

# BROMLINK



March/April 2000

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## OFFICE BEARERS

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## 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.

## 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, 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2000	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2000	General Meeting
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2000	General Meeting
Thursday - Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2000	Southport Park Shopping Centre
Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2000	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2000	General Meeting
Saturday, 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2000	General Meeting
Thursday - Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2000	Tweed Mall Shopping Centre

DATE	EVENT
Saturday & Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2000	Open Garden - Graham and Tessie White
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2000	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2000	General Meeting
Saturday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2000	Field Day - Jacobs Well
Thursday - Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2000	Southport Park Shopping Centre
Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2000	Annual General Meeting and General Meeting
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2000	Christmas Party
Friday - Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2001	11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Bromeliad Conference, Wollongong

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

Here we are in the New Year. How did 1999 zoom past so fast. At our January meeting we had many new members. There were several visitors, two of whom came from the newly formed Bromeliad Study Group at Buderim, Danny Yves and Lindsay Gerchow, who live not far from Grace Goode. Great bromeliad growing country. We had a walk down the table thanks to Genny who told us about the plants that were for sale. Also Kath Henderson spoke on the various cacti and succulents that were available. Neville enlightened us on Tillandsias. The Succulent and Bromeliad Sale at Tweed Mall on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February was an outstanding success due to the many willing hands to help. It really was a bowl-over from the start. So much so, Mary

despatched John Bolger home (he lives the closest) to get more potted plants to help fill up all the many spaces on the tables.

I feel that we all could do with a little more money, so how about if every one of you potted up at least twelve plants for each one of our shows, this effect could reap you over \$40.00 to buy more plants, ones you haven't got in your collection. The next show is 18, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May at Southport Park Shopping Centre, corner of Ferry Road and Benowa Road. It seems the Bromeliads are becoming more and more popular and as they are hard to buy and expensive in the nurseries, shoppers are glad to see us in the shopping centres and malls.

I would like to send a big Hello to the many members of our Society who are from out of our area and are unable to attend our meetings. Soon we will have our Melbourne winter mates with us. If you are in our district, try and make it on a bromeliad meeting weekend, we would to have you along.

Pat Perriott, one of our members, recently spent 14 days in Singapore. The bromeliads were a bit greenish due to lack of sunlight, but at the zoo they grew the best Heliconias EVER. The answer, Hippo Poo and Elephant Poo. So I will meet you at the Circus when it's next in town!

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## **AIR MOVEMENT**

Bromeliads are used to fresh air and plenty of wind in their natural environment of mountain ranges to deserts to beside the beaches. The epiphytes have selected airy habitats in the branches and crowns of tall trees. If these natural conditions are taken into account, it is clear that an abundant supply of fresh air or some means of generating air movement is necessary for the healthy development of these plants in cultivation.

## ATROPHYTUM

Cactus Kate

Question: Who knows what the plant beside the Vriesea on our club badge is?



Answer: It's an Astrophytum.

The old Greeks obviously thought they look like stars (Greek astro = star, phyton = plant)! I and thousands of others think they look more like "Bishops Caps" especially *Astrophytum myriostigma*.

The six species of *Astrophytum* are native to Mexico, USA (Texas). They all have lovely big yellow flowers, some have red throats. With the exception of *Astrophytum asterias* they are easy to grow in this climate and most will flower in their third to fourth year.

*Astrophytum myriostigma* is the most popular with wooly flecks all over its body and no spines.

My favourite is *Astrophytum ornatum* with long, straight spines and some wooly flecking in bands.

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## BUS TRIP

Ian Gordon

It's early Saturday morning the club bus trip day to Modanville. Jill and Ian are out of bed early. I peer between the drapes, plenty of blue and sunshine, just another standard Gold Coast day. I also notice the timber has gone. What timber? Across the road there is a construction site and they had some excess used timber. So the workmen neatly stacked the timber on the nature strip and next day it was still there. So one of the bright lads placed a "Don't Touch" sign on the timber. That did the trick.

Jill makes the bathroom first. She always does. A splash of water, a touch of powder and paint and she looks a million dollars. I check out the wall mirror and an elderly face stares back. I shift to the side view, suck in the tummy, nothing moves. Yesterday a sex symbol, today it's only the next number to five. So I run the comb through the thinning hair and give up.

It's breakfast all round, don't forget the cat. Vitamin tablets for Ian and flea tablets for the cat. Don't get them mixed up like last week. Still I don't have any fleas and the cat looks great. Then it's off to the bus pick up point.

