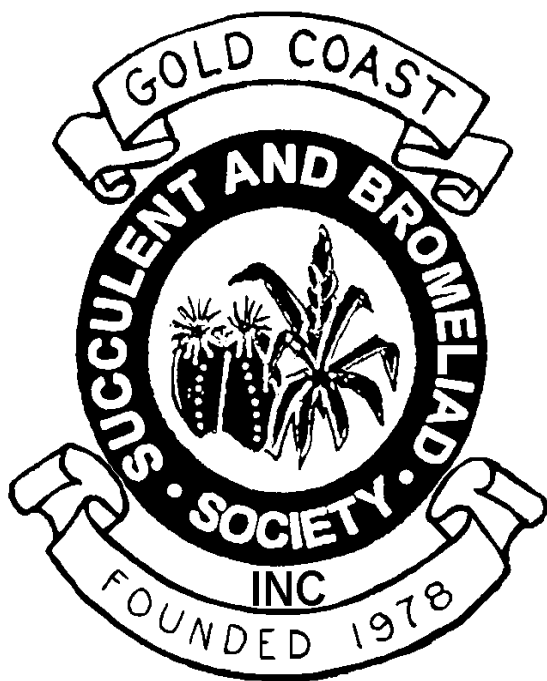


BROMLINK



September/October 1997

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SPECIAL FEATURES	
Annual Subscriptions	3
Reply to Society Finances.	4
All Positions Vacant	4
Bus Trip to Pinegrove Bromeliads	6
An Extraordinary Woman.	7
The Unruly Pitcairnia	9
The Male Species	12
Interstate Shows	14
 REGULAR FEATURES	
Office Bearers	1
Meeting Dates And Venue	2
Dates for Your Diary.	2
President's Report for July & August 1997	3
Visitors to our Area.	6
Plant Roster	15
Library Books	15
!! Congratulations !!	16
Monthly Plant Talks	16
Olwen in the Garden.	16
Tea Roster	17
Plant of the Month	17
Find - A - Word.	18
Solution to July-August Puzzle.	19
Subscriptions.	19
An Address for Mail	19
Name Tags	20
Who Am I? Or Help!!!	20
Ordinary Raffle	20
Cent Auction.	20
Items for Sale	21

OFFICE BEARERS

PATRONESS

Olwen Ferris

PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	5572 0993
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	John Catlan	5546 1401
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Besgrove	(07) 3800 5431
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EDITOR	Wendy Besgrove	
HOSTESS	Monica Bailey	
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PLANT SALES ASSISTANTS	Narelle Aizlewood and Betty Page	
GOODS SALES	Peter Ludowici	
GOODS SALES ASSISTANTS	Bobby Powell & Sue Levine	
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AUDITORS	Yong Gee Raftery & Co	
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HONORARY MEMBERS	Jum Daniels, Roy Wenzel, Bev Collins	

Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the Bromlink, in whole or in part, when credit is given to the author and the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society Inc.

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, 13 September 1997	Cent Auction and General Meeting
Saturday, 20 September 1997	Elanora Fair and Flower Show
Saturday, 11 October 1997	General Meeting
Saturday, 18 October 1997	Bus Trip to Pinegrove Nursery, Wardell
Saturday, 8 November 1997	General Meeting with Special Raffle
Saturday 13 December 1997	Christmas Party

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 JULY & AUGUST 1997

Forty-four attended the July meeting and there were seven visitors. Thanks were given to all who helped out at the Pine Shopping Centre display. We could have done with many more plants but you never know. Narelle Aizlewood, Diana Hughes and Greg Aizlewood all gave very interesting talks on different subjects.

There were 33 members and five visitors at the August meeting. Those who helped out at the Treetops Plaza Shopping Centre were thanked. This time around there were more plants than people. Just goes to show. Clarrie Morrow, Neville Ryan and Peter Ludowici all gave their five-minute talks which were very much enjoyed.

