

BROMLINK



March/April 1997

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OFFICE BEARERS

PATRONESS

Olwen Ferris

PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	5572 0993
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	John Catlan	5546 1401
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Besgrove	(07) 3800 5431
SECRETARY	Mary Nicholson	
TREASURER	Diana Hughes	
EDITOR	Wendy Besgrove	
HOSTESS	Monica Bailey	
HOSTESS ASSISTANT	Jo Ketelaars	
COMMITTEE	Neville Ryan, Don Smith, Wendy Besgrove, Mac McAlister, Bobby Powell, Peter Ludowici, Dawn Collas, Olwen Ferris	
PLANT SALES	Mac McAlister	
PLANT SALES ASSISTANTS	Narelle Aizlewood and Betty Page	
GOODS SALES	Peter Ludowici	
GOODS SALES ASSISTANTS	Bobby Powell & Sue Levine	
LIBRARIAN	Jeanette Henwood	
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN	Dawn Collas	
RAFFLES SUPERVISOR	Roy Wenzel & Mike Levine	
AUDITORS	Yong Gee Raftery & Co	
LIFE MEMBERS	Olwen Ferris, Rolly Reilly, Mary Nicholson, Graham and Wendy Besgrove, Genny Vauhkonen, John Catlan	
HONORARY MEMBERS	Jum Daniels, Roy Wenzel, Bev Collins	

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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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DATE	EVENT
Saturday, 8 March 1997	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 12 April 1997	General Meeting
Saturday, 10 May 1997	General Meeting
Saturday, 14 June 1997	General Meeting and Cent Auction

Committee Members:

Committee meetings are held at 1.00 pm on the day of Society meetings.

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 Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 1997

Thirty-five members were at our February meeting. This being our first meeting since our Christmas Party. We did not participate in the Australia Day display this year but we had our first week long display at a Shopping Centre. Many thanks to John Catlan and Genny Vauhkonen and their helpers for the wonderful display and their time spent on our behalf promoting this Society.

Plant talks of five minutes by three different people on different subjects was initiated at this meeting:

- Olwen Ferris spoke on “A Dyckia Garden”; potting mix and positions
- Bobby Powell spoke on landscaping with Bromeliads; positions or different reasons such as tall or prickly in front by footpaths to stop foot traffic; Neoregelias grow well in the mature trees with staghorns and Spanish Moss; full sun lovers section - Porteas, Dyckias, Puyas and Hechtias.
- Mary Nicholson spoke on Bromeliads on rocks. Members were told to make sure that plants were secured first and propped up with stones or rocks till they had attached themselves to the rocks, then they are away. Of course I forgot to take one with me to the meeting. Sorry.

Don Smith showed us some slides taken on his trip last year. It was incredible to see just how crowded the plants were on some of the trees. Many plants from different families were sharing the same tree and happily growing together.

The tea roster was introduced and it should be well into next year before those who worked in the kitchen in February are called on again.

Some of the plants that appeared on the Show and Tell and Plant of the Month tables were:

Crpytanthus bromelioides v tricolor, acaulis rubra, acaulis variegata, bivittatus, racinae, zonatus v viridis, Starwine, Starlight, Golden Langdon, Ruby
Orthophytum saxicola v rubrum
Tillandsia stricta x meridionalis, streptophylla, flabellata, streptophylla x fasciculata, fasciculata x capitata, fasciculata “Magnifica”, *globosa* hybrid, Phoenix, Eric Knobloch

GARDEN VISITS

On 19th April commencing at 1.30 pm, all members are invited to visit the homes of Betty Page and Bobby Powell.

The first stop on our garden visits is Betty Page. Betty’s address is:

3 Penola Place
Ashmore

From Betty’s garden, we then go one to see Bobby Powell. You will find Bobby at:

7 Colibah Street
Southport

THE PASSING OF A MEMBER

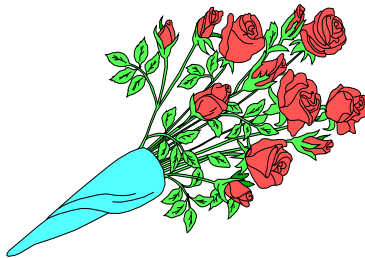
It is with deep regret that we report the passing of a Society member. On Thursday, 6 March 1997, Audrey McAlister passed away.

