

BROMLINK



September ~ October 2011



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Office Bearers 2011

PRESIDENT~	Tom Norris~	07 55295446
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ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.....	Kay Norris.	
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PLANT SALES CO-ORDINATOR.....	Julie Hewetson (General Meetings and Sales Days)	
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SALES TABLE.....	Tom and Marilyn Rivett	
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RAFFLE CO-ORDINATOR.....	John and Judith Paterson	
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NAME BADGES.....	Harry Schenk	
PUBLICITY OFFICER.....	Ann Schenk	
PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB MASTER.....	Glenda Hodgson	
LIFE MEMBERS	M. Nicholson, G. Besgrove, J.Catlan G. Vauhkonen, Neville Ryan, W. Hansen N. Aizlewood. Mr. Glen Mylne - HONORARY MEMBER	

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General meetings are held every 4th Saturday of the month at Carrara Community Centre, Nielsens Rd; Carrara.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

DATE

EVENT


September 17	Annual Show – Display and Plant Sales Competition/Popular Vote judged show.
September 24	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Carrara Community Centre Nielsen’s Road, Carrara Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. CENT AUCTION.
October 2	Field Day to Kerry Tate’s Garden and also to Gloria & Tom Dunbar’s Garden
October 6, 7 & 8	Pines Shopping Centre – Display and Sales.
October 22	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsen’s Road, Carrara Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
October 30	Bus Trip to Len and Sheryl Waite’s Garden and after lunch to Lou Randall Garden. Both these gardens are at Caboolture.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011 CONT.

DATE

EVENT

<p>November 10 11 & 12</p>	<p>Southport Park Shopping Centre – Display and Sales.</p>
<p>November 19 & 20</p>	<p>Gold Coast Rose Society Annual Show. Auditorium, Robina Community Centre – Display and sales.</p>
<p>November 26</p> 	<p>General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsen's Road, Carrara Plant sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. CHRISTMAS PARTY AND LARGE PLANT RAFFLE.</p>

WHOLESALE BROMELIADS of AUSTRALIA, THE POCKET (near Mullumbimby) Large range of bromeliads. Agents for Deroose, exotic plant of Belgium & Andrew Maly's **KIWI COLLECTION VRIESEAS**. Visitors welcome by appointment. **P.0266845374. F.0266845168.**
email: plants@ausbroms.com.au
Website: www.ausbroms.com.au

DETAILS OF OTHER SOCIETY SHOWS / EVENTS FOR 2011

OCTOBER 8 - 9 Wavell Heights Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights.

NOVEMBER 12 & 13 - -Bromeliad Society of Queensland – Spring Show – Brisbane Table Tennis Centre, Windsor.

NOVEMBER 19 - 20 Bromeliad Society of Queensland -- Spring Show Mt. Coot-tha.

NOVEMBER 19 – 20 Gold Coast Rose Society – Annual Show – Robina Community Centre.

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Program for Guest Speakers coming up over the next few months

SEPTEMBER - Main Speaker – Nigel Thompson will travel from the Sunshine Coast to talk to us on the topic of ‘Guzmanias’

Mini Speaker – Greg Aizlewood will talk on “Billbergias” (15 mins.)

OCTOBER - Main Speaker – Shane Zaghini will travel to speak to us on the Subject of “Bromeliad Hybridising he has done”

Mini Speaker – Kathleen Henderson will talk on “Crassulaceae” (15 mins.)

NOVEMBER - This is our Christmas Party and Giant Plant Raffle for 2011. **No Guest Speaker today.**


Plant of the month. A reminder to all members if you also have a good specimen from the nominated genera, please do not hesitate to bring it in to exhibit. The plant doesn't necessarily have to be in flower, we also grow for their foliage.

Try to avoid removing offsets until winter is definitely over. In southern coastal

September	Billbergias & Guzmanias.
October	Vrieseas, Neoregelias, Nidulariums, Guzmanias, and Crassulaceae
November	Not often seen Bromeliads & Succulents.

