

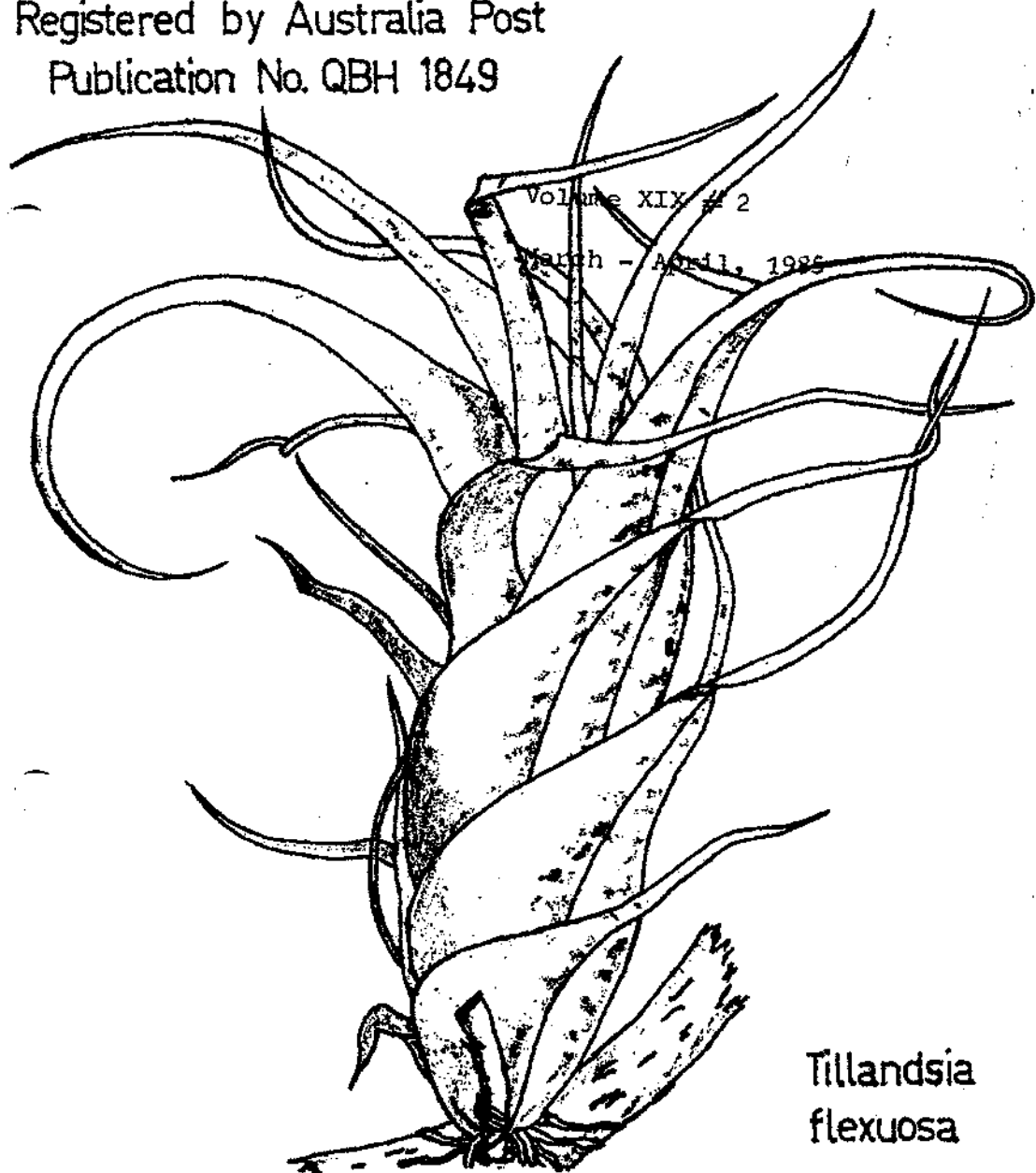
Bromeliaceae

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. QBH 1849

Volume XIX # 2

March - April, 1986



Tillandsia
flexuosa

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565,
FORTITUDE VALLEY,
AUSTRALIA. 4006

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December, at the Uniting Church Hall, Warner Street, Fortitude Valley, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| PATRON: | Mr. H. Caulfield | | |
| PRESIDENT: | Mr. Len Trevor | 2261350 | (work) |
| SECRETARY: | Mr. Greg Stewart | 2779965 | |
| TREASURER: | Mrs. Ruth Higgins | 2002561 | |
| EDITOR: | Mrs. Lorraine Wilton | 3901226 | |

