

Bromeliaceae





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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 February General Meeting

Front Cover: <i>G darienensis</i>	Bruce Dunstan
Rear Cover: <i>A Nationalis Marginated</i>	Vic Przetocki
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Now is the time for *Aechmea ornata* var. *nationalis* to bite the dust and be replaced by the cultivar name of *Aechmea* 'Nationalis'. This is in line with my crusade to treat plants found in the wild with variegated leaves as cultivars which I started in Die Bromelie 2: 62. 2013.

Reitz in Bromeliaceas 427-433. 1983 says 'RUPICOLOUS with leaves striped lengthwise of green and yellow. Utility - Plant of great decorative effect, today cultivated across the world. Enjoys great power of vegetative reproduction. The hundreds of specimens grown all over the world descended from clonotype collected by me in Bau, in 1952, and cultivated in Brusque, Santa Catarina.'

No reference is made to the size of the inflorescence or the colour of the petals so we do not know if it is linked to the Type or the var. *hoehneana*. Photos I have gathered from different sources of a variegated *A. ornata* not only show some with yellow and green stripes but white and green. It is interesting how a green plant with white stripes acquired the name var. *nationalis* and yet it has always been recorded as green with yellow stripes [See S&D (1979)] Also there seems to have been differences in petal colour which suggests that sporting/mutation has occurred from different clones.

This difference in petal colour leads us to a somewhat controversial paper by T. Wendt in Bot. Journ. of Linnean 125: 245-271. 1997 where many of her propositions were not generally accepted. However, she did make the following comment 'This species has three varieties: *A. ornata* var. *ornata*, *A. ornata* var. *hoehneana* L.B. Sm. and *A. ornata* var. *nationalis* Reitz. The latter has yellow longitudinally striped leaves and is known only from the type specimen. Variation in inflorescence size and petal colour are used to distinguish the other two varieties. In the key proposed by Smith (1955), *A. ornata* var. *ornata* is separated by a large inflorescence (4 cm wide) and a frequently reddish or lilac petal, *A. ornata* var. *hoehneana* by its delicate inflorescence (3 cm wide) and blue petals. However, these differences, especially the size of the inflorescence, are not consistent.'

The collections examined presented variation of inflorescence shape from cylindrical to slightly conical, scape bracts with distinct blades with or without sheaths, strong variation in the spine length of floral bracts and sepals, and variation in the position of the petals appendages. This variation suggests the presence of infraspecific taxa, and perhaps *A. ornata* is a complex of species that still need to be delineated. However, it is currently impossible to delimit any of these forms clearly. Furthermore, geographically correlated variation is often poorly understood. For example, the collections from Santa Catarina (*Gaudichaud* 129 in part, *Wendt* 289), Sao Paulo (*Foster* 396) and Rio de Janeiro (*Martinelli* 11763, *Wendt* 217, *Costa* 444, *Vieira* 279) are clearly the same species.

This inconsistency in petal colour is also apparent when you compare Foster 1124 cited by S&D (1979) with the type but clearly blue petalled in Foster's painting. Therefore, I am treating var *hoehneana* as per Type to agree with Tanya Wendt. Reference to REFLORA also doubts the status of var. *hoehneana*.

Leaving the most important to last, it has been decided that to accommodate the different coloured variegations the yellow one will be called 'Nationalis Median' and the white one be called 'Nationalis Marginated'

Acknowledgements. Thanks to Geoff Lawn and Ross Little who solved the riddle of the two types of 'Nationalis'.

A Nationalis Marginated (Ross Little photo) and A Nationalis Median (photos by Vic Przetocki)



Hohenbergia

by Barbara Murray

The genus *Hohenbergia* was established by Schultes & Schultes (fils) in 1830 and was named for the German Prince, F. Höhenlohe of Württemberg, a patron of botanical literature and known to botanists as Prince Höhenberg. His old principality was Hohenzollern, today a municipality located along the Danube River.

Hohenbergia is closely related to the genus *Aechmea* and some scientists argue that they should be included within that genus. They are large sized plants armed with densely spiny leaves and densely congested spikes on the inflorescences.

Hohenbergia is made up of 49 known species (Taxon list 10/2017) and 23 registered cultivars (BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Register 10/2017). *Hohenbergia* is native in the West Indies being more abundant in the Greater Antilles - Cuba and Jamaica from the north to southern Santa Catarina area. *Hohenbergia* is also found in South America – in Brazil, Venezuela and Guatemala with Brazil having the greatest number of species. The habitat of this species ranges from sandy, dry areas (particularly Brazil), arid northern coasts and to humid, foggy cloud forests.

Appearance:

In the wild, *Hohenbergias* are both epiphytic and terrestrial. They usually grow epiphytically, in the forks or branches of large trees or palms, saxicolously on rocky escarpments or terrestrially in very sandy or rocky soil. They are large-sized bromeliads with leaves that can remain upright, whilst others have leaves that bow out at the ends. Typically, they can have broad strap like leaves that are stiff and leathery. Often leaves come together to form a tight rosette shape forming a large central tank that collects rainwater and other nutrients that fall from the canopy. Special scales on the leaves take in this water and nutrient, whilst the roots act as anchors. Some *Hohenbergias* have attractive and beautifully marked foliage whilst others have plain leaves. Some have tall, long-lasting, plain inflorescences but a few have very attractive inflorescences. It is the flower spike that is one of the main features which distinguishes *Hohenbergia* from *Aechmea*. *Hohenbergia* inflorescences are often branched with small clusters of flowers. They are long-lasting but once the inflorescence dies, like most bromeliads the plant too will die but *Hohenbergia* will clone itself generously. It can take as long as 5 years for a plant to reach maturity and produce a flower.