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WHOLESALE BROMELIADS of AUSTRALIA, THE POCKET (near Mullumbimby) Large range of bromeliads. Agents for Deroose, exotic plant of Belgium & Andrew Maly's **KIWI COLLECTION VRIESEAS**. Visitors welcome by appointment. **P.0266845374. F.0266845168. email: plants@ausbroms.com.au**
Website: www.ausbroms.com.au

	<p>PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES TO ME NO LATER THAN <u>8TH SEPTEMBER 2011</u> WHERE POSSIBLE COULD YOU PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO ME IN WORD FORMAT. MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS; brommad@optusnet.com.au PH; 0733883575</p>
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President's Report July 2011

Welcome. Well all things come to an end with our AGM today. A new president and secretary will be taking over. We have had a great time and we will be leaving office with the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society in a very strong position.

Financially we are in the best ever position. The membership may be down a little but most members are active and with whose support make our club the preeminent gardening club on the Gold Coast.

This strong position would not be possible without the help of the members who give up their time to serve on our committee and the assistance of the members who help at our monthly meetings, This includes the register operators and helpers, security personal, the members who set up the meeting hall and most commonly the same people that clean up after. With a special thanks to Janice I'Anson who has produced the wonderful soups and cakes for afternoon tea.

There are just so many people to thank. Please keep up the great work next year and it goes without saying that the help of ALL members will be appreciated to keep our club growing in 2012

We have been lucky to have fabulous guest speakers in 2011 with Kerry Tate's holiday trips especially well received. Narelle is working on next year guest speakers. If you have any favorite speakers, please contact Narelle so she can see what can be arranged.

On behalf of Narelle and myself we would like to commend the members of the committee that have worked to make the right decisions for the benefit for our membership.

Narelle & Greg, Kay and myself will not be leaving our club and will be giving the new president and secretary all the support they will need. As my report goes to press, we DO NOT have any nomination for Secretary so if you think you may like to give it a go please put your hand up. We CANNOT operate as an incorporated body without a President, Secretary and a Treasurer.

Thank you, Tom Norris

AGAVES and their uses



(Reprinted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agave#Uses>)

The large flower spike of *Agave chiapensis*
The ethnobotany of the agave was eloquently described by William H. Prescott in 1843:^[7]

But the miracle of nature was the great Mexican aloe, or maguey, whose clustering pyramids of flowers, towering above their dark coronals of leaves, were seen sprinkled over many a broad acre of the table-land. As we have already noticed its bruised leaves afforded a paste from which paper was manufactured, its juice was fermented into an intoxicating beverage, pulque, of which to the natives, to this day, are extremely fond; its leaves further supplied an impenetrable thatch for the more humble dwellings; thread, of which coarse stuffs were made, and strong cords, were drawn from its tough and twisted fibers; pins and needles were made from the thorns at the extremity of its leaves; and the root, when properly cooked, was converted into a palatable and nutritious food. The agave, in short, was meat, drink, clothing, and writing materials for the Aztec! Surely, never did Nature enclose in so compact a form so many of the elements of human comfort and civilization!

There are four major parts of the agave that are edible: the flowers, the leaves, the stalks or basal rosettes, and the sap (called aguamiel—honey water). (Davidson 1999)

Each agave plant will produce several pounds of edible flowers during its final

season. The stalks, which are ready during the summer, before the blossom, weigh several pounds each. Roasted, they are sweet and can be chewed to extract the aguamiel, like sugarcane. When dried out, the stalks can be used to make didgeridoos. The leaves may be collected in winter and spring, when the plants are rich in sap, for eating. The leaves of several species also yield fiber: for instance, *Agave rigida* var. *sisalana*, sisal hemp, *Agave decipiens*, false sisal hemp. *Agave americana* is the source of pita fiber, and is used as a fiber plant in Mexico, the West Indies and southern Europe.

During the development of the inflorescence, there is a rush of sap to the base of the young flower stalk. Agave nectar (also called agave syrup), a sweetener derived from the sap, is used as an alternative to sugar in cooking and it can be added to breakfast cereals as a binding agent.^[8] In the case of *A. americana* and other species, this is used in Mexico and Mesoamerica in the production of the beverage pulque. The flower shoot is cut out and the sap collected and subsequently fermented. By distillation, a spirit called mezcal is prepared; one of the best-known forms of mezcal is tequila. In 2001, the Mexican Government and European Union agreed upon the classification of tequila and its categories. All 100% blue agave tequila must be made from the Weber blue agave plant, to rigorous specifications and only in certain Mexican states.

