



“Broms are addictive”

Bromeliad Society of Queensland Newsletter

September 2012

From the President



You won't see me at the meeting as I will still be wending my way home after the BSI Conference in Orlando. Our Society was well represented with 8 members and there were a few other Queenslanders there also from Ipswich and Townsville.

Those who were at the last meeting will now have their new shirts. I think I can be sure mine is now the best travelled shirt in the Society as all the other attendees here left before they could get theirs. Attached is a photo of my well-travelled shirt at Russell's Bromeliads just outside Orlando. Perhaps more interesting than the shirt or its occupant is the clump of *Tillandsia chiapensis* adjacent. This is a plant I have growing but without such large or even branched inflorescence.



Seeya, John

July Meeting

What a great meeting of the BSQ on Thursday 20-9-2012!

John opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed our visitors, including our two visitors from America. Approximately 32 people attended our first workshop after the Ekka. John also mentioned the Christmas party on 6th December at the Windsor Bowls Club (same venue as last year) which was the best Christmas party ever.

John spoke about grooming of plants that members wished to enter for our Spring Show this year. The roster also needs to be completed, contact Peter Ball. The society is hoping to present displays of plants in the following sections: Sun loving, Shade, Semi-shade, balcony display and a water loving plant display, hoping to capture the imagination and to encourage more members to the society.

A bus trip is being organized for the last weekend in April 2013. The polo shirts have arrived, big thank you to Rob and Barbara for their hard work (even though no MAROON – Oh WELL??) The shirts were distributed during supper. (We will be posting them out to members after the next meeting.)

Barry Kable spoke about Dyckia and Puyas. He had a lovely specimen of Dyckia “Gympie Delight”. He pots in sphagnum moss with some perlite and sits on a saucer of rocks and water. He showed some young plants that were grown from seed. Grown to adults they are great at keeping out cats and other small pests. Dyckia “Naked Lady” has a smooth leaf.

Danny spoke about having great success growing plants on lava rocks and over 20 years they can be divided using welder’s gloves and a crowbar – tough plants. Thanks Danny for that info.

Barbara Murray then gave a talk on the information she downloaded from the internet re Dyckias. Dyckia is a genus of the botanical family Bromeliaceae, subfamily Pitcairnioideae originating in the dry regions of South America. They are terrestrial, suckering plants that prefer full sun and somewhat arid climates.

They grow in the ground and have large root systems. They can grow in full sun and go for long periods without water. They do not seem to need much in the way of fertilization, though Dyckias look great if they are well watered and well fertilized.



Puya. These terrestrial plants are native to the Andes Mountains and Southern Central America. All puyas are terrestrial or saxicolous, existing in areas of extreme climatic conditions, from snow to deserts. They are frost tolerant, heat loving and drought tolerant. They love arid sun enduring heat up to 38 degrees Celsius. They range in height from 30cm to 10meters and all have stiff, spiny leaves with cruel barbs along the edges. As a rule they grow as an unassuming but thorny twisted leaf mass in large clumps.

ORTHOPHYTUM. These have more than 25 species, cultivars and hybrids in cultivation. They are terrestrial and the roots grow into cracks and fissures between rocks which generally contain moisture and nutrients. Orthophytum do not have 'cups' or hold water in the centre leaves of the plants. Many Orthophytum are confused with Dyckia or Hechtia due to the long leaves having sharp 'teeth' along the margins yet others no 'teeth', fuzzy foliage covered in scurf [a whitish powdery substance] or are bright and shiny. Some have apple green leaves while others are red, spotted, multi-coloured and even streaked, striped or variegated. They like fertile but well drained soil.

Barry Kable said Puya had small spines on leaf edges. *Puya alpestris* will only flower in a cool climate and the unique "sapphire blue" can take 10 years to grow a flower spike. Then David Peet spoke about his '*alpestris*' which he acquired from Barry but David's plant had a yellow flower not blue [Barry would like it back and thought it would be interesting to see the flower results of the new plants] Back to Barry with his Orthophytum's. He grows these in sphagnum moss and perlite with pebbles on top. *Orthophytum* Starlight is a pendula type of plant. *Orthophytum gurkenii* planted in sphagnum moss-perlite with pebbles on top. *Orthophytum navioides* is sometimes confused with Dyckia and Hechtia. Barry had a lovely plant of *Aechmea racinae* var. *pendula* which he pots in bark-perlite and stones.