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PROGRAMME

MARCH 21ST: General Meeting
Slide Showing by John Wilkins

APRIL 5TH - 8TH: BROMELIADS III CONFERENCE
at Ridge Motor Inn

APRIL 18TH: General Meeting
Mini Show - Cryptanthus &
Billbergias
Explanation of Combined Show by
Lorraine Wilton

MAY 16TH: General Meeting
Musical Chairs -

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Fertilising: | Greg Stewart |
| Preparing | |
| Show Plants: | Lorraine Wilton |
| Miniature | |
| Tillandsias: | Peter Paroz |
| Shadehouse | |
| Construction: | Joe Dunlop |

EDITORIALBROMELIADS III CONFERENCE

Following the decision of the Bromeliad Society of Aust. to stage Bromeliads II, the Committee of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland accepted the responsibility for staging Bromeliads III. That was three and a half years ago. When you read this, it will be about three and a half weeks to the official opening.

Almost all the ingredients are present for a very successful conference. The venue is excellent; the programme is extensive and varied; the keynote speaker is of international repute; and the lecturers have extensive practical experience with their topics. The lecture topics have been chosen to cover a wide range of interests and the presentations will have some information for all growers - from beginners to experienced growers.

A most important ingredient for a successful conference is people; and at this time we have 128 registrations from five states of Australia and three overseas countries and representing 14 Bromeliad Societies or Groups.

The last and really essential ingredients are interest, enthusiasm, and camaraderie: for without these the Conference will be just another meeting.

Bromeliads III is the most ambitious project in the history of the Society, and we look for strong support from all our members to ensure its success. For the local members there will never be another opportunity to hear so many lecturers at such a reasonable cost. If you have not already registered, will you reconsider - and join with us in this highlight of our Society's activities.

Peter Paroz

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

JANUARY: 65 members and 11 visitors attended; a cash balance of \$3024.04 was reported; the following new members were welcomed by acclamation - SAM MAMMINO of Townsville and LES CAULLEY of Wynnum; members were asked if they would be willing to open their collections for visitors during Bromeliads III and if so, to contact Paul Clarke with their name, address and telephone number; the meeting decided to participate in the horticulture display at the RNA again this year.

POPULAR VOTE -

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| ADVANCED: | John Sax | Aechmea chantata |
| NOVICE: | Ian Sunderland | Vriesea splendens 'Juno' |
| JUDGES CHOICE: | John Wilkins | Neoregelia marnier lapastolle |

SHOW & TELL: John Wilkins brought in a plant of Cryptanthus cascade and showed how difference in growing conditions radically altered this plants ability to throw stoloniferous offsets.

PROGRAMME: Olive Trevor gave a very good talk on how she makes her potting mixes for various plants. John Higgins and Olive then gave a resume on what we could expect from Harry Luther's talk on the PLATYAECHMEA group at the Conference. John and Olive gave the commentary on an extremely well stocked plant table.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: Vriesea splendens 'Juno' was tabled by Ian Sunderland grown in a clump of three plants, all with flower spikes. This plant is one of the most beautiful of all the vrieseas and is superior in many ways to Vriesea splendens.

The foliage is a much lighter green, with the characteristic banding and the inflorescence is a bright orange colour compared to the red of the V. splendens.

I presume this plant came from the continent, and is somehow an improved clone of V. splendens. Culture is the same as for V. splendens

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SECRETARY'S NOTES (cont)

FEBRUARY: 30 members and 2 visitors attended, the low numbers no doubt being as a result of the power restrictions; a cash balance of \$2361.30 was reported; the President advised that Joan Imray was seeking Billbergias for her Conference lecture, and any member who can help please contact Joan.

POPULAR VOTE:

ADVANCED: Greg Stewart *Tillandsia intumescans*
 NOVICE: Bob Paulsen *Tillandsia leiboldiana*

PROGRAMME: Dyckias, Hechtias and some Pitcairnia were tabled for talk, and Peter Paroz spoke on some of the outstanding attributes of these plants.

COMMENTARY: John Higgins and Peter Paroz gave a well informed commentary on a well stocked table considering the few members at the meeting. The highlight of the table was the two large clumps of flowering *Vriesea philippocoburgii*.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: Occasionally at meetings, a plant is tabled that hardly any growers have ever seen. One such plant was tabled this month. The plant was the unusual *Neoregelia pendula* var. *Brevifolia* which a lot of growers have been trying to import but have usually lost it.

The plant tabled was of about 20cm diameter with quite toothed leaves and brown scales. The unusual trait of this plant is that it gets stolons for offsets up to one metre long, and would look somewhat akin to *Cryptanthus cascade* if grown in a hanging basket.

