

# BROMLINK



March/April 1998

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## OFFICE BEARERS

### PATRONESS

**Olwen Ferris**

PRESIDENT	Bobby Powell (Mrs)	5591 3296
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	5572 0993
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Besgrove	(07) 3800 5431
SECRETARY	Mary Nicholson	
MINUTE SECRETARY	Narelle Aizlewood	
TREASURER	Mary Nicholson	
EDITOR	Wendy Besgrove	
ASSISTANT EDITOR	Mary Nicholson	
HOSTESS	Sue Levine	
COMMITTEE	Graeme Bullen, Neville Ryan, John Catlan, Don Smith, Jenny Vauhkonen, Mac McAlister, Dawn Collas, Olwen Ferris Mac McAlister	
PLANT SALES		
PLANT SALES ASSISTANTS	Betty Page, Fiona Mortimer, Heather Barker, Jan Browett, Denise Story Eddie Collas	
GOODS SALES		
GOODS SALES ASSISTANTS	Sylvia Wotherspoon, Cheryl Archer	
LIBRARIAN	Jeanette Henwood	
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN	Dawn Collas	
RAFFLES SUPERVISOR	Roy Wenzel & Mick Levine	
AUDITORS	Yong Gee Raftery & Co	
LIFE MEMBERS	Olwen Ferris, Rolly Reilly, Mary Nicholson, Graham and Wendy Besgrove, Genny Vauhkonen, John Catlan, Neville Ryan	
HONORARY MEMBERS	Jum Daniels, Roy Wenzel	

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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, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	General Meeting and Cent Auction
April	No meeting due to Easter
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> April to Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Display and plant sales at The Pines Shopping Centre
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May	General Meeting
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> June	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 1998

Welcome to the New Year. For our first meeting in 1998 we had seven visitors, two new members and 40 regulars. It was lovely to see you all. A good start to the year. I would like to thank all those who without being asked when they arrive at our meeting venue, start to help to get the tables and chairs etc ready for our meeting. Ready for action. The same goes for after the meeting. These jobs have to be done by someone before we leave. To all who help (you know who you are), my sincere thank you. We are very grateful.

I have a request to all members who buy John's potting mix. Please recycle your plastic bags back to us and we send them on to John. It's a shame to waste these bags.

Our guest speaker for February was Keiron Rickards who gave us an excellent insight into the world of Nepenthes and Sarracenias - insect eating plants from the same areas as our bromeliads. Keiron was a good speaker and we hope he will come back and tell us about sun dews etc another time.

Narelle passed on a good hint about using a plastic cup she got from Genny and John. Neville's short talk was on Tillandsia sub genus Diaphoranthiomas.

There were a great lot of plants for sales tables with many happy buyers. The plants on the Plant of the Month and Show and Tell tables were:

*Cryptanthus arautic*, Shades of Lilac, Madam Ganna Walka and various unnamed varieties

*Neoregelia fireball* x German Hybrid x *wendlandii*

*Tillandsia fasciculata* (open red branched form), *xerographica* hybrid, *rothii*, *tectorum*, *jalisco monticola*, *fasciculata* red scape

*Vriesea ospinea* var *gruberii*, *scalaris* large form

We wish to congratulate Neville Ryan on becoming a life member and thank you, Neville, for the many things you do to help the club.

We will be having a bromeliad show at The Pines from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Setting up on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 5.30 to 9.00 pm. Thursday and Friday is from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm, and Saturday is 8.00 am to 3.00 pm. Please bring us your plants for sale as well as display. We will need assistance for this show. Please help. We also need the help of a driver and vehicle for the tressels before and after the show. If you can help please let us know.

Happy Gardening.

Bobby.

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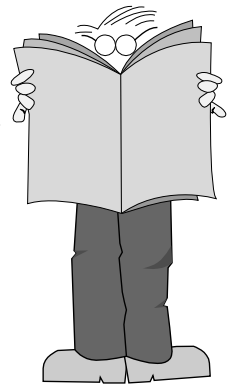
## LAST BROMLINK

This is just a reminder to anyone who has not paid their subscriptions this year that this will be the last Bromlink you will receive unless you act quickly and send in your subscription.

