

BROMLINK



November/December 2002

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HONORARY MEMBERS Roy Wenzel

PLANT SALES
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GOODS SALES
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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.

DEADLINES FOR BROMLINK AND EMAIL ADDRESS

The deadline for publication of items in the November-December Bromlink need to reach the Editor by **Monday, 30 December 2002.**

MEETING DATES AND VENUE

From 26th October 2002, our meeting will be held at Unit 3, No 8 Fremantle Street, Andrews on the fourth Saturday of each month from January to November, starting at 1.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and join with us in an afternoon of learning and sharing of ideas and company of those who have an interest and love in the same

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due at the October meeting each year. Subscriptions are:

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:

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



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All Committee Members please note that Committee Meetings are held prior to monthly meetings starting at 12.30 pm.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



PLEASE CHECK DIARY DATES AS THERE ARE ADDITIONS TO THIS LIST IN EVERY BROMLINK.

DATE	EVENT
Thursday - Saturday, 21 st - 23 rd November 2002	Display and Sales, Southport Park Shopping Centre

DATE	EVENT
Saturday, 23 rd Nov 2002	AGM and General Meeting
December 2002	NO MEETING
Saturday, 25 th January 2003	General Meeting
Thursday - Saturday, 20 th - 22 nd February 2003	Display and Sales, Tweed Mall Shopping Centre
Saturday, 22 nd February 2003	General Meeting
7 th - 10 th March 2003	12 th Conference, New Zealand
Saturday, 22 nd March 2003	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 26 th April 2003	General Meeting
Saturday 24 th May 2003	General Meeting
Saturday, 28 th June 2003	General Meeting and Cent Auction
Saturday, 26 th July 2003	General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Subscriptions are now due. We have not put up your fees this year. Wasn't it a hot day at our last meeting and the Sunday so cool and then the long awaited rain. Hope we have a lot more. We are roughing it at our new meeting place until it is finished. We will have storage space so we will not have to carry all our supplies each month.

There will not be a Christmas Party this year as many members will be at Southport Park Shopping Centre Display and Sales.

We are now in our 25th year as a Society. Think of how we can celebrate the occasion in September 2003 and let us know you suggestions.

PLANT SALES

PLEASE NOTE THAT PLANT SALES FROM 26TH OCTOBER 2002 COMMENCE AT 12.30 PM.

All plants are to be handed over the tables to the **SALES PEOPLE WHO** will take the price sticks out of the pot. Under no circumstances are the price sticks to be removed by any one else. The plants will be put in plastic bags and passed back to you. There are to be **NO EXEMPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

SINGAPORE SMOKERS' GARDEN A TRIP REPORT BY DIANA HUGHES

I can't say I saw any Bromeliad gardens during my recent trip to Italy. However, half a dozen *Guzmania* hybrids were decorating an indoor garden in the local MacDonalds restaurant in Catania, Sicily.

But I want to tell you about an amazing cactus & succulent garden, on the roof of Singapore Airport. The area is an outdoor smokers' retreat, complete with bar, tables and armchairs, and both times visited, was full of smokers indulging their habit before boarding an ongoing flight!

It is totally landscaped with groups of mature cactus, in raised beds, between white pebbles and rock arrangements with a winding path, lit by strategic lighting. The plants are named, mostly, and I took a note of some of them:

Agave tequilana (an appropriate location for an alcohol-producing plant!); *Opuntia bergeriana*; *Echinocactus grunsonii* (Golden barrel) – a grouping of 28 plants of varying sizes; *Euphorbia millii* (crown of thorns) in reds and creams; *Cycas revoluta* (sago palm), all about 2m high, were found throughout the garden; *Dracena draco* (dragon tree) were large plants and created an effective border in certain areas; *Phoenix roeelenii* (dwarf date palm), also some 3 m high, created filigree canopies over smaller plants; *Agave angustifolia* 'Marginata' were spectacular variegated plants against 3 large *Cereus peruvianus* (that ugly brute!); *Beaucarnea recurvata* (Pony tail palm) were large specimens, but not in flower; *Pachypodium lamerei* (Madagascar palm) 1.5m specimens in a group planting were eye-catching; *Euphorbia trigona*, 4 together, between 2-3m high; *Cycas rumphii* (Eastern Asia and Pacific and possibly found in Singapore naturally ?) had a trunk 2m high and fronds of 2m long. I have one growing very happily in my sub-tropical

garden. The last name I can read in my notebook is *Cephalocereus senilis* (old man cactus) which I think is a pretty well-known species.