Audrey McAlister, along with her husband Mac, had been a member of our Society since February 1991 and had always been actively involved in the Society's displays supplying plants both for display and sale and, of course, providing valuable information to people enquiring about the plants.

However, many of us will remember Audrey's attendance at our meetings and the cheery reception most of us got. Not to mention, the wonderful plants she brought in for sale and her advice on growing these Bromeliads to perfection.

Audrey's involvement with Bromeliads and societies spans many years. Before joining our Gold Coast society, she was a member of the Ipswich Bromeliad Society and the Bromeliad Society of Queensland and will probably be remembered by members of both societies.

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Audrey and we offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to Mac and his family in their time of grief.



UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan



Frank was a neighbourhood friend, that's one of those friends where, when either moves away, you don't see one another again. Anyway, Frank before he became an Australian was an enlisted soldier in the British army. He was stationed in Malaya when the allied forces were overrun by the Chinese in the Korean police action. His unit was air lifted to Korea and parachuted straight into front line positions. They were still wearing their jungle greens and they made ideal targets against the background of snow that covered the ground. The casualties were mounting, the temperature was below freezing, the wind was up and increasing and with the light fading the temperature would drop further. They could not survive a night of such conditions and hold their positions in the morning. The Yanks managed to drop snow suits to them as they light faded.

Next day the sodiers were discussing the snow on the hill opposite. It appeared to be the palest of pink. Then the North Koreans started attacking in waves. The principle behind these attacks is that each successive wave must blow the trumpets louder, bang the tin cans louder, shout louder, blow the whistles louder. Each wave must contain more troops and be pressed home with more determination till you overrun the opposition. The best defence is the machine gun which must totally overlap the one on either side. If you lose one you may hold the position, should you lose two side by side, it leaves a gap and you will be overrun.

Each wave consisted of soldiers, old people, young people and wounded. Some armed with rifles, some with sticks and some with stones. The snow on the hills opposite appeared pinker on the second day of the attacks and they ran out of annumition belts for the machine guns. During each lull all hands were hand loading the used belts. You could not wear gloves for this and your hands were freezing cold and bleeding from the cuts inflicted by the brass.

Inspections every day to make sure all equipment was clean, everybody had a shave, no hot water. If there was you made tea and drank it. On the third day, the snow was definitely pink on the hills opposite. The attacks were increasing in intensity, the lulls were shorter, cold and tiredness was destroying the will to continue.

On the fourth day, the snow on the tops of all the hills in front of them was pink and everything was deathly quiet. The attacks had stopped. They had held. Welcome to Korea.

Some time later they took the first of the hills and the bare tips of the wild azaleas were poking through the snow. They were covered with clusters of pick flowers. Frank and his wife had a magic garden. There were no azaleas.

On Anzac Day take a moment to remember.

---oooOOOooo---

Aechmea fasciata: When hybridising there is about one minute of action and months of waiting around. One of the things that is of interest to me is spineless *Aechmea fasciata*. I have eight flowering plants and they are closely related although there are two distinct colour forms. I will now have to wait six months to see if seed will set on these plants and a further year to find out what percentage will be spineless and which plants will produce the best percentage of spineless seedlings. One plant has about one inch of spines on one side of one leaf. This prompted me to research spineless mutations.

Nil information that I could find except for a brief reference in “The Pineapple” by JL Collins published in London 1968. This is the only information to hand so far. In the early Cayenne there would be a strip of spines 1.5cm to 2.5cm just down from the tip of the leaf. This is

associated with the initiation of growth when the gene for spines for a very brief period becomes active. This can be proved by taking a plant cutting all roots off leaving it to dry till all growth ceases. After a long period to guarantee forced dormancy, pot up, water correctly to initiate fresh growth. Where growth has resumed you will find a short strip of spines on either side of the leaves. Pineapple growers will come across a spiny plant in an otherwise field of spineless pineapples. These plants are throwbacks and are culled when selecting fresh planting material.

