

BROMLINK



March ~ April 2012



Secretary, GCS&BS Inc.
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NAME BADGES.....Harry Schenk
PUBLICITY OFFICER.....Ann Schenk
PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB MASTER.....Glenda Hodgson

LIFE MEMBERS

Mary Nicholson, Graham Besgrove, Genny Vauhkonen, John Catlan,
Neville Ryan, Wendy Hansen and Narelle Aizlewood.

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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 2012

DATE

EVENT

March 8, 9 & 10	Pines Shopping Centre - Display and Sales.
March 24	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Orientation for New members and visitors 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. CENT AUCTION TODAY
April 28	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
March 8, 9 & 10	Pines Shopping Centre - Display and Sales.
March 24	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Orientation for New members and visitors 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. CENT AUCTION TODAY
April 28	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.


**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012 (Cont'd)****DATE****EVENT**

May 10, 11 & 12	Southport Park Shopping Centre – display and sales.
May 26	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Orientation for New members and visitors 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
June 23	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
July 28	General Meeting - Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Orientation for New members and visitors 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
August 9, 10 & 11	Tweed Mall Shopping Centre – Display and Sales. (to be confirmed)
August 25	General Meeting - Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
September 22	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Carrara Community Centre, Nielsens Road, Carrara. Orientation for New members and visitors 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. CENT AUCTION TODAY.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012 (Cont'd)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
October 11, 12 & 13	Pines Shopping Centre – display and sales.
October 27	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Beginners Class 11.30 a.m. Plant Sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m.
November 8, 9 & 10	Southport Park Shopping Centre – display and sales. (to be confirmed)
November 24 	General Meeting – Carrara Community Centre Nielsens Road, Carrara. Orientation for New members and visitors 11.30 a.m. Plant sales 12.00 p.m. Meeting begins 1.00 p.m. <i>CHRISTMAS PARTY AND LARGE PLANT RAFFLE.</i>

Program for Guest Speakers coming up over the next few months

MARCH

Main speaker - KERRY TATE

Topic - "*CALIFORNIA GOLD*". Kerry continues her U.S. bromquest travelogue with visits to renowned hybridiser John Arden's home nursery and collection, Bird Rock Tropicals Nursery owned by Pamela Hyatt, L.A.'s Huntington Gardens, and several other respected bromeliad collections in Southern California. There will also be some sightseeing of the grounds and magnificent Spanish architecture at Balboa Park, and the world-famous San Diego Zoo - where the local bromeliad society members maintain a wonderful bromeliad garden.



Mini speaker - GREG AIZLEWOOD

Topic - "*CRYPTANTHUS*" - earth stars of celestial beauty. Everything you wanted to know about this genus, but were afraid to ask.

APRIL

Main speaker - to be confirmed and advised in the March-April edition of Bromlink.

Topic - "*SUCCULENTS*"

Mini speaker - KATHLEEN HENDERSON

Topic - "*UNUSUAL SUCCULENTS*". Our resident succulent expert will wow us with these intriguing plants. More information on our "Succulent April" meeting in the next Bromlink.



MAY

Main speaker - TRUE GRANT

Topic - "ADVENTURES IN BROM PARADISE". True will smuggle us into Hawaii for a peek at this tropical playground. The Hawaiian Botanic Gardens on Big Island are on the itinerary, and we will drive to and fly over some amazing volcanoes and picturesque waterfalls. True will show us some bromeliad nurseries, including that of renowned hybridiser David Shiigi, and some fantastic plants which she and Bob imported from Hawaii. Learn how those plants fared with their immigration and adaptation to northern N.S.W. conditions. Meet some stunning newcomers!

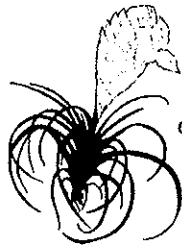
Special feature speaker - NEVILLE RYAN

Topic - "DIVERSITY OF TILLANDSIAS". Nev will show us a range of Tillandsias which differ in size, shape, colour and growth habit. He will explain how they are not all "silvery little fuzz balls" needing the same growing requirements.

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

March	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias, full sun Aechmeas, and Canistrums.
April	Cryptanthus, Tillandsias and Succulents.
May	Spotted Neoregelias, Orthophytums, Tillandsias and variegated Bromeliads.
June	Alcantareas, foliage Vrieseas, Dyckias, Hechtias, and Asterias
July	Billbergias and Guzmanias
August	Foliage Vrieseas, Billbergias, Catopsis & miniature Neoregelias

DETAILS OF OTHER SOCIETY SHOWS / EVENTS FOR 2012



MARCH 10 - 11 Wavell Heights Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights.

