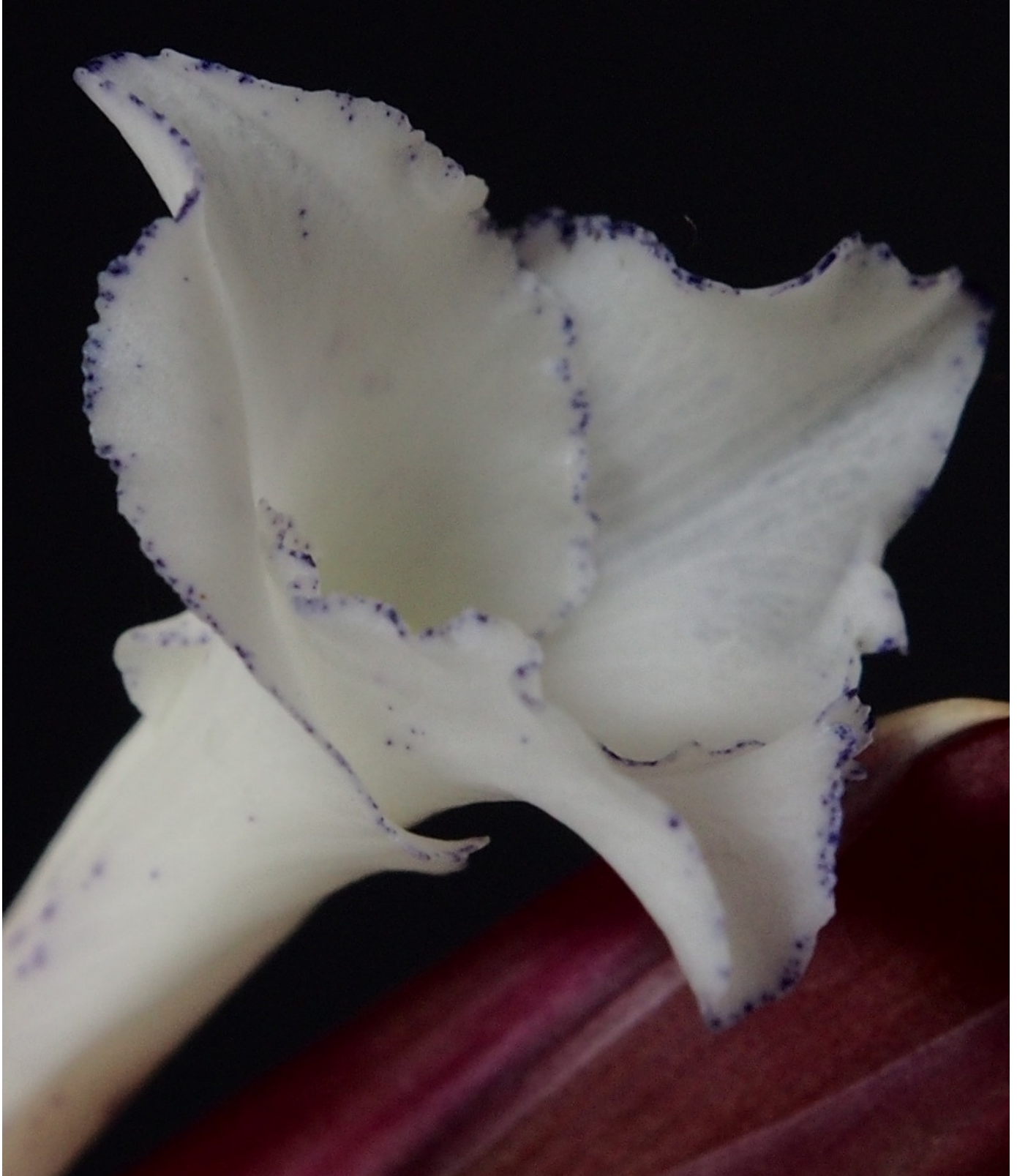
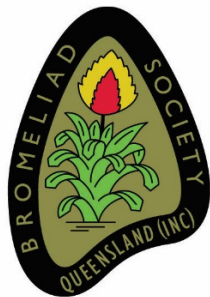


Bromeliaceae





The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.

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MONTHLY MEETINGS of the Society are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for December, at the Uniting Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, Brisbane, commencing 7:30 pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is held immediately before the March Meeting

Front Cover: *Tillandsia 'Tojo'*

Rear Cover: *Tillandsia kirschnekii*

By Batty

By: J Brittain

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Tillandsia Workshop 2019

Saturday 23 February 2019 9AM to 4PM

Having outgrown 4 venues since inception, the 2019 Tillandsia Workshop will be held in the Kittyhawk Room at Kedron Wavell Services club at Chermside. Previous events have been 'bring a plate' but we've outgrown that form of catering as well. As a result of the venue and catering changes the cost will be \$35 per attendee including morning tea and lunch. BSQ members will get a \$10 voucher for purchases on the day.

International speakers include Pam Koide-Hyatt of Bird Rock Tropicals in USA and Martin Siaw of Inca Gardens, Shanghai. These international speakers will be supported by our Australian specialists.

We anticipate some 15 growers will present plants for sale in general sales and a rare plant auction.

BOOK at <https://www.trybooking.com/ZMYV> or <https://www.trybooking.com/448157>

The **2019 Annual General Meeting** of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland will be held on Thursday 21 March 2019 commencing at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm. The Agenda will be published on the Society's web site.

Spring Show and Sales 2018

by Rob Murray

A New Venue and a New Challenge

Time flies and it seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready for the Autumn Show and Sales. Emails were coming out to sellers providing information about the new venue and social media was creating new records as interest in the show and the rare plant auction posts were appearing.

Some new approaches were also used as we ventured into this new location – a real southside site – for the first time. Digital billboards were used to promote the event at several sites in the area. In addition, a large roadside sign was installed at the entrance to the shooting complex. Of course, the orchid man had been out placing signs in the area just to make sure people were aware of where to go.

Setting Up



John Williamson with his Master Plan

Friday (set up day) arrived and there were many of the crew waiting at the doors for the complex to be opened. Tables were being off loaded as well as the new tillandsia wall and the large supply of cardboard cartons which were to be used for taking plants home. Yes, no more plastic bags for us.

John Williamson had prepared his master plan. Drawn to scale with names and site details, this made short work of the setting up. In less than two hours, the shooting areas had been converted into

display areas for competition plants and selling tables for the large number of plants that were anticipated.

