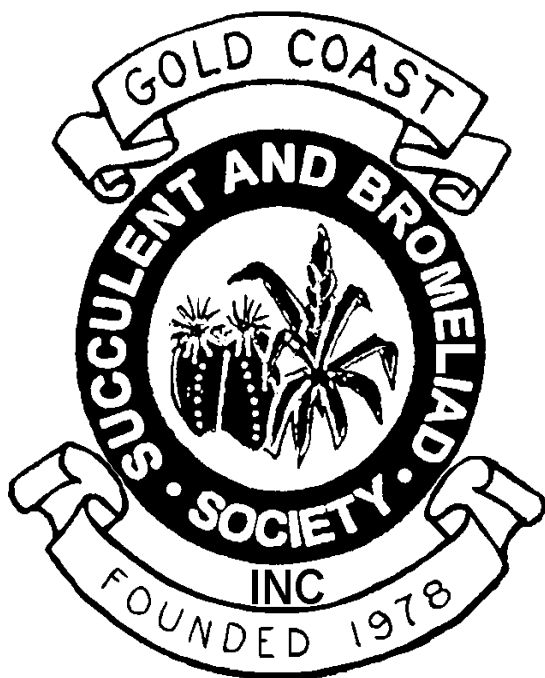


# BROOMLINK



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1999

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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, 12 <sup>th</sup> September 1999 - AM	Display and Sales, Elanora Flower Show and Fete
Saturday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September 1999 - PM	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September 1999 - AM	Display and Sales, Twin Towns and District Garden Fair
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October 1999	General Meeting
Thursday - Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> October 1999	Southport Park Shopping Centre Display and Sales
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> November 1999	Annual General Meeting, General Meeting and Special Raffle
Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup> November 1999	Field Day at Jacobs Well

### 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.

## REPORT ON THE 1999 BROMELIAD CONFERENCE HELD AT CAIRNS - 26-31 AUGUST

Bobby Powell

There were 150 delegates attending the Conference from South Africa, USA, Phillipines, Hawaii, New Zealand and from most States of Australia. The speakers were:

- Pamela Koide of Bird Rock Tropicals who spoke on Tillandsias at her home and business
- Margaret Paterson - Gympie on Cryptanthus
- Andrew Flower, New Zealand - Water Pressure
- Derek Butcher, South Australia - Nomenclature
- Chris Larsen - A Travelogue Through North West Argentina
- Bob Smythe - Growing Neoregelias in the Dry Tropics
- Peter Huddy - Vriesea Growing
- Pamela Koide - Billgergia Species and Don Beadle's Hybrids (Don was unable to attend so he gave his notes and slides to Pamela so we did not miss out.)
- Peter Tristram - Aechmeas from the Lower Andes and Upper Amazonian Area
- Pamela Koide - Exploring Tillandsias of Western Mexico
- Len Trevor - Cultivation of Bromeliads in Australia
- Jim Wait - Ferals
- Pamela Koide - The King and I and the Doi Tung Reforestation Project of Thailand

We saw four very lovely gardens belonging to members of the Cairns Society and I must congratulate Lynne Bob and the helpers of the Cairns Society for the excellent job they did to make the Conference a swinging success in so many ways.

Gradually I will feed you articles in the Bromlink on news of these very full and interesting days. The Bromeliad display was very good, especially the owl that had been made out of dried leaves from off the old plants. There were many expensive plants there

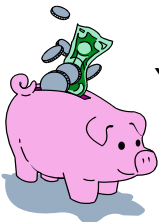
that had not been long in Australia. But these will be coming on to the Bromeliad scene before long. In closing, I would like to tell you that our club won the cushion raffle and the leadlight panes went to South Africa.

---

*It is good to hear that all who went to Cairns had a good time and are now home safe but very tired.*

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE



Yes. It's that time of the year again when we all need to pay our subscriptions. All those who joined after June this year however, do not need to pay again. (If you are not sure, please see Mary.)

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## ELECTIONS

At the November meeting, all positions will become vacant. Please consider not what the Society can do you for, but what you can do to help it achieve in the next twelve months.

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## SPECIAL RAFFLE

The November meetings sees our Special Raffle. Neville Ryan has again agreed to purchase plants for this Raffle. These are plants that are not so easy to find hence the term "Special Raffle". This is another way in which your Society thanks you for the hard work you do for your club.