People have found a few other uses of the plant aside from its several uses as food. When dried and cut in slices, the flowering stem forms natural razor strops, and the expressed juice of the leaves will lather in water like soap. The natives of Mexico used the agave to make pens, nails and needles, as well as string to sew and make weavings. Leaf tea or tincture taken orally is used to treat constipation and excess gas. It is also used as a diuretic. Root tea or tincture is taken orally to treat arthritic joints. Several agave species are also considered to have potential as effective bioenergy crops.^[9] Agave's ability to grow in naturally water-limited environments could help to prevent the food vs fuel trade-off.^[10]

Warnings

The juice from many species of agave can cause acute contact dermatitis. It will produce reddening and blistering lasting one to two weeks. Episodes of

itching may recur up to a year thereafter, even though there is no longer a visible rash. Irritation is, in part, caused by calcium oxalate raphides. Dried parts of the plants can be handled with bare hands with little or no effect. If the skin is pierced deeply enough by the needle-like ends of the leaf from a vigorously growing plant, this can also cause blood vessels in the surrounding area to erupt and an area some 6–7 cm across appear to be bruised. This may last up to two to three weeks.

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AGAVACEAE

This family includes several familiar GENERA - *Beschornia*, *cordyline*, *sansevieria*, *dracaena*, *furcraea* and *yucca*.

Agave is the genera I will briefly talk to you about today. There are over 200 species, found in Mexico, Arizona, California and Nevada. They are exceptionally tough plants and very easy to grow. Some can become weeds if general plant maintenance like cutting down the flowering spike before it seeds and pups is not carried out. Propagation can be from these seeds and pups, also the agaves suckers.

The following describes a range of plants from dramatic landscape specimens to symmetrical pot plants.

A. Americana – somewhat floppy leaves up to 1 ½ metres long, awesome flower spike, commonly called the century plant. There are several variegated forms.

A. Ferox – stunning erect leaves, absolutely magnificent Agave if you have the room. Grows to 3 metres across and the flower spike reaches to 10 metres.

A. Attenuata – soft leaves, no teeth or terminal spines, a very popular landscape plant in ‘peopled’ areas and is the only Agave to have the droopy flower stem.

A. Augustifolia variegata – very nice agave to 1 metre across and spherical

A. Gypsophla – wavy leaves, blue/grey, medium sized and of the Agave

flowers I have seen, it is the most beautiful. The colour of the flowers is rich, golden, yellow. It also comes in a variegated form.

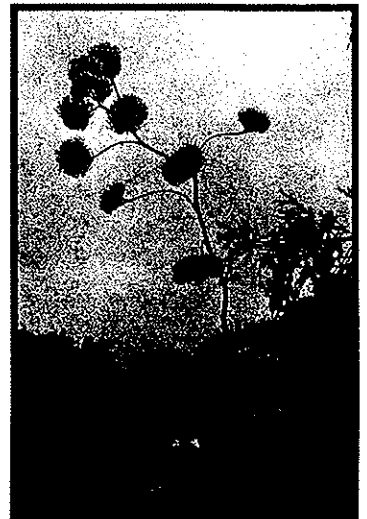
- A. *Sisalana* – sisal (used for rope making, among other things) is made from this fibrous Agave.
- B. *A. Gemminiflora* - narrow leaves with cottony filaments along the length, 1 metre across. This makes a lovely addition to a garden featuring textured plants.

THE NEXT THREE MAKE NEAT POT SPECIMENS.

- A. *Lophanthus* – variegate with at least 3 different colours in the leaves, very striking and will form a clump to about 70 cm.
- A. *Poatorum* v. *Kichiokan* – this is a very handsome Agave with pale blue/grey leaves, very dense rosette form to 60cm with nice dark spines and teeth.
- A. *Ferdinandi regis* - this is one of the most popular Agaves. When well grown the leaves are rigid with beautiful paint-like markings on them, and the plant grows in a perfectly spherical shape.
- A. *Tequilana* - as the name suggests, tequila is made from this Agave.

A. Ferdinandi regis

A. Gypsophla



CARNIVOROUS BROMELIADS.

Are any bromeliads carnivorous? The jury is still out: and the verdict will probably depend on the criteria necessary to establish carnivore.

The general definition of carnivore requires four conditions.