If you are thinking about whether to renew or not, just imagine what it would be like not to receive those interesting stories by John Catlan or our latest regular, the Brom Spider. Or what would it be like to missing out on doing the quizzes.

It only takes a few minutes to send your subscription off. So sit down today, write up your envelope, pop in your subs and postage stamps if you require the Bromlink to be posted and send it off to the Subscription Secretary.

You'll be so glad you took the time!



## DISPLAY - SHOPPING CENTRE

We are having another display at The Pine Shopping Centre this April-May.

This time around we do need many more plants for sale and display.

We also need people to man the display, especially in the mornings.

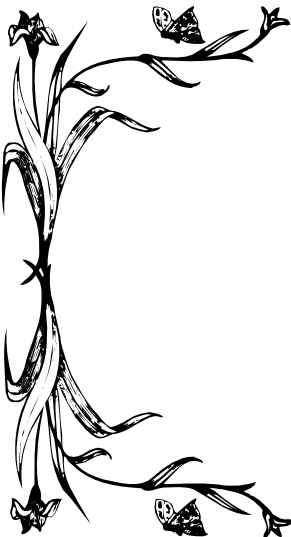
We set up at 5.30 - 9.00 pm, Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. Thursday and Friday the hours will be 8.00 am to 9.00 pm and Saturday from 8.00 am to 3.00 pm.

There will be a roster for you to set out your own time so there will be someone there at all times.

I will not be available this time so I am relying on others to be there.

Mary Nicholson.

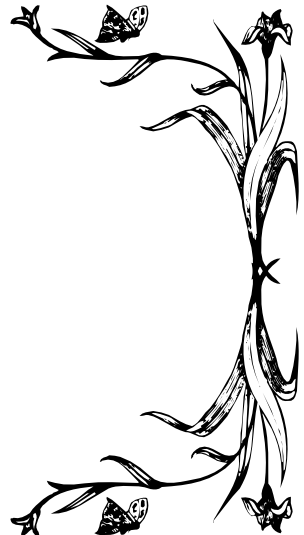
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### CONDOLENCES

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of a member, Nell Baldwin.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones during this time of great sorrow.





## UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

Cryptanthus pups - sometimes pups will not stay in the soil and just keep popping out which makes it very difficult to strike roots. If it's mice or man that knocks them out of the soil, it's your problem and you will have to solve it.

At times you will have Cryptanthus pups where the leaves will fold back upon the base of the pup making it impossible to plant the pup correctly. The plant is trying to slow down evaporation by rolling itself into a tight ball to conserve moisture. There is only one cause, lack of humidity, but it occurs in a number of ways:

- (1) when the leaves fold back down onto the soil then act as levers and lift the base of the pup out of the soil, then continue to fold down eventually forming a ball. Problem may be not enough water but definitely too low a humidity in your propagation area. (Plants will grow in conditions where humidity is too low because their roots are replacing lost moisture.) If you can strike pups in your Cryptanthus growing area (without them turning into a ball) it is an indication that you are growing the plants under satisfactory humidity levels
- (2) when man or mice knock the pup out of contact with the soil (where you have maximum humidity levels) the pup will dry out and curl into a ball
- (3) obtain a pup and when you get around to potting it up find it has curled into a ball. It means it has been transported or held in too low a humidity. Wrap the pups in newspaper, wet the lot and transport in a cardboard box.



Once you have your *Cryptanthus* pups in or approaching the foetal position, you cannot pot them up until you straighten them out. You can solve the problem by submerging the pup in water for a day then storing it in a standard 200mm pot half filled with very wet mixture and if you want to maximise the humidity level, cover the top of the pot with Glad Wrap, punch a few holes in the Glad Wrap and soon the leaves will straighten up and the pup can be planted normally.