## THE DREADED BLACK SPOT AND YOUR BROMELIADS

Bobby Powell

This tip is from Bob Smythe who is a Chemist and has come up with this very good discovery.

Canola oil formulation all in the chemicals he uses are from domestic supplies. White oil from Canola - 750ml 3 tablespoons Sill detergent and 1250ml water.

Scale spray - 300ml Canola white oil mixture, 300ml vinegar or ammonia, 4 litres of water.

Vinegar brand does not matter.

Ammonia - use Superior brand as tests have shown it does not have phyto-toxic detergents added.

When plants are colouring up (our winter), use the acid formulation.

When the plants are in growth, use the stronger formulation (ammonia).

Canola white oil functions differently. It would smother the insect then degrade within a few days in the bright light and more slowly in the shade. Usually it has degraded in two days and can be washed off. Perfect. It does the job and doesn't hang around. Take the usual precautions like not spraying on hot sunny days, spray in the evenings and wash off the excess in the morning.

Test soft and delicate plants as the ammonia formulation has been known to burn some delicate plants when it lodges between two soft leaves. The oil, if put on too thickly, can

also damage soft leaves emerging from the water. Overcast days are the best times.

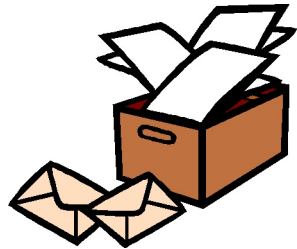
I was very careful at the start but now I am blasé. It is a wonderful treatment without any nasty insecticides.

*(This is an extract from the paper given by Mr Bob Smythe of Townsville.)*

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## SUGGESTION BOX

This box is to be used by the members to ask questions which will be answered at the next meeting or made into an article for the Bromlink. If everyone wrote a piece - short or long - about how they were hooked on to Bromeliads and placed it in this box, you would be helping our Bromlink continue to appeal to you. Or a piece on your favourite Bromeliad or some tip that works for you and you would like to pass on to your fellow growers. This will be of help to others too.



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

On Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 1999, Twin Towns and District Garden Club Inc are holding their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower Show at Tweed Heads Civic Centre Auditorium from 8.00 am.. We are having a Display and Sales Table so will need plants and members to man the tables.

On Thursday to Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 1999, there will be a Display and Sales at Southport Park Shopping Centre. Plants, plants and more plants will be needed if we are going to do as well



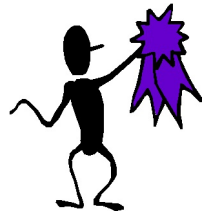
as we did earlier in the year. There will be time to get those plants ready now that the weather is getting warmer. Set up is on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October after 5.00 pm.

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 1999, there will be a field day at John Catlan and Genny Vauhkonen's at Jacobs Well. More in the next Bromlink. Just an early reminder to keep this day free for a fun day.

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## CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE

Our congratulations to two of our members who had success with their exhibits at our Gold Coast Show.



Good on you Bidy Pollock and Dawn Collas.

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## UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

Uncle Jack – He came into our lives as plain Jack. The introduction was by our English Boxer called Tuppy who had a wiggle that would make Marilyn Munroe green with envy. Jack arrived on our door step to lodge a complaint that Tuppy was chasing his White Leghorn chooks and putting them off the lay. I hauled out my Clarence Darrow character and went into overdrive, “Although no doubt our Boxer is guilty of chasing your chooks, are you sure that on this particular occasion it was Tuppy and not one of the other boxers in the neighbourhood”. I was absolutely brilliant. Jack had calmed down and as he was a reasonable and logical man, I had sown the seeds of doubt. Then Tuppy showed up and, having a gregarious nature, cam and sat between us and stared lovingly up at us with her big brown eyes. Unfortunately in her big black

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drooling jowls were stuck numerous fluffy white bum feathers from white, now off the lay, leghorn chooks. Without a work Jack turned and headed home.

Jack's first meetings never seem to be all that brilliant. We went around to Ernie's place (our club member of the house boat fame) and No. 1 Daughter had just made a batch of salt water taffy. Jack was offered a piece. Unfortunately it glued his set of chopper together and although he left the house and did his utmost to unglue them, he returned later, somewhat embarrassed, with them in his pocket to be unglued later in the privacy of his own home.

