



“Broms are addictive”

Bromeliad Society of Queensland Newsletter

August 2012

From the President

Thanks to the Committee members who kept the show going in my absence in August (and who will have to step up again as I'm off to the BSI Conference in Orlando next weekend and doing some touring in the NE of the USA hoping to catch the best of their Fall).

The Getting Started with Bromeliads morning following the Ekka was a success. We had nearly 30 members of the public along and the feedback was they felt welcome and enjoyed the event. We had a good showing of members to assist on the day and supply pots, potting mix and offsets for the visitors. Thanks to Glenn Bernoth and Barbara Murray who did well with their talks. Hopefully we can again welcome some of these people as new members.

The Nov Show is now the focus of attention. We are taking a slightly different approach to the display component this time. We want to show people how they can use bromeliads creatively in their gardens or for apartment dwellers their balcony. These shows are sort of equivalent to the school fete – and NO we don't want you to do baking. They are the source of the majority of our income and require a big effort from volunteers. The show requires a lot of volunteer input and there are lots of ways you can contribute. Specifically:

- If you live near Boondall or beyond then it would be useful for someone with a trailer or canopied ute/truck to help Bob Cross get gear and plants to the show on the Friday morning and back Sunday evening;
- If you have a novel presentation of bromeliads which would interest other gardeners (and it is portable) please discuss with Bob Cross at one of the next 2 meetings or give him a call on 3265 4364.
- We need assistance with the set up on Friday morning 2 Nov and knock down work Sunday from around 2:30pm on 4 Nov;
- During the show we need stewards (a status building name for our helpers) so talk to Peter Ball to help fill his roster.

The other major thing to advise is that through the efforts of our Competition Steward BSQ has a revision of the Competition Schedule. Helen Moriarty with assistance of a knowledgeable group (Olive Trevor and Barbara Murray) and feedback from members has produced a new schedule. It seeks to encourage members to support the Society objectives and showcase their cultivation skills. There will also be a photographic competition for digital images at the Nov Show. We hope to add a section for printed images next year. We've got separate awards for commercial and non-commercial growers and for Novices so

there need be no fear that your small hobby effort is swamped by those with commercial facilities at their disposal. HAVE A GO!

The barcode gear (Cash registers, scanners, and printer) are in the throes of being set up with the necessary data. All sellers at the Nov Show will need to use the new barcode labels. Please email Rob Murray (yarrumai@bigpond.net.au) for the spreadsheet so you can advise what price points you need to have printed and numbers. Don't leave it too late as getting the data in is a biggish task. We will trial the system at the October meeting so get your labels prior to that.

Seeya, John

July Meeting

Rob Murray opened the meeting this month as John is away on holidays, swanning around our beautiful state then off to N.S.W and Victoria. Rob had an agenda to follow, so that he didn't get carried away.

He spoke about the society using a barcode system, especially for when we have our Autumn and Spring Shows for the sale of plants etc., which should make things much easier, using a cash register and scanner. It can be used for identification of the sellers and possibly plants in the future. Label printing which should last for up to 6 months may also to incorporate design labels in the future. The systems uses software and multiple choices are available.

The old labels would no longer be used (but if you still have some in stock we can assist with disposal). There will be a transition period –especially at the monthly meetings. The new labels will be the same price as the existing labels (5 cents each) but will improve record keeping by making everything more accurate and easier buying for our customers as well as sellers.

Rob asked if there were any questions. Several members had questions, some about the use of the old labels etc.—which Rob gave sensible answers to members. Rob then moved the motion for permission to purchase the equipment for up to \$5,000. The motion was carried, all in favour. (NOTE: The system has been purchased and President John is working feverously to get it running before he departs again.)

Orders for the T/Shirts to be given to Barbara Murray during the break. (NOTE: We hope to have the shirts available for distribution at the September meeting.)

Plant of the month is Pitcairnia, quite a few members put their hands up as owners and growers of Pitcairnia.

Guest Speaker

Rob introduced his *little* brother Dave (who is the good looking one). He is an Entomologist who spoke about the insects and pests of the bromeliad and their management. Dave had written an article on the pineapple problems in the 1980's which focused on scale, mealy bug, ants and other miscellaneous problems.

It is important to have the correct identification and understanding of the biology of the pest then identify the weakest link for treatment and control.

Pineapple scale is an armoured scale—a sap sucker with a long fine stylet (like the mouthpart). Dave explained the life cycle. Adult female lays eggs under the scale, crawlers hatch and disperse in spring and summer. He explained how to identify male and female scale (the males are elongated and the females rounded). Most scale are found on the lower parts of plant with scattered scales on leaves. Dispersal may be by wind or on clothing as you brush against plants in your growing area.