Established *Cryptanthus* have a way of indicating when they are happy with the humidity by how close the leaves are to the top of the potting mix. They should not be hugging the soil like a second skin but slightly up. Watch the leaves in the morning, after watering, during very high humidity days, during rainy periods. You will gradually come to understand when they are happy. A couple of things that may confuse the issue - in too low light the leaves will point to the sky as if surrendering. Sometimes the leaves are held off the soil by the rim of the pot even when the humidity is too low.

In winter, *Cryptanthus* leaves do not like to be wet during the night time. If you have a *Cryptanthus fosteriana* (or their look alikes) you will find (by feeling) that there is a thick rib down the entire length of the leaf. During cold weather, water drops on this portion of the leaf causes the cells to rupture creating a dead spot that is like a dimple (concave).

~~~oooOOOooo~~~

*Racinaea fraseri* - A large green plant about a metre across and half a metre high. When it flowers the inflorescence and scape is approximately two metres and slightly lighter in colour than fire engine red. For me it's an ideal garden plant and this year my plants will flower and I've another report of plants flowering so maybe this is the year mature plants flower. But, and it's a little but, but for me it's an infuriating but, therefore it begins to assume the proportions of a big but, right in the middle of the inflorescence there develops a kink. This is a great plant, easy to grow,

looks great, spectacular and long lasting but the one blot on perfection is that kink in the inflorescence. Every time I look at this inflorescence I see this damn kink.

Theory No. 1 was developed from the fact if you have half a dozen flowering *Vrieseas* of the same type flowering together and every scape (flower stem) lean towards the sun, the plants are telling me they would appreciate a little more slight. (There are *Vrieseas* that lean no matter what you do.) Also being a *Racinaea* it should be grown in more light and the stem would be straight. I have lived with this theory for years then listening to Maurie Kellett at the Adelaide conference, there is a bloke in Equador who grows straight *Racinaea fraseri*, but (now here's that word again) when they are coming into flower he moves the flowering plants into a large fernery. What say our man in Equador is moving the plants into a fernery with the correct light?

This year I tried my theory out and was going well. We had a rainy wet week and I moved the plants into what would be full sun if the sun was shining. Then the first day after the sun came out the inflorescence developed the kink.

Theory No 2 was developed from the fact that the plants informed me that Theory No 1 was incorrect. The new theory is the kink is an adaptation to assist pollination, a perch for tired humming birds.

Theory No 3 - I now believe the plants stress out from lack of humidity and water, then inflorescence wilts and when it recovers we are left with "the kink". What say our man in Equador is moving the plants into a fernery where he is able to maintain humidity and keep the water up to the plants until the inflorescence hardens up. It will be three years until these pups flower, but it will be interesting to try the new theory.

A characteristic of *Racinaea fraseri* is that it never produces roots and only has two pups, will self pollinate and germination of the seed is prolific.



Three plain broms - the year was '64 or 5 and had been down to see the old man who lived at Darke's Forest on the Princess Highway, heading north and home, across the bridge, left Sydney behind and was out in the middle of the scrub in a twenty kangaroo town called Hornsby. We needed a break so stopped at a nursery and as they preferred my money to the plants, I left with three unnamed broms.

The first was in a four-inch clay pot and looked like a Dyckia. They said it had never pupped or got any bigger. The second plant was emerald green and no spines so obviously an over-fertilised *Vriesea* and the third was a wide soft leaf with fine spines a *Nidularium*, probably? I was told they were one of plants and needed glasshouse conditions to survive. So back home they went into the glasshouse, were peered at constantly, but at the end of a couple of years no change.