Load up the bus and head south, down through the sugar plantations and past those banana trees nestled on the hillsides and into the lush bushland. A nice trip to Modanville where we were met by Les and Julie Short, and welcomed to a morning tea that would even have impressed my grandmother. Plenty of home-made pikelets, jam and lashings of cream. Then the gentle stroll through the "Broms".

Should I ask questions about my favourite species? Nidulariums always make the heart give a little skipperty jump. They make the pupils dilate when I see them and I know I'm in way over my head. I feel the perspiration form on my top lip and that's even before I get to touch them. Maybe I'll put my glasses on before I speak, that always makes you look more intelligent than you really are. I open my mouth to speak, but say nothing. There's always the fear of not understanding the answers, and that blank look is always a dead give away. Think I'll save the questions for another day and heap them all onto Genny. She is always good value and so patient with slow learners.

The Modanville day trip was all round a nice day. Please put our name down for the next bus trip.







## UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

I arrived at my new school and was greeted/confronted by Sister Mary Melissa. I swore she could have been Big Arnie's charisma and physical ed teacher all rolled into one. She was looming and intimidating. Because I was new, all the kids were eager to point out that Sister Mary Melissa favoured the belt and she favoured it often.

Being one of the three world authorities on punishment, this was of particular interest to me. After a few weeks, no one had copped the belt, but everyone in the class were adamant the belt was used generously. By the end of the year, the class still reckoned the belt was used generously. Not one kid had received the belt nor could you find any kid in all the years they had been there who had copped the belt. The year I spent at the Catholic school I remember as a great year. Kids get strange ideas but then they are really smaller versions of adults. The only kids who ever got into trouble from the nuns were those who got into fights. Then they copped a tongue lashing and sent to their class room. What was really memorable about this year was it's lack of problems.

I was invited to the classes twenty year reunion celebrations. I went. I am glad Sister Mary Melissa smiled at me or I wouldn't have recognised her. She looked so very young, and radiant would describe it, yes radiant is definitely the word. She was about fifty or fifty-five, a trim medium build and five feet six inches. When she smiled, it was like yesterday.

People, houses, cars, kids, towns or teachers when revisited in later life were never how I remember them, and when discussing with the peers of that era, things that happened, our memories seem totally unrelated.



## THOUGHTS ON VARIEGATED BROMELIADS

1. We grow variegated bromeliads to enjoy their visual beauty. In the following article I will try and define some of these aspects and to tie them in with growing techniques.
2. When we talk about broms or when we go out to buy broms or write about broms we need a name so the plant can be identified and people throughout the world can communicate. This is the basis of plant naming.
3. With the increase in the commercial aspects of bromeliads, trade names are appearing, that is nurseries will develop a brom and use a generic nursery name to promote it. Example *Guzmania Broadview variegata*. This is not a problem as the development of the plant and name went together.
4. Where a bromeliad has a name that is not commercial, nurseries and growers will create catchy names to promote sales and pricing. To collect these names and identify the plant is time consuming.
5. Relevant to our times is the problem of the naming of Skotak hybrids, and with any good problem solving technique, it's necessary to define the boundaries of the problem. How many variegated Skotak *Neoregelia* seedlings were produced - ten plus plants, one hundred plus plants or a thousand plus plants. (Derek, I look forward to your estimation.)
6. Take one variegated *Neoregelia*. It is unstable. It produces green plants, albo marginated plants, variegated plants, striated plants, and albino plants. No matter if, where or what stripes it has, it is still the same plant. All we have are the stripes in a different position. Go back and read

thoughts No.1. When we name these plants, how many variations will fit into thoughts No. 1. It is limited.

7. This is a repeat of thoughts No. 6. If the *Neoregelia* sported to a variegated plant, example:

*Neoregelia carolinae* to *Neoregelia* Tricolor  
*Neoregelia carolinae* to *Neoregelia* Perfecta  
*Neoregelia carolinae* var *meyendorffii* to *Neoregelia*  
Inferno

When growing the variegated plant we would use the name *Neoregelia* Tricolor, *Neoregelia* Perfecta or *Neoregelia* Inferno. If the cultivated plant loses its variegation, it no longer fits the description of the variegated cultivar and the name *Neoregelia carolinae* should be used.