Hohenbergia and *Aechmea* have many similarities when it comes to appearance and basic *Aechmea* culture is adequate so long as *Hohenbergias* receive additional protection from cold temperatures. They also prefer lower light than *Aechmeas*. *Hohenbergias* are very slow growing and are rare in cultivation – probably due to their extremely large size and the lack of showy inflorescences and the spines on the edges of the leaves – yet they are in high demand for plant collectors. Both terrestrial and epiphytic *Hohenbergias* take readily to being grown in containers.

Soil:

Use a free draining potting mix. General garden soil often retains water which becomes too soggy and will encourage root rot and crown rot.

Light:

Hohenbergias like light shade and morning sun to maintain their colour and form. Light fertilising can be given when initially potting up. Filtered afternoon light is tolerated. However strong light when the plants are mature produces the best foliage colour and promotes flowering. They are sensitive to the cold and should be protected from frost.

Water:

Moderate water and humidity best suit these plants.

Potting:

Hohenbergia requires stability in the pot to enable the roots to grow and support the plant so staking may be necessary initially. Do not overpot but the pot size can be increased to accommodate growth.

One of the first species to be introduced was *Hohenbergia penduliflora* in 1843.

In his book, *Out of Doors in Florida* (1923), page 263, Charles Torrey Simpson writes about *Hohenbergia penduliflora*:

'I have in my grounds a large bromeliad (a species of Hohenbergia, perhaps) which I obtained in Cuba where it is abundant on trees. Its hard, indigestible seeds, surrounded by a sweet, very sticky mass, are contained in dry capsules and the pulp is much relished by birds in the island. In getting it, a part of the contents is daubed on their beaks, feathers and claws and when they alight on other trees it sticks to their bark. They also swallow the whole capsules and pass the seeds out undigested, so this crafty plant has two perfectly good means of distributing and planting itself on the bark of trunks and branches. One might say that part of them rode to their destination on the cow catcher while the rest took inside passage.'

Hohenbergia species in my collection*Hohenbergia stellata*

Discovered in Brazil by Karl Friedrich Phillip von Martius, a German botanist, named by Schultes in 1830. Introduced around 1860 into horticulture. *Hohenbergia stellata* is one of the most popular Hohenbergia species grown in Bromeliad gardens. This bromeliad has a large, showy, compact inflorescence and is named *stellata* because of the star-shaped floral bracts on its metre-long inflorescence. Its 'stars' turn a dramatic vivid rosy red when in bloom and stay in colour for months, eventually fading to white. Purple flowers are especially dramatic against the red of the floral bracts.



Its numerous large green leaves grow from 70 – 120 cm long when grown in good light. Although native to the cloud and rain forests of eastern Brazil, Martinique, Trinidad, and Venezuela it grows well in south-east Queensland. It can form a compact mass of plants so give it plenty of room on rocky ground in the garden or up in tall trees.

Cultivated form: *Hohenbergia* 'Maria Valentina' (pink stars)

Hohenbergia rosea (discovered and described by Robert W. Read in 1975) is another large member of this genus that can grow up to 90cm tall with a wide rosette form and needs room in the garden. Its inflorescence is similar in structure to *H stellata* producing a tall flower spike with a pink oval shaped inflorescence and rose flowers. Its leaves are broad and firm with sharp spines around the margins. In shade, the plant will have a mottled green and reddish colour. In sun the leaves will become a darker burgundy with lovely mottled green and purple patterns. *Hohenbergia rosea* is best grown in light shade or morning light. It may take up to three years to reach blooming maturity.

Rather than growing in large rosette form, some *Hohenbergias* have more of a vase shape. *Hohenbergia correia-araujo* was discovered in 1979. The original specimen was collected by Luiz Knud Correia de Araujo, from Milagres, Bahia, Brazil. It flowered in cultivation in March 1980. It is another popularly grown member of this genus. The leaves are easily distinguished by the silver transverse bands of the on the copper coloured leaf blades and by the rounded, mucronate (ending abruptly in a short, sharp point) tips. The leaf colour becomes redder with high light and sun. The texture of the dark green and white coloured pattern on the leaves resembles the skin of a reptile. This feature is unusual in the *Hohenbergia* genus. Its growth habit is upright and narrow. It is not nearly as large as *Hohenbergia stellata* or *Hohenbergia rosea* but it has very tall inflorescence. *Hohenbergia correia-araujo* needs plenty of light for the leaves to maintain their upright stiffness. While the floral bracts are mostly white, they are striking against the rose-pink colour of the inflorescence stalk.

Hohenbergia lanata was described by Edmundo Pereira and J.L.de A. Moutinho in 1980. It is a very large rosette form with upright leaves heavily spined. In full sun the leaves take on an intense purple colour which is extremely striking in the garden. *Hohenbergia lanata* produces tall spikes of yellow tubular flowers from June to August. It then becomes very unstable in pots because of its size and the size of the inflorescence.

Hohenbergia pennae is a moderately large species with an interesting unusual shape. The leaves of this Brazilian bromeliad are wavy on the edges, giving it a most interesting look.

Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii is another example of a compact vase-shape. which is most attractive. Its wide leaves taper off to a distinctive point at the tip. When grown in high light positions the leaves will take on a lovely purplish black colour which is very becoming. If the plant gets too much fertilizer or not enough light, it will remain entirely green. A very tall inflorescence for the size of the plant.



Photos
clockwise
from top L
*H Leopoldo-
horstii*
H
castellanosii
H burle
marxii
H burle
marxii
H membrano
stobilis
*H leopoldo-
Horstii flower*
H
castellanosii

Hohenbergia castellanosii variegata has upright broad yellow green leaves which blush bright red from the fingertips to the centre when it flowers. The flowers are not spectacular being green and rather inconspicuous, but the plant is eye-catching.

Hohenbergia membranostrobilus is a smaller plant with darker green leaves and black markings on the leaves.

Hohenbergia catingae and *Hohenbergia catingae* var. *extensa* are spear tipped on the leaves with sharp spines on the margins and a green/yellow colour. The inflorescent is cream and typical of the genus.

