



“Broms are addictive”

Bromeliad Society of Queensland Newsletter

June 2012

From the President

By the time you read this the Ekka will be almost over and the efforts of our display design crew and the plant suppliers will have been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Ekka. Hopefully, well appreciated by the judges too. When you put it in context of the huge number of people who go over the 10 day period it is well worthwhile that we showcase bromeliads at the Ekka. Displays involve a substantial effort by volunteers and I'd like to thank Bob Cross and his team for their display efforts and to those who've "personned" the display.

We have used the contact with the public over the Ekka to try to involve more people in the Society and invited beginners to a "Getting Started with Bromeliads" presentation 25 August. If you have a friend, neighbour, relative or work colleague who may benefit from the event, get them along. Alternatively bring them to a meeting.

I will miss the August General Meeting as I'm attending a Tillandsia Event in Albury and then having a couple of weeks in Victoria. I know....stupid time to go to Victoria.....But it will reinforce the wise choice I've made to live north of the Tweed.

Seeya, John

July Meeting

John opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m. welcoming members and visitors.

The polo shirts will come in two colours [blue or red.] The club badge will be on the left side and Christian name /nickname on the right side. Return your order sheets to Rob and he will order once he has a reasonable number. At present, the logo is at the embroiderer's having a sample made for review. This should be ready later this week all going well.

This month intergenerics were the plant of the month. These are bi-generics from the FCBS.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>xAechopsis</i> | 13. <i>xGuzvriesea</i> | 25. <i>xOrthomea</i> |
| 2. <i>xAnagelia</i> | 14. <i>xHohenelia</i> | 26. <i>xOrthotanthus</i> |
| 3. <i>xAnamea</i> | 15. <i>xHohenmea</i> | 27. <i>xPortemea</i> |
| 4. <i>xAndrolaechmea</i> | 16. <i>xNeobergia</i> | 28. <i>xPuckia</i> |
| 5. <i>xBillmea</i> | 17. <i>xNeobergiopsis</i> | 29. <i>xPucohnia</i> |
| 6. <i>xBillnelia</i> | 18. <i>xNeomea</i> | 30. <i>xQuesistrum</i> |
| 7. <i>xCanmea</i> | 19. <i>xNeophytum</i> | 31. <i>xQuesmea</i> |
| 8. <i>xCryptananas</i> | 20. <i>xNeorockia</i> | 32. <i>xQuesregelia</i> |
| 9. <i>xCryptbergia</i> | 21. <i>xNeostropsis</i> | 33. <i>xRacindsia</i> |
| 10. <i>xCryptmea</i> | 22. <i>xNeotanthus</i> | 34. <i>xUrsumea</i> |
| 11. <i>xDeuterocairnia</i> | 23. <i>xNidumea</i> | 35. <i>xVriecantarea</i> |
| 12. <i>xDyckcohnia</i> | 24. <i>xNiduregelia</i> | 36. <i>xVrierauhia</i> |
| | | 37. <i>xVrieslandsia</i> |

John then spoke about Intergeneric Bromeliads: which is crossing plants across the genus boundary—only within the sub families—mostly in the Tillandsioideae and Bromelioideae. Crossing the genera boundary is tricky. The earliest and most popular crosses are *Orthophytum navioides* crossed with *Neoregelia* ‘Meyendorffii’ = *xNeophytum* ‘Ralph Davis’, the variegated sport *xNeophytum* ‘Galactic Warrior’. *Orthophytum navioides* crossed with *Neoregelia* Mini ‘Fireball’ = *xNeophytum* ‘Firecracker’. *Vriesea* ‘Sundance’ x *Tillandsia australis* = *xVrieslandsia* ‘Arden’s Fireworks’ (the size comes from the *Tillandsia* and the colour from the *Vriesea*’s ruby red inflorescence). *xVrieslandsia* ‘Stargazer’ is a cross between *Vriesea* #072 and *Tillandsia deppeana*. *xVrieslandsia* ‘Pink Magic’ is a cross between *Tillandsia laxissima* X *Vriesea* ‘Redondo Beach’. *Nidularium innocentii* x *Aechmea* ‘Fasciata’ = *xNidumea* ‘Midnight’

John was saying a scientist in Holland is trying to cross the boundaries by crossing the subfamilies.

Olive then spoke on some of the beautiful examples that were on the display table. Fred Thomson had some plants for identification which were a *Neoregelia* x *Aechmea* with ball like flowers. On the display table were a *Neoregelia* x *Nidularium* cross *xNeolarium fulgens* and a *Neoregelia* x *Aechmea* = *xNeomea* ‘Magenta Star’.