Greg Stewart

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THE BROMELIAD SOCIETYBALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST

| <u>ACCUMULATED MEMBERS FUNDS 1984</u> | \$ |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance brought forward 1.1.84 | 18233.40 |
| Capital Purchases for year - | |
| Calculator | 86.00 |
| Raffle Balls | 26.10 |
| Display Shelving | <u>79.60</u> |
| | 191.70 |
| Purchases of Stock for Resale - | |
| Books | 707.50 |
| Adjust Value of Stock on Hand - | |
| Pots etc | 317.85 |
| Sales Stickers | (115.30) |
| Society Badges | <u>(86.00)</u> |
| | 116.55 |
| Adjust Equity Combined Show - | 145.98 |
| Excess Income/Expenditure 1984 - | |
| Society | 2960.85 |
| Bromeliads III Conference | (176.87) |
| | <u>2783.98</u> |
| | 22180.11 |
| LESS: | |
| Depreciation Adjustment | 329.35 |
| Subscriptions in Advance | 193.00 |
| | <u>21657.76</u> |

I hereby certify that this Balance Sheet represents a true and correct record of the financial affairs of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland as at 31.12.84

J.V. WILKINS, A.A.S.A.
HONORARY AUDITOR

OF QUEENSLANDDECEMBER, 1984ASSETS 1984

| | | \$ |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| Typewriters | | + 545.65 |
| Cupboards | | + 126.95 |
| Recorder | | + 52.15 |
| Projector | | + 40.40 |
| Display Materials | | + 488.00 |
| | | 79.60 |
| Pool Pump | | + 32.90 |
| P.A. System | | + 325.10 |
| Gestetner | | + 478.70 |
| Raffle Equipment | | + 78.55 |
| | | 26.10 |
| Trailer | | + 1125.00 |
| Calculator | | 86.00 |
| Library | | 800.00 |
| Goods for Resale - | | |
| Pots etc/Cash on Hand | 1677.30 | |
| Books | 1967.82 | |
| Tea Towels | 57.75 | |
| Sales Stickers | 496.20 | |
| Society Badges | <u>655.36</u> | 4854.43 |
| Term Deposits A.N.Z. Bank | | 9000.00 |
| N.A.B. A/c as at 31.12.84 - | | |
| Society | 1899.50 | |
| Bromeliads III Conf. | <u>1299.18</u> | |
| | 3128.68 | |
| LESS: Subs in Advance | <u>193.00</u> | 2935.68 |
| Advances - | | |
| Petty Cash | 75.00 | |
| Seed Bank | 100.00 | |
| Social Organiser | <u>15.00</u> | 190.00 |
| Shre Equity Combined Show | | 721.90 |
| | | <u>21987.11</u> |
| LES: Depreciation on items marked + (10%) | | <u>329.35</u> |
| | | <u>21657.76</u> |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held after our normal February General Meeting,

The President gave a very enthusiastic report on the Society's affairs for the preceding year of our on-going participation in the R.N.A. Show, our Combined Show, and our other various activities. He also spoke on the up-coming Australian Conference, Bromeliads III, in April and what a great event it will be.

Trophies for the 1984 Popular Vote competition were presented to the following members -

ADVANCED: Greg Stewart
NOVICE: Roland Reilly

All positions were declared vacant and the election of Officers resulted in the following -

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| PATRON: | Harold Caulfield |
| PRESIDENT: | Len Trevor |
| VICE PRESIDENT: | Peter Paroz |
| SECRETARY: | Greg Stewart |
| TREASURER: | Ruth Higgins, |
| SHOW ORGANISER: | Unfilled |
| SOCIAL ORGANISER: | Unfilled |
| SPECIAL EVENTS ORGANISER: | John Higgins |
| EDITOR: | Unfilled |
| COMMITTEE: | Roland Reilly Joe Dunlop Olive Trevor |

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS -

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| LIBRARIAN: | Yvonne Boorman | PLANT SALES: | Olive Trevor |
| AUDITOR: | John Wilkins | | John Conran |
| DISPLAY TABLES: | Rolly Reilly | | Ian Sunderland |
| PROPERTY SALES: | Bert Wilson | HOST/HOESSTESS: | Ray Ayres |
| HALL ORGANISER: | John Sax | | Jean Dunlop |

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REVIVING THE OLDIES

While looking back through some old issues of Bromeliaceae, I came across B. Hanson's article lamenting the absence of many of the old favourites of yesteryear from present day collections. Since I was in the middle of a clean up, I resolved to rehabilitate some of the plants I had sought out some years ago.

The first plant was *Aechmea fasciata* 'purpurea', a much wanted plant in the early days of the society, but now occasionally seen on the display bench. It does not have the number of leaves or the size of flower head of the selected forms of *A. fasciata*, but the purplish background leaf colour is most striking.