Hohenbergia burlemarxii is similar in shape to *H rosea* but the leaf colour is green and white. Whether planted in the garden or in a pot in a collection, Hohenbergias always offer a dramatic and stately look.

References:

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 The New Bromeliad Taxon List. <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>
 Bromeliad Society International Cultivar Register. <http://registry.bsi.org/>
 Foster, Mulford B. 1956 *Hohenbergia* in *Horticulture* in BSI Journal 1956 V6(4). Orlando Florida.
 Oliva-Esteva, Francisco & Steyermark, Julian A. 1987 *Bromeliaceae of Venezuela*.

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Garden of the Month - From the Bromeliaceae of the 70s

(Assembled from our Journals by Rob Murray)

During the 1970s, BSQ members Nick Kemp and Len Butt visited gardens of members around the state and then wrote a short report to share their experience with members to hopefully encourage others to get out and see these gardens. The series lasted for about 18 months until field days became popular and potentially removed the need for separate visits.

Here are a few samples of the gardens that were visited during the period. In general, they are as written by the authors with only minor editing done for presentation consistency.

1971 – Dr E. J. Johns, Atherton Nick Kemp

From the metropolis we board the Sunlander for a trip to northern Queensland where we visit our member in Atherton - Dr E J Johns. The Bromeliads grow in different surroundings, the main one being under green plastic roof, with hessian strips to break the light and shade cloth around the sides. There is also a large fig tree that gives the green house some shade in the summer time. All plants are watered from a rain water tank, containing rotting leaves, insects and gum fruit nuts. Must be good for Broms.

The Broms that prefer deeper shade are placed on the eastern side of the house under the leaves of the bigger plants. These plants stand on a layer of blue metal chips and this in turn is on black plastic. This all tends to create a certain amount of humidity, whilst also keeping down the weeds that grow on the floor of the green house. Some plants are in hanging baskets such as *Aechmea fulgens*. This is to show the maroon colouring of the underside of the leaves.

The Doctor prefers terracotta pots to plastic in his region. The potting mix is a mixture of rotten wood and charcoal with broken brick for drainage. For some plants that seem to like a more open mixture, small portions of crushed brick are mixed in the media.

The following plants have flowered in Atherton, *Billbergia pyramidalis* v *concolor*, *nutans*, *zebrina*, *vittata pyramidalis*; *Aechmea pineliana*, 'Fosters Favourite', *weilbachii*, *orlandiana*; *Vriesea carinata*; *Neoregelia spectabilis*; *Tillandsia usneoides*. At the moment, *Portea petropolitana* v *extensa* is creating some interest as is *Vriesea carinata* with its red and yellow inflorescence. Dr Johns has a good collection in *Nidularium*, *Neoregelia*, *Vriesea*, *Dyckia*, *Tillandsia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Ananas*, *Acanthostachys* and *Lindmania*.

All plants seem to grow very well in similar conditions. *Tillandsia usneoides* has wrapped itself around a *Rhipsalis* and both are doing well. While Brom growers are not too numerous in the north, Dr Johns has a friend who does grow these plants and they sometimes get together to talk of the various ways and means of growing different plants. This lady is also a member of our Society, her name Mrs Armour of Kairi.

So, to you our Northern members, we all wish you continued success and thank you for being our host for April Garden in the monthly Journal.

Jul 1971 – Mrs Beryl Allen, Tampa, Florida *Nick Kemp*

Mrs Beryl Allen of Tampa, Florida, USA, is our Society member whose garden we visit this month. Beryl was born in Shenandoah, Iowa, 82 years ago, and she had a birthday this month. 'Happy Birthday' Beryl from all your Aussie Brom Growers. Her start in Bromeliads was a gift of *Aechmea caudata v variegata*, this was way back in 1947 and since that time Beryl has added plants to her collection.

She is a very active person, when not tending her plants and seedlings of Bromels, Begonias etc. She conducts the world-wide round robins of the Bromeliad Society Inc, keeping fifteen going at the one time. She also corresponds with numerous people throughout the world and if this is not enough she is also the Historian for the Tampa Bay Bromeliad Society in Florida. Beryl has been a widow for nearly ten years, caring for her invalid husband for fifteen years prior to this, she has raised nine children, and quoting the Bromeliad Society Inc 'She has so many grandchildren she has lost count but they have all turned out very well'.

The Bromels are grown outside in the open and slathouse and also a lean-to green house. Contrary to what one would expect from Florida, Jan and Feb can be troublesome with frosts and what Beryl calls 'freezes'. Luckily for Beryl her neighbour sometimes sends her gardener over to cover the outdoor plants. A small heater is used at this time of year in the shade house and also the Gro Lux lights. At time of writing, Beryl tells me that Florida is pretty dry and that the well-known Everglades of Florida are losing their wild life owing to dry weather. The deer are dying as well as being poached by illegal hunters.

Beryl has the distinction of having a Bromeliad called after her namely *Aechmea* 'Beryl Allen'. This was done by the world-famous adventurer and Brom collector, Lee Moore. This plant was found by him in the jungles of South America.

Beryl's life has been a very full one since migrating from Shenandoah where her father was Editor in Chief of an Iowa newspaper. Mr Allen was a railroad man prior to going to Florida with their six children in 1926. Beryl's companion these days is her faithful dog Sable, whose parents came from Egypt; both were snow white. Sable is not a plant lover like his mistress having complete disregard for all types of plants.

Beryl still enjoys tending her plants and always writes about the Brom plants she loves. Her motto must be 'wear out, never rust out'. Our congratulations go over to you Beryl, keep up the good work and we all wish you the very best from all here in the Queensland Brom Society.

