

BROMLINK



January/February 2000

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OFFICE BEARERS

PATRONESS

PRESIDENT	Olwen Ferris	
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Bobby Powell (Mrs)	5591 3296
VICE PRESIDENT	Mary Nicholson	5572 0993
SECRETARY	Graham Besgrove	(07) 3800 5431
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Mary Nicholson	
MINUTE SECRETARY	Kerri Merret	
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ASSISTANT TREASURER	Mary Nicholson	
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	Tesse & Graham White, Michelle Schmidt, Richard Bond	
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PLANT SALES ASSISTANTS	Betty Page, Heather Barker, Jan Browett	
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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
January 2000	No Meeting
Saturday, 12 th February 2000	General Meeting
Thursday - Saturday, 17-19 February 2000	Tweed City Shopping Centre Display
Saturday, 26 th February 2000	Bus Trip to Modanville
Saturday & Sunday, 4 & 5 March 2000	Garden Open Day, Condong Range
Saturday, 11 th March 2000	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Thursday - Saturday, 18 - 20 May 2000	Southport Park Shopping Centre
Thursday - Saturday, 2 - 4 November 2000	Southport Park Shopping Centre

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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mary Nicholson

Our Christmas Party was attended by 70 people who all had a good time.

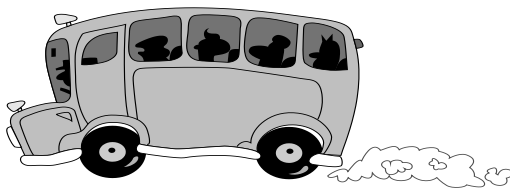
Olwen Ferris, our Patron, had her 82nd Birthday on this day. We had a birthday cake for her but did not put all the candles for her to blow out.

Bobby Powell and Nev Ryan were absent as they were ill. The gift exchange was held as usual and there were many plants for sale. I must thank Inge and Margot for bringing in goods for the Silent Auction. I am sorry that this first attempt was not better organised by we can only learn.

BUS TRIP - CHANGE OF DATE

Mary Nicholson

The new date is Saturday, 26th February 2000. The 4th March is the open garden at King and Maureen Newmans, Condong Range. The north pick-up point will be Southport Park Shopping Centre at 8.00 am. South pick-up is Palm Beach and Currumbin Bowls Club at 8.30 am. Bring along your food and cups. Tea and coffee will be provided. If it is a hot day, we have been invited to have a swim in the pool. There will be a raffle. We will be back to our pick-up points hopefully by 4.00 pm. Please pay Mary at the February meeting. Cost of trip is \$12.00 per person.



SHOPPING CENTRE DISPLAY

Our next Shopping Centre Display will be at Tweed City from Thursday, 17th February to Saturday, 19th February 2000. Set up will be Wednesday night as usual. Bobby will be needing plants, plants and more plants; people to tend to the public and plastic bags.

New members, please come along as you can learn so much from these days. You can just keep people talking till someone else can answer the questions. There are times when there's a rush and then there are times in between when it's quiet. In the quieter times, you get to ask you own questions.

BROMELIAD CULTIVAR CHECKLISTS

Derek Butcher

Some of you may have the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (1998) or the Checklist of Australian Bromeliads, Hybrids and Cultivars 5th edition (1997).

There is now a supplement to these books updated to July 1999 of six pages which is available at \$1.00 plus postage. Suggest you send 3 x 45c stamps to Derek Butcher, 25 Crace Road, Fulham SA 5024. Societies can negotiate price for bulk orders.

Copies of the 5th edition are still available at \$10.00 post-paid. The supplement is extra!

The 5th edition will be the last hard copy book issued by me although the supplements will be larger. These checklists are ideal material for the burgeoning Internet and for CD-ROM because of the ease of update and correction AND the provision of photographs! This is where I am heading.

ABSOLUTE PERFECTION

Ian Gordon

Hi! Who could ever believe that Saturday, the 20th November 1999, was going to be such a special day. Sure it dawned a beautiful day with plenty of blue and see-forever skies and, yes, I'd counted down the days like a child anticipating Christmas. Still I wasn't ready for this, as two wonderful experiences happened in Jill and Ian's lives. The first was family oriented, personal and private so I don't wish to talk about that. But the second experience I will share with you. It was truly one of those days that stand out and will remain in the memory banks for a long, long time. It was the field day at Jacobs Well.