In the beginning, the plant had no stripe and was *Neoregelia carolinae*. Then there was stripes. The plant became *Neoregelia* Tricolor. If the stripe disappears, so does the name *Neoregelia* Tricolor and the plant becomes *Neoregelia carolinae*.

8. In the beginning, when collecting you grab every plant. Room becomes a problem and you have to make choices, forgettable plants will in time not be finding a home in your collection. The earlier you make this choice, the more room in your collection and broms need room to develop to perfection.
9. With variegated *Neoregelia* seedlings, if the variegation is lost you will probably wind up with a plant that is forgettable but whatever you have, it will no longer fit the description of the cultivar and therefore should not carry its name.

I am not naive and I know no one will race out to write a new tag, and the old tag will remind you what it should look like and what has happened, but the plant is now misnamed. Just keep that fact at the back of your mind.



Time out - I revised my article on *Aechmea* Aztec Gold and called it "*Aechmea* Aztec Gold 1997". It was in Bromlink, July/August 1997, page eight.

This article can be used as a manual on the management of variegated plants. The revised article had minor changes plus a section on chlorophyll, as it is four pages long. It is not practical to include it here now, but a complete rewrite of this article as a Bromlink supplement in the future would include this information in this space and the only changes would be cosmetic to emphasise the information.



## **THE PARENTS OF A VARIEGATED BROMELIAD AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO PUP PRODUCTION**

It is true that variegated plants are slower growing plants than their green parents but if their parents were prolific puppers there is every indication that this attribute is inherited by the variegated plant.

*Neoregelia* Tricolor (*Neoregelia carolinae*) because it is stable when receiving moderate amounts of fertiliser and it multiplies well.

*Aechmea* Lucky Stripe (*Aechmea gamosepala*) because it is stable when receiving moderate amount of fertiliser and it multiplies like a rabbit.

*Aechmea* Mardi Gras (*Aechmea gamosepala*) because it is stable when receiving moderate amount of fertiliser and it multiplies like a rabbit.

With the above examples there is a direct relationship to the species. I find there is still a relationship to the species in the hybrids but some have resulted in exceptional slow puppers.

Variegated *Neoregelias* that have a caulescent growth habit, are slow to pup. Explanation - time.

There is one major trigger to pupping - flowering which eliminates the growth eye and starts the pupping process. Should anything such as a chemical or rot or a screwdriver kill the growth eye this will trigger pupping. The caulescent growth habit is a result of years of growth without flowering and is therefore an indicator of years without pups.

I suspect there is a hormone that is concentrated at the central growth eye and while this growth eye is in existence, the hormone is concentrated there and growth is retarded elsewhere.

When we consider plants like *Neoregelia* Fireball, *Aechmea gamosepala*, *Aechmea weilbachii* these plants have excessive amount of hormone to the central growth eye's requirements and the excessive amounts are then distributed through the bromeliad resulting in pupping prior to flowering.

At the exact time that the growth hormone is replaced by the flowing process which is a different hormone although the growth is still active in the flower production, the hormone for growth is being spread throughout the plant and pups are initiated. With a well fertilised plant this time factor is very obvious.

With plants such as *Tillandsia cyanea*, *Guzmania sanguinea* and *Vriesea elata*, the growth hormone is not distributed around the

plant at flowering but is still concentrated at the top, this is why pups are produced at the top of the bromeliad and work downwards with each generation.

With plants that do not pup after flowering, the growth hormone ceases to be produced and is so low that pups are not produced except under perfect conditions.

Some bromeliad seedlings proliferate. In these cases the growth hormone has not been concentrated in the top growth eye yet, but is still spread throughout the seedling and is a natural survival habit. A clump creates a natural micro climate for survival and in the end one or two eyes dominate and these plants over grow the rest.

This hormone exists in other plants.

### **QUILLING IN BROMELIADS**

You can use lessons learnt to understand how to increase stability in variegated bromeliads.

I can make Vrieseas and Neoregelias quill on command. I do not claim that I know all about quilling, or there is only one cause, but I can do it, in the beginning inadvertently. I can also look at a plant and know when there has been a miss and a very near miss.

### **FERTILISER**

A bromeliad during its growth builds up reserves of energy in the main stem to use in flowering.

Foliage feed produces wider leaves on broms than if the plant receives its nourishment through the root system. This may be only due to the bromeliad being able to assimilate more, but the leaves will grow wider.

A Hormone may inhibit pup production until flowering has been initiated, then fire fertiliser directly at pup production.