Aug 1971 – Harold Caulfield, Botanic Gardens *Nick Kemp*

This time dedicated to Harold Caulfield our Patron, and the Bromel sections of the Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, viewed in our recent Field Day. Although I arrived rather late on the actual day and confess I missed the large Bromel glasshouse, the rest of the inspection was very good. Even looking through the glass of that large glasshouse reveals a clean orderly array of fine Bromels set amongst crotons and other exotics. What a pity the original Brom trees in the concrete and sarlon house fell victims to public thievery.

However, the display in both glasshouses shows a very worthwhile effort by the gardens staff. A large bed of Pitcairnia is still in good condition, but unfortunately, not flowering. The walk through the assimilated rainforest to the succulent section was very impressive. The latter section deserves some comment. Never in 25 years of associating with succulent collections have I seen a better one. Reminiscent of Ralph Field and Lex Fuaux. For Bromel lovers, the Dyckia clumps and Puyas were a great interest. Also in evidence were Hechtia and clumps of Bromelia. In the seedling glass house, Tillandsias, Vrieseas and other Bromels seemed to be progressing well. In all a very interesting day.

Oct 1971 – Mr Morris Jones, Arana Hills *Len Butt*

This time a local member's garden is our choice. Let me take you to the home of one of our staunch original members, Morris Jones of Arana Hills. Guess these days it is hard to find the house front at the Jones' as very well grown bushy native trees and a large tree fern just about camouflage it. Morris and Margaret have a large allotment of steeply sloping ground which has had its problems for them over the years. Well stocked with many trees and shrubs and terraced with rockeries to at least half the length of the land, this is an interesting garden to say the least.

Bromeliads in metal hangers are very evident in a large steel framed bush house and the sarlon roof does bring out quite a bit of colour. Many Bromels are also treated as terrestrials throughout the top garden and blend well with natives and large grounded self-heading philodendrons. Toward the rear of his land Morris has left a natural stand of eucalyptus and added to this quite a few exotics to complete the scene. A dried watercourse careers down the side fence, just the ideal place for a rustic bridge and an array of ferns and shade plants. The bridge is a reality and the dry creek fernery is becoming established. My only gripe is that one needs a handrail to get back up to the house, if one is as stout as me.

Among the livestock at the Jones' house and garden you will find parrots and parakeets, a Persian cat and a one-eyed pet dog, a pet possum, a pet tortoise, sundry goldfish and a canary. All these and Bromeliads too. A rather fitting way to wind up our visit to Arana Hills and the home of Morris and Margaret.

.....Continued p 19

***Aechmea fasciata* (Lindley) Baker**

by Derek Butcher June 2017

This plant has been in great demand since it was first named in 1828 and was a great interest to botanists in the 1800's as shown by the number of synonyms as below:

Aechmea fasciata* var *fasciata

- *Billbergia fasciata* Lindley, Bot. Reg. 13: *pl.* 1130. 1828.
- *Hohenbergia fasciata* (Lindley) Schultes filius in Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 7, 1253. 1830.
- *Billbergia rhodocyanea* Lemaire, Fl. Serres 3: *pl.* 207. 1847.
- *Hoplophytum fasciatum* (Lindley) Beer, Bromel. 129. 1856.
- *Billbergia glaziovii* Regel, Gartenflora 34: 260, *pl.* 1203. 1885.
- *Aechmea leopoldii* hortus ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 58. 1889; nomen.
- *Aechmea hamata* Mez, Mart. Fl. Bras. 3(3): 347. 1892.
- *Aechmea rhodocyanea* Wawra ex Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9: 255. 1896; nomen.
- *Quesnelia rhodocyanea* Wawra ex Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9: 255. 1896; nomen.

Aechmea fasciata* var *purpurea

- *Billbergia rhodocyanea* [var.] *purpurea* Guillon, Rev. Hortic. 55: 453. 1883.

What is interesting to me is that there are no herbarium specimens in REFLOA but 28 of var. *fasciata*. As Adda Abendroth says, see below, this variety is probably more common than the Type but then how do you discern leaf colour in an herbarium specimen. Not only were botanists interested in this species but the nurserymen in Europe started to cross and back cross seeking plants with larger inflorescences.

I quote from a letter from Adda Abendroth in Brazil to Olwen Ferris in Australia on June 17th 1968

'Years ago, Dr Oeser sent me some *A. fasciata* seed from Germany. Several plants raised from it flowered and put their wild sisters to shame. Mature plants are about twice as big, clad in a real snow-dress in winter, and have a larger and richer spike and more simultaneous flowers. The flower bracts are slightly curled. It is our light-green variety plus a successful beauty treatment. Our light-green form is faithful as to shape and size and habits. It blooms in early Spring, or a little later, sparingly. The plants grow on tree trunks or branches in virgin forest. The colonies are not large, to 3-5 shoots.

Another variety has dark green leaves, sometimes tinged with red. Size about the same as the light-green form but not so even, colonies somewhat larger. Habitat the same.

The third form appears growing on nearly naked branches of old trees, mostly single rosettes 20-30cm in diameter. The colour is rosy, shape nice and even. This form, when planted in shade (tied to a branch or a trunk) has darker and longer leaves. The rosy pink seems to develop only high up in the trees, exposed to sun and wind.

The fourth is the variety *purpurea* which has wine-red leaves. Habit like the dark-green form. In deep shade, the leaves get very long and fall over. The red is almost black making a striking contrast with the white bands. This is more common than the total of the other three.'





A fasciata cultivars clockwise from top L:

'Clara'

'Kiwi'

'Sangria' 'Blanco'

'Supernova'

'Silver Queen'

'Supreme'

Photos: Butcher, BCR and Przetocki

It was not until 1981 that we see Adda involved in a new variety:

Aechmea fasciata* var. *pruinosa Reitz, Sellowia 33: 55. 1981

Leaves, scape bracts, and flowers white farinose; densely covered in scales forming a white skin

Type Brasil, Santa Catarina: Ipanema plant cultivated in the State of Rio de Janeiro, collected *Adda Abendroth* s.n. 14 Feb. 1981. Holotype HBR.