Jill and I set forth with our pencil-drawn map on a crumpled piece of paper which appeared to have potting mix smeared over some of the important details. Still with lots of advice from the Second-In-Command, we arrived at Pelicans Parade without incident.

We unpacked our lunches, chairs, and what have you and relaxed at tables under these magnificent spreading shade trees and contemplated the beauty of countless numbers of Bromeliads spread out in orderly rows before us. Genny and John arranged to have Kookaburras perched in various trees to welcome us with their delightful laugh and share with us the mirth we have learnt to love. Even Spud the dog made us welcome and was prepared to share lunch with us.

Yes, it was a lovely day, a day of absolute perfections. It is so nice to meet special people as we drift through life. People that are prepared to open their home and indeed their hearts. Thank you Genny. Thank you John.

WHY IS A CACTUS A CACTUS?

Cactus Kate

All plants belonging to the Cactaceae family have five characteristics in common:

1. Seedlings have two cotyledons (leaves).
2. The fruit is a single celled berry (citrus have many cells/segments).
3. All cacti have areoles (spine cushions).
4. Flower petals arise from the top of the fruit.
5. Cacti are always perennial.

Other succulents may have one or more of these characteristics, however, all five must be present to belong to the family Cactaceae.

“All cactus are succulents, but not all succulents are cactus.”

“Succulents” is a general term given to any plant which has the water storage capability within the plant tissue, either in the leaves, stem or root.

Succulent plants may be found in many different plant groups like Euphorbiaceae and Liliaceae.





UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

We were a strange school class of kids, at a very strange stage. I wouldn't be the least bit surprised to learn that we had all been abducted by aliens, given a brain by-pass, then enrolled in the same school class. The layout for the classes was the Headmaster taught the top three in one room. We were in the middle. To the right, a class of kids that were totally forgettable and to the left, the final year and in this class, within a couple of weeks of the new school year, the boys had left to take jobs and the class was reduced to six girls and a boy.

In our day, the boys dominated classes but when they left, the girls went feral and completely terrorised the remaining male and reduced him to a defenceless wreck. He would do anything so as not to sit at his desk. He was a professional blackboard duster and as a pencil sharpener, par excellence, out in front of the class at the room's pencil sharpener, turning the handle as slow as possible. He possessed the best collection of pencil stubs in the southern hemisphere. The Headmaster was always up him for being slow at sharpening pencils. One day he copped him sharpening a green stick. No wonder school teachers have nervous breakdowns.

All this brought gales of giggles from the girls. They always shifted his belongings so he had to sit in the middle of them. They would mess up his hair, break the tips off his pencils. Somehow, through all of this, I had the impression they were proud of him.

The average age of our class would have been 12 going on 13 and the boys became the dominant group. But we avoided the older girls group, and the following I classify as our own self administered initiation ceremony into becoming tough guys. Looking back, we probably could have kept a university full of trick-cyclists employed

full time. There was a movie called, "The Little Shop of Horrors", the original was black and white but the movie I am referring to was in colour. In it a character that liked to administer pain, his mother encouraged him to become a dentist because that way he could get paid for it. He led a contented life until one day he had a patient who wanted, and enjoyed pain. It was a matter of more, more and still more until the dentist cracked under the strain of inadequacy.

We were about two weeks into the school new year when one of the girls in our class remarked on the fact that one of the boys in our class had received over 30 cuts of the cane so far that year. They sat down and worked out the number of cuts we had each received and marked each person's progress on a calendar. I suppose competition arises naturally out of day-to-day boy's business. Anyhow, we now had a competition going to see who could receive the most cuts and also keep ahead of the number of days in the year. It may have been an unspoken agreement, but an agreement nonetheless.