The plants that were on the Plant of the Month and Show and Tell Tables were:

Billbergia cv Doreen Johnson, cv High and Mighty, cv Pink Sensation, cv First Love, cv Dress Circle, cv Delight, Cathryn Wilson, Dr Oesers Bigeneric (amoena x amoena)

Nidularium rutlans

Pitcairnia archeri

Tillandsia secunda, *cacticola*, *acryrostachys*, *didisticha*, *ionantha* (various), *setaformis (juncea)*, *carminea*, *bagua grandensis*, *butzii*, *ortegsiana*, *bulbosa* (Costa Rica form), *bulbosa* (large green)

Vriesea platynema green form variegata

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is just a reminder that October is the beginning of our new financial year, so subscription will be due then. The Annual General Meeting is in November and you have to be financial to be able to vote.

REPLY TO SOCIETY FINANCES

Mary Nicholson

We are a garden society. We are a non-profit making society. We come to the meetings to learn and talk about our plants. At the meetings you can buy plants and ten percent of the sale price is for our Society. Every raffle ticket you buy is 100 percent for our Society. Every time you buy anything at our Society Sales Table - be it a book , pencil, labels or pots - you are also subsidising our Society. Every time you help out with plants for our displays, you are also helping our Society with commission as well as promotion wise. Every time you bring in plants for the raffle tables you are helping our society as it may persuade some people to buy extra tickets.

All of this helps us to achieve the main objects of our Society - to stimulate interest in the conservation, and to promote the culture and developments of succulents and bromeliads.

Yes, Diana, the time will come when we will need to pay more for our yearly subscriptions. But now is not the time.

ALL POSITIONS VACANT

This time around these words will have a very different meaning as they are said at the November meeting as Mary Nicholson and Diana Hughes are not standing for their positions again. You are going to have to find other people to full the position of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Nominations will be accepted for all positions for the new financial year. Now don't all rush in but please let's have a good response.

Mary and Diana will give any help required to the new Committee.

Announcing
A Special Raffle

on

Saturday, 8 November 1997
at the AGM Meeting

This is the Society's way of saying a
special "Thank You" for your patronage

There will be a wide variety of interesting
plants that are currently being assembled
for this day.

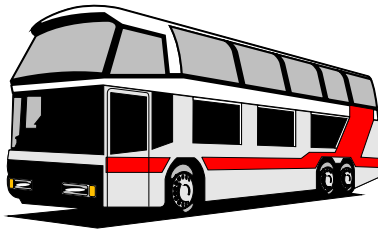
Don't miss out!!!



BUS TRIP TO PINEGROVE BROMELIADS

A bus trip has been planned for Saturday, 18 October 1997 to visit June and John Buchanan's Nursery at Wardell. You will need to bring along your own food, drinks, insect repellent and blanket to sit on.

The bus will depart at 7.30 am. The location of pick-up/s will be announced at the October meeting. This is a great opportunity to see a wide variety of plants. Come along and join in the fun.



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.



AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN

Wendy Besgrove

I want to tell you about an extraordinary woman. I met her several years ago and was attracted to her because she was friendly and happy with an open personality. Someone I felt comfortable with and who was willing to have a chat anytime.

Over the years I have become more acquainted with her and, like most women, she runs a household with a husband and family to care for, as well as elderly parents. She also finds time to do handicrafts and I am always fascinated at what marvellous and intricate pieces she lovingly produces for family and friends.

This amazing woman regularly helps her friends by devoting part of her time to their needs whether it be to give a hand in the garden or a shoulder to lean on or just a friendly voice at the other end of the phone.

So far, she sounds like any other woman, doesn't she. But this is where I think that this particular lady goes beyond "the call of duty". I know there are many women who have accomplished great things, but I don't know anyone quite like the woman I describe.

This extraordinary woman has given many years to her hobby in a variety of ways. She has been a member, Editor, President, Secretary/Treasurer and is currently President and Secretary of the plant society to which she belongs. She makes arrangements so everything runs smoothly at meetings and outings and tries to ensure that the members get the most from the society. She motivates us to help at displays and encourages us to bring in our plants for display and sale. She has been our ambassador to other plant societies and welcomes new members.

On a more personal note, she coordinates the collation of information for me to collect to include in the Bromlink. She hassles John trying to make sure his article makes the deadline which is no easy task. (Believe me, this

is no easy task!) The puzzles we all enjoy doing are just another part of her contribution to the Bromlink. As Editor, I rely on her heavily to give me information about people's birthdays, what is coming up at future meetings and special events that need to be advertised.