Some cacti people said you couldn't kill Dyckias, so I potted it into a five-inch pot. Next month it had filled the pot, so I put it into a six-inch pot, a month later it had filled that pot so instead of mucking about I potted the Dyckia into a 12-inch plastic pot. Next month it was over three feet across. A couple of pineapple farmers saw the plant and it was identified as one of the wild pineapples that the modern types were developed from. Their advice was plant it in the garden and put a wheelbarrow of old rotted fowl manure under it. When I got up next morning I reckoned the pineapple plant was six feet across. This plant had an exceptional speedy growth. About a year or two later I was looking at a plant twelve feet across, the whole centre of the plant was laquer red. *Bromelia balansae* was coming into flower. Whenever I hear of anybody wanting to grown *Bromelia balansae* all the brom growers say that prickly plant wouldn't have it within a mile of my place, but *Bromelia balansae* is soul food when

it comes into flowers. You'll feel good about your achievement for the rest of your life. It will make your heart sing. Why kill new growers' enthusiasm to experience the enthusiasm and delight of watching this plant flower.

A sequel to this is that Roy Cockin got a pup and he flowered the plant and grew the seed. A local gardener approached him for some plants to stop dogs, kids and horses cutting across the corner of his property and trampling his garden. A couple of years later, Roy gets a phone call from the local gardener advising him he'd dropped the plants off in Roy's front yard. He didn't want them. Evidently they'd kept bikes, kids, dogs, horses, cows and the owners out of the property.

The second plant, the emerald green *Vriesea* stayed in the glasshouse for close to 20 years and never flowered. It was shifted to Jacob's Well and went under the trees. Within two years it flowered. We had *Vriesea gladioflora*. A characteristic of this plant is it has emerald green foliage even when lacking fertiliser. I gave a plant to Mary Nicholson (our club's Treasurer). She put the pot into the garden and it flowered for her. I lost my plant but got a pup back from Mary. It flowered this year. The flowers would be about 3 cm across with a purple blush to them, hence the name.

The third plant, the soft leaf *Nidularium* stayed in the glasshouse for close to 20 years and never flowered. Out under the trees at Jacob's Well it flowered. Quite a unique plant. When it flowers again I have promised to bundle up the flowering plant and send it to Dr Jekyll (Derek) for identifying and no doubt Derek will advise you of his findings. Off the cuff I would say it's the biggest *Nidularium* I have flowered plant-wise, and the large bract is soft pink and very attractive.

This is goodbye from where I sit under the mango trees and watch the broms grow. They are perfect one day and magnificent the next. I think I'll get another *Bromelia balansae* and watch it come into flower. I need it, I want it, I must have it now. Has anyone got a plant to spare.

God willing you will hear from us next month.

Matrimony is a bargain, and somebody has to get the worst  
of the bargain (Helen Rowland)

or

But if he finds you and you find him, the rest of the world  
don't matter' for the thousandth man will sink or swim  
with you in any water (Rudyard Kipling, "The Thousandth Man")

or

A spouse is in general better please with good food upon  
the table for two, than with nagging or absence.

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*Ed Note:*

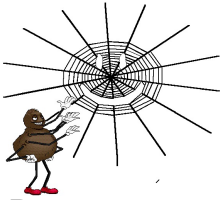
*I hate to tell you this John, but Graham tells me that his *Racinaea Fraseri* has a perfectly straight inflorescence and it is firmly rooted in the garden at the front of the house. Perhaps it's just happy where it's growing. Sorry, John. You might need to develop Theory No 4.*

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## **DID YOU KNOW!**

All cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti.

The cactus family is just one of many groups called succulent plants. Daisies to lilies, geraniums and even grapes have species that are considered succulent plants.



## POTS

# BROM ROOTS

Brom Spider

The only reason we use pots is for convenience sake. You could imagine how much trouble it would be if you had a magnificent *Aechmea chantinii* in bloom on a limb of your Poinciana and you wanted to show it off. You would have a bit of a problem explaining to your other half why a 14-foot long limb was tied onto your car on the day of the meeting!

If you wish to pot you plants, try to use an appropriate size pot for the plant. You can start small seedlings and small plants in tubes, but when they get bigger try and pot up.

You could grown an *Aechmea chantinii* in a seedling tube from seedling to mature blooming stage but it would look like John Catlan trying to squeeze into a pair of Graham's bike shorts!

Next thing to weigh up is "Do I use a plastic pot or a clay one?". Take into consideration the following factors:

1. Plastic pots are lightweight, clay ones are heavy but more stable.