In those days, we had four school terms and by the last term the Headmaster was a bit quivery. This wasn't surprising as he probably visualised caning as a means to achieve discipline (not a gold star dispenser, in the form of a cross, dot or tick) to macho midgets. The three of us thought that if we played our cards right each of us would break the 365 day ultimate target. Then it all fell apart. A new kid arrived and copped six of the best. We thought the kid a dill for whingeing to his parents about getting the cane. His mother resenting the fact arrived at school, confronted the Headmaster in the middle of the school ground. The ensuing argument got out of hand, she grabbed a fallen tree branch and brandishing it over her head, chased the Headmaster across the grounds into the sanctuary of his own house yard. Mothers view on caning kids - no, bludging headmaster in school ground - yes, bludging headmaster in home yard - no. Mothers are weird.

Things changed. No longer could the Headmaster be baited into using the cane. We lost the chance to reach the magic 365. We gave the new kid hell for spoiling everything. The only justification I could possibly offer is our brains were out to lunch, but I prefer the aliens operated on our brains theory. It's more exotic and I am then able to abdicate responsibility.

I was transferred to the Catholic school. In retrospect, this must have been a very stressful time for the aunt I was living with because later she thought I was going to marry a Catholic and she put on the turn of all time, so what must have gone on behind closed doors for me to wind up at a Catholic school makes the mind boggle.

(To be continued ...)



When I write an article, it is difficult to know what and how much information to include. Too much is boring, too little means I get queries from people seeking clarification. If I get enough queries, I will repeat the article and include more information and such is the following article on clinker. This repetitiveness also creates boredom.

While I am at this; young Derek Butcher has shot off a list of questions on variegated broms. In the next issue, we will have the ultimate, but probably only the penultimate article ad infinitum, on variegated broms.



CLINKER (also known as ash).

History time. Back in the late fifties, I became aware that it was possible to grow Rex Begonias in beds of pure ash. The leaves

were stuck in these beds in late summer and matured during the following spring. In those days the only ash available was white ash. This was obtained by using a shovel in small furnaces, and shovelling the coal or coke into them. In power stations it was the mechanical equivalent to the shovel which was used to stoke these large furnaces. When Brisbane changed to natural gas, the gas works closed and it was the end of coke. Not a big problem but it did burn hot and formed good clinker.

As the practice of growing in beds and repotting changed to straight pot production, the use of pure ash fell from favour, although mixed in potting mixes gave good results.

Technology was changing and this changed the ash. In big furnaces, coal was found up and blown into the furnace with a blast of compressed air as a continual stream. This process reduced the particle size of the ash and therefore the air content, so the growth of rexes were not as good. At this stage, we still had white ash but of a much smaller particle size.

The next step is black ash. Pollution became an issue and big furnaces were fitted with self-cleaning filters which dumped soot and very fine particles back down into the ash.

White ash is still available. It consists of fine ash with various size pieces of clinker mixed with it. Clinker is a refuse produced in furnaces by fusion under great heat of coal or coke and it is hard, vitrified matter. This porous clinker should not be confused with coal stone which is hard, black and mixed with the ash. Coal stone is not a problem. The coal when mined by pick and shovel had a lot less coal stone than today's coal mined by machinery.

I take the white coal ash and by sieving, I remove all particles smaller than 2mm. This leaves the clinker, and it is the clinker I use in potting mix. The fine particles I use as fill and levelling of pathways. I allow the ash to half dry out and it is then very easy to

sieve. It does not break down. As it is derived from organic material via coal, it is loaded with trace elements.

Particles under 1/10" or 2mm - fill or topdress couch lawns.

Particles 1/10" to 3/16" or 2mm to 5mm - is used for terrestrial bromeliad mix, pineapples, bromelias, etc.

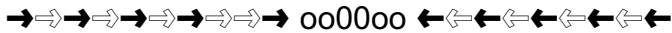
Particles 3/16" to 7/16" or 5mm to 12mm - is used for bromeliad mix in pots up to 200mm.

Particles 7/16" and over or 12mm and over - is used in mix for Billbergias and in some 200mm pots, but in all pots above 200mm. The largest pot I use is 450mm.

Coal ash is initially alkaline pH8 / pH9. As the sulphides decompose it will become acid pH 5.5. The sulphides of the clinker is an ongoing buffer against the constant watering by alkaline water. The council water is treated to make it alkaline or it will rust out council's water pipes.