---oooOOOooo---

Aechmea fasciata: The old flowers of *fasciata* after they have passed the halfway mark in their flowering have a tendency to start turning black. This is sooty mould caused by the flowers producing a heavy nectar flow. The bracts should be fungicided on a regular basis to keep the sooty mould at bay. Another way would be to breed an *Aechmea fasciata* with a nectar flow diminished to such an extent it causes no problems.

---oooOOOooo---

Pitcairnia heterophylla: Further information on this plant after a query regarding the leaves from last month's article. This plant has two types of leaves - a short spine of approximately 6 cm which when examined under a magnifying glass will be found to be a leaf and a normal grass-like leaf. When a pup is initiated it is covered in spiny leaves and the plant will become dormant during winter. Each growth cycle whether it be leaves or flowers appear to be preceded by the growth of the spiny leaves.

I wonder if the gene for spiny leaves kicks in when growth is initiated.

---oooOOOooo---

If you ever wanted to know what Harold (Father) was up to, you had to rely on what other people told you. The following was told to me by Thelma (Mother).

Harold lived on a property that fronted the Princes Highway and while cutting the front lawn a truck burning up the road lost a very large carton. Harold drove the mower down to the front fence and found the carton contained about a thousand steel wool pads. He reckoned there was enough to keep Thelma happy for the rest of her life. The only problem was the bottom of the carton had split open spilling hundreds of steel wool pads along the road.

He was not going to waste any and he set to picking them all up and stuffing them back into the carton and as he had only one arm, Thelma reckoned he looked like an emu in the distance as he diligently picked up every bit of steel wool. Eventually the whole lot was cleaned up and he was just about to heave the carton over the fence when the truck screeched to a halt, did a Uee and pulled up.

The truck driver said, "Thanks a lot old timer", chucked the carton on the truck, lashed it down and drove off. Thelma reckons it was Harold's lucky day as the truckie was so fast he had no time to throw himself under the front wheels.

---oooOOOooo---

Pineapples: The discovery that smoke will induce pineapple plants to flower and set fruit before the normal time originated in the Azores Islands in 1874. There are three versions. The first, the pineapples were grown in glasshouses and heated by wood fires when the smoke leaked into a glasshouse and caused flowering. The second version relates to a carpenter burning his left overs in a glasshouse and the third, of a grower

using a smudge pot to fumigate a glasshouse. Information from "The Pineapple" by JL Collins, 1968.

---oooOOOooo---

Deuterocohnia: Since I developed *Aechmea* Aztec Gold although I have had a few species that developed variegation they have been so-so plants or repetition of what has been around but now we have a *Deuterocohnia* that looks like it's going to develop a nice striated or albo marginated clump. Has anybody come across variegation in this genus? Please let me know.

---oooOOOooo---

Aechmea fasciata: Talking to Diana Hughes, she remarked that she like the small flowered *Aechmea fasciata* better than the large form. I thought that a bit odd till I saw a collection of mallee roots at a florist that Peter (the better half) had mounted bromeliads on and I must agree the small flowered form were just right. May I suggest to Don Smith (our five-minute talk coordinator) that he induce Peter to do a show and tell section at one of our meetings. Contragulations Peter, they are absolutely fabulous.

---oooOOOooo---

With the Inspector General (Derek) who likes Tillandsias and the Supreme Commander (Margaret, his wife) who grows a very good mean lean *Billbergia* paying a visit to Queensland where the Broms are superb one day and perfect the next, I am in big trouble. Our *Billbergias* need weeding, rounding up (they are everywhere) standing up, a good trim and repotting, the Tillandsias enough said. We have decided to put up a Tillandsia shed and a *Billbergia* shed. We have bought a roll of beige

cloth and as I believe they like about the same light, I can use the cloth for both sheds.