CONTROLS hygiene, natural enemies
PARASITES small wasps
PREDATORS various lady beetles

Use of narrow range of oils [but not white oil] can be effective.

FLYSPECK SCALE tiny black hard scale is another armoured scale.
MEALYBUGS soft bodied sap suckers, white mealy covering - hard to wet; aggregate low on plant; produce honeydew and sooty mould which protects mealy bug; then tendered by ants which transfer the mealybugs from pot to pot and plant to plant.

ELIMINATE ANTS Chorpyrifos is a drench for ants. For interstate/intrastate movement, QLD has quarantines in force (fire ants) and this requires a plant health certificate.

The white grub in potting mix and some compost are root feeders and can live for up to 2 years in pots. They prevent the plant from thriving.

SYMPHYLA centipede like with 12 sets of legs (pest of pineapples in the 1970's). It eats roots—in 2008 at Theodore pests were eating cotton.

Pesticides are a last resort. Correctly identify the problem, select the right product for the job and always **READ THE LABEL.**

INSECTICIDES are contact poisons. Carbaryl—pyrethrum will not remove scale as they are general purpose products for chewing and crawling insects such as caterpillars and grasshoppers.

STOMACH POISONS Spinosad works by contact and by ingestion. [commercially known as Success] organic option for caterpillars.

SYSTEMIC POISONS spray or soil drench—examples [ROGOR OR CONFIDOR]

BIOPEST Paraffinic Oil is capable of controlling multiple, unrelated pests and fungal diseases simultaneously. requires a good coverage, some toxic effect. Narrow range oils.

PHYTOPHTHORA—ROOT AND HEART ROT. Hygiene is very important as it spreads in soil and water. Always sterilize equipment and keep pots up off the ground. Treat with Ridomil Gold or Fongarid. Always be very careful when using any chemicals.

Alan Phythian spoke about the rot and using 1 teaspoon cinnamon in the base of the plant. It helps to kill off the fungicide on mother plant and pups. When pulling out the rotting centre of plant pull the leaves out

gently one by one making sure you do not spill the rotting liquid on other plants as this rotten liquid will spread disease onto your other plants. Wrap up the rotten leaves to dispose of them. Pour liquid down the drain.

Dave was given a resounding applause of thanks for his presentation.

(NOTE: Watch the next issue of Bromeliaceae for an article on Root Rot provided by Peter Paroz.)

BY RUTH KIMBER



Plant Propagation

Peter Paroz

This is a variation of the stem sectioning procedure for the rapid propagation of pineapples; and was developed before tissue culture became available and may be adaptable for other bromeliads with a substantial stem.

With this technique, the leaves are retained, carefully dissected from the stem retaining a portion of the stem attached to the leaf **and including the dormant bud at the base of the leaf**. The segments are treated with fungicide, allowed to dry and planted in an open moistened mixture with the bud level with the surface. Water sparingly to keep the mixture just moist. Remove the plantlets when roots develop and treat as for seedlings.

LUCKY DOORS Evelyn Rees Ruth Kimber

RAFFLES Paul Songhurst [3] Mary Gudgeon Margaret Vine Cheryl Weaver
 Bob Cross [2] Glenn Bernoth Barbara Mc Cune

Committee Needs

Planning and trying to get new and interesting speakers for our meetings is always a challenge. As members, we'd like to hear about your thoughts on topics for presentation, possible guest speakers or just some general feedback. If you have ideas, let a member of the committee know and we'll discuss your input at the committee meetings.

Remember that you are the reason we gather for our meetings.



Coming Events

The next major event is the Spring (ish) Show which will be held on **3rd and 4th November** at the Brisbane Table Tennis Centre. We have some changes to the show schedule and are planning some exciting new activities and displays. Now is the time to start getting those plants ready for the show and also those you want to sell. Remember if you are selling plants should be high quality and you will need to use the new barcode labels provided by the society.

The Christmas function has been scheduled for **6th December** at the Windsor Bowls Club. Come along and join us for a night of fun and frivolity. We'll be asking for your special needs next month so let us know when you book the tickets. Prices are yet to be finalised.

Remember that there is a break over the festive season with NO meeting in December. We're back into it in January.

Judges school continues with the next session planned for 10th February 2013. Even if you missed the first session, you can come along and learn more about the plants.

Show Results – Popular Vote

INTERMEDIATE



1ST

Mal and Michelle Cameron
Vriesea 'Bianca' x *hieroglyphica*



2nd

David and Evelyn Rees
Aechmea recurvata 'Bronze Beauty'

NOVICE



1ST

Betty Shephard
Neoreglia 'Absolutely Fabulous'

2nd

Jenny Ittensohm
Guzmania 'Lynda'