SUCCULENTICON 2012 ~ 30th March to 2nd April 2012, Melbourne, VIC.

For further details and contact information please see Kathleen Henderson.



Bromeliad Society of Queensland -- Autumn Show—Table Tennis Centre, Windsor.

APRIL 14 - 15 Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society – Bromeliad Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Community Centre, Millwell Road, Maroochydore.

GOLD COAST DISPLAY AT THE BRISBANE BROMELIAD SPECTACULAR 21-22 APRIL

JUNE 9 – 10 Cactus & Succulent Society of Queensland – Annual Show - The Auditorium, Botanical Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha.

OCTOBER 13 - 14 Wavell Heights Spectacular -- Display and Sales of Bromeliads. Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights.

Bromeliad Society of Queensland -- Spring Show—Table Tennis Centre, Windsor.

“COOL BROMS” AUCKLAND 2013 AUSTRALASIAN BROMELIAD CONFERENCE. Friday March 15 – Monday March 18 2013.



To register your interest....

Email coolbroms@bsnz.org—just type in ‘send us cool broms info’ and you’ll get all the latest conference news and all the ‘early bird’ offers.

President's Report

Welcome to all members not so old and new.

What great meetings we are having lately even with the rain we have been having especially on meeting days. It does not matter to our members.

The committee is well aware of the fact that we are arranging extra selling days and Graham is doing a remarkable job. To go on a committee does not mean you necessarily have to work just your suggestions are a great help. If you are asked don't say no, pitch in and help you will have fun.

Our calendar is pretty full this year but don't hesitate to tell Kerry if you would like to be a mini speaker. If you do there is no commission on your plant sales for that day so it is well worth while.

On the field day in May it is a great day with a chance to see and buy at some gardens.

If you would like to see the committee at work don't hesitate to come along you will be amazed at just how hard they are working for you.

Our insurance is coming up and we are looking at different options, so we will keep you informed at our progress.

We are in the process of developing a survey to gauge what you would like in the meetings and what we can do to improve our society and your responsibilities being a member. I will let you know on the progress a little later.

The meeting times are going to change allowing us to start half an hour earlier from 1.00pm to 12.30 pm this will start from the April meeting. We have the hall till 4.00pm but we feel you are just hanging around too long before the meeting starts. I would appreciate any suggestions.

Judy Paterson Your President

Mounting Media for Epiphytic Bromeliads

Over the years, I have had great success using cork as a mounting medium for atmospheric tillandsias. The cheapest form of cork is the 'compressed block' which consists of small pieces (6-18 mm) of third/fourth grade cork; compressed and glued into a large sheet or block. It was originally used as insulation in large scale industrial refrigerators; but is now superseded by foam plastic. It is now not easy to obtain and my supply is running down. It is easy to cut to size and shape, light and soft enough for the roots of larger plants to readily penetrate. It is usually good for 3 to 4 uses over 5-6 years before the glue deteriorates. The cork is occasionally attacked by a small grub and this does not appear to affect the plant; but the holes made by the grub through the cork reduces its mechanical strength; and occasionally hollowed out by ants with the same effect.

In making the mounting, I run a wire through the length of the block and secure it at the base. This ensures that weight of the plant is supported by the wire and not the glue; adding to the life of the cork.

If you have a wine buff friend, the cork stoppers are excellent mounting media for small plants. It has a very tight texture and the roots do not penetrate readily. I usually drill some small holes to assist the root attachment.

Natural cork is the mounting material 'par excellence'. While expensive, it is very long lasting. I have reused one block many times over 12 years and while it has weathered considerably on the surface, there are no signs of it falling apart. It is very dense with good mechanical strength; and no special attachment of the wire for hanging is needed. Because of the density of the bark, the roots rarely penetrate but attach readily to the rough surface. I prefer to drill small holes in the bark so that the roots can penetrate the block. Very useful –essential- for larger growing specimens.