If you haven't guessed by now, I'm talking about Mary Nicholson. Mary has given me a lot of support over the years, especially with regard to producing the Bromlink. I could never come close to thanking her enough. She has been a colleague and someone I count as a true friend.

Mary, I want to say thank you for all that you do for me, both in the support you give me and for being a friend.

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any long. In the confessional, he admitted that for years he had been steeling building supplies from the timber yard where he worked.

"What did you take?", his parish priest asked.

"Enough to build my own home and enough for my son's house and houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious", the priest said.

"I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't", the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the timber."

THE UNRULY PITCAIRNIAS

Chet Blackburn

Every family has a horse thief somewhere in its past. In fact, for many families horse thieves make up one or more branches of the family tree. In my family, they probably make up the whole damned canopy, but the point is that no family is without the occasional outsider who refuses to conform to traditions held by the rest of its members - an outlaw who refuses to behave like every other member of the family.

And so it is with bromeliads. The recalcitrant member of this otherwise stable family is the genus *Pitcairnia*. *Pitcairnia*, and its unruly brother genus *Pepinia*, do not always follow the rules that “everyone knows” apply to bromeliads. This in spite of the fact that *Pitcairnia* is one of the first bromeliad genera to evolve.

Prove it you say? Let’s just cite some examples:

1. Maple trees are deciduous, grapevines are deciduous, tulips are deciduous, but “everyone knows” that bromeliads are not deciduous. Someone needs to explain that to the small group of pitcairnias which annually shed their leaves to get through the dry season.
2. “Everyone knows” that a bromeliad leaf consists of a blade and a sheath. No one looks at a bromeliad expecting to see a leaf with a petiole. Yet some of the pitcairnias can’t even get this simple morphological adaptation right.
3. The family Bromeliaceae is restricted to the western hemisphere ... every member of the family but one species is found there. Care to guess which genus includes the solitary outcast?
4. “Everyone knows” that one of the main characteristics for sorting out the three subfamilies of bromeliaceae are the presence or

absence of spines on the foliage. The subfamilies Bromelioideae and Pitcairnioideae have them, Tillandsioideae does not. Leave it to *Pitcairnia* to disrupt this comfortable scheme by some of its members having both types of leaves - spiny and spineless - on the same plant. Some even have spines at the bases of the leaf but none along the blades.

5. “Everyone knows” that bromeliads do not like to be overwatered or grow in soggy soil. Yet there are pitcairnias growing in the wild in what can only be described as sopping wet conditions.
6. Bromeliads, like orchids, are the subjects of rampant if not random hybridising. Hybridisers can’t seem to pass a pair of blooming bromeliads without wondering what the offspring between them would look like. For example, there are only about 40 species of *Cryptanthus*, but there are close to a thousand hybrids and cultivars listed, the differences between some of them so small that “subtle” would even be too strong a word to use in describing them. There are less than 100 *Neoregelia* species described, but there are 100 pages of hybrids and cultivars (about 21 plants per page) listed in Don Beadle’s Preliminary Listing of All Known Cultivar and Grex Names for the Bromeliaceae.

Therefore you would expect a huge genus like *Pitcairnia*, second only to *Tillandsia* in the number of species in the bromeliad family, to have been hybridised and cultivated to high heaven, wouldn’t you? Beadle lists eleven hybrids and no cultivars.

7. Another compulsion of hybridisers is the creation of bigenerics. There are a lot of horticultural Doctor Frankenstein’s among hybridisers who are bent on creating new life forms, even if some of them do turn out to be monsters. *Navia* is the genus closest to *Pitcairnia*, hence it is the most likely candidate for bigeneric dallying, but have you ever heard of an X Navcairnia? If even hybridisers ignore a genus, you know it must be a disreputable one.

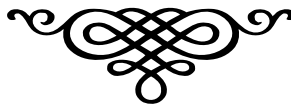
8. That bromeliad growers will collect almost anything is apparent by the fact that some of those bigenerics remain in collections. Why in the world would anyone want to grow an X *Neomea* “Nebula” for example? Still, as indiscriminate as we bromeliad collectors often are, do you know anyone who has as many as six of the 320 or so species of *Pitcairnia* in their collection?