Next the sellers arrived with their trays of plants. From Coffs Harbour to Cairns, Steiglitz to Anstead, plants arrived by the van load. There were many sellers from past events and a few new ones dipping their toes into the water. Sellers were unsure of what lay ahead given this was a new location. The mood was exciting.

By noon, the venue was starting to look like a Bromeliad Bonanza. Show entries were closed and there was a large selection of plants for the judges to cast their eyes

over. In the sales area, tables were filling with wonderful arrangements of plants. Cash registers were being set up and plant minding identified. This year saw a brand-new tillandsia wall being created thanks to John Olsen. After a few minor teething challenges, the wall was



Bob Hudson, Stan Walkley and Alan Phythian hard at work

in place for its first run of tills. The society display was, at this stage, just an arrangement of rope, boxes, plants and some metal frames. Would this turn into a BSQ special?

Competition



Maxim Wilson, Len Waite and Oliver Trevor judging plants in the competition

Right on cue, the judges lined up for their briefing and commenced the task of determining the best plant in the show. Working in three teams with the new chief steward Greg McLeod and his team supporting them they worked through the one hundred of so entries. (Maybe we need a few more next time as this seemed to be lower than past shows.)

After an hour and a half, the top table had been selected and wow, what a display! Congratulations to Mal Cameron for the Champion and to all the other

competitors who provided entries to make the competition area a focal point as visitors entered the complex.

Final Checks

The displays in the entry area were finished, all plant tables had been set up and so it was

time to do a final check of the area prior to closing up for the night.

- Signs – check
- Displays - check
- Sale Plants – check
- Plant minding – check
- Cash registers – check
- People – missing. Maybe in the morning?



BSQ display in the entry

Let the Sale Begin



I am sure some people camped out overnight. The queue waiting to come in at 8am seemed to have been there from first light (almost). It continued to grow – out from the doors, down the driveway, down the street and around the corner. This was the most people had seen for many years.

Entry tickets were pre-sold to those in the queue to ensure easy access once the doors opened.



The mad scramble for plants

The lesson to be learned from the first few minutes after the doors were opened was not to be in front of someone wanting to get their hands on that special plant they had seen on Facebook. (Orderly) Mayhem prevailed as people used boxes to collect plants, take them off to plant minding and then fill another box. This frenetic rush did not slow down for at least two hours.

The queues for people wanting to pay for their favourite purchases kept growing, from five to ten to twenty to fifty and many more. The queue extended from the cash registers across in front of the tilly wall and at one stage, down the opposite side of the sales area. The cashiers were exhausted as the line never seemed to end. One bromeliad, two bromeliad, three bromeliad, more. It took until mid-afternoon before the queue was finally reduced and sanity returned.

Most people were astounded by the numbers and generally, patience prevailed. Thank goodness for the calming words from John W and President Barry as they worked the queues.

Mid-morning, the Rare Plant Auction was held. Prior bidding on Facebook saw one bidder for each plant to participate in the event via phone. Bidding was fierce under the careful eye of our special auctioneer – Bob Micken. Bob had never participated in a plant auction of this nature until 2017 Spring Show and is totally amazed at how much people were prepared to pay for a pot (or sometimes no pot) and a plant.

Did I mention that the caterers had to go out for additional supplies mid-morning as they had run out of food – almost!!!

As the first day drew to a close, we realised that something special had happened. Just over 1,200 people had visited with many purchasing plants. So many plants were sold that the tables looked decidedly empty in the late afternoon. Sellers were contemplating bringing in more plants for Sunday.



Please, sir, may I have some more. The tables were bare.

Sunday commenced with, thankfully, a slightly slower pace. There was still a steady flow of people through the doors, but the queues were not so bad. Over 300 visited on Sunday bring total numbers well above what we have experienced for some time – if ever.



Part of our promotion was for our country members. The society provided entry, a voucher and accommodation for one night close to the site. Our country visitor, Catherine Berriman (left) from Mullumbimby, arrived on Sunday and purchased a selection of plants. Helped by daughter Lorelei, she went home happy and with a small collection of new plants.

The Last Word

John Williamson closed the doors on yet another successful event. The tables have been returned. Plants, very few, are back in the shadehouses or at least new ones, and signs have all been taken down.

As people left the venue, they were provided with brochures letting them know that this would all happen again in Autumn over at Genesis College. John is taking on board comments from this show and will use them to help improve the next event.

Congratulations to all the team on a job well done.



Rare Plant Auction List

As with all our special auctions, we have a list of plants not generally available. They may be rare plants or new releases being offered for the first time.

Here is a list of some of the special treats we had this year.

***Quesnelia alvimii* – Peter Tristram**

This is a species from the Bahia region in Brazil.



***Tillandsia peruviana* – Peter Tristram**

This plant takes a long time to flower. It is large at about 60cm in diameter.



***Neoregelia* 'Cellibahtastic' – Peter Tristram**

This was registered by Peter in 2010. Seed parent was *N.* 'Sharkicelli' and the pollen parent *N.* 'Pabst'. The mature plant is around 30cm in diameter. Leaves are scurfed, broad and olive green with strong pink variegation.



***Tillandsia* 'Renate' – Neville Ryan**

This is a variegated form of *T. ionantha* obtained from Renate Ehlers in Germany. The exact origin is unknown.



***Guzmania musaica* – M & M Cameron**

This is a species from the Central Americas – Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela and Columbia. It reaches a height of 20 to 40cm. Leaves are up to 50cm, light green with reddish and dark green transverse striations.



***Alcantarea 'Sydney'* – M & M Cameron**

This is a vegetative sport from *Alcantarea imperialis*. It has wide golden variegations and suffused red, more so on the foliage reverse. Registered by Mark Paul (NSW) in 2005.



***Neoregelia 'Twisted'* – M & M Cameron**

Registered in 2005 by Chester Skotak and Eloise Beach, it grows up to 70cm diameter and 40cm high. It has green, broad leaves with each brown-spined to 9cm wide. The original plants had some leaves that were twisted leading to the name. Leaves have longitudinal central cream variegation with some red cross pattern. Parents are *N. (carolinae* x 'Hannibal Lector') x 'Norman Bates' crossed with 'Joao Marcio'.