Open Day - One of our members who shall remain nameless is having nightmares after having spent about six hours at our place during our open day. He's been having dreams of floods, floating styro boxes, causeways being built out of old wire milk crates to rescue plants. His wife thinks he's O.D. on the flat earth experience and he is being restricted to the hill of home for a while. I would not be the least surprised to find he has been giving giant rocks a big hug. His latest recurring nightmare has me searching for my worry beads and I think I'll get out my set of clack-clack balls. It seems Christmas has come and all they have is one solitary cheesecake. Then I turn up. This is very spooky stuff, straight out of the X-Files.



MEETINGS - I am very happy to report we had over 70 bums on seats at our last meeting. It makes you feel good about next year. One member who grows orchids had flowered one of her Cattleyas for the first time. Magnificent. Unfortunately, she didn't have an orchid meeting where she could brag, so she brought it along for us. Our gain, their loss.

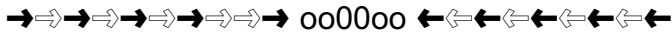
A new member turned up the previous month, looked at the full car park, thought that it was a church service and our meeting must have been cancelled and went home. It's hallelujah and pass the broms. Her misunderstanding is quite understandable because we often have so many display plants, some plants are outside. But at the meeting they were all inside.



JOHN BOLGER - I think John Bolger is really, really, sweet and cute. I can't go up and say that to him because it would take Pauline, the significant other, at least a week to coax him down off the roof and it rains a lot where they live. Let me explain.

When Pauline was giving her frog talk, it was not only the young lad, Simon, who was providing extra interest. Bolger got into the act. There is a lot of talking during the meeting, library books cased up, sales table sorted out, people reminded of what has to be ready for the next meeting, etc, etc and so forth.

This meant that sometimes people were chatting while Pauline was talking and as soon as they got a bit loud, Bolger went into his prairie dog protective mode. He would sit up perfectly straight, straighten his arms downwards, face the source of the noise, as soon as he could confirm the noise was legit, he would face the front and relax till next time. His protective mode was very sweet and cute. Pauline, you can give him a big kiss.



NO 1, DICK - THERE GOES MY BROMS - TRACY. Twenty-five years ago, I went over to a nursery to have a look at a batch of *Vriesea carinata* plants. About 500 out of a batch of 1,000 were suffering from advanced quilling. The nursery specialised in growing palms and was running into escalating water costs. To solve this they top dressed all the palm pots with about $\frac{3}{4}$ "/20mm of what appeared to be relatively fresh sawdust. The *Vriesea carinatas* in 4"/100mm pots copped the same.

I incorrectly suspected the fresh sawdust was responsible but whatever it was it was their culture technique. Fifty percent of a crop at the same time was unusual. I managed to buy after a lot of arguing (yes you read correctly) fifty of these plants. I repotted them into fresh mix. The quilling was too advanced and they were at flowering time, so I left them alone and watched as pups came away normal.

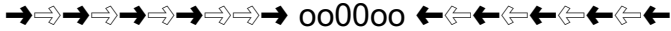
Years later I ran into one of the two workers who had maintained this nursery. (The used contract potters.) The truth is almost impossible to find when it comes to what goes on in nurseries, but I blatantly gave him the third degree and he spilled his guts. What no one wanted to mention was that in the fresh sawdust, huge quantities of banana fertiliser had been mixed so as well as mulching the palms they were fertilising them and counteracting the fresh sawdust. 1.2lbs/0.5103kg of pure nitrogen neutralises 100lbs/45.36kgs of sawdust. The excess nitrogen tied up by decomposition will be released after about six weeks.

Excess fertiliser caused the quilling -

1. Spring warms up soil and releases fertiliser.
2. The excess fertiliser added to the sawdust.

3. The release of fertiliser by decomposing bacteria/fungi.

As it was flowering time and the *Vriesea carinatas* had probably flowered within the quilling. The plants were past treating. Most of the pups came away OK and eventually all the pups grew out of it.



NB - The following botanical information is inaccurate.