2. Plastic pots are cheaper to purchase than clay ones.
3. Black, white or brown plastic pots will retain more heat and moisture than clay because they are not porous.
4. Plastic pots not being porous allows for watering less because clay pots dry out quicker.
5. Clay pots are great for growing *Catopsis* in because they seem to like their roots cooler than other bromeliads.
6. Do not use glazed pots (porcelain or ceramic).

Don't get me wrong. Both clay and plastic are great for your plants. It all comes down to personal choice. I have plants in both types so you choose which one suits your needs.

Squat pots tend to be more stable than conventional pots because they are lower in height and are usually have a wide base but again it is your choice.

## **MOUNTING PLANTS**

This one has so many options I don't know where to begin ...! OK. In the beginning there was panty hose ... Oops, sorry, I got carried away.

Mounting your plants slightly differs as to whether you are mounting Tillandsias or Neoregelias, etc. Firstly we will deal with mounting Tillandsias.

If you plan to mount Tillandsias you can use a multitude of mediums for attaching them to and fixing mediums. The first one springs to mind is panty hose. This can be of assistance to potential bank robbers. Anyway, cut the panty hose across the legs starting from the toes so you can get rings of stocking which you then stretch and cut to for a length. Not like me when I first started. I used to cut them the length of the leg and I could not work out why it took so long to get strips of stocking. But who said I was Irish.

Now place your Tillandsia on an appropriate piece of cork or wood and tie it on so that it is firm but not too tight. It has to be on solid so it doesn't wobble about otherwise it will take the plant a long time to take root. Once you've done this, you're on your way to tying heaven. After about 12 months if the plant is firmly mounted and the roots have taken hold, you can cut away the stocking and the plant will fend for itself.

You can also use wood glue eg Aquahere (this is the white glue which turns clear when dry) and you have fun peeling it off yourself and it really

feels great and ... Oops, sorry, I got carried away there. Back to the plot. If you use the above glue, place a dab of it on your mount and place the plant onto it. Make sure the mount is on a flat surface so that the glue and the plant do not fall off before it dries. You could also tie stocking to it to keep it there. Just be sure that the glue has had 24 to 48 hours drying before placing outside otherwise when you hose your plants, the glue will wash away and your plant will fall off.

You can also use other glues such as Hard As nails, warm glue from a glue gun but not hot glue. These plants mounted with hot glue are the ones you see as fridge magnets or the one from K Mart etc. The problem with this type of glue is that it comes out at a temperature of 300°C+. How would you like your butt stuck into something that hot and then try to survive! The plants do not like it either.

Wire could be used as long as it is not copper wire as copper has and does give a death sentence to your bromeliads. Try hard not to use fishing line as this is too taught and does not stretch like stocking. It can also cut into the plant tissue.

When you mount up plants from other genera onto trees, pieces of logs etc, what has to be done to these is slightly different.

Firstly, take the plant and place against the object to be mounted on. If your plant has roots, make sure you place around the roots some sphagnum moss or coconut fibre to hold in some moisture. Then place a piece of stocking over the moss or fibre then tie this onto the branch and secure it in place. This will make a sort of pot against the bromeliad so it will eventually take root.

What will happen in time is the plants roots will take hold so when the stocking dies the plant will be happy and merry in its new home.

I've just brushed the surface with this but some bromeliads such as the terrestrial ones (eg *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Bromelia*, *Ananas*, *Cryptanthus*,



Pitcairnia, etc) would rather be in the ground or pots. So please leave these guys with their roots in terra firma.

If you have question, just ask. People are there to help and advise.

Until next issue. Happy growing.

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## A WORD OF WARNING TO NEW MEMBERS

Chet Blackburn

It all starts out innocently! You go to a nursery or chain store to pick up a few seedling tomato plants for your garden. The you see “It”.