Italian households always have a pot or two of succulents on their window ledges, or beside their front doors. However, a few cactus and succulent species have become "garden escapees" over the year, and the cliffs above the Ligurian coast are liberally covered with prickly pear (*Opuntia*) whose fruits are harvested and found in the markets, Agave and aloe species.

I was happy to see the large number of eucalypts growing along the roads, probably planted 20-30 years' ago to prevent erosion and beautify the countryside. Of course there are acres and acres of olive trees, with each area believing their brew of oil to be the best. Pines have also been planted, from various regions of the Mediterranean. There does not appear to be any natural vegetation. Italian farmers cultivate every square metre of their land, even if it's a cliff!

Yes, one does eat very well in Italy enjoying truly fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood. Oh, and wine!

DYCKIA NAKED LADY

Graham Besgrove

I started to write this article approximately three weeks ago but never got it to paper. Now on the 14th November 2002, my July-August copy of the Bromeliad Journal arrives and in the centre is a photo and a small article regarding *Dyckia* Naked Lady.

I am not into really technical writing, just lay-man terms. I know Uncle Derek (of whom most of us growers knows) will probably shoot me down in flames, but I will write it as I sees it.

The first time I noticed these inflorescences was approximately three to four weeks ago. There are two spikes coming from the base of the plant which is in a clump of plants of about 14 in number. The clump is around about 3.2 metres in circumference.

Both flower spikes are about 78 - 80 cms tall with about 40 orange yellow flowers. The colour tends to be more yellow than anything. The flowers are 17 mm long and about 12 mm wide. The petals are 10 mm wide coming to a rounded end. As with *Dyckias*, the stamen and pistil do not exceed the petals. From the base of the spike, the bracts are 3 cm long and 12 mm at the base and spined. I should have mentioned it before, but as the spikes were appearing, the leaves at the base of the plant where the spikes emerged are spined to about half way up the flower spike. The bracts are also a deep burgundy colour and the spike is green.

Our plants were pollinated by multitudes of black ants and almost each flower has set seed. The seed pots are a glossy green/brown. The bracts around the flowers before seed set were an orange colour, but after seed set they turned a rosy pink.

I have had this plant since October 1988 and this is the first time it has flowered. For those of you who do not get a copy of the BSI Journal, *Dyckia* Naked Lady is a bright green plant with a very sharp point on the end of its succulent leaves but NO spines along the length of the leaves. All the *Dyckias* seem to love growing in mounds or groups, hence at flowering time a mass of spikes.

We have taken photos of the above and I just hope they turn out. Hopefully this won't be my last article, so until next time.



UNDER THE MANGO TREE

John Catlan

There will be no "Under the Mango Tree" this issue. John and Genny have been tied up with field days, visitors, lots of hard work, etc, so they haven't had a chance to put an article together for this issue.

But don't despair. We have been advised that all will be as it should by next issue.

Thank you for your patience.

DISCOUNT ACCOMMODATION

Irene Brown

Hi, Everyone. I thought I would let you know about my B&B and the discount I am offering to members if they come and stay. I am offering a 5% discount to members if they come and stay at my B&B for one night and 10% for 2 nights.

My B&B is called the Castle on the Hill B&B. Two years ago, I invited members to come to our open house to view the artwork, gardens and the castle at the Science-Art centre. Quite a few came and were quite impressed with what they saw.

We have since converted two rooms into B&Bs. The magnificent stone castle, artwork, sculptures, fountains and courtyards reflect the ambiance of the 14th Century Italian Renaissance. Set in the beautiful Tweed Valley, its

views are dominated by majestic Mt Warning and its surrounding gentle misty mountains. It is a perfect place to unwind and nurture the soul with beauty from nature and the arts.

The rates are:

\$140 per couple per night in the Earl's Chamber, en suite with views.

\$110 per couple per night in the Lady's Chamber, share bathroom, room with views.

Hot and cold buffet breakfast with bush tucker jams.

You can view the castle at www.science-art.com.au/b&b. To contact me, please phone (02) 6679 5442 or email: irene@science-art.com.au or write to Irene Brown, PO Box 733 Murwillumbah, NSW 2484.