Spring growth results from warmth increasing microbe numbers who consume soil minerals and nourishment from their own dead. When they cease to increase, this results in nourishment from their dead bodies being released back into the soil which the bromeliad can easily assimilate. Example - sterilised soil is toxic to young plants in the ten to fourteen day period after sterilisation because of the dead bodies of the microbes releasing excessive fertiliser and new microbes have not been able to build up numbers to utilise this excess.

Warmth will increase the breakdown of slow release fertiliser. Three month slow release fertiliser will not generally be released in the first week while twelve month will take four weeks before it begins to release. Stored wet, slow release fertiliser when used will suddenly release excessive amounts of fertiliser. Its life expectancy has been compressed. Slow release should be stored in sealed containers to keep it from absorbing moisture.

#### HOW TO QUILL SOFT LEAF VRIESEAS

Separate plants into two batches - one for control and one for quilling. Observe the colour green is the same for each batch. These plants are growing normally and have been fertilised normally. By using normal foliage feed reduce to a little above quarter strength and start fertilising the quill group three times a week and give the quill group slightly more slow release. After about a month, the quill group should be looking very healthy. They should be a richer green than the control group who have been receiving your normal fertilising program.

To reduce workload, have the fertiliser mixed in a trigger dispenser. During the second month, increase the amount of spray you put on each plant, not the strength or frequency.

During the third month, slip in a few extra sprayings. Your natural enthusiasm will be doing this anyway and you will be putting more on than what I am advising. Have a good look at the plants and compare them to the controlled group. They will be a much richer green. The plants will be bigger. Have a look at the leaves, they should be wider.

Keep fertilising in the fourth month. At this stage your patience is strained and increasing the fertiliser is a natural instinct. You are trying to get from a greener green colour to a richer green. This is the sign you are starting to over-fertilise. To assist the project, keep the plants in maximum light for good growth and the best growing condition you can maintain.

#### THE PROJECT - IF YOU HAD USED OTHER PLANTS

*Vriesea* - you are at the stage where your *Vriesea* looks remarkably healthy but the rich green points to a potential problem. The trick is to be able to recognise the situation and its potential for causing problems.

*Vriesea carinata* - If you have been using this plant, it has a strange idiosyncrasy. A fast growing healthy plant has a pale green centre, as does *Vriesea Mariae*, a *Vriesea carinata* hybrid. As you increase the fertiliser this becomes more obvious. When it stops growing, the centre changes to green.

*Aechmea* Lucky Stripe - With this bromeliad you are learning about variegation. The green will be a very rich dark green and the leaves will grow much longer. The variegation will be reduced to fine stripes up the side of the leaves of the main plants. Pups everywhere, some green. The fertiliser is destroying the variegation. The pumped up chlorophyll cells are overwhelming the variegation. The pups are a relief valve. The plant is multiplying to use up fertiliser but in this bromeliad the critical colour is dark green



and is obvious. I have never quilled this bromeliad. This is a very good bromeliad to observe the effect of fertiliser on variegation.

*Neoregelia* Inferno - Increase fertiliser - finer variegation stripes - very obvious dark green on flowering. This bromeliad is ideal plant for quilling.

The Critical Point - is flowering time. In the normal state of growth the bromeliad has built up reserve energy to assist it to complete flowering.

Pineapples - From the beginning to the end of the formation of inflorescence is 37 days. A further 43 until first flower opens. A total of 80 days. This is the only bromeliad I feel confident in quoting accurate times. (The Pineapple by JL Collins 1968) Temperature, fertiliser or day length will alter the number of days with induced flowering.

*Neoregelia* Inferno - From beginning of the formation of inflorescence to good colour is 30 days to first flower open is a guess at total, 60 days. Any fertiliser given to *Neoregelia* Inferno over this period will go to produce pups. Excess fertiliser from spring, slow release or whatever will be directed to pup production. There are degrees of quilling or the more fertiliser the greater effect on the pups. The following is a description of quilling from mild to full quilling of *Neoregelia* Inferno:

1. Pup may flower prematurely; this is more a timing problem combining fertilising with pup removal but will be left to another article. It's an indication of too good growing conditions not bad practices. It does not happen to *Neoregelias* that have been grown on the lean mean method unless you combine the shock of removing the pup with the flowering cycle. Remember you are taking the pup off last year's flowering plant and it is this year's flowering cycle I am referring to. Start the pups off in reduced light to where they

have been growing, but remember to increase light when the pup can depend on its new root system if it hasn't happened naturally (with increase day length), this will inhibit premature flowering.