More often than not, “It” is an *Aechmea fasciata*...that strange being that is both bizarre and beautiful at the same time. Its silvery banded foliage and huge bright rose-pink inflorescence peppered with baby blue flowers is quite unlike any other plant you’d ever seen before. You stop in your tracks. You cannot help but stare at it for a moment. That moment can become one of those defining moments of a lifetime. The less curious, but nonetheless wiser among us simply stare briefly and then move on, never aware of how close they had actually come.

Those with more curiosity than common sense however, pause long enough to ask the person behind the counter about “It”. That worthy informs us that “It” is a “bromel-aid”. When pressed further, he advises us that a bromel-aid is some kind of cactus or orchid, and that you’re only supposed to put water in the centre of the plant...never in the soil, or maybe you’re only supposed to “mist it”.

Unfortunately, since the Federal Drug Administration does not yet require a warning label on bromeliads advising of their addictive nature, you are blissfully unaware of the potential hazards to your financial health. You

by “It”, and so begins your headlong plunge into the murky world of the bromeliad counterculture.

You soon will find that, like the potato chip that advertises, “Bet you can’t eat just one!”. *Aechmea fasciata* usually proves to be just the first in a long string of bromeliads encountered over the ensuing months that simply can’t be resisted. The addiction takes hold rapidly and somewhere around the third or fourth bromeliad, you are beyond rehabilitation. You not only have to have more and more bromeliads; you have to have them more and more frequently!

Then, you move onto to the harder stuff...the stuff that isn’t sold over the counter at nurseries and discount stores...the rare stuff found only through the mails from plant pushers in Florida and Southern California. At first, you have no idea what your are ordering; the description in the catalogue just sounds interesting! You start winding up with plants with strange sounding names like *Canistrum* and *Quesnelia*. However, as you become more sophisticated you actually begin to know what you want...and what you want is inevitably more expensive.

Your collection will continue to grow in direct proportion to your decline in social skills. You will no longer care about how your favorite sports teams are doing, what Madonna is up to, or which criminal was recently let off by a lame-brained jury. The scales of justice become less significant to you than the presence of scales on your *Vriesea hieroglyphica*. You can now recognize the difference between the several varieties of *Aechmea disticantha*, but you can no longer remember the name of your youngest child.

Up until now, your have been alone in your epiphytic affliction. Until now, your family and friends have regarded you as becoming increasingly weird, but nonetheless harmless. At some point though, you will

eventually encounter another bromophile, and you will learn that there is a group in your town that meets clandestinely once a month to talk about nothing but bromeliads. That's when the real trouble begins. Up to that point, bromeliads had found their way into your home one or two at a time. You have been limited in your ability to acquire them by their relative unavailability coupled with your own financial constraints. Now, however, you become exposed to the world of free offsets and inexpensive plant tables. You carry them home by the armload!

Your family begins to realize—too late—that now that you have become part of an organization, you are no longer harmless. The windowsills and every nook and cranny of the house are saturated with bromeliads and the word “greenhouse” begins to crop up more and more frequently in conversations with your spouse, (as does the word “divorce”.)

By now also, your spouse has noticed another strange phenomenon of the bromeliad counterculture. That is...while only a tiny percentage of the world's population even knows what a bromeliad is, there are more books about them than there are on world history, politics, and human behavior combined...and you have now embarked upon the path to own every one of them.

You are beyond redemption and you can bet your spouse will never send you out to buy another tomato plant again.

I thought it only fair to warn you.

*Reprinted from Journal of The Bromeliad Society  
Bromeliad Society Incorporated, January-February, 1998*

## SEEDY CAPERS

The following seeds are available:

*Aechmea organensis*

*Aechmea calyculata*

*Aechmea fendleri*

*Aechmea biflora*

*Aechmea tillandsioides*

*Aechmea tessmanii* Red Form

*Aechmea tessmanii* Green Form

*Aechmea tessmanii* Silver Banks Form

*Aechmea chantinii* (various numbers)

*Aechmea weilbachii* Orange Form

*Aechmea* Anna

*Aechmea* Isle

*Billbergia vittata*

*Dyckia retusa*

*Dyckia fosteriana*

*Hohenbergia pennae*

