



“Broms are addictive”

## Bromeliad Society of Queensland Newsletter

June 2012

### From the President

Thanks for the feedback we received from members re the website and access to the magazine. The Committee has engaged a firm to update the site and on the basis of the feedback resolved to place current issues of the magazine in a “member’s only” area accessed with a password. Older magazines (after about 12 months) will be generally accessible.

We had a good number of members at the last Meeting. If you have ideas on new presenters, segments or other ideas to improve the meetings do let us know. If you read the notes introducing Barry Kable you will see that plant sales at the meetings were a big attraction to Barry as a new member. The Committee has noticed that the variety of plants for sale at meetings has dropped off. Please bring along a few plants which new members will find nice additions to their garden or collection. Long standing members will be interested as well. The range of sale plants also affects the plants included in the raffle as they are sourced off the sales tables. The Committee has resolved to add a couple of ‘specials’ to the raffle table and have these as a special draw during the course of the raffle.

### I want also to challenge members to do some experimenting.

Leyland Minter showed some telling comparisons between plants with and without his treatment. Some of you have raised questions about the tests and relevance to bromeliads. I know several people bought some product. It would be particularly useful if some of the members could do some tests of the products relating to bromeliads. This would need you to find say 12 to 20 plants and treat half with Leyland’s product and the other half with your usual regime and compare the difference. I found 12 seedlings of *T viridiflora* (a soft leaved Till) but they ranged in sizes. I then paired them into same size pairs and treated half with Eco Rich and half with ‘Mag Cote’ a microprill slow release fertiliser. Hopefully if some of you can do likewise we can compare results in October or November when they’ve been through spring growth.

Have a good think about which days you can help at the Ekka. It isn’t a big or difficult task and it is excellent for raising the profile of the Society. As a follow up to the Ekka we will again have a “getting Started with Bromeliads” morning on 25 August at our usual venue. Flyers will be handed out at the Ekka to promote this to the public and all attendees (at the Getting Started morning) will be given a free plant (or 2) and have it potted on the day for them. If you have friends who want to get into bromeliads encourage them to come along.

Seeya Thursday,  
John.

## Monthly Meeting June 2012



Meeting was opened by our President John Olsen at 7.30p.m.

Our plant of the month was the Billbergia.

Greg Aizlewood was our speaker on the Billbergia species. South America is the main area where they originate from. Billbergias are epiphytes and more prone to grow up in the trees. The leaves of billbergias have less leaves, 5—8 and are mainly in an upright tubular form.

*COLOURS.* They are very diverse in their shade and flowers do not last more than 3—4 days. Billbergias are mainly grown for the colour of the leaves. The dark red to pink around the flower is the bract. All their energy and growth they draw from the air around them and absorb through their leaves.

Billbergias grow best in a very open and medium media mix. Add nutrients when potting up—1/2 teaspoon of slow release fertilizer per pot or when potting up the pups in September. Pot up high in the pot approx. 1" from the top as they may rot in very wet weather, and stake with 3 stakes i.e. like a tepee and cover with a stock tube pot. In December fertilise again, ½ teaspoon of slow release, pups will grow long and strappy. Start to move plant out into the light gradually---experiment as you go along as some members grow their plants in different light areas and different shade cloth variations. Greg uses plant cote plus.

*WATERING.* Using either tank or town water, the condition of water depends on where you live. If using tank water near the coast the water could be salty. Foliar feed in January.

*POT SIZE.* Average size pot for planting/potting up of your bromeliads is between 140—170mm. If growing multi-headed Billbergias start them off in a 170mm pot.

Barry Kable spoke and likes to grow multi-heads in pots in an open mix. Sometimes he uses old orchid mix. He has some of his hanging 7ft. up and under 70% green shade cloth—one beautiful specimen Barry bought along was 3 years old.

Olive then spoke about her Billbergias from Bill Morris—Grace Goode—Len Waite—Stewart Beasley—Russell Holtzhiemer—Val Honeywood—Olwyn Ferris and her brother-in-law Clive Wasley. Don Bette of Florida grew the first ‘Domingos Martins’ then later ‘Hallelujah’ then in hybrid seedlings x Domingos martins x Hallelujah. ‘Last Hoorah’ has fatish leaves. Variegated *amoena* *Stolenifera* pups on stolens.

Greg then spoke about some of the older varieties including ‘Mandres Othello’.



## Web site and Magazine

Two issues we were asked to talk about with each other at supper were the website and the Bromeliaceae. The society is looking into a member’s only section on the website and so member’s views are wanted to be considered.

Rob Murray had supplied a large range of the T-Shirts for members to give an indication of which colour was preferred - PINK was very popular as was MAROON given discussion on State of Origin. Rob needs to know sizes for orders. See the attachment to this month’s newsletter.

## Guest Speaker

Our next guest speaker was introduced by Barry Kable---Leyland Minter of “Sea Energy” which feeds microbes.