Tillandsia latifolia - KK forms get proper names by Derek Butcher

Tillandsia 'Angustifolia'

This plant was imported by me from Karel Knize in Peru in 1978. It was in my first importation. It had *Tillandsia latifolia* var *angustifolia* on the label, but I was never able to verify the species because it did not flower for me! Over the years I have had Tillandsias from Karel which seem to have been wild collected but with fanciful names which I thought was great for my enquiring mind. Anyway, this plant was forever offsetting and many times an offset was given away with the plea to tell me when it flowered. So it was a great surprise when Bruce Dunstan reported his plant was in bud. Alas, it did not actually flower but it was sufficient to identify links with *Tillandsia latifolia*. George Nieuwenhoven reports getting his from Chris Larson so it would seem this plant is struggling on, throughout Australia. Some may even have flowered it and not considered it an important occurrence! Surely it is worth a brag!



'Angustifolia' is a caulescent plant with the basal leaves drying, it offsets freely and seems to produce a single spike. Diameter of plant is 170 mm. Its length with live leaves is about 350 mm. Actual leaves are some 105 mm long and 18 mm wide at base.

Tillandsia 'Skineri'

A plant with this name was imported in 1984 from Karel Knize (Peru) as stated in his plant list. No further detail was given, and it was not until later issues was it linked to *T. latifolia*. Later issues spelt it as 'Skinneri' but there was no indication as to whom this might be. It grew well under my conditions and produced normal offsets but never flowered. Over time I must have disposed of some of the offsets while getting the recipient to promise to tell me when it flowered. Nothing was reported!

In my current downsizing I gave one such offset to Ray Clark in 2017. Because of the change in conditions or Ray's great husbandry it decided to flower in 2018 together with a pseudo-viviparous offset. Ray reports: Plant diameter 350mm, height 300mm, Leaf blade 165mm long, Length of flower spike 190mm before offset. *Latifolia* means wide leaves but here the leaves are more narrow than usual, and a more apt cultivar name could be 'Skinny'! There is also the thought as to whether it is linked to *T. latifolia* or the recently promoted from varietal status *T. divaricata*.

It is of interest here that Andrew Flower in NZ reports a similar looking plant that he grew from seed in 1991 under KK144 *Tillandsia latifolia* Cieneguilla. In the same seed list we see KK43 for *Tillandsia latifolia* 'Skineri' so we can assume that Karel saw differences.

To qualify for a cultivar name it must be under cultivation and not just sitting in one person's collection. Despite the efforts of Ray Clark no other Tillnutter has admitted ownership of this plant so I was rather loth to register the name. The good news is that Justin Lee is now an owner of said plant so I am going ahead in putting 'Skineri' in the BCR.



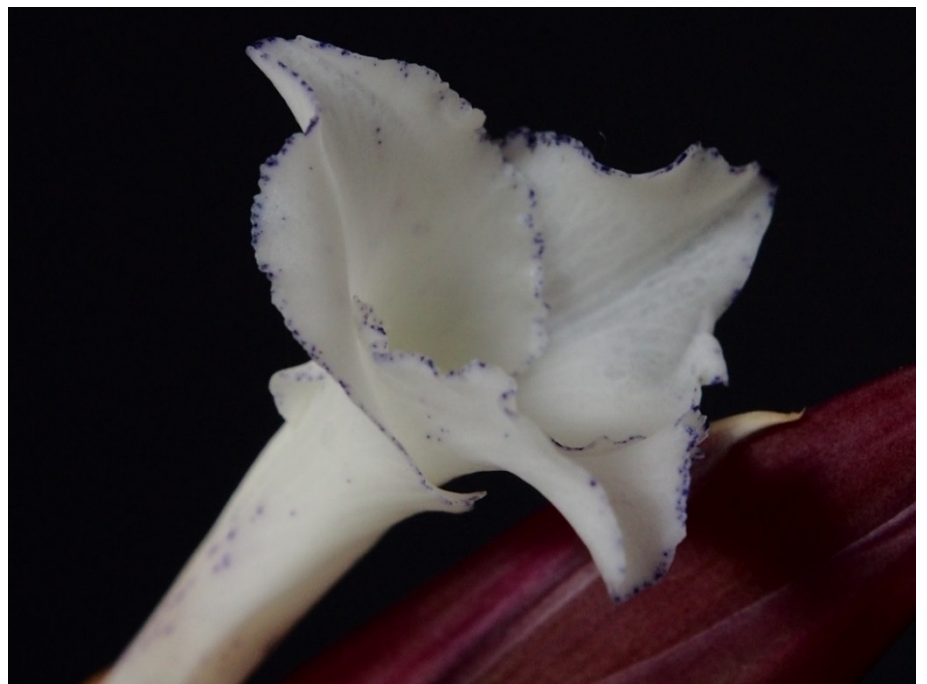
Tillandsia 'Tojo'

by Derek Butcher

In 1993 Len Colgan of Adelaide, circumnavigated Bolivia looking mainly for Tillandsias. He collected Colgan #5 near Tojo which is near Yunchara. It was not in flower but because *T. yuncharaensis* had already been published it seemed logic to link this collection with this taxon. He gave a piece to Eric Gouda when he was in Australia as a guest speaker at the Illawarra Conference. In 2001 it flowered in the Netherlands. Eric wrote up a description and did a differential, comparing it with *T. yuncharaensis*. but did nothing further. Len had given me a piece of Colgan #5 but my plant did not want to flower. In the intervening years Len gave away pieces to several tillandsia enthusiasts.

In November 2018 Julie Batty in Adelaide got hers to flower and took photos. The flower was white and the petals had the shape of *T. xiphioides* but with blue edges and a few scattered blue spots elsewhere. AND it was scented too. For such a stunning flower it seemed a shame to call it *Tillandsia* cf *yuncharaensis* and unrecorded. Was it a natural hybrid or a new species? Is it still found in the wild? We do not know but we do know it is in cultivation in the Netherlands and Adelaide. 17 years has elapsed since it first flowered and it has not been described under the ICN rules. It seems prudent to treat it as a Cultivar 'Tojo' to link with where it was found.

It differs from *T. yuncharaensis* by the plant having leaf sheaths very densely lepidote outside, glabrous inside, purple-red. Blades arching, strongly channeled, 1.4-1.5 cm wide, very densely lepidote, with subappressed scales. Peduncle 4-5 mm in diameter. Peduncle-bracts much exceeding the internodes, purple. Spike strongly complanate, lanceolate, 1.2-1.5 cm wide. Floral-bracts finely nerved, red, or purple. Sepals acute or slightly apiculate. Petals with the blade recurving, the blade 1.3 cm wide, bi-colored, creamy with blue margins.