Jack as a young Welsh immigrant to Australia in the thirties, he naturally suffered some confusion regarding his surroundings. One of these involved a Bunya Nut Tree (*Araucaria bidwillii*), which is related to the Monkey Puzzler Tree (*Araucaria araucana*) from Chile. The female cones of the Bunya Nut Tree are about the size of a very large pineapple and the surface pattern is like a pineapple. When young Jack found the Bunya Nut Tree growing in a park, he was going to have one of those pineapples. It was a matter of keeping an eye on the tree and one would be his. A storm, a fallen pineapple, then triumphantly back at the boarding house and the other boarders identifying his pineapple as a bunya nut. His heart was broken, his optimism had been set on a pineapple. Later Jack had his own pineapple farm.



Mike Symmons – In Australia our introduction to Bromeliads came via the cactus and succulent growers and they imprinted their cultural techniques on the early Bromeliad culture. The modern techniques come via commercial production nurseries and we now view Bromeliad perfection as normal influenced from their production.

For example, people expect *Aechmea weilbachii* to have long floppy leaves, and a bract that leans but if you reduce the nitrogen a bit, increase the light and slow down the growth a touch by easing up on the fertiliser, you will wind up with a compact stiff leaf plant about three-quarters the size produced by a nursery. If you displayed this plant, the first comment you would be hit with is, "It's alright, a bit small give it a decent feed and you would have been in with a chance". Another wonderful comment along the same lines, "When I grew that *Aechmea* it was fifteen feet across". The fact that the leaves were so soft they lay on the ground like green snakes and the person no longer grows these plants because they take up too much room is omitted from the discussion. Another lulu is "My plant is absolutely magnificent. I wish I could have brought it in but its too big to fit in the car". Here's an oldie but a goodie, "I trimmed the leaves back to half their length because they keep flopping over and breaking".

The acceptance of this type of Bromeliad growth has been so universal in the clubs it will take monumental attitude change which I expect will not happen until there are new young judges coming through who wish to make their impact on the Bromeliad culture. Big is beautiful, sometimes.

Mike Symmons, one of our members living in the northern area of the Gold Coast, did his time at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens. He did a stint in the army as a surveyor then wound up in New Guinea doing the same. Through this period, acquired an interest in orchids and for the last 20 years has been a one-man orchid nursery "Pacific Orchids". He is a serious orchid grower and this translates into epiphytes. When Mike took an interest in Bromeliads a number of years ago, he tackled the problem from the viewpoint that he was cultivating epiphytes.

For a potting mix he uses orchid bark plus ten percent malea charcoal for just about all his Bromeloids, the exception would be *Dyckias* and *Ananas*. To this is added a regular liquid feed

program carried out according to the weather conditions. Mike is not one to have secrets and is quite willing to tell you what he does. Because Mike is consistent it is extremely interesting to see how the plants react to Mike's culture. For me its like having my own experimental Bromeliad nursery down the end of the road and it costs me nothing.

Mike punctilious attitude towards growing orchids is carried over to his treatment of his Bromeliads and I learn a lot by just looking at the results Mike gets. In future magazines we will come back to Mike and his Bromeliads but this time we will deal with Mike and his *Tillandsia fasciculata* in its many forms.

- Pot – 140mm dome orchid pot
- Mix – orchid bark + 10 percent malea charcoal
- Feed – liquid feed orchid
- Position – hanging basket
- Shade – 70% black cloth knitted
- Water – Council chlorinated and hand

The *Tillandsia fasciculata* thrives under this culture. I have changed to this method. Neville Ryan has taken serious interest in Mike's culture and I believe is trying it.



**ROSES ARE RED  
VIOLETS ARE BLUE  
IF A POEM DOESN'T RHYME  
SOME PEOPLE THINK ITS SOMEHOW SUPERIOR TO  
ONE THAT DOES**

**FREDERICK OLIVER**



The owners of the King Coffee Plantation, members who live just south of the border, were just passing through. They are enthusiastic members. The coffee topic surfaced when King complained that if Maureen kept acquiring plants, he would have to cut down some of his coffee trees. The old ears started to waggle, yes, he grows his own coffee, makes his own coffee and percolates his own coffee.