Cork sanding blocks are also a possible source of cork at a reasonable cost. In recent times, I have been able to pick up 3 mm cork mats from 'Bargain Shops' at a reasonable price. This is too thin to use as is; but when doubled and glued it is quite useable. Again the texture is tight and I drill some holes for the roots to penetrate. I use the external version of PVC woodworkers glue. I now use this glue for attaching small seedlings as well as the regular version will sometimes soften and give way during long rain periods. I reserve cork in its various forms for epiphytic tillandsias which develop roots.

If you have access to a vineyard, the grape vine prunings make great mountings. The varied shapes allow the opportunity to develop multiple plantings/ artistic presentations.

Over the years, I have used a wide range of local wood for mounting tillandsias especially those plants which develop few or no roots at maturity

without having any problems; but I avoid using *Pinus* sp wood. For hardwood, such as garden stakes or palings, I prefer to use well weathered samples. *Avoid any wood treated with any variety of preservative as these are detrimental to root development; and the copper based preservatives are quite toxic to bromeliads.*

Tree fern fibre, if you can get it, is also suitable for mounting epiphytes. It can be cut to a variety of shapes. The fibre has a distinct 'grain' and I select the 'cut' and orientation when hung to encourage water penetration. Again, I drill a few holes to encourage root penetration.

Bromeliads will naturalise on a wide variety of native and garden trees that do not shed their bark or have a corky bark. Soft bark Eucalypts are dubious but worth a try with an expendable plant. I had always considered that a suitable mounting would have to have a rough surface. Not so; I have found a number of feral -self sown- seedlings (*T. tricolepis*, *T. utriculata* and *T. scheideana*) growing happily on Bougainvillea, Camelias and *Adenium obesum* plants in the garden.

Peter Paroz

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FIELD DAYS FOR MAY.

Field day May 27th at 10am at Carol Langdon's garden, 3 MIKONOS CRT Currumbin Waters,

Diana Bergmark's, 60 Hillview Parade Ashmore. 11.30 am. Bring lunch and chair.

Then on to Judith Paterson, 734 Nerang-Broadbeach Rd Carrara 2pm. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided by your club.

Any queries phone Marjorie Gale 0418 799 234 or sec Eileen Kovic 0417-960005.

May you all have a great caring and sharing day.

BROMELIAD MEGA SALE
SAT 31st & SUN 1st May 2012 7am - 3pm

****1000'S to choose from****
Large collection from several growers
Rare & highly sought after varieties available
 Full sun lover plants, plants to shade lovers.
VRIESEAS, NEO'S, AECHMEAS,
ALCANTAREAS,
TILLANDSIAS, CRYPTANTHUS,
BILLBERGIAS & MORE
TRUCK LOADS OF BARGAINS
 Mal & Michelle Cameron's
11 APOLLO CRT VICTORIA POINT

NEEDED A VOLUNTEER.

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help with our display at the upcoming Bromeliad Spectacular This would involve helping to set up the display on Friday 21st April and returning on Sunday 22nd to collect your plants. This is a great opportunity to showcase the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society and let people know what we have to offer. Any offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

If you can help contact any committer member or myself on (07)32771329
 Monica Mead

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LOOKING FOR A WEBMASTER

There maybe a member who only comes occasionally but would love to be the webmaster for us. Anyone interested can contact myself Glenda Hodgson on 0755946564 (Treasurer) or speak to us at the next meeting.

CENT AUCTION DAY.

Our next cent auction takes place at the club meeting of March 24th, 2012. For all our new members and current, here's how it works.



Members are asked to donate a plant/plants on the day by handing them to the stewards at the door on arrival. raffle tickets, purchased at \$2.00 for one page. The pages will be different colours, each starting with the number **ONE**, you **must** retain all number **ONE** tickets of each page. All remaining tickets go into tubs provided next to your selected box of auction plants.

When the raffle is called the last three digits of the serial number and colour is called out. **To win**, match these details with your number **ONE** ticket. Please remember when you collect your prize you keep hold of your number **ONE** ticket as this serial number may be called again.

GOOD LUCK!

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A warm welcome to our New members



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.



PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES TO ME
NO LATER THAN 10TH MAY 2012
WHERE POSSIBLE COULD YOU PLEASE
EMAIL THEM TO ME IN WORD FORMAT.
MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS: brommad@optusnet.com.au
PH: 0733883575

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

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.
4. All reference books are kept in storage and need to be ordered a month in advance A list of those books is available from the library.

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



We have a wide range of books and magazines available for you to borrow. Our friendly librarian Jennifer Laurie along with assistant librarian Jan Tobiano 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.*