Bromeliads Used as Adornments

by Ross Little

Extracted from FNCBSG Newsletter Dec 2018



Since joining the Bromeliad Society International in the mid-1990s, I have read many articles about Bromeliads being used in Christmas nativity scenes and for other decorative purposes. I was lucky enough to be travelling through Costa Rica in December of 2016 and stayed at a B&B where the children had put together a nativity scene. In it was a small *Tillandsia* embellishing the roof crest of a barn with *Tillandsia usneoides* being used to represent bedding in a manger, with Joseph standing looking over Mary as she prayed.

On a trip through Mexico in 2018 we encountered *Tillandsia eizii*, all in full bloom being used as adornments on roadside crosses



and also on a cross in a church yard. Whilst searching for Bromeliads in a reserve we not only found *Tillandsia ponderosa* but saw Bromeliads used to form an arch over some crosses. On further inspection the plants used appeared to be *Tillandsia guatemalensis* with their root bases removed, placing the plant vases inside each other they formed a chain. Each chain meeting at the top to form the arch.

We did see both of these *Tillandsia* species growing in habitat. However, one wonders if this is a sustainable practice given that *Tillandsia eizii* is monocarpic, meaning it doesn't produce pups so must be grown from seed, a slow process. A beautiful high-altitude *Tillandsia* difficult for us to grow in our hot, humid climate, rare.



Tillandsias at Christmas in Mexico

by Sue Gardner

Reprinted from: BSI Journal Vol.32, November-December 1982

The beauty of Bromeliads has intercultural appeal. Although the majority of the members of the Bromeliad Society, Inc. live in the temperate parts of the world, or are of European ancestry, appreciation of the beauty of these epiphytes cuts across cultural boundaries. The use of the most colorful of these species as decoration by indigenous people of tropical America has been previously noted. Andre discovered *Guzmania sanguinea* being used to adorn a rustic cross in Colombia in 1876, and subsequently described it as a new species.



In the rural regions of Mexico Tillandsias are often found decorating shrines and churches. Fritz Kubisch has shown slides to several Bromeliad Societies of *Tillandsia prodigiosa* hanging in masses from the ceiling of a church near Oaxaca. It is not unusual to see flowering Tillandsias for sale in village markets or in fruit stands along the roadsides in various parts of Mexico. *Tillandsia imperialis* is another favorite for decoration, especially at Christmas time. One of the most spectacular occasions where we have witnessed flowering Bromeliads being collected by the

Mexicans, was Christmas week in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, in 1979. During a one week stay there we watched women and children from one of the local groups of Indians that is descended from the ancient Maya, as they carried large sheaves of flowering *Till. guatemalensis* and *Till. ponderosa* to market. Walking barefoot in the chill and fog of early morning in the 7,000 ft. + elevation, these small people formed an informal parade as they made their daily trek down from the wooded mountain-sides into the village. During a single Christmas season, literally thousands of flowering Tillandsias make their way to market in this region alone. One can imagine that in pre-Columbian, pre-Christian times other occasions were found for the use of these spectacular plants by the local people. Massive collections such as these may have occurred for hundreds, perhaps even thousands of years.

Photos taken in the area of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, Christmas week. The taller inflorescences are *T. guatemalensis*, the others are *T. ponderosa*.



Selecting a Shade House

by Rob Murray

Location, Shade and Light

Many bromeliad enthusiasts have established their growing environment after periods of logical experimentation. So, what does a new grower do and where do they start? Should I build a shade house or just rely on natural structures (shade from trees etc).

Bromeliads grow in a wide range of climates and so their needs can vary significantly. What is right for a large *Alcantarea* may not be the best conditions for *Vriesea* or *Neoregelia*.

Where to start?

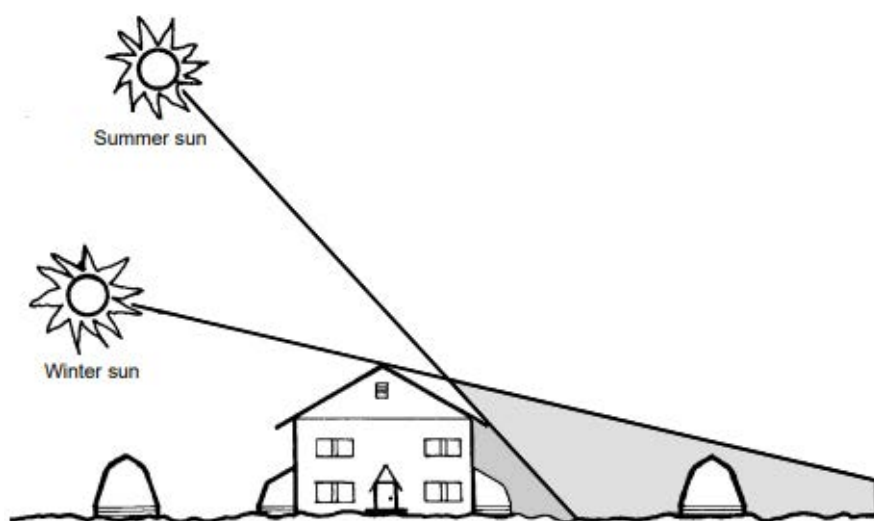
Understanding the growing requirements of your plants is essential and will determine what you do in the next steps. Use your research skills to look at where your plants came from and what the conditions were like in their original areas.

Plants can adapt over time but understanding basic requirements is a good starting point. Visit some local growers to see what they have constructed to grow their plants. It's also worth observing local gardens to see how plants are growing – look for good colour and size and then observe the surrounding conditions of sun and shade.

Structure Considerations

There are some simple decisions that should be made as part of your planning for the new structure. The following are some of the key points you should consider:

Orientation. Ideally an open area which has a northerly aspect is the best position. Look at how the sun moves across the sky and the variations from summer to winter. Many of us are limited by the size of our property and location of the house and other buildings. Take a good look at existing trees and other plants so you can maximise the location you have available.



Site. A flat site is best. If you must level the site, make sure that the ground is well compacted after levelling. Drainage is also a key consideration. You need to ensure that there is a small slope that will allow water to flow off the base location. If this is not possible then some form of drainage such as trenches with agricultural pipe and gravel are a good option to clear water. You should also look at ventilation – carbon dioxide and light are essential. The shade house should have good airflow which is pollutant free. Don't locate it next to an exhaust fan. Finally, the site should have access to water and electricity. Even though you might not need these initially, you will most probably need good water supplies and most probably

electricity as growing broms is addictive. You also need to consider access to the shade house. You will need to use wheelbarrows to bring in mix and plants.