“I suppose you have a U-beaut coffee machine that can turn out hundreds of cappuccinos.” His head lifted up, his frame straightened, his eyes twinkled. “As a matter of fact, I did manage to pick up one. Unfortunately the first big get together we could only get half the machine to work, on the second get together, Energex cut the power off..” Such is life. There is always next time. He needs fifty people to fire up the machine. It would make a good field day. They have a great garden, it’s huge. You will meet Hamish and his loved ones.



The wild chooks of Brunswick Heads – When we go on our plant scouting trips, we always stop in the National Park’s park by the river just south of Brunswick Heads. In the beginning there were about 20 plus roosters and hens but the local dogs and foxes take their toll and from time to time more are dumped. At night they find safety by camping in the trees overhanging the river. Initially the roosters had their clutch of hens and they drove off the rest of the roosters. These were targets for the predators. Because egg laying placed the hens in a vulnerable position they have all been lost to predators.

With the loss of hens, the roosters banded together but at all times the flock of roosters will drive off two or three other roosters and these are kept about twenty metres from the main flock and if and when the outsiders fall to predators, others are then picked on and driven from the flock.

Billbergias – in the foliage group of Billbergias, the colour of the foliage intensifies as the plant matures but is adversely affected by too much nitrogen, it can remain green. You just have to experiment to get it right.

At exactly the flowering time, there is a slight increase in colour especially if the plant should happen to be throwing a pup at the same time. After flowering the colour of mother intensifies rapidly if it is throwing pups. If you lay off the fertiliser the colours can become brilliant by the following winter.

If the foliage Billbergia is greenish during the winter one year after flower it will weather the winter in better condition than a very colourful plant.

A very colourful plant during the winter one year after flowering may very well crash during this period especially if pups have been removed and it is struggling to throw more pups.

The colour of the foliage Billbergia will be at its peak of perfection during the year after flowering.



It's the end of another "Under the Mango Tree" and, God willing, you will hear from us next month.

Don't envy the rich,  
They don't envy you.

## BROMELIAD TREE

Mary Nicholson

Find a good strong tree branch which has a number of firm small branches attached. Stand this tree up in a pot and fill with stones or cement.

Then select your plants which you wish to attach to the tree. Remove all the soil from around the roots and wrap them in sphagnum moss and then place the plant in a natural position such as the forks or on curves in the branches and fasten the plant on with strips of panty hose or wire (not copper).

Then you will be able to stand back and admire your lovely tree. Don't forget to water the plants.

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## HOW AND WHEN FERTILISER SHOULD BE USED

Mary Nicholson

Firstly, if you want to use fertilisers then you only apply them during the growing period. Only healthy plants should be fertilised.

It is more beneficial to use very weak concentrations often. Fertiliser solutions should not be poured over the plants.

The salt deposits remaining on the plants after the water has evaporated can cause burns.

Liquid foliar fertilisers are harmless and are especially designed to be absorbed by the green tissue in your plant.

## MOUNTING BROMELIADS

Odean Head

Obtained from <http://www.bsi.org/odhmount.htm>

I have chosen mounting as a subject for cultural tips because it plays such an important role in the displaying of our beautiful bromeliads. After all, there are very few plant families that have plants that will grow as epiphytes so we need to take advantage of this capability in our displays. These tips have not changed that much since we published them last year and are directed primarily at the newer growers. However, I hope that this will serve to motivate some of the older growers to make some new mountings. We really need to have more quality mountings entered in our shows so the public can see the full capabilities of bromeliads.

This ability to grow on wood is one of the qualities that attracted me to bromeliads so I am sure that many others have had the same experience. So let's create some exciting conversation pieces ourselves and maybe we can attract some more of our friends to grow bromeliads. Growing, working and sharing plants with friends becomes the most enjoyable experience we have in our hobby.

The first steps are to find some good mounts and some good plants that are ready to be mounted. I will select my mount first because those resources are usually more limited. Once you get started mounting you will always be on the look out for good mounting material. Mount material should be rot resistant, salt free and contain no wood preservative. Some good woods to use are cedar, juniper, oak, mesquite and rosewood. Tree fern slabs and cork bark also make good mounts. Some of the most beautiful mounts that I have found are stumps from juniper or cedar trees. You can also purchase some interesting designs made from tree fern and grape vines at some of the nurseries and pot places.