Guest Speaker



Bruce Dunstan spoke next showing his wonderful photos of his recent trip to Columbia. From Bogota a magnificent photo of a Toucan with a truly colourful beak, down on to Rio Magdellana and over the Western Range. Another photo *Aechmea fendleri*---*Tillandsia* with a inflorescence over a metre tall---another *Aechmea fendleri* at the top of the range. This was bright red. *Tillandsia myriantha* tend to colonise over the tree—lots of attractive plants of *Aechmea racinaea* and *myriantha*.

Bruce mentioned that there is a ban on hunting Armadillos. *Tillandsia schultzei* with an 18" inflorescence hanging down. There were some fabulous photos of Bruce up in the trees [playing tarzan] collecting seeds, no mention of how high up he was. *Heliconias huilaensis* and various others---shot of an orchid 10 metres up the tree with pale yellow flowers. Throughout the town of Victoria trees loaded/coated with epiphytes.

Walking through Rio Claro nature reserve there were lots more *Heliconias* through the beautiful gorge, then they came across cat tracks most likely a young mountain lion or puma---then a raft ride down the gorge and under large overhangs, photographs of hummingbirds---a handspan size spider skelton, also in the jungle area, an "Aracar", which is a mini size toucan. More shots of *Ixora* type plants—*Heliconias*—*Anthuriums*. Then another shot of Bruce with an inflorescence wrapped around him, looked to be 4 metres in length. *Tillandsia* clumps growing on the back of trees, one planted in an old work boot.

Wax palms which grow to about 70 metres are becoming rare. Natives used to scrape and use wax as candles in the churches. Photo of *Costus Barbardos*—*Brachyclyx* tree with beautiful blue mauve and white flowers. *Vrieseas* and *Guzmania multi flora* which was bright orange, a new species of *Heliconia* as yet unnamed. A native on horse drawn carriage which you could hardly see as it was covered, almost swallowed by the sugar cane. Beautiful flowers which are pollinated by the humming birds. They receive 8-10 metres of rain a year. A road side cliff which council??? Workers had whipper snipped metres up the side of cliff, mainly for safety reasons, we surmise, for travellers on the road. *Pitcairnia*s with 12-18 metre tall inflorescences. This area is 3500 metres above sea level where *Puya* flowers are almost blue and 3 metres high—more *guzmanias*—such beautiful flowers and the colours are incredible. An orchid, pinkish colour 'sobralia'.

Notes taken by RUTH KIMBER



Thank you Ruth.

Popular Vote

Olive Trevor spoke on the members plants exhibited. There was some concern that exhibit numbers were below what we thought the society could provide.

Fred and Olive then explained some of the benefits of showing and how the point allocation towards the end of year trophy worked.

John presented the trophies to the winners of the Autumn Show.

LUCKY DOORS David Rees Janet Richter

RAFFLES Lyn Reading Gio Infante Ric Cairns Brod Northwood Terry Tierney
Janet Richter Matt O'Brien Barbara McCune Roland Anthony

General Meeting 18th October

Plant of month: *Alcantarea*, *Nidularium*

Speaker: Ann Ingham Photography Competition. Ann will provide an insight to using your digital camera to take wonderful photos of your plants. This will also be useful for the new section of our show which now includes a photographic section.

Mini-show with the following classes:

Class 1 *Neoregelia* over 200mm diameter when mature, species and hybrids

Class 2 *Tillandsia* species and hybrids

Class 3 *Pitcairnioideae* not listed elsewhere in Schedule, species and hybrids

(Brocchinioideae, Lindmanioideae, Hechtioideae, Puyoideae, Navioideae, Pitcairnioideae
(deuterocohnia, encholirium, fosterella)

Class 4 Any other flowering bromeliad species and hybrids

Commentary on Mini Show: Olive Trevor

Photo Competition

As a new category for our Spring show this year, we will be holding a photography competition for members.

To launch the competition, at our meeting on 18th October, Award Winning photographer and teacher, Ann Ingham will be talking to us about what makes an exciting and interesting photograph. Ann has kindly agreed to judge our photo competition.

A selection of the images entered in the competition will be used to create a digitally projected slide show. Members and visitors will be able to watch this at the Spring Show.

How do I enter?

Email your entry to: tillsjohn@bigpond.com by Monday 29th October.

Use "BSQ Photo Comp" as the subject line of your email.