The area for the Billbergias (21m x 5m) has a mango tree one end and an albizia the other but the long side does face the sun. The benches will be 1.4m high running north-south. This will allow us to grow *Cryptanthus* again using the space under the benches.

The Tillandsia shed (12m x 3m) is in sun all day and the long side faces the sun. One section will be covered in plastic for those Tillandsias who like drier conditions and for our one *Dyckia marnier lapostollei*.

I'm starting to feel like a wife when both mothers pay a visit. On such occasions I found it pays to go missing but I don't think it will work this time. I am going to have to learn to live with the lead-up to this visit.

---oooOOOooo---

My growing conditions for Vrieseas and Guzmanias have never been satisfactory since I have started to grow the plants at Jacob's Well. I am growing the plants under 50 percent cloth when they should be under 70 percent for Vrieseas and at least that if not more for Guzmanias in Summer. I have lots of trees but they have still not darkened the shed enough and the midday sun is still a problem. The shed has no walls and the wind is very drying.

The problem becomes evident when the flowers on both Guzmanias and Vrieseas abort and do not open in a perfect sequence. The bracts form perfectly but the flowers abort. I have increased the watering and on very hot days and nights have watered just on dark and sometimes if the forecast is very hot and dry, I will give the plants a brief watering a daybreak. The plants are doing better and the flowers are opening in a better sequence. They are not perfect but better.

---oooOOOooo---

Dyckia marnier lapostollei: Over time we had built these plants up to about eight mothers and were ready to trade off a few. The increased watering and probably the night watering more so has killed off the collection. I intend housing the one healthy plant with the dry Tillandsias and watering sparingly and mostly from the bottom.

---oooOOOooo---

God willing, you will hear from us next issue.

Behind every successful man
stands an amazed mother-in-law.

VISITORS TO OUR AREA

If anyone is visiting our area and would like to come to a meeting, please feel free to do so. If you need directions to the hall, there are phone numbers in the front of Bromlink where you can get help.

It is very easy to find the hall from either the Gold Coast Highway or the Pacific Highway.

If your visit does not fall at a meeting, maybe you would like to see some gardens where the bromeliads grow so well.



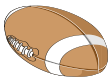
PEOPLE

Some people are like wheelbarrows,
they don't go anywhere unless pushed



Some are like canoes,
they need to be paddled

Some are like kittens,
more contented when petted



Others resemble footballs,
no way to tell which way they will bounce next



Then there are those like balloons,
full of air, ready to blow up



Some are like neon lights,
they flash on and off

But, then there are those few who are like good watches.
Open faced, pure gold, quietly busy
and full of good works.



Supplied by Dawn Collas and reprinted from
The Beacon: Edmonton Whatzit, January 1996 issue.

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, Wendy Besgrove, Irene Small, Bobby Powell
MAY	Cath Chumbley, Eddie Collas, Sue Levine, Jan Browett
JUNE	Roy Wenzel, Graham Besgrove, Judy Borthistle, Mary Nicholson

If you are unable to attend the meeting, either get the plant to someone to take it in for you or swap with someone else.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Library books are available on loan for one (1) month only. There are a wide range of books on succulents and bromeliads available for loan and Jeanette would be very happy to help you select an interesting book or folder of journals from other societies to read during the month. Please remember to return your selection the following month so someone else can enjoy it as much as you did.



!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Inge vom Bruch, Genny Vauhkonen, Don Smith, Terry Vogt, Cath Chumbley, Dawn Collas, Diana Hughes, Ollie Willows.



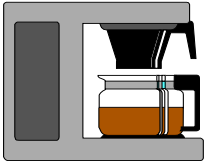
Welcome to Robert Hunt of Elanora.

OLWEN IN THE GARDEN

When she retired from the Bromeliad Display Garden at Paradise Point, Olwen Ferris wrote a book on her life with plants. This is now in print. If anyone would like to buy a copy at \$15.00 each, please see or contact Olwen.