Over the years, I have encouraged the better half not to appear as if she was hatched from the sharpest egg in the nest. Take it easy. Appear average, that way new acquaintances don't feel threatened and you start off listening more than talking. I think she has got it right at last.

We were doing our monthly cruise of the flea markets, check out prices, plants and numbers. We each do our own thing, but stay in sight of one another to have a confab if necessary. We have a request for double balsams, so Genny was checking out a stall that had a lot of different colours for sale. She got talking to the seller and he let her into the secret of how he has been getting new colours. You put pieces in a glass of water and when they grow roots, you take them out, mush up the roots and put them back in a fresh glass of water. With their mushed up roots entwined, the colours mix and are absorbed by the new roots.

I am very proud of my "little turtle egg", I know she's got it right at last. Well maybe she should back up just a little.

NB - The previous botanical information is inaccurate.



NO 2, DICK - THERE GOES MY BROMS - TRACY.

I went over to a nursery to have a look at a batch of *Neoregelia* Charms, *Neoregelia* Gold Fevers, *Neoregelia* Spot On, etc that had been badly marked to try and figure out what had went wrong. In a nursery, you have to stay extremely calm and not treat the employee as if you intend emasculating him. The principle involved is more along the lines of a seduction, everyone must be on their best behaviour and only discuss pleasant opportunities.

These plants were destined for Melbourne. A thousand plants landed at ten dollars each. Sixty percent would be saleable. The boss was a naturally super-hyperactive person but he was so cool on this occasion, he was almost normal. It was as if he'd knocked back a dozen mother's little helpers.

The nursery uses copper spray as a fungicide and I was positive it was copper burn. I either had a fixation on copper and could not see the real culprit or it was copper. Time delay between cause and effect makes it hard. The marks were dry spots. It was so bad in one area the plants were dead. The young lad solved the problem, if he had not wanted to be truthful, and been truthful you would have had to settle for a probability.

He had finished spraying with copper, then filled the same spray unit with insecticide, and sprayed the *Neoregelias*. The dead area was from the residue within the mechanics of the spray unit. The rest of the marks was residue mixed with the insecticide. I suspect some damage caused by spray drift.

The problem was solved by having separate spray units for each chemical.



Julie and Les's Open Day, 26th February 2000. Phone (02) 6628 2042.

For those who are not going by bus, you travel south into Bangalow, turn for Lismore at the cow pat roundabout until you reach Clunes. Then right to Channon, just follow the signs. When you get to about 2K's from Channon you are facing a T-junction, turn left to Nimbin, 1.25K's you will reach the city limits of Modanville and a sign welcomes you to the home of the Birdwing Butterfly. The tree huggers party slipped this sign in under the noses of the Australian culture party. Modanville was named after a race horse. The Australian culture party believes the welcome to Modanville sign should carry a printing of this horse. City Hall is rocking with dissension.

After you pass the city limits, within .5K on the right you will notice the nursery sign. I cannot go into too much detail. Their bromeliad display is great. They have a whole shed full of Streptocarpus in full flower, the new colours are breathtaking. The achimenes take up their own bush house, they are coming into flower now. By the time of our visit, they will be at their peak. Then there is the "nine tree" coffee plantation. See you there.



On the following poem supplied in celebration of my sixtieth birthday, I have no comment.

Here I sit, alone and sixty
Bald, and fat, and full of sin,
Cold the seat and loud the cistern,
As I read the Harpic tin.

Alan Bennett



King and Maureen's open garden day - 4-5 March 2000. Phone (02) 6677 7245.

When travelling south you turn left at Tree Tops (a very large tall building). They live on 114 Farrants Hill Road, Condong Ranges which is a left when you get into the hills.

Don't forget to have a cup of coffee. It's home grown. I am so rapt I intend growing my own. They have pigeons, ducks, chooks, goats and a pig - slightly more than a Noah's Ark limit. Kids will love the day and the baby goats. But, it is the gardens you have come to visit. They have moved on past the cutting edge of landscaping and have created a garden that at the present time is mature.