Olive suggested members could look up Florida website; FCBS go to photo index then bigenerics. Olive also said that there are 37 different crosses. *xCryptbergia* “Mead” which is a *Cryptanthus beuckeri* x *Billbergia nutans*. *xNeophytum* ‘Burgundy Hill’ by Herb Hill is *Neoregelia* ‘Royal Burgundy’ x *Orthophytum navioides* Herb Hill has done 100’s and 100’s of crosses.

John Arden did some crosses with *Vriesea* x *Tillandsia*. Sharon Born has a couple of mystery *Guzmanias* - Olive suggested Sharon return with them in August hopefully for a better identification.

Guest Speaker

Len Waite (Talbot Lodge Bromeliads) was our guest speaker. He grows terrestrial plants such as *Dyckia*—*Hectia*—*Puya*—*Pitcairnoideae* and *Orthophytums*, They like to grow in high altitude like in the desert. In the ground they grow deep down but in pots they require watering 2-3 times per week. *Dyckia* come in green,

silver, reddish black but not in pure black. Dyckias do not die after flowering. Arnold James was the person who gave Len his first plant and took Len under his wing and Arnold thinks Len came out very well.

PLANTING Potting mix and sand plus a small amount of 5 in 1 [organic mix of Searles]. If using wetting agents, do not overdo - especially the gel capsule types, otherwise it will look like baby alien eggs everywhere. There are approximately 70-100 species. Len grows mainly by seed and they grow very well. Dyckia flowers are orange or yellow and nearly 1 metre high. You have to be selective with what you keep as they are easy to grow from seed. Many pests like baby seedlings - slugs and snails can wipe out a whole tray overnight.

Some of the plants Len bought along were named but not registered - Chocolate Shiver—Dark Moon—White Chocolate [which is Len's wife Sheryl's favourite plant and he cannot divide this plant under threat of death]. Seedling parent *Dyckia* 'Warren' throws dark chocolate seedlings - great variation = 'Ruby Ryde'. Seedling by Bob Paulsen *Dyckia* 'Purple Sensation' is a very aggressive grower. If a plant has a yellow flower the leaves are greenish. As silver plants grow, the silver becomes much more noticeable. Different colours vary between chocolate and silver; *Dyckia* 'Naked Lady' is usually green. Len said it is advisable to wear gloves when working as you can end up with lots of scratches. Planting 3 or 4 *Dyckia burl-marxii* together in a pot will make a lovely display. Len also showed some of his *Orthophytums* including a beautiful *Orthophytum glabrum*. Len sits his plants in saucers of water and grows them out in the garden, but not full sun and just keeps an eye on them.

Some web sites Len suggested to look at: <http://fcbs.org/pictures.htm> . Do a google search for dyckia brazil. Anniesmagicgarden has beautiful photos.

Next month our guest speakers will be the Murray Bros. [This is something really special and no one should miss this spectacular meeting!] The brothers will be speaking about pests and one may even already be a pest) [*not my words and I'm sure not at all true*]. Please DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN PESTS ALONG – bring a picture.

BY RUTH KIMBER



Cultural Notes

(by Peter Paroz)

The normal pattern of bromeliad growth, when plants are grown at an appropriate light intensity, is for the leaves to generate sugar from sunlight, carbon dioxide and water. This is transported to the various tissues in the plant for maintenance and growth; and any surplus is stored in the stem as starch. At night, the sugar required for maintenance is drawn from the starch reserves; but there is normally a net surplus. This energy surplus, along with the essential minerals from fertilizer, is necessary for the plant to sustain the rapid burst of growth at flowering, the subsequent development of seed capsules or berries and offsets.

The unusual winter weather this year will have affected this growth pattern. The extended periods of cloud cover will have resulted in a lack of growth and a loss of stored energy reserves. This may show up as delayed flowering or a season of no flowering at all. Unfortunately, there is nothing that a grower can do to alleviate this situation. ('Forcing' flowering with one of the available chemicals is an option; but forcing plants with inadequate energy reserves is unlikely to produce a normal size inflorescence.)

Another consequence of the unseasonal weather is that the rain will have depleted the nutrients in the potting mixture especially where slow release fertilizer beads are used. (The useful life of these beads is related to the number of watering rather than time!!)

Watch out for pots which may have become waterlogged because the potting mix has broken down due to age. Waterlogged pots mean lack of air [oxygen] to the roots and create conditions that support attack by various pathogenic fungi.

LUCKY DOORS----Janet Ritcher.....Dean Raihman

RAFFLES----- Selga Boothby....Olive Trevor[2]...John Byth[2]....Ric Cairns...Barbara Murray[2] Jenny Ittensohn...Sharon Born...Ray Krafft...Bev. Mulcahy[2]...Margaret Vine...Cheryl Weaver....Arnold James

Judges Training Session



Sunday saw our first training session for aspiring judges or those who just want to learn more about the presentation of bromeliads for shows and displays. We had 19 starters with people coming from the Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, Ipswich, the Gold Coast, Northern NSW and Cairns. What a dedicated group? There are a number of sessions held at 3 / 4 month intervals and it is possible to attend a session without completing all the sessions in order.