In 'Bromeliaceas' by Reitz 393-397. 1983 we read:

'Variety, so far, is only known by the type, from the interior of the forests of the State of Rio de Janeiro and possibly very rare; collected in State of cultivation, in Itapema, Santa Catarina by R. Reitz.' This indicates it is rare in the wild but actively cultivated in Brazil and it seems strange that a plant with this name has not been quoted outside Brazil. According to REFLOA no further herbarium specimens have been lodged. However, it does seem to link to the cultivar 'Silver King' which is shrouded in mystery but emerged in this period.

Variegations have been reported in Seidel's Catalogue in 1976 but nothing has been described botanically other than the following:

Aechmea fasciata* var. *flavi-vittata Reitz, Sellowia 33:55. 1981

Leaves with longitudinal lines alternately green and yellow

Type Brasil, Santa Catarina: Brusque, cultivated in the State of Rio de Janeiro, leg *J Pehnk* s. n. (15.2. 1981), Holotype HBR.

Again we read in 'Bromeliaceas' by Reitz 393-397. 1983 'The variety, so far, is only known by the type, from the interior of the forests of the State of Rio de Janeiro; collected in State of cultivation, in Brusque, Santa Catarina, by R. Reitz.' This indicates it is rare in the wild but actively cultivated in Brazil and it seems strange that a plant with this name has been rarely quoted outside Brazil. According to REFLOA no further herbarium specimens have been lodged. In any event, variegated plants do not reproduce from seed and should be treated as cultivars. As such I will be adding *Aechmea* 'Flavi-vittata' to the BCR. Most variegations in cultivation have white stripes not yellow and we find reference to this in Seidel's Catalogue in 1976. Interestingly, they are not mentioned in DeLeon's article on variegates in Journal Brom Soc 35(1): 34-37. 1985. In fact nobody seems to have given them a proper cultivar name. For want of a term I will use *Aechmea* 'Albo-vittata' which covers any with whitish stripes. Variegation is most likely to occur in cultivation via 'sporting' or mutation in seed raising so it highly possible that this happened to one of the many infra-specific cultivars rather than a 'wild' species'.

A list of infra-specific cultivars follows:

'Aton', 'Auslese', 'Big Mama Fasciata', 'Canvey Pink Surprise', 'Checkers', 'Clara', 'DeLeon', 'Frost', 'Ghost', 'Ivory', 'Kiwi', 'Leucadia', 'Mackerel', 'Morgana', 'Primera', 'Sangria', 'Sangria Blanco', 'Silver King', 'Silver Queen', 'Smoothie', 'Snaakse Ding', 'Stalker', 'Supernova', 'Supreme', 'White Head'. See Photos p17.

Continued from p14 - **Garden of the Month - From the Bromeliaceae of the 70s**

Nov 1971 – Mr and Mrs Kemp, Coopers Plains *Len Butt*

This time let me take you to the home of Mr and Mrs A. J. Kemp of Coopers Plains. Mr Kemp 'Nick' to most of us, is a bromeliad enthusiast from way back, and his collection shows this plainly. First thing that strikes one after skirting the house and arriving at the back garden, is Nick's bush house set-up. This unusual structure goes right across his yard from fence to fence and has several door entrances, each one numbered. First impression I got was to expect a racehorse behind each door! Instead they lead to partitioned corridors of plants (mostly bromels).

Nick's plants have the appearance of constant attention and there is an absence of large specimen plants except for the ANANAS, BROMELIA and similar terrestrials which really are specimens. It is a well-known fact that if plants are constantly split up the offsets show great individual colour and there is less room for insects and disease bugs to hide. Nick seems to follow this pattern of thought because he really has a very large collection (numerically) and also quite a good variety of the species.

On arrival, you will most certainly be shown his seedlings and his magic bromel mix which Nick claims is the tops. The lighting effect is quite unique. It consists of aluminium blind slats close together as a roof. As plants require more or less light, the slats are withdrawn or adjusted to change the lighting. In the Ananas and Bromelia section we find plants of that diminutive gem *Ananas nana* which fruits very well under conditions given it here. One section of these partition bush houses is still reserved for cacti and succulents as Nick, being an active member of a succulent society, also does not neglect this hobby either.

In front of the bush house area on a lawn section is Nick's barbecue area: this has been the scene more than once to society barbecues. Nick never did get big crowds at his barbecues, but those who did come enjoyed themselves.

Dec 1971 – Nez Misso, St Lucia *Nick Kemp*

December takes us around to St Lucia where we visit our Bromeliaceae publisher, Nez Misso. Amid a surrounding of trees of all descriptions you will find Nez's collection for the terrestrial Broms are growing on the footpath against the front fence. Over the fence Nez has a collection of the hardier Broms growing in small clumps throughout the front garden. Here again, hanging on trees and with others growing in the forks of branches, we see attractive Bromeliads growing.

The main feature is when you walk to the rear of the house, you encounter the unique setting of 'How to grow Bromeliads'. Nez has incorporated the back patio into a sarlon covered area made from galvanised piping. This area is protected by surrounding trees from excessive winds but allowing enough sun and light to filter through. Within the area of shade cloth

grows many plants. Nez has an excellent collection of Tillandsias, among many other Bromels.

The Tillandsias are mostly grown on branches covered with coconut fibre and hang from the top area; other plants are arranged around on a bench high above the ground. Under this bench you will find germinated seeds in various degrees of growth. Some growing on fibre, others in plastic bags in a medium with a little water in the bottom of the bag to give the needed humidity.

Nez also has a small collection of those unmentionable plants - orchids. These flower from time to time and add their charm and colour to the attraction of the area. It is a very pleasant sight to sit on the patio, which is roofed with light green vinlon and gaze out and marvel at the colours that present themselves.