Size. The space you have available will most probably determine the size you can build. I find it a good idea to plan the size out on a sheet of paper (or using a free computer application for drawing). Measure the area you have available ensuring there is sufficient access. Once the borders are marked out, plan your shelving. An understanding of the size of mesh sheets is good here as you can work in multiples. For example, mesh sheets come in 1.2m x 2.4m or 3.0m by 2.4m generally.

Structural Materials. There is a wide range of material that can be used for the frame. Timber is commonly used in some areas. However, you need to be careful with treated timber as the bromeliads will be poisoned by the copper treated timbers – so painting is necessary. Steel frames are easy to work with and depending on the size of your planned structure, 20NB galvanised pipe provides an economical solution. Higher gauges such as 25NB or 32NB would be best where larger spans are planned. Aluminium is an alternative to steel but can be quite expensive. For both steel and aluminium, fittings are available to make the task easier. Plastic is sometimes used in commercial shade houses. For a simple construction, large (40mm +) poly pipe with star pickets is another alternative. Finally, the use of weldmesh such as that used in some commercially available shade houses may be an option.



Knitted shade cloth

Woven shade cloth

(Source: <https://www.cmac.com.au/blog/choosing-right-shade-cloth-for-your-plants>)

Shade Cloth. Once the frame has been built, it will need to be covered with some form of 'skin' to protect your plants from the sun. There are two types of shade cloth available – knitted or woven. Once you have determined the best type, you need to consider the degree of protection. A protection rating of 70% means that only 30% of light passes through. Depending on where you live you may require a higher protection rating. A rating of between 40% and 70% will be suitable for most areas. Some growers select a lighter protection rating but then use a double cover during the hot summer months. If you have a large area, you

may choose to use different ratings in separate areas. Colour choices also add to the challenge. Green, black, biscuit and terracotta are the most common available. Have a talk to some of your local growers to get advice on the best protection and colour for your area.



Irrigation. As your collection grows, you might consider using some form of irrigation. Look at how this could fit into your planned structure. You need to consider the size of the pipes you will use and the types of sprinkler heads – misting, micro jet or something else. The timing, flow and zones for watering are points to consider. Many suppliers have templates that you can use to work out the best coverage. It is easier to build requirements in up front rather than adding in later. Automatic timers are relatively cheap and make watering a simple chore.

Cost. The pocket is never deep enough and so this will be a significant contributor to your choice of construction. You may select a pre-made or kit form based on your needs. For these, have a look at the reviews and recommendations from other growers. Shop around if you are building from scratch. For example, steel prices can vary significantly and if you are building a larger shade house, you might be able to get a good discount for your steel and shade cloth.

Other Considerations

It may pay to check with your local council on what you can do in your local area. There are some limitations in residential areas so being aware is better than having to take it down and start again. If in a small residential area, it may also be worth discussing your structure with your neighbours – just in case.

Ready to Go

Now it is just a matter of getting together the right shade house for your requirements and starting to build. In the next article, I'll discuss building a simple shade house using poly pipe and star pickets. This is a simple, cheap and effective way of making a shade house that will satisfy most of your requirements.

WILDFIRE GARDEN BROMELIAD NURSERY	FOREST DRIVE NURSERY
ALCANTAREAS FOLIAGE VRIESEAS NEOREGELIAS & OTHER GENERA VISITORS WELCOME BY APPOINTMENT Cheryl Basic 1560 Yandina-Coolum Rd, Yandina, 4561 Ph: 07 5472 8827 Mob: 0403 193 069 wildfiregarden@westnet.com.au	Specialising in species and varieties mostly from imported stock. Tillandsias to Titillate even the most discerning fanciers. Beautiful Vrieseas (incl Silver species), Guzmanias, Aechmeas, Neoregelias, etc. Visitors welcome but please phone first T: 02 66554130 E: ptristra@bigpond.net.au

Mr. Billbergia's Deep Legacy

by Karen Andreas

(This article on Don Beadle is extracted from the FCBS website and reflects on the life of probably the most significant hybridiser of Billbergia who passed away in 2018.)



In the beginning, Billbergia was a modest little plant, often plain green with three leaves, a few spots and a quick-lived inflorescence. It was relegated to the back of collections, neglected and disrespected. Then Billbergia met Don Beadle; neither was ever the same again.

Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, Don Beadle never quite fit in. 'I couldn't play the banjo and I couldn't talk Cajun', he says, so he booked out of Louisiana at age 19, joining the Air Force. College followed four years of military service, and Don Beadle was now a petroleum engineer. He started with Philips Petroleum and worked his way into smaller and smaller companies until he had his own, Macero Minerals in Corpus Christi, Texas.

In Corpus Christi, John Anderson and Don were neighbors, sharing coffee and cigarettes every morning before work. Thus began a lifelong friendship that, in later years, made them a popular duo of auctioneers, sought after as much for their stories and banter as their auctioneering skills. It was during those early days that Don discovered bromeliads. He went to a bromeliad society meeting, and the addiction was immediate. His first bromeliad was *Aechmea* 'Black Jack'. 'You just can't kill this plant.' Don says with great fondness. John became a renowned grower of Aechmeas. 'John never did anything half-assed.' Don remembers.





Don was fascinated by the variety of bromeliads and wanted to collect every one in the world. The impracticality of it soon became apparent, and so he narrowed his focus on the lowly and lonely Billbergia. 'I collected all the species I could find - there were about 20 available at the time,' he says. He looked for cultivars although they were few and far between. 'Mulford Foster had made "Fantasia" and R.

Wilson had made "Catherine Wilson" but, in general, Billbergias had not really caught on in popularity'. Don was fascinated by the idea of making hybrids and found the process exhilarating.

Preserving pollen was the first big challenge. After only two or so days, it would turn green and lose viability. Once he figured out that freezing the pollen kept it viable for up to two years, it became 'compulsive, an addiction' he remembers.

Still, he was growing green Billbergias. It was a limiting process, until Bob Whitman found 'Domingos Martins', the gorgeously spotted cultivar of *vittata*. 'I lusted after that bromeliad with a passion,' Don says. After much coercion and a year's wait, Don got a pup and went to work. He crossed 'Domingos Martins' with 'Ed McWilliams', and *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' was born. Prized for its rich deep red leaves and its white and pink spots, its foliage appeal long outlasts its



stunning magenta scapes and purple flowers. 'Domingos Martins' revolutionized hybridizing and today is found in many Billbergia cultivars.