Olive provided the venue and is an accredited trainer. She was ably supported by Narelle Aizlewood who hopes to finish her training at the upcoming World Conference in Orlando and Cheryl Basics who has also completed sessions at world conferences. The Judge's Handbook was the point of reference and became the key talking point for most discussion as Olive explained the meanings and intention of the directions provided within this manual. Practical experience was gained by viewing selected plants and discussing positives and negatives in a group setting. Many questions were asked and clarified in this powerful learning situation.

Everyone was asked to provide a plate for lunch and there was certainly more than enough food to feed an army let alone 19 judges in waiting. After some relaxation during lunch, everyone was asked to independently review a number of plants and provide their scoring in line with the Judge's Handbook. The benchmark judging was conducted by Olive, Narelle and Cheryl.



*The catering staff **hard** at work and sneaking a little extra.*

Following a successful first session, all have decided to gather again in January to take the second step.

Committee Members

Rob and Barbara Murray

This is a joint effort where you get two for the price of one!

Having spent the first 18 years of married life living a nomadic lifestyle travelling around the east coast of Australia and overseas as part of Rob's military career, we settled in Narangba so we could be close to family and let the children attend stable schooling during their secondary years. Having a home for more than a year and getting to live in a neighbourhood for more than two was a luxury so being settled in one place was heaven.



The first home for bromeliads – now a little messy!

Barbara started buying bromeliads in the late 1990s. They were grown under a large leaf weeping callistemon in our front yard. Gradually this garden grew in size until suddenly there were three or four trees with broms underneath them. Barbara was working as a teacher and could only spend the weekends in the garden and thankfully couldn't get to too many meetings.

As the plants multiplied, the pool fence was taken down and became the frame for growing the next generations and so the hobby was begun.

Like most things Rob tagged along to fund the habit. Orchids and broms were appearing everywhere. Barbara had heard of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland and next the meetings at Olive's place on Saturday mornings for the study groups. Enthusiasm grew and so did the need for more growing space.

Fortunately, a friend is a nurseryman and had a tunnel house which he wasn't using – Rob, can we put it up? Of course – where? The back yard will be OK. Bobcat, soil moving, rock wall and a few days work and three shade houses were erected. Oops I forgot about the Guzgies and so you'd better build another one. And what about the Vrieseas? Keep building!!!

We started attending meetings in Brisbane and enjoyed the friendship and advice we received. Next we heard of the Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society and so attended a meeting there. For Rob, it was the AGM and they needed a Treasurer and he couldn't hold back. He's been doing that job for around four years now.

Barbara's collection has grown over the years, so have the shade houses and areas under the trees where bromeliads are now planted. We've enjoyed bus trips, meetings, study groups and many other activities run by the associations we belong to. So now we can put a little bit back into our societies through being on the committee.



One of the shade houses built by Rob's Industries (a local Narangba construction business).

Rob is Publicity Officer and Barbara is a Committee Member – you don't want to attend the pre-meetings at home!

Coming Events

Well, it's a little late to mention the Ekka but there are still a few days left to get along and have a look at our prize winning display. Bob Cross has excelled himself again and we were awarded second prize.



The Ekka display staffed by one of our hard working members.

The next major event is the Spring Show and Sale which has been scheduled for 4 and 5 November. Place this in your diaries and allocate some time to come along and visit or if you can, help on the day.

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

The Christmas function has been scheduled for 6 December. Come along and join us for a night of fun and frivolity.

Show Results

ADVANCED



CLASS 1

1st Len and Olive Trevor *Billbergia* 'Canvey Sister'

2nd Len and Olive Trevor *Billbergia* 'OLE'



CLASS 2

1st Len and Olive Trevor *Alcantarea* 'Bobby Powel'



CLASS 3

1st Len and Olive Trevor *Neoregelia* 'Tiger Cub x *punctatissima*
Rubra

2nd Len and Olive Trevor *Neoregelia* 'Groucho'

INTERMEDIATE



CLASS 1

1st Pam Butler *Billbergia saundersii*

2nd Mal and Michelle Cameron *Billbergia* 'Groovy'



CLASS ..2..1ST. Mal and Michelle Cameron Weranhi Kupperiana



CLASS...3...1st. Mal and Michelle Cameron...Neoregelia Hot Embers

2nd. Mal and Michelle Cameron..Neoregelia Aventura

NOVICE



CLASS...1..1ST. Maxim Wilson Billbergia



CLASS...3...1ST. Betty Shepherd Neoregelia Groucho

2nd. Betty Shepherd Neoregelia Dyn..O..Mite



CLASS..4...1ST. Maxim Wilson Guzmania Sanguinea

2nd. Maxim Wilson Aechmea Weilbachii