MONTHLY PLANT TALKS

MARCH	Genny Vauhkonen Monica Bailey John Catlan	pH in Culture of Bromeliads Basic Guzmania Culture The Big Aechmeas
APRIL	Diana Hughes Narelle Aizlewood John Catlan	Cryptanthus Nidulariums
MAY	Graham Besgrove	Pots



TEA ROSTER



APRIL	Sue Levine, Betty Page, Bill Bishop, Heather Barker
MAY	Cath Chumbley, Eddie Collas, Jum Daniels, Sylvia Benson
JUNE	Judy Borthistle, Irene Small, Don Smith, Clarrie Morrow



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:

APRIL	Tillandsias
MAY	Aechmeas
JUNE	Billbergias

FIND - A - WORD

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

ANANAS

THIS GENERA includes the BEST KNOWN OF ALL THE BROMELIADS - the PINEAPPLE. Christopher COLUMBUS introduced this, the FIRST bromeliad to be DISCOVERED INTO EUROPE AFTER HIS SECOND TRIP in 1493. The pineapple WAS GROWN by the INDIANS OVER most of TROPICAL AMERICA WHEN the SPANISH first CAME to the NEW WORLD. TODAY it is grown in ALMOST EVERY tropical COUNTRY. MOST PEOPLE ENJOY a NICE pineapple but a variegated one is ALSO a FEAST FOR the EYES. Some are COMOSUS, BRACTEATUS, NANUS.



FIND - A - WORD SOLUTION

Solution for January/February puzzle:

*Aechmea fasciata*s are popular

SEEDY CAPERS

The following seeds are available:

Alcantarea edmundoi
Alcantarea geniculata
Guzmania spectabilis
Pitcairnia atrorubens
Pitcairnia heterophylla - White
Pitcairnia heterophylla - Orange
Pitcairnia carinata
Puya mirabilis
Tillandsia bulbosa
Tillandsia ionantha

Seeds are 50¢ per packet. When placing your order, please also enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send all orders to:

Mrs Bobby Powell
7 Coolibah Street
SOUTHPORT Q 4215

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due at the October meeting. If you have not paid, you are currently unfinancial. Please pay as soon as possible to stay financial.

Family - \$6.00

Single - \$4.00

If you require postage of your newsletters, please forward 6 (six) current-price stamps.

For all postal members, please send your subscription to:

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

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.

WHO AM I?



Don't forget, anyone who has a mature plant or one in flower but doesn't know it's name, our panel of experts are here to help identify it for you.

AN ADDRESS FOR MAIL

If you would like to get in touch with the Society by mail, please address your correspondence to:

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



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 it a good continuous raffle.

CENT AUCTION

It is wonderful how much fun can be had by our Cent Auction every March, June and September. Remember to bring in some plants that can be placed in the groups for the auction. The money raised goes to help build up our Library.

Please remember not to throw all your tickets into the lots but retain the No. 1 ticket for the draw.

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.

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	Regular:	10 for 35c	100 for \$3.50
	Larger:	5c each	10 for 50c

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,
Diana Hughes

BOOKS

"Bromeliads for Everyone" by Bea Hanson - \$3.50

"Growing Bromeliads" - \$12.00

"Bromeliads for Modern Living" - \$8.50

"Bromeliads - A Guide to the Beautiful Neoregelias" - \$20.00

The objects of the Society shall be:

- (a) To stimulate interest in the conservation, and to promote the culture and development of succulents and bromeliads
- (b) To acquire and disseminate information regarding these plants, and to encourage their production and propagation.
- (c) To ban totally from our collection any such plants which become noxious.
- (d) To enlighten members and the public on the dangers of cultivating certain noxious species.
- (e) To give exhibitions, arrange field days, and other events, and to make such publications as are deemed desirable.
- (f) To associate, affiliate or otherwise joint or connect ourselves with similar bodies or societies.
- (g) To make seeds and plants available to members under the control of the Society.
- (h) To foster family membership and members.