The next find in the rubble was variegated leaf form of *Ae. fasciata*. The marginate stripe is rather pale and not as spectacular as some of the more recent variegated forms. It will be a real challenge to find the right growing conditions to bring out the beauty of this plant.

Also on the list for rehabilitation are *Billbergia horrida* var. *tigrina* and *Billbergia* 'Muriel Waterman', both old time favourites but now occasionally seen. (When did we last have a *billbergia* species on our display table?).

Billbergia venezuelana is also on the list as it is in poor shape having been tucked behind a *Camellia* bush. The offset has long floppy leaves. This used to be my favourite *billbergia* species. I hope some tender loving care will restore it to its former glory.

Aechmea bracteata - the pink leafed form - was also one of the neglected ones. The large offset I was nurturing suffered badly in the big hail storm and was consigned to that big compost heap in the sky. It's a tough old plant and a new offset, small but without a blemish is quickly establishing itself.

cont.

Do you have any oldies worth reviving?

How about sharing your experiences with other growers.

Peter Paroz

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TILLANDSIA RECURVATA

Tillandsia recurvata is certainly not one of the showy members of the genus even among the miniatures. However, it can develop into an interesting little clump if put on a small branch and allowed to develop into its characteristic ball shape from which it gets its common name "Ball Moss".

It is a very hardy plant, well adapted to conditions of poor moisture and nutrient availability. The petals are short and little visible beyond the sepals, so flowering is not spectacular. The plant sets seeds readily and the seeds will germinate in any micro-climate which is even slightly favourable.

If you are into miniature bromeliad trees, try *T. recurvata* on a too twig and have a "ball". It will never be an eyestopper but a mature ball will add interest and variety to your display.

Peter Paroz

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PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

Although the Conference is foremost in our mind at present, our Combined Show should not be forgotten. Again this year it will be staged at the Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens during the Queen's Birthday weekend in June.

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Plants to be entered in competition should have been selected by now and grooming commenced. Check to ensure that the pot is not cracked or dirty. If algae is on a clay pot, it can be removed by a scrubbing brush, a plastic pot can be wiped with a little white oil to restore it. Is the plant in the centre of the pot? The relationship of size of plant to pot should be assessed. Although minor points, it could be the difference between first and second place.

All plants should be checked thoroughly for scale, or that no ants are present in the potting mix. Slugs and snails can also find their way into lower leaf axils and should be removed.

Remove any old leaves that may be damaged. Lower leaves should be removed cleanly and completely. If several leaves at the base of the plant are removed and the caudex is exposed, replot the plant lower in the pot to cover the 'white' area. Before removing any leaf, use your hand or a piece of paper and visually block out the leaf in question to evaluate the symmetry of the plant. Sometimes a damaged leaf well trimmed is better than a major gap. Remember, once a leaf is removed there is no going back.

If the plant has been growing under trees remove any old leaves that may have gathered in the cup. Flushing out with the hose can do this quickly and effectively. Algae will often build up in the cups of neoregelias. This can also be removed by flushing out with the hose.

Last but by no means least, check the name tag. All plants tabled must have a name tag and must be properly named, i.e. genus, species, variety and/or cultivar.

Lorraine Wilton

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MINI-SHOW - CRYPTANTHUS & BILLBERGIAS APRIL 18TH

This meeting will feature a mini-show of Cryptanthus and Billbergias. Members are requested to bring along their plants for display, competition, and judging.

Ed.

1985 COMBINED SHOW SCHEDULE

| <u>CLASS</u> | <u>GENUS</u> |
|--------------|---|
| 1. | Tillandsia |
| 2. | Vriesea |
| 3. | Other Tillandsioideae |
| 4. | Tillandsioideae in Flower |
| 5. | Cryptanthus |
| 6. | Billbergia |
| 7. | Aechmea |
| 8. | Neoregelia |
| 9. | Nidularium |
| 10. | Intergeneric |
| 11. | Other Bromelioideae |
| 12. | Bromelioideae in Flower |
| 13. | Hechtia / Dyckia |
| 14. | Pitcairnia |
| 15. | Other Pitcairnioideae |
| 16. | Specimen, any genus, 3 or more connected mature plants |
| 17. | Miniature Display not exceeding one (1) metre in any dimension |
| 18. | Novice - Any Bromelioideae (Entrant never won 1st Prize) |
| 19. | Best Tillandsioideae |
| 20. | Best Bromelioideae |
| 21. | Best Pitcairnioideae |
| 22. | Reserve Champion Bromeliad of the Show |
| 23. | Champion Bromeliad of the Show |

Conditions of Entry are the same as those of prior years