One would wonder how nature could produce such vivid colouring and contrasts to be viewed when the plants come into flower. Patience, plus a constant tender care, has brought Nez his reward in the growing of Tillandsias among the many Bromels that you will find in Dell Rd, St Lucia.

Jan 1972 – Len Butt, Yeerongpilly *Nick Kemp*

To start the New Year of 72, we go out to Yeerongpilly and stroll into the gardens of our President, Len Butt.

How do you describe a miniature botanic garden, for this is what you find when you first enter through the front gate. It would be impossible to list here the names of every plant that is growing in the area. Len is extremely fortunate to have a helper in maintaining the area in his wife, Daphne. You will find numerous artistic paths, steps, small houses made from cement and sand and one can see many hours of laborious work that Daphne has completed in her spare time. The area is protected from the sun by numerous trees. This gives the effect of a light rain forest. While trees are not the only shade afforded to the ground plant, giant specimens of *Philodendron*, such as *Lundii*, *Speciosum*, etc, having leaves four-foot long throw shade onto the smaller plants.

On the western side of the gardens, one will find plants of *Pitcairnia*, one in flower at the moment; here and there throughout the twisting concrete paths, *Dyckia*, *Cryptanthus* and the smaller Broms will be found growing as terrestrials, while others are grown 'au naturale' in hollowed out 'blisters', small logs, etc. Under, and on a native tree, you find many varieties of *Neoregelias*, *Billbergias* growing in the fork of the branches, while plants are suspended in baskets from the tree. This setting is truly 'au naturale' and the larger plants seem to thrive in these conditions. To the right from the 'au naturale' setting, one finds a very nice plant in *Portea leptanthus*. This is flowering at the moment and is in contrast with *P. petropolitana* var. *extensa*, for the petals are orange-red and it has more open bracts on peduncle.

The main collection is to be found here housed under sarlon. There is a very colourful array of plants on the benches, ranging from *Tillandsia*, *Billbergia*, *Aechmea*, *Neoregelia*,

Nidularium. This is the spot where Len once grew *Aech* 'Foster's Favourite', long since departed. The larger Broms such as *Ananas bracteatus* (two plants, each with large red fruit and many loads are showing now). Against the eastern fence, and much to the delight of Daphne, who thinks this is a terrible plant, i.e. *Bromelia balansae*. This is certainly a sight to see when in flower, but one must agree with Daphne regarding the tenacity of this plant, for I'm sure that it can reach out and grab you as you pass!

The next house you visit is the small steel weldmesh, covered with shade cloth. This is where you will find many Tillandsias, but the bulk Len and Daphne have amassed is a wonderful collection of plants over the years, and many enjoyable hours can be spent wandering around this fertile area at the Pilly. Len is a true plant lover, always willing to talk about or discuss growing habits of plants in the Botanical field.

Our President has a full-time job, ably supported by his wife, in the many varied tasks that seem to crop up whenever you grow plants. There always seems to be a plant that you haven't got in your garden. Somewhere in Len's garden, you will find this plant, for they range from natives, palms, cycads, lilies, Philos, cacti, succulents, you name it, it's there, or something similar.

Feb 1972 – Kevin Walters, Toowoomba *Nick Kemp*

Toowoomba, Garden City of the Darling Downs, is where we pause this month to visit our member Kevin Walters. Situated on the Western side of the metropolis, where the volcanic soil rolls away towards Oakey and Dalby, Wyalla St runs alongside the Clifford Park racecourse.

We are first greeted with a fine plant of *Xanthorrhoea* amid surrounding native trees. Along the southern side runs a low hedge of golden privet, cut to two feet high to act as a divider between the bitumen track to the garage and the dividing fence. You enter a small patio and then into Kevin's glass house. Immediately the atmosphere changes, for Kevin tells us that Toowoomba is 10 degrees lower in temperature than Brisbane, and where he is, old Jack Frost visits them in winter months. Hailstorms are prevalent at this time of year and always seem to come from the south and south-east.

Inside the glass house, dual shelves run the full length of the house on the northern side getting most of the sun and good light during the day. Here on the shelves are potted plants of many different Bromeliads. Large earthenware containers are filled with clusters of Broms that look attractive either in flower or when viewing the multi-coloured or mottled leaves. Portion of the centre (rear) is where Kevin grows most of his seedlings. His seed mixture consists of ground tree fern fibre and medium fine sand. When you see the strike that Kevin gets with his seeds, it is either the medium in which they are grown, the extra care given in watering with a small dropper or some magic utterance which is said when seeds are planted. Ferns in baskets hang from the roof of PVC. After passing through the rear door, you step out into an area of raised beds, 18" high concrete sided. Here we find smaller plants of *Dyckia*, Aloes, Agaves and over the area a beautiful green ground cover.

Off this area you walk into a concrete brick based, saloon sided and covered bush house. Two wide benches run along the walls, one low, the other high, and a centre piece that contains many plants of Broms, Orchids etc. Right of the door you find a trunk of a *Phoenix roebellii* palm, 4 ft high and 2-3 ft diameter. Where the fronds have been sawn off during many years of growth, Kevin has inserted many plants of Bromels. The effect will be startling once they flower. Again we find Philodendrons, Quesnelias, Cycads, Staghorns, *Aechmea fasciata*, *recurvata* var. *ortgeisii* and Tillandsia on the top bench where they get most light. The shade house is protected by a large tree growing on the northern side, which is beneficial during hot summer months. The back portion of the property is partially used as a vegetable garden - beans, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots - you name it, it grows in Kevin's garden; here Mr Dave Walters helps to produce the crop.

Kevin is a Pharmacist in Toowoomba, but most of his spare time is used up either growing good plants or looking around for some new odd-shaped variety of plant that presents a challenge. When you are visiting Toowoomba anytime at the weekends, or the Carnival of Flowers, the residence of Kevin Walters is well worth a visit.