Not only are pitcairnias and pepinias a primitive bunch, but as shown above, they are also an unruly one. For sake of simplicity, in this discussion no distinction is made between the genera *Pepinia* and *Pitcairnia*. They both were formerly included as subgenera of *Pitcairnia* but recently *Pepinia* has been elevated to the status of genus. However, I might add that in this introduction to *The Alphabetical List of Bromeliad Binomials*, Harry Luther remarks, “Nomenclatural problems continue to plague the resurrected genus *Pepinia*. A number of taxa that appear to belong to *Pepinia* have never been formally transferred to *Pitcairnia*”.

Why doesn't that surprise me?

Original article reprinted in part from the Bromeliad News, the newsletter of the Sacramento Bromeliad Society, June 1996.

This article was reprinted in Bromlink from The Journal of the Bromeliad Society Inc, January-February 1997



THE MALE SPECIES

Anne Bartell, Kuranda, Qld

Will we ever understand them? These quaint characters seem to crack over absolutely nothing, performing like John Cleese in Fawlty Towers over such trivial things. And worse - my male species vehemently hates bromeliads with a psychotic passion.

I think it all started when I, being a female, was allotted a space in our very large shed, about the size of a dunny toilet. As I started to collect and grow bromeliads, well, foam boxes came in, ten or more bags of Quinkan, more pots, peanut shell, and perhaps, lots of other little things. It was not deliberate, but before I knew it I had taken over half of the shed. Analysing our problem, I think this was the beginning of where the hate for my plants set in.

My male species has mechanical, woodworking, and fencing tools in abundance. How was I to know that if you cannot find the ends on a roll of fencing wire, it is only natural to cut bits in between if you are in a hurry with a new project? The dramatic act he performed regarding this was horrific.

Taking pliers and losing them (not on purpose) caused lots of trouble. The day I discovered that his long nosed electrical pliers were perfect for cleaning up clumps of Dyckias had me enthusiastically telling him of my inventiveness. Apart from the aesthetic look of my arms (after all, it stopped me looking like a needle addict), I thought he would be pleased with my intuition. Sorry. **WRONG.** I had not put them back - temporarily mislaid.

Things got worse. The male species camping and fishing trips were postponed two years running as he had to build two extra shade houses in his holidays and I heard his explanation to mates on the phone when cancelling, "No alternative mate, we are being overrun with the bloody things".

After a few minor disruptions like blunting the pruning saws and the woodworking screwdrivers, taking over the wheelbarrows and his spraying rig, and a few other odds and ends, the impatient MALE species totally banned me from one corner of the shed and she obeyed!

There had been no major marital disruptions or shed conflicts for nearly a month (apart from losing his home brew marker pen), how petty! And I did leave the portable phone in the shade house overnight. Just my luck it rained! Gee, I put up with a lot of swearing over that episode.

Being a kind female species, I forgave all the tantrums about the above and proceeded on to my next exciting venture. I was right into collecting wood and decided to use the Male species drop-saw (which was in an unbanned area of the shed). I was so proud as a female species to have proficiently sawn up my different shapes of wood without losing a finger that I just had to report what I had done. I now know that “Silence is Golden” has true meaning. Would I knowingly have wrecked his precious saw? How was I to know that the dirt inside old wood wrecks the saw blade?

Just as I am trying to write this last paragraph, the female species has to sign off and run to find out why the male species is yelling out hysterically. Something about using the Toyota Celica as a ute instead of a car. Am I supposed to walk to my destination with the plants so that they do not tip over?

I know it is unbelievable with all the persecution I suffer, but there are some other male aliens that actually feel sorry for this male! To create peace and love of these special plants I even, out of desperation, tried calling him “Derek” occasionally (as of Derek Butcher fame!), hoping that some brom fanaticism and scientific vibes might occur in his brain from the airwaves, but the connotations of his new christian name had me drop the idea very quickly, for the sake of Derek’s life and poor Derek does not even know us! I will admit Derek is one male species worth saving just for the sake of our plants even if he did turn around at Townsville!

Yes, I am still married and I will just repeat the CAIRNS BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP's advertising motto - BROMELIADS ARE VERY EASY TO GROW!!! I have been to hell and back, without actually putting one plant in a pot!