*Neoregelia species* Cuena Fairchild

*Neoregelia* Georges Prince

*Quesnelia edmundoi* Green Form

*Vriesea malzinei* Red Form

*Vriesea racinae* (small form) x *Vriesea Hieroglyphica*

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

## WHAT IS A SUCCULENT?

Mary Nicholson

The botanical definition of a succulent is a plant characterised by the presence of water storage parenchyma. Parenchyma is a tissue consisting of thin-walled cells with air spaces between them; when this tissue has been developed for water storage, the cells are large and full of mucilage which holds the stored water.

In leaf succulents the storage tissue is underneath the photosynthetic layer, while in the stem succulents the storage tissue is in the cortex.

Many plants grown as succulents are actually xerophytes or tuberous or caudiciform plants. These plants have no definite water storage tissue. The true caudex is a food (not water) storage organ from which an annual shoot springs to life.

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## !! CONGRATULATIONS !!

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



Welcome to Richard Bond and Michelle Schmidt.

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## PLANTS FOR SALE

If you are interested in buying some cacti and succulents, please phone Lyn Thompson on (07) 5593 0787.

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## 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>MARCH</b> | Patricia Zimmerman, Graeme Bullen, Tessie White, Mick Levine |
| <b>MAY</b>   | Bill Bishop, Sue Levine, Betty Page, Bobby Powell            |

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.

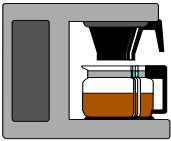
## VISITORS TO OUR AREA

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.





## TEA ROSTER



|              |                                                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MARCH</b> | Patricia Zimmerman, Graeme Bullen, Tessie White, Peter Ludowici |
| <b>MAY</b>   | Bill Bishop, Irene Small, Heather Barker, Sylvia Benson         |

## MONTHLY PLANT TALKS

|              |                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>MARCH</b> | John Catlan, Olwen Ferris, Mary Nicholson |
| <b>MAY</b>   | Genny Vauhkonen, Graham Besgrove          |

## 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.

## 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>MARCH</b> | Foliage Vrieseas     |
| <b>MAY</b>   | Aechmeas             |
| <b>JUNE</b>  | Dyckias and Hechtias |

## FIND - A - WORD

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

## PORTEA

PORTEAS are MEDIUM to LARGE PLANTS. THEY GROW in the COASTAL AREAS of BRAZIL. Their LONG LASTING INFLORESCENCES are very DECORATIVE. The FOLIAGE is SPINED and MAINLY GREEN. These plants need VERY BRIGHT LIGHT and WARM SUNNY CONDITIONS. They CAN MAKE a large CLUMP so they WANT PLENTY of ROOM. They are HARDY plants that flower for a long TIME. TWO being PETROPOLITANA var EXTENSA and LEPTANTHA. The FLOWERS can be LAVENDER and PINK.

(Find the CAPITALISED words.)



## SOLUTION TO JANUARY/FEBRUARY PUZZLE

Not very easy to come by.

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### 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

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### 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

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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.

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## WHO AM I? OR HELP!!!



Don't forget, anyone who has a mature plant or one in flower but doesn't know its 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.

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## 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.

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## 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**

|             |                  |     |
|-------------|------------------|-----|
| <b>POTS</b> | 105 mm squat pot | 20c |
|             | 125 mm           | 25c |
|             | 140 mm           | 30c |
|             | 165 mm           | 45c |
|             | 200 mm           | 65c |

**NUTRICOTE**            500g            \$2.50

|               |          |            |                |
|---------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| <b>LABELS</b> | Regular: | 10 for 35c | 100 for \$3.50 |
|               | Larger:  | 5c each    | 10 for 50c     |

**PENCILS**            \$2.20 each

**PLANT LADDERS**            25c

**PLANT HANGERS**            25c

**SALES STICKERS**            5¢ each or 10 for 50¢

**SOCIETY BADGES**            \$3.00 each  
Available from the Treasurer

**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.