2. The pups will have dark green chlorophyll may be darker than mother. The tips of the pups will be more pointed than usual.
3. The pups will have very dark green chlorophyll. The tips of the leaves will have a stretched pointed look. The first half dozen immature leaves will have perfect variegation. The next half dozen will have reduced variegation or it will seem to disappear all together then come back perfectly.
4. As No.3 the pup will have a drawn out pointed look. When the variegation disappears, it may not come back, or if it does, it's much reduced.
5. As No. 4 except it will have slight corrugation lengthwise.
6. As No. 5, the leaves are very pointed and triangle shape. The growth eye may abort and the pup throw a pup.
7. As No. 6 the pups quill.

You can quill soft leaf Vriesea main plants by just over fertilising. Once the lengthwise corrugations start to lock into one another, the new leaves can no longer develop. The remedy is untangle the leaves with soapy water. It helps the leaves slip. Keep it up until the plant stops quilling.

An observation on variegation in Vrieseas, for the length of time and the numbers propagated of soft leaf Vrieseas there is an absence of variety and stability in those that do exist. One of the most spectacular variegated Vriesease is *Vriesea saundersii* x

*Vriesea platynema*. A thick leaf *Vriesea* in two forms variegated and albo-marginata.

(To be continued next Bromlink)



In the meantime, read my article on variegated bromeliads Part II in 1997 Bromlink, November/December, page 12 to page 18.



My father, I and others use an expression “done your dash” for running out of petrol in the car, paint when painting, cement when brick laying, etc, etc. I now know where it came from. See Bromlink January/February 2000, page 28.



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

## Why?

Why must I, when courting sleep,  
    See bright ideas instead of sheep?  
Why at night, when in my bed I lie,  
    Do epic thoughts come trooping by?  
Why when in the bright of day  
    These brilliant gems, just fade away?

## **SUCCULENTS**

Mary Nicholson

Almost all plants manufacture food. A few also have the ability to store nourishing ingredients. Succulents store the most essential ingredient needed for survival - water. In their leaves, stems and roots, succulents house all the moisture needed for long droughts. This unique ability enables them to survive in the most hostile environments.

Where do the succulents come from - deserts, mountain tops, jungles or near the oceans? All of the above are correct. The deserts of the world have by far the most succulents. You will find them growing in the cold alpine regions of Europe, the tropical rainforests of Central and South America, and the shores of salt water lakes and oceans. Almost all environments are suitable to growing succulents, you just have to find the right ones for your conditions.

As the rivers and ocean receded as the world evolved many plants weakened and died but the succulent were one of the survivors. The Christmas Cactus, Schlumbergera or Zygocactus as it is sometimes called, is a well known plant, flowering at the time of my writing this piece. It is an epiphyte, therefore it likes to be grown in a hanging basket. Somewhere where you can see the beautiful flowers but also being an epiphyte it does best with plenty of air flow about it. Best situations for them are high in the bush house or shady verandah or under the eaves of the house or in a tree. They like good filtered light and plenty of moisture in warm weather and a free draining soil mix. These plants can be fed in Spring and Summer. After flowering they need less water and no feed. These plants go dormant after flowering. Water again in Spring as new growth occurs.

## NATURE'S WONDERS

Ian Gordon

Spring through to Summer, what a lovely time of the year. A time when nature stirs and all manner of creatures seeking the comfort of a mate. A time when you wake with the sunshine peeping through the drapes, spreading across the foot of the bed and into the four corners of the bedroom. A time when a pair of kookaburras choose to make early morning visits and give wake-up calls, usually at the wrong time, and then disappear to wherever kookaburras go during the daytime. I marvel as I watch these magnificent creatures sitting side by side on our front fence like a pair of feathered bookends and delight at their mirth and freedom as they throw back their heads, laugh, and give so much joy to us mere mortals. A time when the garden stirs with all that fresh green growth.

Jill and I live in a villa complex with small paved gardens and limited space and I have to tell you that the days when I had two bromeliads have long since gone. Under our palms we now have masses of Neoregelias of every hue and colour, nature's supreme beauty. We have long since got to the stage if it's something new in it's something out. Our friends and neighbours benefit by these cast offs, fact is our neighbours now have a garden as lovely as ours. It's also nice to have people in the street we don't know, wave to us. I now realise I'm blessed with more friends than I thought I had.