Should you need any brochures or more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PUZZLE

What an amazing record to our Bromeliad.

FIND - A - WORD

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

The WORD SUCCULENT is DERIVED FROM the LATIN word SUCCULENTUS MEANING FLESHY and JUICY and is a NAME USED for OVER 10,000 DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES. All THESE plants HAVE the ABILITY to SURVIVE LENGTHY DRY SPELLS. The FORM and FUNCTION of these plants ARE to ABSORB VITAL water SUPPLIES - to STORE the WATER - AND REDUCE EVAPORATION to a MINIMUM EVEN in STRONG SUNLIGHT. THE cactus HAS the LARGEST number of the species.

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.)

BIRTHDAYS



From November Meeting to January Meeting

Olwen Ferris, Bev Collins, Neville Ryan, Gwen Kerr, Moya Howell, Frank Gaudron, Dorothy Hipwell, Irene Small, Betty Page, Jenette Henwood, Jan Browett, Marion Sandoz, Gwen Grace, Michelle Goodman, George Shaw, Val Vearing, Karen McPherson, Donald McGregor and Margaret Lucas

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to Anna Bacotta, Wendy Bruce, Douglas Wallace, Malcolm Ward, Mike Symmons and Catherine Payne.

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.

NOVEMBER	John Bolger, Sue Burbury, Jennifer Laurie, Frank Jacobs
JANUARY	Denise Storey, Nev Ryan, Bobby Powell, Moya Howell
FEBRUARY	Heather Barker, Mary Nicholson, Lorraine Militec, Ollie Willows

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.

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:

NOVEMBER	Not often seen Bromeliads and/or Succulents
JANUARY	Neoregelias
FEBRUARY	Cryptanthus



TEA ROSTER



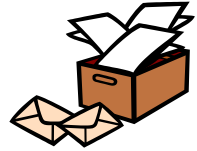
NOVEMBER	Jill Dennis, Mary Webb, Lois Glover, Helen Ward
JANUARY	Judy Norton, Denise Storey, Dorothy Hipwell, Maxine O'Shea
FEBRUARY	Ollie Willows, Marion Sandoz, Gillian Hunt, Gwen Grace

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.

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
President/Secretary
Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society
Inc
55 Dawn Parade
MIAMI Q 4220



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 Pacific Highway M1.

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 three-year-old went with his Dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother that there were two boy kittens and two girl kittens.

"How did you know?" his mother asked.

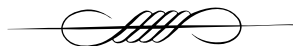
"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied.

"I think it's printed on the bottom."



The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, Dad, you get the toy."



An older couple was lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife felt romantic and wanted to talk. She said, "You used to hold my hand when we were courting."

Wearily, he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep.

A few moments later she said, "Then you used to kiss me."

Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said, "Then you use to bite my neck." Angrily, he threw back the bed covers and got out of bed.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"To get my teeth!"

ITEMS FOR SALE

POTS	105 mm squat pot	20c
	115 mm	15c
	125 mm	20c
	140 mm	30c
	150 mm	30c
	165 mm	45c
	200 mm	50c

NUTRICOTE 500g \$2.50

LABELS Regular: 10 for 40c 100 for \$4.00
Larger: 5c each 10 for 50c

PENCILS \$2.20 each

PLANT LADDERS 5c

PLANT HANGERS 10c

SALES STICKERS 5¢ each or 10 for 50¢

PADDLE POP STICKS 50 for 25¢

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" - \$25.00
~~"Bromeliads for Modern Living" - \$8.50~~ Out of stock
"Bromeliads Next Generation - \$30.00

The objects of the Society shall be:

- (a) To stimulate interest in the conservation, and to promote the culture and development of succulents and bromeliads.
- (b) To acquire and disseminate information regarding these plants, and to encourage their production and propagation.
- (c) To ban totally from our collection any such plants which become noxious.
- (d) To enlighten members and the public on the dangers of cultivating certain noxious species.
- (e) To give exhibitions, arrange field days, and other events, and to make such publications as are deemed desirable.
- (f) To associate, affiliate or otherwise joint or connect ourselves with similar bodies or societies.
- (g) To make seeds and plants available to members under the control of the Society.
- (h) To foster family membership and members.