mr Wurthmann has specialised in growing and hybridising vrieseas for many years.--Ed.*

*Reprinted from Journal of The Bromeliad Society  
Bromeliad Society Incorporated, May-June 1995*

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## **PRE 1942? YOU'RE A RARE BREED**

For all those born prior to 1942 - you are survivors!

Consider the changes you have witnessed. You were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Zerox, contact lenses, frisbees and the pill.

You were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothing - and - before man walked on the Moon.

You got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be.

In your times, closets were for clothes, not for “coming out of”. Bunnies were small rabbits and Beetles were not Volkswagens. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with your cousins.

You thought fast food was what you ate during Lent and Outer Space was the back of the local theatre.

You were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. You were before day-care centres, group therapy and nursing homes. You never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, work processors, yoghurt and guys wearing earrings. For you, time sharing meant togetherness not computers - or condominiums; a “chip” meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware; and software wasn't even a word.

In 1942 “made in Japan” meant junk and the term making out referred to how you did in an exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee was unheard of.

In your day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullaby and Aids were helpers in the principal's office.

You were certainly not before the difference between sexes were discovered, but you were surely before the sex change: you made do with what you had. And you were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder all of us in this group are so confused and there is a generation gap.

But you survived. What better reason to celebrate.

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### **A SUGGESTION FROM GENNY**

It has been talked of for a while, now we are actually getting it done. This includes our members who cannot attend meetings - maybe it is of more value to you. Will you help by participating in the request for all members to write out any problems they may have with their plants. We will answer your questions and maybe we will even do an article on it. If you are proud of the way your plants are growing, we can share your you. Send to: Mary Nicholson, 55 Dawn Parade, Miami Q 4220.



## 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.*

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## 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:

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | Guzmania                |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | Grey leafed Tillandsias |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | Dyckia, Hechtia, etc    |

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## !! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Rolly Reilly, Evelyn Reilly,  
Anita Wille, Roy Wenzel and Monica Bailey.



Welcome to Vicki Taylor, Z. Hartnett, Nell Baldwin and Pat Harrod.

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

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## AN ADDRESS FOR MAIL

If you would like to get in touch with the Society by mail, I would be happy to receive your letters and pass them on. Please address them to:

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

## 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.

|                  |                                                               |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JULY</b>      | Bev Collins, Evelyn Reilly, Jan Tobiano, Jo Ketelaars         |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | Mac McAlister, Rolly Reilly, Phyllis King, Anita Wille        |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | John Catlan, Wendy Besgrove, Olwen Ferris, Genny Vauhkonen    |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | Monica Bailey, Greg Aizlewood, Mary Nicholson, Inge vom Bruch |

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.

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## 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

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## 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

|                       |                                                       |                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>POTS</b>           | 105 mm squat pot                                      | 20c              |
|                       | 125 mm                                                | 25c              |
|                       | 140 mm                                                | 30c              |
|                       | 165 mm                                                | 45c              |
|                       | 200 mm                                                | 65c              |
| <b>OSMOCOTE</b>       | 500g                                                  | \$2.50 (9 month) |
| <b>LABELS</b>         | 10 for 25c                                            | 100 for \$2.50   |
|                       |                                                       |                  |
| <b>PENCILS</b>        | \$2.20 each                                           |                  |
| <b>PHOSTROGEN</b>     | 625g -                                                | \$18.00          |
| <b>PLANT LADDERS</b>  | 25c                                                   |                  |
| <b>PLANT HANGERS</b>  | 25c                                                   |                  |
| <b>SALES STICKERS</b> | 5¢ each or 10 for                                     | 50¢              |
| <b>SOCIETY BADGES</b> | \$3.00 each                                           |                  |
|                       | Available from the Treasurer, Jum Daniels             |                  |
| <b>BOOKS</b>          |                                                       |                  |
|                       | "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          |