(Signed) - A female species.

INTERSTATE SHOWS

Wendy Besgrove

I was reading some of the newsletters Graham and I received from interstate bromeliad societies and thought I would let you know about some shows that are coming up in the next couple of months. If you are heading south, perhaps you would like to visit a show if you're in the area.

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc have their Spring Show on 27 and 28 September 1997 at the Burwood RSL Club, Cnr Shaftesbury Road & Clifton Avenue, Burwood. The show opens from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 3.30 pm on Sunday.

The Illawarra Bromeliad Society Inc Annual Show in conjunction with "Florawarra" at Wollongong Botanic Gardens on 11 and 12 October.

The Bromeliad Society of NSW Spring Show is on 25 and 26 October at the Drummoyne/Five Dock Senior Citizens' Club, 422 Lyons Road, Five Dock.

The Hunter District Bromeliad Society Inc Annual Show is to be held on 1 and 2 November at the Adamstown Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Brunner and Glebe Roads, Adamstown, opening at 10 am on both days.

The Bromeliad Society of Victoria Inc Annual Show is on 22 and 23 November at Collectors Corner, Gardenworld, Springvale Road, Keysborough. Times are 10 am to 5 pm and 9 am to 5 pm on 23rd. This is held in conjunction with the Carnivorous Society.

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.

SEPTEMBER	Phyllis King, Dawn Collas, Narelle Aizlewood, Bill Bishop
OCTOBER	Don Smith, June Henry, Neil Ross, Heather Barker
NOVEMBER	Greg Aizlewood, Anita Wille, Sylvia Benson, Denise Story

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

We have magazines from nine other societies in Australia, two from the USA and one from New Zealand in our Library. How many members avail themselves of these publications? They make interesting reading and you can be up-to-date with what is going on in other places as well. We are affiliated with these societies and it is good to know what they are doing in their areas.



!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Narelle Aizlewood, Greg Aizlewood, Sylvia Benson, John Catlan, Marie Daniels, Pat Zimmerman, Wendy Besgrove, Jo Ketlaars.



Welcome to Rita Sims of Murwillumbah.

MONTHLY PLANT TALKS

SEPTEMBER	Narelle Aizlewood John Catlan Genny Vauhkonen
OCTOBER	Bobby Powell Greg Aizlewood Graham Besgrove
NOVEMBER	Peter Ludowici Graham Besgrove Genny Vauhkonen

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.



TEA ROSTER



SEPTEMBER	Jan Browett, Paul Spooner, June Henry, Peter Ludowici
OCTOBER	Jeanette Henwood, Anita Wille, Wendy Besgrove, Mary Nicholson
NOVEMBER	Diana Hughes, Greg Aizlewood, Cheryl Archer, Sylvia Wotherspoon

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:

SEPTEMBER	Guzmanias and Euphorbias
OCTOBER	Grey-leaved Tillandsias and Acanthostachys
NOVEMBER	Your most "unusual-looking" Bromeliad
DECEMBER	Your favourite Bromeliad in your collection

FIND - A - WORD

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

Dyckias

DYCKIAS MAY RESEMBLE members OF THE SUCCULENT families BUT EVEN though they ARE often grown with them they BELONG TO the BROMELIAD family. These XEROPHYTIC plants come from SOUTH AMERICA. Dyckias COME IN ALL SIZES - MINATURES to GIANTS. The STIFF SPINED FOLIAGE can be GREEN, ROSE, MAROON, TAN, SILVER. They flower every SPRING. The flowers are BELL shaped. The plant does not DIE after flowering which is unusual in the bromeliad WORLD. These plants NEED to be handled WITH RESPECT. Some plants are BREVIFOLIA, FOSTERIANA, LEPTOSTACHYA, LAD CUTAK.

(Find the CAPITALISED words)

SOLUTION TO JULY-AUGUST PUZZLE

Reasonable level of humidity.

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

AN ADDRESS FOR MAIL

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



Mrs Mary Nicholson
Secretary
Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society Inc
55 Dawn Parade
MIAMI Q 4220

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? OR HELP!!!



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.

Or 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.

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.

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.