Don continued to create better, more beautiful, sexier Billbergias to the extent that they soon moved to the forefront of sales and shows. Everyone wanted a Don Beadle Billbergia. Billbergias were no longer the red headed stepchild of the bromeliad world. 'Afterglow' with its rich, deep pink blush does literally glow as light shines through its leaves. 'La Noche's' dark, banded leaves are dramatic and stunning. 'El Capitan' is another dramatic Billbergia whose sturdy leaves have both banding and spots.

Don quickly ran out of plant growing space and built his first greenhouse. More hybridizing soon followed, as did a larger house and a larger greenhouse, where he lived and grew bromeliads for ten years. He came to Florida to visit Harry Luther and Wally Berg, who, as it turned out, were off in South America on a collecting expedition. Through happenstance, he ended up at a realtor's and told the agent he wanted a 'house on the beach with room for some greenhouses.' The agent later called him with news of a place with a fresh water pond and three greenhouses full of dead plants; Don made the deal over the phone.



So in 1986, Don sold his Corpus Christi house and moved to First Dirt Road in Venice, home to Los Milagros nursery. He fell in love with the place, rebuilding the greenhouses and growing like mad. To date, he has created more than 140 named cultivars and many more yet to be named.



While he continued to hybridize, Don was breaking ground in yet another area: photography. He set up a dedicated space for taking pictures and decided it would be more dramatic and compelling to photograph bromeliads in clumps rather than singly, then the norm. Every day he checked for blooms so he could catch the flowers at their (quick) peak. He experimented with lighting, finally settling on blue photo bulbs for the most honest light. Using a Nikon camera with a full array of lenses, he honed his photographic skills and incorporated double exposures into his photographic repertoire. When Don decided to create a photographic record of species, Harry Luther suggested that Don dissect the flower and capture its qualities in intimate detail. In those pictures, Don started using 'that little white ruler that I love. I got unadulterated pleasure from the photography. It gave me a lot of satisfaction.'



Don's presentations at World Conferences became standing room only events, as those who attended the recent one in Orlando can attest. Audiences sat in rapt silence as Don's slides were shown, with minimal but very often pithy commentary from Don and to the accompaniment of quiet music. His photographs set the standard for both scientific presentation and artistry. His technique and the quality of his legacy are evident today. The next time you see a beautiful picture of a bromeliad, you will catch the echoes of Don's influence.

The legacy does not end there, however. In 1998, Don Beadle compiled the last published Bromeliad Cultivar Registry for the BSI. This monumental work was the bromeliad bible of nomenclature and bloodlines of every known cultivar at the time. Don compiled this tome on a computer - it is hard to imagine now how revolutionary this technology was at the time - yet he understood that it was obsolete in many ways as soon as it was published. Beyond having taken on this labor- and time-intensive task for the bromeliad world, he recognized that changes, new information and new cultivars would overtake the publication within a very short time. He also believed that the Internet would be a way to offer accessible information.

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To that end, Don first suggested to the BSI those digital files be made available on compact disk but he was ahead of his time with technology. That was an impractical suggestion as most people at that time did not have access to the kinds of programs that would handle such a document. So Don offered the files to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies webmaster Michael Andreas. Michael was able to create the format for the Internet and make the living, flexible Cultivar Registry available for world access. Don's work at organizing, educating and providing information about bromeliad cultivars lives on.

In 2000, Don's life took another turn, and he sold Los Milagros, the nursery and the property, to Michael Kiehl who moved his nursery, Michael's Bromeliads, to First Dirt Road. Don now had time to indulge in other passions - tennis, his boat and Joann Buell, his lovely companion of so many years. 'She makes all things so worthwhile,' Don says of Joann with that twinkle in his eye.



More recently, Don could often be found at Michael's Bromeliads. Don reorganized the Beadle Billbergia collection that lives and thrives there, sharing information and memories with Michael Kiehl. Don's amazing collection of photographs now live on the website of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (fcbs.org) in yet another collaboration with Michael Andreas.



Don's passion for bromeliads led to ground breaking Billbergia cultivars that made this genus one of the most popular; his ground breaking bromeliad photography set the standard for bromeliad pictures; his passion for knowledge led to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry; his vision for an accurate registry accessible and available to one and all took him beyond his peers and now serves the entire world.

Don Beadle's legacy has had a deep impact on our bromeliad world. We are all the richer for his being our friend and mentor.

Tillandsia 'Tomellinensis'

by Derek Butcher

In October 2002 Renate Ehlers gave me a plant with this name via a batch that Len Colgan had imported. It first flowered for me in December 2015. I gave a piece to Ray Clark and because of his tender care it flowered in 2018. It is growing in at least 2 places in Adelaide (the other being Len Colgan's) so it must like living in Adelaide. Regrettably Renate did not get around to publishing this plant and it is possible that current taxonomists may treat it as a variable *Tillandsia hammeri*. Therefore, I have decided to record the name as a cultivar in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register.

It was found in Mexico, State of Puebla, near the border of Oaxaca, on the road between Tehuacan and Oaxaca near Calipan, 2000m. alt, terrestrial on rocks upstream about 8km. by H. Gieseke in 1988. It flowered in April 2000 in collection of Renate Ehlers.

It differs from *T. hammeri* in Plant smaller and secund, not narrow and erect. Leaves greener and substantially shorter. Sheath shorter and distinct, outside green, inside light brown, not both sides deep dark brown. Inflorescence shorter, more compact and wider, with few very broadened long spikes. Primary bract not longer than the spike, hardly half as long. Floral bract exceeds the sepal, longer (to 2.3cm compared to 1.5cm), broader, clearly keeled, glabrous, lacquered red with lepidote tip, the edges and top portion with winged large asymmetric trichomes not green red and uniformly dense fine white lepidote.

Plant in Australia stemless, forming clumps, single plant flowering 25-35 cm high, forming an erect often secund rosette, Leaves to 30cm long, narrow triangular.

Inflorescence of 1 spike to 10 cm long, Floral bracts 2 – 2.3 cm long, carmine – red, glabrous, shiny lacquered, the tip dense fine pruinose lepidote.



Lutheriana splendens (was Vriesea splendens) by Derek Butcher

This has been a splendid plant ever since 1845 when it was first described. It also meant that botanists were giving it different names hence the many synonyms. There is also disagreement as to the status of the varieties where the World Checklist WCSP (Based at Kew) treats them as heterotypic synonyms of the type.

When Barfuss et al published their paper in Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016 they only used DNA from *Vriesea splendens* var *splendens* as far as I am aware, so I leave this for others to ponder over because a key point of this article is to deal with var *striatifolia*.