Nov 1972 – Elsie and Harry Nuttall, Palmwoods Nick Kemp

This time we pay a visit to new member Elsie Nuttall. Elsie and her husband Harry, are true Bromeliad growers, for Harry has about 10 acres of *Ananas comosus*, pineapples as they are commonly called. Once you pass through the rows of the Ananas, you drive along a ridge running north-west to south-east, and arrive at the house surrounded by orange, mandarin, coffee, pine, baubinia, brassia (umbrella), ravenala (travellers palm) and an English oak tree. Numerous clumps of epiphytes of vivid colours surround the house and at this time they are in full bloom.

Quite a few Bromels have been planted in the trees close to the house and they mingle with many baskets and hanging plants of orchids. At the rear of the house Elsie and Harry have two bush houses. One housing orchids, the other growing a collection of Broms. The Bromhouse is attached to the implement shed and faces north. Plants are protected by large battens and plastic sheeting. Among the benches you will find plants of *Guzmania danellii* in flower, a small but very healthy plant of *Vriesea hieroglyphica*. Aechmeas, Billbergias, Canistrums, Araeococcus, Vrieseas are but a few of the names among the collection. Most plants are grown in a type of cymbidium mixture and they are all doing well despite the drought that existed up till the recent rains.

The outstanding floral display at the moment is the Vanda orchids. Pride of place being 'Nellie Morley'. Oncidiums will be blooming very shortly, and the rare sight of *Dendrobium nobile* covering the trunks of trees in large masses was a sight to behold. On the tank stand at the rear of the house, an attractive plant *Dyckia fosterianus* red hybrid is to be seen. Elsie is very keen to collect more of the brom family and as time goes by you will see increased numbers adorning the benches.

Like the words of Fitzpatrick's Travelogue 'It is with great reluctance that we say farewell' to this garden in the beautiful surrounds of Palmwoods, the valley of orange blossom perfume.

It's Spring – A bromeliad sampler

Clockwise from Top L: *T leiboldiana*, *N Unreg*, *T cacticola*, *N Bodacious*, *T streptophylla* (Belize).

Photos R Trevor, J Olsen



Modern Bromeliad Gardens

by Rob Murray

Visiting friends' gardens is a wonderful way to see how others grow plants. Most bromeliad enthusiasts share a love of gardening and have many other varieties in their gardens. This ensures that a visit is an educational experience as one discovers those hidden treasures or finds some magic in presentation of a plant.

This short story will take you through a mix of gardens that I have visited over the past few years. I have not included them all as that would be a separate book. Instead, I have chosen some that provide a good mix of how bromeliads can be incorporated in a variety of settings from structured to the wild.

Margaret and Will Kraa – Pallara

I had the pleasure of visiting this wonderful garden while my better half was completing her judges training. Margaret and Will are both keen gardeners. Will has a passion for palms and cycads while Margaret is the bromeliad enthusiast.

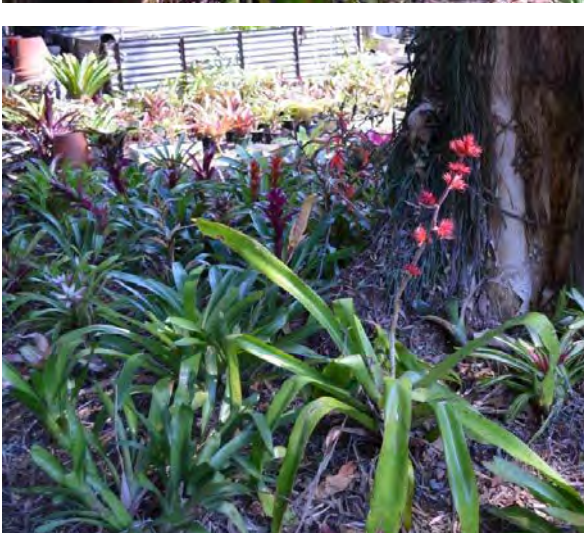
Their garden sits on an acreage property at Pallara, on the south-western suburbs of Brisbane.

The garden is a mix of many varieties of plants and is a fine example of how a beautiful garden can be developed using a simple plan. Sitting on the deck of the house, one looks out over a small garden planted with broms and a mix of other small plants and shrubs – some quite exotic. Pathways lead out to other areas of the garden. Following the paths lead you through a small palm forest, with the obligatory bromeliads – mainly the softer leaf vrieses and neoregelias under the shade. This then comes out to a lawn area where rock edges define the garden spaces. Here the mix varied with frangipani, callistemon and other natives provide shade for more broms. Large Alcantareas provide feature specimens.

This is a garden that provides inspiration while demonstrating that having a basic plan is important to ensure flow of plant foliage and colour.



Photos above at Margaret and Will Kraa, below at Pinegrove, Wardell



Ross Little – Wardell

Originally owned by the Buchanan's, Ross is now the owner of Pinegrove at Wardell. A secret retreat within an Australian woodland environment provides examples of plants in the wild as nature allows them to grow through to a beautiful entry area of pools, palms and bromeliads.

Walking down the driveway to the rear of the house – it was extremely hot when we visited – a cool drink and shaded area awaits. In this area there are the large shade houses where Ross grows his vast collection of plants. These shade house areas contain bromeliads with a mix of other plants.

As one ventures outside this area, you enter the wild bushland area where clumps of bromeliads are growing well amongst the callistemon and grass trees. The colours stand out and vary depending on the shade provided by the upper storey. Everything seems to be enjoying this environment. Did I mention the snakes? Moving on quickly but quietly.

Returning to the vehicles, I saw part that had not caught my eye as I entered. It was shielded as we rushed to the back area. The front of the house has a large pond area with bridge and fountain. This provides an excellent microclimate for a variety of bromeliads growing under the shade.