Leyland spoke of his early days at Cambridge and how they used to build up pits of fertilizers nature's rain-bird droppings and leaf litter—sea water—calcium—potassium—phosphates—magnesium—a complete range of naturally occurring minerals and trace elements derived from the sea. He carried out experiments on different plants by spraying on parts of plant and leaves—powdery mildew treated area of leaf had no powdery mildew on leaf, so “ Sea Energy” is a good fungicide, he claims also enrich horticultural solutions. Eco Rich to replace slow release fertilizer.

Then Marilla (his wife) spoke about the products for human use—most minerals are anti-fungal.

## Plant Show



Nigel Thomson was our competition commentator. The results are listed at the end of this newsletter.

## Raffles

**LUCKY DOOR** Carmel Cullen---Matt O'Brien

**RAFFLES** Diane Mair—Ray Kraff—Fred Thomson—Glenn Bernoth [ 2]—Roland Anthony—Nigel Thomson—Barry Kable—Narelle Aizlewood

## Notices

**Judging School.** The Committee has asked Olive Trevor to hold a judges training school. This will be conducted over a 12 month period and will involve attending training sessions approximately at three monthly intervals. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August will be the first session but this will be confirmed at the July meeting.

NOTE: These sessions would normally only be conducted in the USA during the BSI conferences so we are privileged to have Olive provide this training for us in Brisbane.

**July Competition:** intergeneric

## Coming Events

Open Gardens Australia invites you to attend BELLE RIVE at 7 Orme Road, Buderim on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August from 9.00 am to 4.30pm daily.

### IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER

When you rang the washing out,  
And the rain begins to patter,  
The sun will soon be shining out  
So, it really doesn't matter!

When you're spent the day with friends,  
In lively idle chatter,  
The work will still be there next day,  
So, it really doesn't matter!

When you forget to buy cake and bread  
And face an empty platter,  
You won't put extra inches on  
So, it doesn't matter!

And, when you're come to the end of life,  
And you're looking old and battered,  
The lord will love you just the same,  
So, it doesn't really matter!

## Meet the Committee



### **Barry Kable – Vice president**

*(President's note: I thought Barry needed someone to "blow his trumpet" a bit more than the following modest piece Barry wrote so I've added some introductory remarks. Barry is a man of boundless energy and enthusiasm which are wonderful attributes he brings to the Committee and the Society. We all admire his capacity to learn about growing bromeliads and to share what he has learned. The plants he brings to our shows evidence real prowess and he's well on the way to being in our Advanced category)*

After spending about 35 years in the transport industry, I, along with my wife Ann and her sister and brother in law purchased Peter's Glen Shade Houses. That is a big part of my time but I do manage to grow a number of different plants.

Through the Peter's Glen business activity, I became interested in orchids. I am active in the Eastern Districts Orchid Society and have an ever increasing collection of orchids. Most recently that had a big kick along when a mate needed to move his collection off the property he'd sold and my collection jumped overnight. Fortunately I'm in the shade house business but yard space had to be sacrificed. At one stage I even had a shade house on the neighbour's back yard but they sold out and all is back at home. I am constructing a large controlled environment facility at present to help orchids and probably a few broms.

Two members of the Redlands Orchid Society talked me into attending a BSQ meeting. I loved that you could buy plants on the night. I joined in February 2003. I wanted to know more so I went to a seed raising workshop at the Olive Branch, which included a walk around the nursery. This was so good it spurred me on to learn more so I went along to the Thirteenth Australian Bromeliad Conference in October 2005 at Bardon. Then the World Conference in June 2008 in Cairns and we have gone to conferences in Adelaide and Darwin since.

Barry



This month, our second committee member is our Treasurer, Pam Butler. Pam took over this role this year and is having "fun" learning the ropes. Her first major task (white knuckle challenge) as Treasurer was the April show which she undertook with enthusiasm and found that balancing the books only takes time.

Married to Rob, they have two children and are kept busy with three grandchildren. Pam retired in 2011 after a career as a nurse. Now we know where to go for all our illnesses!

In 1980, while living in Cairns, Pam started growing bromeliads. She joined BSQ nine years ago and has been actively involved with the society since taking on the role of show convener about five years ago. She came onto the committee three years ago.

Pam grows beautiful broms as well as a range of other plants such as Hoyas and hippeastrum.

Pam's favourite broms are foliage Vrieseas and Tillandsias.

RESULTS OF POPULAR VOTE 21-6-2012

ADVANCED



- 1<sup>st</sup> Nigel Thomson *Nidumea 'Midnight'*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Len and Olive Trevor *Guzmania sanguinea*

INTERMEDIATE



- 1<sup>st</sup> Mal and Michelle Cameron *Vriesea 'Iced Strawberry'*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mal and Michelle Cameron *Neoregelia 'Puppy Love'*

NOVICE



- 1<sup>st</sup> Betty Shephard *Neoregelia 'Pink Sensation'*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Murray *Guzmania squarrosa* hybrid