All variegations based purely on leaf structure, should be treated as type because they cannot be reproduced by seed and in this case, no others have been reported found in the wild.

So, the name *Lutheria splendens* var *striatifolia* will disappear and we wait for someone to grow on a variegated form of any of the above names so that it is stable and in sufficient numbers to be worthy of being called 'in cultivation'. We may even see another registered name.

Let us look at how things stand at the moment. Varieties of *L splendens* listed in the Bromeliad Taxon List are as follows:

Lutheria splendens (Brongn.) Barfuss & W.Till

Lutheria splendens var. *chlorostachya* (Oliva-Esteve) Barfuss & W.Till

Lutheria splendens var. *Formosa* (Suringar ex Witte) Barfuss & W.Till

Lutheria splendens var. *oinochroma* (Steypm.) Barfuss & W.Till

Lutheria splendens var. *splendens*

With such a splendid plant there are cultivars (infra-specific crossings) to consider such as discussed in BSJ:



The series of *V. splendens* constitutes the aristocracy of the genus.

- *V. splendens* Brongniart, French Guiana. A very beautiful species with upright leaves, then curved outward, leathery, ornamented on both sides with blackish brown bands, regularly spaced on a green background. The inflorescence is an ensiform, flattened spike 40 cm long, with bracts of a magnificent scarlet.
- *V. splendens major* Hort. This is the same plant, but much stronger in all its parts. However, the transverse bands are of a brown, less dark and less sharply defined than the type. Occasionally among some specimens it may be observed that on the underside of the leaves the space between the bands is tinged with brown. The floral stem attains a length of 80 cm and bears a spike larger than that of the type, but of the same scarlet color.
- *V. splendens mortfontanensis* Hort. Chantrier. (Butcher's comment – this is now known as 'Mortfontanensis Splendens'). The plant is of a size intermediate between the two preceding plants, with leaves more upright, and with black-brown bands. The inflorescence attains a length of 60-70 cm, but the spike is not larger than that of *V. splendens*. The color of the bracts is perhaps a little darker.
- *V. splendens chantrieri*. This superb plant appeared for the first time at the 1939 Floralties in Belgium. Presented by its originator, M. J. Chantrier of Morte-fontaine, it was awarded the prize for new plants. It is of a size at least as well developed as that of



V. splendens major, with the coloration of the foliage of *V. splendens*, and has an inflorescence of 90 cm in length, a spike broader than that of *V. splendens major* and of a more beautiful scarlet. It is probably a hybrid of these first two, a superb addition.

Sometimes, in batches of *V. splendens major* one comes across those in which the inflorescence carries two or three branches. It is unfortunate that these, when poorly developed, present a poor appearance. They may occur too high or too low on the floral stem, and be too erect, giving the appearance of being stuck onto the principal spike so that the inflorescence gains nothing in beauty but even loses in elegance. It is, however, probable that this tendency towards branching will bring forth someday a branched inflorescence that is well formed and more elegant.

One peculiarity to point out in V. splendens major, and, more characteristic still in V. splendens chantrieri, is that the offsets are formed at the time of flowering and remain attached to the base of the flowering plant the following year. For this reason it is possible to obtain a year after the first a second flowering giving simultaneously, according to the number of offsets, two or three flowers in this way forming quite remarkable specimens. Let us note that with other vrieseas the flowering of the offsets occurs only after two or three years.'

We now move to what is currently in the BCR (Bromeliad Cultivar Register)

Cayenne	No photo held
Chantrieri	
Fascination	No photo held
Favoriet	
Favourite Yellow	
Fire	
Flammendes Schwert	
Formosa	No photo held
Hera	
Illustris	No photo held
Juno	
Major	No photo held
Meyer's Favorite	
Nigra	No photo held
Splenriet	
Tepuy	No photo held
Trinidad	No photo held



Vriesea splendens var splendens
photo by M Asmuss

There are no doubt other names that have not yet been registered in the BCR including 'Era' and 'Espada'.

Most of these seem to have originated in large commercial nurseries rather than the 'backyard' collection. I wonder how these can be seen to be different except with clone crossed clone you would get some sort of hybrid vigour. Some of the registered cultivars were selected from collections made in the wild. What surprises me is that no mutation/sporting to variegation have been reported. Surely this must have happened but in too small a number to be commercially viable. The only reason I can think of is that this species is an upper pupper with offsets being time consuming to extract. I also wonder how many of the older cultivars survive today and how many lost their label only to be renamed *splendens*. I hope that all have the typical yellow petals.



Spring Show 2018 Winners

Champion Bromeliad of Show – The Olwen Ferris Cup



Mal Cameron

***Vriesea* 'Pink Dream'**

Michelle Cameron is also holding the **President's Choice Award** –

***Neoregelia* 'Wild Child'.**

Reserve Champion Bromeliad of Show – The Arnold James Cup

Michelle Cameron

***Vriecantaria* 'Seger'.**



Member's Own Hybrid – Patron's Award



Michelle Cameron with Olive Trevor – *Neoregelia* 'Piranha'.

Best Tillandsioideae – The Rolley Reilly Trophy



Mal Cameron – *Vriesea* 'Redondo Beach'.

Best Bromelioideae of Show – The Len Butt Trophy



Rebekah Trevor with Barry Kable – *Aechmea brassicoides*.

Best Pitcairnioideae – The Ruth Wilson Trophy



Barbara McCune - *Dyckia delicata*.
Received by Ron Jell with Barry Kable.

Best Species – Best Species Trophy



Rebekah Trevor - *Neoregeliana bahiana* 'Pink Tips'.

Best Cryptanthus – The Bob Paulsen Memorial Trophy.



Barbara McCune's *Cryptanthus* 'Spring Song'. Received by Ron Jell.

Most Successful Non-Commercial Exhibitor – Barbara McCune.

Most Successful Commercial Exhibitor – Rebekah Trevor

New Registrations

Photos and Notes extracted from The BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Register

Dyckia 'John Catlan'

Paul Borland (*D* 'Brittle Star' x)

Mature rosette to 30cm. diameter x 13cm. high. Maroon / brown arching leaves heavily armed with large, frosted white spines. Erect simple spike to over 1 metre tall with bright orange, bell-shaped flowers. Named in honour of the well-known Gold Coast bromeliad grower and breeder.