Once you have selected your mount, take a little time deciding which plants you are going to use. Pick something that will improve



in appearance as it is allowed to grow and multiply on your mount. Most Tillandsias and Billbergias form attractive clumps. Other genera such as Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Canistrums and Vrieseas that have stolons will make nice displays. The mount for your selected plant should provide balance between it and the plant(s) and space for the plant to form its natural shape. I prefer to mount pups so I must visualize how they will look when they have matured and multiplied.

The reason I prefer to mount pups is because they form different kind of root systems when they are mounted. When mounted, they will form a small number of hard, strong roots that just serve as holders and do not provide nutrients to the plant. When grown in soil they form large, soft root systems which provide additional nutrients to the plant. If you choose to mount a plant that has already formed the soft root system, the mount should be able to accommodate the plant's root ball. This root ball should be covered with sphagnum moss and will need to be watered regularly to continue the nutrient flow to the plant.

Once I have selected my mount and plant I must decide the best way to achieve a good firm fit. This is important because roots will not attach to the mount if the plant is loose. Larger plants are easier to mount if they have stolons. I attach these plants by nailing two staples around their stolons into the mount. Several sizes of staples are available to accommodate the different sizes of stolons. I use juniper or cedar mostly which is so hard that I have to drill holes for the staples to penetrate deep enough to hold the plant tight. I will use some pantyhose strips on larger plants for extra support. When using tree fern slabs or cork bark it is best to put holes in the mount and tie the plant on using plastic coated wire.

Most of your smaller tillandsias can be attached by only using hot glue, liquid nails or plumber's goop. You can also use these to secure any existing roots on all your mounts. When using the hot glue be careful not to damage the plant. Apply the glue to the

mount and allow to cool a few seconds before pressing the plants roots against it. Do not glue the tender part of the plant above its roots.

Now that you have the basics, all that is left is to practice. Each mounting you do will be better than the one before; each artistic masterpiece will please you more than previous one.

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## TO HELP OUR PLANT SALES PEOPLE

From the April meeting, all must be set up and ready before the Plant Sales begin at **1.00 pm**. This is to allow the Sales people who help Mac to be better prepared for the rush.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

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## 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.



## !! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Narelle Aizlewood, Christine Morgan-Lowe, Melva Morrison, Eve Lilleyman, Greg Aizlewood, John Catlan, Jan Browett, Lorraine Miletic, Mac McAlister, Doug Reilly and Tessie White.

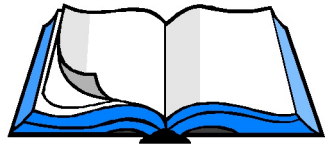


Welcome to Audrey Muir, Ian and Jill Gordon, Frank and Nancy Jacobs, George Morel and Margot Murphy.

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## SIGNING THE ATTENDANCE BOOK

This is to ask everyone who attends the meetings to please sign the Attendance Book. If you don't sign the Attendance Book, then you will miss out on a Lucky Door Prize. Even visitors should sign the book as they also have an opportunity to win a prize.



Please make sure you sign the book.

---

## SOLUTION TO JULY/AUGUST PUZZLE

An introduction to bromeliads

**FIND - A - WORD**

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

SHOPPING CENTRE DISPLAYS are a VERY GOOD WAY for our SOCIETY to PROMOTE our BEAUTIFUL PLANTS to the GENERAL PUBLIC. SOME of THEM ASK QUESTIONS WHICH remind us THAT our NEW MEMBERS are EAGER for the SAME ANSWERS and that we all NEED to be REMINDED of the FACTS we MAY EVEN HAVE FORGOTTEN. HENCE BACK to BASICS is an IMPORTANT PART of our MEETING. You JUST HAVE to remember WHEN YOU FIRST GOT BITTEN by the bromeliad BUG.

**Find the CAPITALISED and UNDERLINED words.**

## 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>SEPTEMBER</b>	Judy Norton, JoeLeer, Mac McAlister, Sue Levine
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Greg Aizlewood, Dawn Collas, Diana Hughes, Betty Page
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Phyllis Cameron, Paul Filewood, Lorraine Miletic, Patricia Perratt

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.



## TEA ROSTER



<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Loraine Milettic, Pat Ross, Ian Henderson, Patricia Perratt
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Diana Hughes, Zera Merritt, Fiona Mortimer, Margaret Tate
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Tessie White, Sue Burbury, Eunice Jenkins, Carol Gaskin

## 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 - \$8.00

Single - \$6.00

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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## 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.***

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## 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.