- : Active attraction of insects.
- : A structure to trap and confine the insects.
- : Active secretion by the plant of enzymes to digest the insects especially proteases and phosphatases to release the nitrogen and phosphorus.
- : Active absorption of the released nutrients.

In the Bromeliaceae, the current species listed as carnivores are *Brocchinia reducta*, *Brocchinia hechtoides*, and *Catopsis berteroniana* with two more unnamed *Brocchinias* as possible candidates.

The *Brocchinias* are terrestrials and are native to the nutrient poor acid bogs of southern Venezuela, Guyana and Brazil: with some growing on bare rocks on highland tepuis.

Catopsis berteroniana is an epiphyte and native to the Florida eyerglades and into northern South America. Healthy plants produce a rosette of loosely packed leaves. The leaves are so bright yellow that the plant almost appears to glow. The leaves are also coated with a waxy, powdery white cuticle that enhances the effect. The image is so suggestive of a lamp placed on the bare branches of a tree that in South America it has earned the common name lampera de la selva (jungle lantern). These plants have leaves which are waxy and slippery which minimises the escape of insects.

Using the descriptors of Adrian Slack*, these bromeliads would be called passive pit traps (passive: no moving organs as with the Venus Fly Trap or the aquatic bladderworts: pit traps: a simple open leaf structure receptacle but with some development of properties to prevent the escape of insects).

All tank bromeliads will have some insect residues in the leaf axils or central tank. Examination of the nature and quantity of the solid residues of non aquatic insects will give an indication whether there is an active attraction or just random trapping.

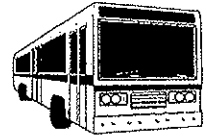
The question as to whether these bromeliads actively secrete enzymes to release the nutrients or whether any release is from passive digestion of bacteria is the subject of discussion and will probably determine whether these species will be classified as true carnivores.

Compiled from various internet sources. Written by Peter Paroz.

FIELD TRIP DETAILS

Our field trip on Sunday the 2nd of October is now a bus trip.

We will be travelling to visit the gardens of Kerry Tate and Gloria and Tom Dunbar.



Money is now being taken and the more people coming, the more we can offer you, because the bus is run completely separate from the club. All proceeds from the bus are going back to the members supporting the bus, plants or in the case of this trip; Gloria and Tom have offered to do a sausage sizzle, with salads and bread. There are Plants available for sale. Thank you Gloria and Tom – I'm sure we will enjoy your hospitality.

Pick up is as follows: We are going south so the times are reversed.

7.00 am BP Service Station, Coomera. Please gather outside near Mac Donald's picnic tables. Parking at all those areas are at members own discretion.

7.20 am Robina Railway Station. The bus stop is at eastern side of the railway station. Car parking is available.

7.30 am Tugun Rotary Park. Off street parking is available at this pick-up which is 200 metres south of the Shell Service Station.

My mobile on the day is 409206849 and if questions before 55206849.

SECOND TRIP FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

Our bus trip on Sunday the 30th of October is to Caboolture.

We will be going to the gardens of Sheryl and Len Wait at Upper Caboolture, Deirdre and Bruce Roberts, and Lou and Tish Randall in Caboolture.

I am really delighted to be able to bring you to these gardens. It will be a very full day. Morning tea and afternoon tea is provided by Jim our driver. Lunch is BYO at the Roberts.



These are 3 very different gardens, of a very high standard. There is something for everyone, from a garden in the open Garden scheme encompassing 5 acres to a

smaller immaculate garden. Then onto a dry 2 acre Garden, featuring succulents and cacti with lots of themed plants. These gardens are a must to see. The 2 first gardens have plants for sale. At the last garden, swapping with serious collectors is encouraged.

The pick-up is as follows-

Tugun 7.00

Robina 7.10

Coomera 7.30



See above for particular pickup points.

Bring boxes clearly labelled. You are responsible for your own plants. Bring your own cup and Lunch.

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deiou
 FOUNDATION
 for children with autism

Re: Helping AEIOU Foundation families to raise funds for children with autism

AEIOU Foundation is a Brisbane-based charity that provides early intervention for children with autism and each year, each centre conducts local events and initiatives to help raise funds and awareness in our local community.

All funds raised go directly back to the centre, providing outdoor play equipment, learning materials and resources for children in the program.