New Registrations (cont)

T Eric the Red

N Ryan/R Reilly *T ionantha* Hybrid

Mature, open, semi-bulbous rosette to 30cm. diam x 30cm. high. Juvenile pups are upright with straight greyish brick red leaves. In strong light, the mature rosette has ball-like growth with recurving tanned pink to brick red leaves and highly scurfed foliage reverse. Semi-recessed inflorescence has a cluster of tubular purple flowers. Has been distributed as "ionantha giant hybrid". Named by Neville Ryan to honour his late father who had red hair.



xVriesgoudaea 'Tropical Treasure'

K Jacobsen/G Stamatis

(*V. lutheriana* x *Goudaea ospinae* var. *ospinae*)

Mature open large rosette to 1m x 40cm high. Emerald green leaves with slightly darker green mottling. Erect spike to 1m tall with primary and secondary branches of golden yellow (or tinged orange), narrow spear shaped paddles and cream flowers.



New Registrations (cont)

Alcantarea 'Freddies Dream'

Hans Krueger

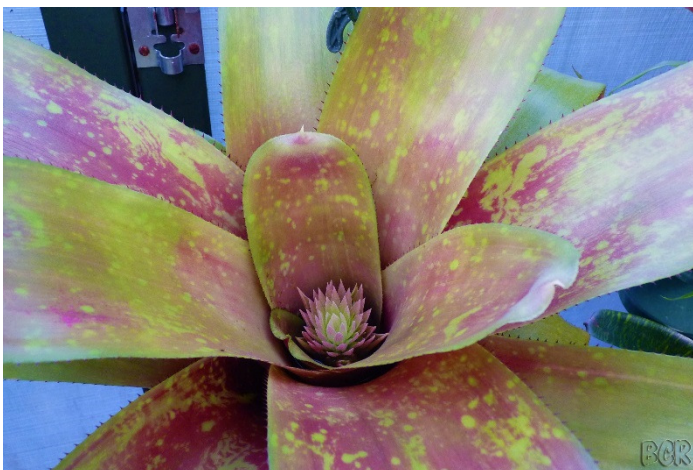
Mature, open rosette to 1 metre diameter x 1.2 metres tall in bloom. Pastel moss green, broad leaves with wide, stark white central stripes. Erect branched inflorescence with variegated bracts, creamy green "paddles" and large pure white flowers. Seed-grown, natural mutation of selfed *Alc. glaziouana*



xNeomea 'Hunua Lotus'

John Mitchell

Mature, open large rosette to 70cm. diameter x 40cm. high. Glossy, broad, lime green to mid-green leaves splashed / speckled light rosy red, more pronounced on the foliage reverse. Semi-recessed lotus-shaped inflorescence of finely-spined, pastel pink floral bracts, between which white flowers emerge, Grex sibling = x Neomea 'Hunua Pink Lotus'



2018 Competition Results

Each year the society conducts several mini-shows and popular vote competitions at the monthly meetings. Mini-shows are judged by our qualified judges while the popular votes are exactly that – judged by the members present on the evening.

At the end of the year, points scored are totalled and winners identified. Part of our celebrations at the Society Christmas party include presenting prizes to the winners of all categories.

Section	Popular Vote	Mini Shows
Advanced	Ron Jell	Barbara McCune
	Barbara McCune	Ron Jell
Intermediate	Fred Thomson	Livia Doidge
	Livia Doidge	Fred Thomson
Novice	Alfonso Trudu	Alfonso Trudu
	Gilda Trudu	Gilda Trudu
Decorative	Ron Jell	
	Barbara McCune	

Why not try out during the 2019 meetings? You never know you might just win a prize! Each meeting has \$25.00 up for grabs plus the large overall winner at the end of the year. For more details, check out the membership information sheet which is available from John Williamson.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

Monthly Meetings commence with plant sales from 6:45pm.

Information/Practical sessions at 7pm.

Presentations then commence at 7:30 PM.

AGM is held prior to March meeting.

Meetings are held at Uniting Church, Merthyr Road, New Farm on third Thursday each month except December.

January Meeting	17 January
February Meeting	21 February
March Meeting	21 March
April Meeting	18 April
May Meeting	16 May
June Meeting	20 June
July Meeting	18 July
August Meeting	15 August
September Meeting	19 September
October meeting	17 October
November Meeting	21 November

Tillandsia Workshop Saturday 23 February at Kedron Wavell Services Club

Autumn Show 6-7 April 2019 at Genesis College, Old Northern Rd, Bray Park

Spring Show 2-3 November 2019 at Belmont Shooting Centre, Old Cleveland Rd, Belmont

Christmas Party tentatively 5 Dec venue tba

Plant of the month List for 2019

2019 (to be confirmed January 2019)

January	Aechmea
February	Tillandsia
March	Cryptanthus
April	Dyckia, Hechtia, Orthophytum
May	Alcantarea
June	Vriesea

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Jan - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Aechmea species and hybrids

Class 2 – Vriesea species and hybrids

Class 3 – Dyckia species and hybrids

Class 4 – any other flowering bromeliad species and hybrids

Class 5 – species plants

Feb & Mar POPULAR VOTE – any genus species & hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

April -MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Bromelioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species & hybrids

(Acanthostachys, Ananas, Androlepis, Araeococcus, Bromelia, Canistropsis, Canistrum, Edmundoa, Fascicularia, Hohenbergia, Hohenbergiopsis, Neoglaziovia, Nidularium, Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Portea, Quesnelia, Ursulaea, Wittrockia)

Class 2 – Guzmania species & hybrids

Class 3 – Pitcairnia species & hybrids

Class 4 - any other flowering bromeliad species & hybrids

Class 5 – species plants

May & June POPULAR VOTE – any genus species & hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

July - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Billbergia

Class 2 – Tillandsioideae not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species & hybrids

Class 3 – Neoregelia up to 200mm diameter when mature, species & hybrids

Class 4 - any other flowering bromeliad species & hybrids

Class 5 – species plants

Aug & Sept POPULAR VOTE – any genus species & hybrids + novelty bromeliad display

October - MINI SHOW

Class 1 – Neoregelia over 200mm diameter when mature, species & hybrids

Class 2 – Tillandsia species & hybrids

Class 3 – Pitcairnioideae species & hybrids (Brocchinioideae, Lindmanioideae, Hechtia, Puya, Navioideae, Deuterocohnia, Encholirium, Fosterella)

Class 4 - any other flowering bromeliad species & hybrids

Class 5 – species plants

November - POPULAR VOTE– any genus species & hybrids + novelty bromeliad display



Tillandsia kirschnekii