Seeing these mature plants will give you ideas for what can be planted and where in your own garden. The garden is divided into rooms each having it's own uniqueness because Maureen develops some portions and King others. They will have many plants for sale so you will be able to take home plants to develop your own garden. The garden ornaments are unique and a wonder. You must come just to see the his and hers Balinese gates.

I will pick one aspect to develop - Heliconias. Mature clumps everywhere and they are in flower. You will be able to take home plants of your choice. Knowing what maturity is will help you to pick the right location to plant them in. This applies to a whole range of plants.

The workforce for the big two days numbers twelve plus for each day. It is big. See you there. Spud will be there too. If he plays up, Maureen threatened him he will go in with the pig.



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

*If I had known that Brom was going to look
so good when it flowered, I'd have looked after it.*

UXB ALERT

OR PLANTS FROM INTERSTATE

Derek Butcher

***Canistropsis* 'Plum'** - Among some photos that Jarka Rehak sent me recently was one of a *Canistropsis billbergioides* with dark plum-coloured leaves (both sides) #42 and where the primary bracts are an apricot hue #11. The numbers are those used in the colour chart in Isley's *Tillandisa* book and standardises the colour we are referring to. As a coincidence we are just flowering a like plant which we got many years ago from Bill Morris as *Nidularium billbergioides* v. *purpureum*.. Regrettably, the use of Latinised varietal names has been "illegal" since 1977 when the *Flora Neotropica - Bromelioideae* was printed. Lyman Smith was not prepared to acknowledge even the variety *citrinum* so it has been left to growers to give cultivar names. Diana Hughes of Mullumbimby, Northern NSW, did a great job in organising a start to solving the problem and in *Bromeletter*#5 1997, her ideas were published. For example, the old var. *citrinum* is now *Canistropsis* 'Citron'. There was one example that eluded us and yet we felt sure that it was around in Australia. Two years later it came to light. We have decided to call this cultivate *Canistropsis* 'Plum'. So if you do chance upon this plant with or without the name v. *purpureum*, please change the label to *Canistropsis* 'Plum'.

***Neoregelia* 'Sheba'** - There is a plant being sold by Olive Trevor and others as *Neoregelia carolinae* x *compacta* x *macwilliamsii* and seems widespread in Australia. I am changing the name on my plant to *Neoregelia* 'Shebe' because of the following:

1. It seems to be a Skotak hybrid.
2. Reference in Cargo Report #5 - 5 suggest that *Neoregelia compacta* also played a role in this hybrid and not just *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* as reported in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry.

3. We all know that *Neoregelia carolinae* was used extensively by Skotak to get variegation and it would be very strange indeed if it did not play a role in this complex hybrid.
4. There is a *Neoregelia* 'Ultima' in Australia which has green edges to the leaves whereas its stable-mate as mentioned in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry, "Sheba' has white edges. AND 'Ultima' looks very similar to the plant we have a *Neoregelia carolinae x compacta x macwilliamsii* except for the reverse markings.

It is easier to write 'Sheba' on the label and I suggest you do so.

!! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Irene Small, Betty Page, Jeanette Henwood, Jan Browett, Athol Nicholson, Mary Nicholson, Gloria Morrow, Peter Ludowici, Gil Dumble, Richard Bond, Graeme Bullen, Heather Barker, Marion Cooper.



Welcome to Gwen Kerr.

GREENHOUSE FOR SALE

One 15 x 5 metres galvanised pipe greenhouse for sale, approx \$1,500. Shadecloth in good condition. Please phone Greg or Narelle on (07) 3800 1751 if you are interested.

TIPS ON GROWING DYCKIAS

Martha Goode

The majority of the members of the genus *Dyckia* are indigenous to central Brazil and parts of Argentina where they grow mostly in rocky, sunny areas. Some of the smaller varieties form large clumps. The species all have stiff, spiny-edged leaves, the undersides of which are covered with silvery scales.

Flowers range in colour from yellow to orange and are borne on tall slender stalks that occur laterally rather than from the plant centre as in most bromeliads. They all have extensive root systems (unlike most bromeliads) and should be potted in large containers.