## 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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## 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>SEPTEMBER</b>	Perfumed-flowered plant - with or without bloom
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Vrieseas
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Not often seen Bromeliads and/or Succulents

## 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.

## LITE RELIEF

### HIT THE FLOOR

On a recent weekend in Atlantic City, a woman won a bucketful of quarters at a slot machine. She took a break from the slots for dinner with her husband in the hotel dining room. But first she wanted to stash the quarters in her room.

"I'll be right back and we'll go to eat," she told her husband and she carried the coin-laden bucket to the elevator.

As she was about to walk into the elevator she noticed two men already aboard. Both were black. One of them was big... very big... an intimidating figure.

The woman froze. Her first thought was: These two are going to rob me. Her next thought was: Don't be a bigot, they look like perfectly nice gentlemen. But racial stereotypes are powerful, and fear immobilized her.

She stood and stared at the two men. She felt anxious, flustered, ashamed. She hoped they didn't read her mind, but knew they surely did; her hesitation about joining them on the elevator was all too obvious. Her face was flushed. She couldn't just stand there, so with a mighty effort of will she picked up one foot and stepped forward and followed with the other foot and was on the elevator.

Avoiding eye contact, she turned around stiffly and faced the elevator doors as they closed. A second passed, and then another second, and then another.

Her fear increased! The elevator didn't move. Panic consumed her. "My God", she thought, "I'm trapped and about to be robbed!" Her heart plummeted. Perspiration poured from every pore.

Then ...one of the men said, "Hit the floor."



Instinct told her: Do what they tell you. The bucket of quarters flew upwards as she threw out her arms and collapsed on the elevator carpet. A shower of coins rained down on her.

"Take my money and spare me", she prayed.

More seconds passed.

She heard one of the men say politely, "Ma'am, if you'll just tell us what floor you're going to, we'll push the button."

The one who said it had a little trouble getting the words out. He was trying mightily to hold in a belly laugh.

She lifted her head and looked up at the two men. They reached down to help her up. Confused, she struggled to her feet.

"When I told my man here to hit the floor," said the average sized one, "I meant that he should hit the elevator button for our floor. I didn't mean for you to hit the floor, ma'am."

He spoke genially. He bit his lip. It was obvious he was having a hard time not laughing.

She thought: "My God, what a spectacle I've made of myself." She was too humiliated to speak. She wanted to blurt out an apology, but words failed her. How do you apologize to two perfectly respectable gentlemen for behaving as though they were going to rob you? She didn't know what to say.

The 3 of them gathered up the strewn quarters and refilled her bucket. When the elevator arrived at her floor they insisted on walking her to her room. She seemed a little unsteady on her feet, and they were afraid she might not make it down the corridor. At her door they bid her a good evening.

As she slipped into her room she could hear them roaring with laughter while they walked back to the elevator.

The woman brushed herself off. She pulled herself together and went downstairs for dinner with her husband.

The next morning flowers were delivered to her room-a dozen roses. Attached to EACH rose was a crisp one hundred dollar bill.

The card said: "Thanks for the best laugh we've had in years."

It was signed, Eddie Murphy & Michael Jordan

.....  
**Ode to the Chip Pan**

**Oh, precious little chip pan servant loyal and true  
Take heed to what I am saying for I have had news for you  
You know how much I love you  
For you've been such a friend to me  
So it's only fair to warn you  
That you have an enemy  
She has come into my house and  
she says she wants you banished  
She doesn't seem to realise that  
Without you I'll be famished  
She doesn't like your friend  
I know this might sound hard  
But she said she never wants  
To see another pound of lard  
And the reason why she is banning  
You from your home ancestral?  
The friend of yours she hates the most  
Is the one they call cholestrol!!!!!!!!!!**

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

**PLEASE NOTE**

**POTS** 105 mm squat pot 20c ] Limited supplies of pots are  
 125 mm 25c ] available for sale at the  
 140 mm 30c ] meetings. If you require large  
 165 mm 45c ] quantities of pots, please phone  
 200 mm 65c ] Bobby Powell and she will bring  
 them to the meeting for you.

**NUTRICOTE** 500g \$2.50

**LABELS** 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" - Out  
 of stock.

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.