Include your name, and the Title of your photograph, in the email.

What can I enter?

Any photo that includes a bromeliad.

It can be anybody's bromeliad/s, but it must be your own photograph.

It can be digitally enhanced in any way that you think will tell your story better.

You can enter up to 3 photographs.

You are welcome to bring your digital camera along to our next Meeting.

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.

Now is the time to make suggestions as we are getting ready for 2013. How do you want to be involved and what do you want to see?

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



Coming Events

Spring Show

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 (see the separate copy attached with the delivery email). We will have copies available for those wishing to show on Thursday evening. (NOTE: The schedule is now printed on A3 paper so writing in you plant names will be a lot easier.

We 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.

*We do need a lot of assistance on the day, so, if you can help, let Peter Ball know at the next meeting. All we ask is an hour of your time to make this day a huge success. **Check the last page for the show roster.***

SELLERS NOTE – BARCODE SYSTEM: As we have had some implementation issues, we have decided to delay commencing using the barcode system until after the Spring Show. We want to ensure that there are no issues and so will continue to use the old sales sticker system for this event. Our current plans are to commence testing at the November meeting. This will ensure that we have a number of people trained in the use of the cash register system before we go public. We will have four meetings to test and trial the system before the next major event.

Aechmea Day

An Aechmea Day has been planned for Saturday 1st December. This will be held at The Olive Branch commencing at 9.00 am. Bring your own lunch – perhaps something to share – and a chair. Coffee and tea will be provided. It should be a great day.

Christmas Party

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 dietary needs next meeting so let us know when you book the tickets. Prices are yet to be finalised but we do not anticipate more than approximately \$25.00. The meal for this event will be an alternate drop. We will advise you of the choices at the next meeting (Thursday).

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

2013 Activities

Judges School

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 bromeliads and what judges are looking for. These sessions aren't just for aspiring judges. Bring your own lunch/share.

Tillandsia Workshop

This date is yet to be set but will be early in the new year. Keep watching this space.

Autumn Show

Our big show and sales event at the start of the year is scheduled for 13 and 14th April at the Brisbane Table Tennis Centre.

Bus Trip

A short weekend trip to Bundaberg is planned for 27th and 28th April. We are hoping to keep the costs below \$150.00 which will include dinner on Saturday evening and breakfast on Sunday.

2013 Australasian Bromeliad Conference – New Zealand

This is an opportunity to see something different. This is being held in Auckland from 15th to 18th March 2013. Check out the web site for further information – www.bsnz.org.

Register before 31st December and save.

Plant Quiz

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| Q1. Yes we have no..... | Q7. A fern that suggests Christmas..... |
| Q2. Part of a bone..... | Q8. Often seen on a wintery day..... |
| Q3. A handy tree on a wet day..... | Q9. If he's broke, what shall he do..... |
| Q4. A tree that could be dangerous..... | Q10.....and old lace |
| Q5. Cinderella's coach..... | Q11. A mouse in the kitchen would cause dis..... |
| Q6. A heavenly musical instrument..... | Q12. A material + a girl's name..... |

See how you go with this, the answers will be in next month's newsletter.

Seedbank

Peter Ball has seed available for collection. See him at the next meeting.

Vriesea - <i>saundersii</i> - French Quarter - Highway Beauty - <i>hieroglyphica</i> - Phillip - <i>philippo-coburgii</i> - Moonglow	- <i>schwackeana</i> - Van Acevi - <i>neoglutinosa</i> (large clone) Nova	Alcantarea - <i>heloisae</i> - <i>odorata</i> (ex Sitio Roberto Burle-Marx) - <i>Purpurea</i> - <i>regina</i> - <i>vinicolor</i> Hawaiian Red	Pitcarnia - Species JG 30083	Puya - <i>coerulea</i> Guzmania - <i>conifera</i>
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Show Results – Popular Vote

ADVANCED



- 1st L &O Trevor *Neoregelia* Lorena Lector
2nd L & O Trevor *Vrieslandsia*
Vriesea erythrodactylon x *Tillandsia multicaulis*

INTERMEDIATE



- 1ST Barry & Ann Kable *Tillandsia juncifolia*
2nd Barry & Ann Kable *Alcantarea vinicolor*

NOVICE



- 1st D. Andreasen *Neoregelia* Reverance
2nd D. Andreasen *Neoregelia* Rockin Robin