They resemble agaves in appearance, and can withstand some drought and neglect, (our kind of plants!) Thought they thrive with normal watering. A tip for watering is to save the water whenever you boil eggs and pour this on them. The calcium is helpful to your Dyckias.

Be sure to wear gloves when repotting or they will get you. They are well armed with spines. The all need good light and drainage. Otherwise they are not demanding in their requirements.

Anyone who grows cacti and other succulents should try growing Dyckias. The same is true, of course, of anyone who grows bromeliads.

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Bromeliad Society Incorporated, March-April 1999*

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.



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.



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.

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PUZZLE

Grow these exotic Bromeliads.

FIND - A - WORD

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

A COMMON CHARACTERISTIC that ANYONE GROWING BROMELIADS needs to UNDERSTAND is THAT the MAIN plant GRADUALLY DIES AFTER it FLOWERS. BUT BEFORE it DETERIORATES it is REPLACED by one or MORE OFFSETS, CALLED PUPS, FROM the BASE or centre of the parent PLANT. When LARGE ENOUGH THESE can be SEPARATED FROM MUM but SOME LOOK BETTER if LEFT to CLUMP. When the PARENT plant is no LONGER NEEDED it can be CUT OUT.

Find the CAPITALISED and UNDERLINED words.

(Mary kindly provides these interesting puzzles to help us learn and keep us entertained. If you have any problems finding the words, Mary will be able to help you out.)

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.

FEBRUARY	Heather Barker, Mary Nicholson, Mike Levine, Gloria Morrow
MARCH	Denise Storey, Nev Ryan, Bobby Powell, John Bolger
APRIL	Narelle Aizlewood, Richard Bond, Jan Browett, Ian Gordon

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



Members who are asked to help on the Tea Roster have been asking what it entails.

You just have to see that the cups and saucers are all set up and the tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits are all out. If there are not enough cups and saucers, please see Mary. You will find out how many people are at the meeting by the register at the front door.

At the Tea/Coffee Break, help in the kitchen to see that everyone has been attended to, then help to clear the kitchen afterwards. You are only on the roster one day each year. We, the members,

could not do without your assistance. It is a very necessary, thirst quenching break when so much else is being done.

FEBRUARY	Judy Norton, Gloria Morrow, Jennifer Laurie, Margot Murphy
MARCH	Helena Gibbs, Jenny O'Brien, Melva Morrison, Audrey Muir
APRIL	Jill Gordon, Nancy Jacobs, Maureen Newman, Patricia Perratt

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are 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 feel free to forward 6 (six) current-price stamps instead of a money order or cheque as they can be used to send out the Bromlink. 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



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:

FEBRUARY	Cryptanthus
MARCH	Foliage Vrieseas
APRIL	Tillandsias

TO HELP OUR PLANT SALES PEOPLE

From the April 1999 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.

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.



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 at 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.

LITE RELIEF

A boy was taking care of his baby sister while his parents went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take her along.

"I'll never do that again!" he told his mother that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!"

"Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his mother said.

The boy said, "It wasn't that. She ate all the bait."

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HEARING TEST

A man goes to his doctor and says, "I don't think my wife's hearing is as good as it used to be, what should I do?"

The doctor replies, "Try this test to find out for sure. When your wife is in the kitchen doing dishes, stand fifteen feet behind her and ask her a question, if she doesn't respond keep moving closer asking the question until she hears you."

The man goes home and sees his wife preparing dinner. He stands fifteen feet behind her and says, "What's for dinner, honey?"

He gets no response, so he moves to ten feet behind her and asks again. Still no response, so he moves to five feet. No answer. Finally he stands directly behind her and says, "Honey, what's for supper?"

She replies, "For the fourth time, I SAID CHICKEN, you deaf ... !"

THE DASH BETWEEN THE YEARS

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on his tombstone
From the beginning ... to the end.
He noted that first came his date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the "dash" between those years. (1933-1999)

For that "dash" represents all the time
That he spent alive on earth
And only those who loved him
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars...the house...the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our "dash".

So think about this long and hard
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show our appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your "dash"?

The Dash © 1999 by Linda Ellis

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
200 mm 65c] phone 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 5c

PLANT HANGERS 10c

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.