Roma Street Parklands

BSQ has been involved since its inception with public garden spaces. In recent years the society was involved with the re-building of the Roma Street Parklands area where the bromeliad garden had been damaged during the wild storms that had hit the city bringing down branches and destroying the gardens. It was also an opportunity to re-locate many of the plants back inside the fenced area of the Colin Campbell Garden area.

I was involved in an early visit to discuss the re-build but careful planning saw that I was otherwise occupied when the hard work had to be done. Fortunately, a band of trusty workers supported the Parklands gardeners to restore the area to its former beauty and include more bromeliads into the Colin Campbell Garden area.

Outside the walled garden area is a large bromeliad garden that includes many varieties including neoregelias, vrieseas and Alcantareas to name a few. These were thinned and some moved inside to a new home. Paths provide access to enable plants to be admired. A rock dry garden bed creates the atmosphere under the large fig (I hope it doesn't lose another branch!). Inside the formal garden area, the underplanting was cleared and pups taken from the old garden as well as a selection of new plants added to create a number of beautiful small brom gardens beside the entrance gates Tillandsias flourish on old logs and up the walls, vrieseas enjoy the shade and Alcantareas provide feature plants.

Elsewhere in the Parklands, bromeliads play a role in providing colour and shape to the gardens. The whole area is spectacular and at spring time is a delight with the colourful annuals, flowering shrubs and large trees combining to make a kaleidoscope of colour.

This is a place where Sunday, morning or afternoon, provides relaxation prior to commencing another hectic week in the home garden!



Stan and Jane Walkley – Rosemount

Imagine a manicured large acreage scattered with palms then intermingled with colourful bromeliads. At Rosemount, such a property exists under the care of Stan and Jane Walkley. For those lucky enough to attend Sunny Broms in April, this was one of the gardens included in the visits. For those not so lucky, here is a snapshot.

Stan is into big and small. The land is large and just keeps growing. On entry, you are greeted by beautiful lawns, some dams with fountains and the view of sprawling gardens. The 'front' yard is filled with palms with a good variety of Alcantareas and some large Neoregelias. There are other plants but we'll just focus on those of interest. All gardens are well mulched and look spectacular.

At the rear of the house is what may be termed Stan's play pen. He has a large covered area probably 30 metres long by 10 metres wide. This is filled with a mixed collection of a full range on different bromeliaceae. Oh! there are also some of those other plants in there as well. Stan has a liking for Tillandsias and they feature.

Behind this area, is where the growing is done and Stan has a couple of shade houses and open areas where he grows on a variety of plants. He needs them to keep filling the garden areas. Secrets abound and there are some really beautiful plants growing in these two areas.

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



Continued from p22 - **Garden of the Month - From the Bromeliaceae of the 70s**

May 1972 - Joy Potter and Pop, Mooloolaba *Nick Kemp*

The place we visit this month is on the Brisbane road; right opposite the new concrete bridge that spans the new waterway of Bundilla Lakes just past the bowling green. Here we find Miss Joy Potter and her father better known to all as Pop.

The house with its surrounding gardens and bushhouse is situated on a corner allotment with a north-easterly aspect looking over the newly made water channels, towards Mooloolaba. The area is flat and one can see that, as usual with garden lovers, much work has been done to make the area attractive. Lawn grasses have been introduced among the raised rockeries.

The main bush house, constructed of timber and corrugated vinyl roofing has conformed to the pitch of the house roof, for when you step outside the rear door you are in the concrete floored patio bush house. A portion of the plants are sheltered on the south-western corner by plastic. Here on three tiers of shelves, Joy is growing one of her favourite plants Bromeliads. Although the collection is small, there are some good specimen plants.

Neoregelia carolinae tricolor, grows to perfection. The deep green of the leaves with the clear cut longitudinal cream stripes and the red centre make this an outstanding plant. Whether sea air is beneficial to this particular plant remains to be clarified. Another plant to do well in this setting is the cryptanthus. One finds *C beuckeri* with mottled green leaves growing very much like *Ronnbergias* while *C fosterianus* seems to stand out well with its crinkled edged leaves with wavy silver barrings. These plants are grown where they receive morning sun only and they are grown in a local mixture consisting of sandy leaf mould.

On the three shelves one finds plants of *Billbergia euphemiae*, *vittata*, *pyramidalis v concolor*, *horrida v tigrina*; *Aechmea cylindrata*, *recurvata ortgeisii* and *var benrathii*; *Neoregelia carolinae* and *var. tricolor*, some broad leafed hybrids spectablis. Tucked away on the lower bench are *Vrieseas carinata* being the most in number. Going around the raised middle bed and on the western side, protected by sunkayne blinds one finds some old friends in orchids. These grow on numerous type of media. Hanging from the stout hardwood 4-inch slats that cover this portion of the bush house are Cooktowns, epidendrum's and dendrobiums.

Begonias are dotted here and there throughout while hanging baskets of King orchids are thriving in this atmosphere. Cattleya and Dendrobium are also grown behind the bamboo curtain. As it is with members of our Society, one can always see the uniting effort that goes into making the house and surroundings a nice place to live in; for this is what you will find when you break off your journey either north or south to visit Joy and Pop Potter, Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba Sunshine Coast.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meetings commence with plant sales from 6:45pm;
Information/Practical sessions at 7pm on odd numbered months;
presentations then commence at 7:30 PM.
AGM is held prior to Feb meeting.

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

November	16 November
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2018

January	18 January
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February (inc AGM)	15 February
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Other Events

Tillandsia Study group	19 November, contact Pam Butler re venues
Spring Show	11-12 November at Table Tennis Centre, Windsor
Xmas Party	7 December – Easts Leagues Club

Plant of the month List for 2017

November	Neoregelia, Nidularium
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COMPETITION SCHEDULE 2017 -18

November - POPULAR VOTE– any genus species & hybrids + novelty bromeliad display
Jan 2018 - 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

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