How lucky we are to live in this great sunburnt land, and where else would you chose to live other than the Gold Coast were life truly is "one day beautiful, the next day perfect"? Finally, I would like to say, how much pleasure the bromeliad culture has brought into our lives and gives an added incentive to rise early to water or mist and tend the garden. Yes, it's a wonderful life, all you have to do is open your eyes and soak in nature's beauty all around you.

## NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

I'd like to give my sincerest thanks to those people who have been providing articles for the Bromlink. You can't imagine how much easier it makes my job of producing an interesting and entertaining newsletter. Your inspiration and willingness to share with others provides the Society's members with valuable information and a worthwhile resource. I can't thank you enough.

I can always use original articles and remember, they don't have to be long, just a few lines is fine if that's all you can manage. You may like to be anonymous - that's fine too (but you better post your article to me because handing it in would blow your cover). Every little bit helps and you'll have my heartfelt gratitude. So, either give your article to Mary, or send it off to me at the following address:

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



## !! CONGRATULATIONS !!

Happy Birthday to Inge vom Bruch, Phyllis King, Genny Vauhkonen, Don Smith, Cath Chumbley, Dawn Collas, Diana Hughes, Bidy Pollock, Abbey Vize, Ollie Willows, Clare Gaudron, Rosemary Hart.



Welcome to June O'Brien, Moya Howell, Rosemary Hart, Frank and Clare Gaudron.

## SIGNING THE ATTENDANCE BOOK

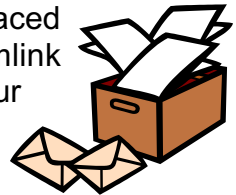
This is to ask everyone who attends the meetings to please sign the Attendance Book. If you don't sign the Attendance Book, then you will miss out on a Lucky Door Prize. Even visitors should sign the book as they also have an opportunity to win a prize. Please make sure you sign the book.



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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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## 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.

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## SOLUTION TO JANUARY/FEBRUARY PUZZLE

Replacing themselves.

## FIND - A - WORD

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

The HOME of OUR CHRISTMAS CACTI is in the RAINFOREST of EASTERN BRAZIL. These plants are EPIPHYTES and as SUCH are SENSITIVE to WATERLOGGING. The ROOTBALL DOES NOT LIKE to DRY out EITHER. The FLOWERING of these PLANTS is GOVERNED by the SHORT DAY LENGTH and TEMPERATURE. AFTER flowering THESE plants to DORMANT. THEY do not like HOT SUMMER SUN so a SHADED POSITION is BEST. SOME COLOURS of the flowers CAN be WHITE, PINK RED and VIOLET.

**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.

<b>MARCH</b>	Denise Storey, Nev Ryan, Bobby Powell, John Bolger
<b>APRIL</b>	Narelle Aizlewood, Richard Bond, Jan Browett, Ian Gordon
<b>MAY</b>	Ian Henderson, Frank Jacobs, Joe Leer, Peter Ludowici

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.

<b>MARCH</b>	Audrey Muir, Jan Browett, Gwen Kerr, Christine Morgan Lowe
<b>APRIL</b>	Jill Gordon, Nancy Jacobs, Maureen Newman, Patricia Perratt
<b>MAY</b>	Jannifer Opie, Biddy Pollock, Michelle Bond, Irene Small

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## 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:

<b>MARCH</b>	Foliage Vrieseas
<b>APRIL</b>	Tillandsias and Succulents
<b>MAY</b>	Aechmeas

## 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.



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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 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

### SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me the senility to forget,  
the people I never liked anyway,  
The good fortune to run into the ones I do,  
and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I am older, here's what I have discovered:

I started out with nothing ...  
I still have most of it.  
My wild oats have turned to prunes and All Bran.  
I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.  
Funny, I don't remember being absent minded ...

All reports are in.  
Life is now officially unfair.  
If all is not lost, where is it?  
It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.  
Some days you're the dog, some days you're the hydrant.

I wish the buck stopped here, I could use a few ...  
Kids in the back seat cause accidents;  
Accidents in the back seat cause kids.  
It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

Only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the  
bathroom.  
If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on  
my knees.

When you're finally holding all the cards, why does everyone  
else decide to play chess?  
It's not hard to meet expenses ... they're everywhere.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE**

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three R's:  
    Respect for self  
    Respect for others and  
    Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good and honourable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life. Do all you can to create a tranquil, harmonious home.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
17. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
18. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
19. Call your mother.
20. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

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