Right now, The Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society are organising a fund raising auction with the theme 'Shop Early for Christmas' and would be delighted if you could assist us by donating an item for the auction. We will be hosting the auction at the Carrara Community Centre, Nielsen's Road, Carrara; on the 22nd October, commencing at 12:00 pm. We would love you to come along.

AEIOU Foundation's early learning program is designed for children with autism who are aged between two and a half to five years of age. . Children in the program are supported full time by skilled teachers and facilitators as well as speech pathologists, occupational therapists and psychologists.

The program offers intensive individual learning plans tailored to meet the needs of each child and family, developing skills in areas including social interaction, communication, cognitive development, sensory integration and fine and gross motor skills. Each year, more than 70% of children who complete the program successfully transition to mainstream school.

The Societies coordinator Nick Kelly can be contacted any time on 0409 799 972. Alternatively, If you would like to contact AEIOU Foundation directly, you can reach Events/Centre Liaison Manager Jemma Riding on 07 3320 7575.

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GIANT AUCTION

Remember next month's meeting includes the Giant Auction Supporting A.E.I.O.U. Carrara. We need every member to donate one or more new items we can put up for auction, anything, any value, any size. Have a look in that bottom draw for that unwanted gift, talk to the businesses you deal with and ask for donations even your neighbours or we have all got Succulents and Bromeliads, any plants will be fine.

Please help to make this a success and not an embarrassment. This is a local fun raising event supporting your local A.E.I.O.U. office in Carrara.

There will be an editorial 'After the Event' in the local Gold Coast newspaper advertising the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society on its success (success I hope).

WE NEED OVER 200 ITEMS

Please bring your donated items to the September meeting, so I can list and itemise a detailed report ready for the Auctioneer.

Come enjoy, have fun and shop early for Christmas.

ABOUT A.E.I.O.U. (AUTISM EARLY INTERVENTION OUTCOMES
UNIT)

Web Site: <http://www.aeiou.org.au>

The A.E.I.O.U. was started in a church in Moorooka by Doctor and Mrs. James Morton. They

They saw the need for early intervention so that when the children reach school age they are not so far behind.

The Gold Coast unit currently operates out of a room in an A.B.C. Child Care Centre at Carrara. They are in need of \$2,000,000 to build their own centre. Twelve children are currently enrolled with over fifteen families waiting for placement.

A.E.I.O.U. is a non-profit organisation.

After Rebecca's excellent presentation in May explaining A.E.I.O.U. to us,

A.E.I.O.U. have already donated over \$2,000 worth of items and are offering as much help as we require.

You can contact me anytime on 0409 799 972 Nick Kelly.

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PLANT GLUE

Some years ago, there was a report of members of the Cairns Study Group experimenting with 'Sellys SUPA GLUE' for attaching epiphytes onto their mounts.

Following this news, I experimented with this material and found the results quite favourable. It has a good initial 'tack' so that small seedlings stay in place right away. Once set, the glue seems reasonably water proof and does not have any adverse effect on plant growth; and even appears to promote new root growth.

In spite of favourable results by some growers, I have never been game to commit small seedlings to hot melt glue.

Peter Paroz

With compliments Bromeliaceae March/April 2005

WHAT HAPPENED???

THIS PAGE WAS FOR YOUR ARTICLE,
BUT I GUESS YOU FORGOT TO SEND
IT!

A warm welcome to our New members.

Jeff Lucas

We hope you enjoy learning more about Bromeliads & Succulents from our meetings with our guest speakers, and look forward to seeing you on our field trips we organize through out the year.

GUIDELINES FOR BORROWING FROM THE LIBRARY.

New members must be financial for three months before borrowing books.



1. Books are on loan for (1) month only.
2. Members are responsible for replacement of lost or damaged books.
3. Members are advised that the above guide lines are part of the by-laws approved by the members of the society.

Library and book sales open at 12.00 p.m. meeting days.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

Bromeliads - A Cultural Manual. \$5.00
 Bromeliad Cultivation Notes. \$8.00
 Starting with Bromeliads. \$25.00

There are plenty of other books available for members to take out on loan.

Our friendly librarian Monica Mead along with assistant librarian Kay Norris will be on hand to help you.

The aims of the society are:

- (A) To stimulate interest in the conservation, and to promote the culture and development of the 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.*